

MR 404(1), Sec. 1 — ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION

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1944 - 1945

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1944 - 1945

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

ISSUED BY THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
NAVY DEPARTMENTINTELLIGENCE REPORT *WS*

(Reference to this report must specify Serial No., Place and Date.)

Serial PT 1-45 of Washington, U. C. Date 1 March 1945  
(Start new series each year, i. e. 1-45, 2-45)From Op-16-PT Monograph Index Guide No. 912-100  
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person) Make separate report for each main title. See O. N. I. Index Guide.Reference \_\_\_\_\_  
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)Source Official Evaluation B-1  
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with — Ad to F.O. etc.  
Identify what practicable, etc.) Ref: AB/EN 3-10; SER. 4312410-11-10-42Subject GRIBIT BATTLESHP NAVY Battleships VANGUARD  
(Name reported on) (Main title as per index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

BRIEF. (Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)

H. M. BATTLESHIP "VANGUARD"

The following information concerning the newest British battleship, VANGUARD, is promulgated to a limited distribution list as being of timely professional interest.

As very little concerning this vessel has been released by the British, the necessity for keeping this information within the U. S. Navy is obvious.

Distribution By Originator \_\_\_\_\_

Routing space below for use in O. N. I.

CLASSIFICATION

FI Records - 1  
Cominch - 2  
CINCLANT - 1  
CINCPAC - 1  
LdCrd - 1  
BuShips - 1  
Presidential Aide - 1  
Naval War College - 1  
Op-16-PA-1 - 1  
General Board - 1  
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MAY 23 1974

Use this form for page 1 (original and copies). Use the 8 1/2 by 13 inches plain fold-over as supplied for additional pages. Forward to OMI as original and a "Micrograph Master" copy. Officers preparing and those forwarding reports sign the first page of original and retained the copy of reports only. Submit copies of clippings, sketches, etc., when practical, if practicable, prepare sketches on "Micrograph Master" or in a form suitable for black and white reproduction.

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H. M. BATTLESHIP "VANGUARD"

Summary of Characteristics

Displacement: 42,300 tons (standard)

Dimensions: Length - 813'6" (oa)  
Beam - 108'0"  
Draft - 29'10" (mean)

Armament: 8 - 15"/42 cal. Mk. I (twin turrets)  
16 - 5".25/50 cal. DP (twin turrets)  
68 - 2-pdr pomoms (nine 8-barrel and one  
4-barrel mounts)\*

Protection: 14"-13" Belt  
6"-5" Deck  
Turrets\*\*  
Underwater protection designed to withstand  
a 1000# charge.

Propulsion: Geared turbine drive; 4 screws;  
130,000 HP = 30.0 kts. (designed).  
Fuel oil, 4,850 tons (max. capacity).

The characteristics summarized above are subject to revision.

\* May be replaced, in whole or in part, by 40 mm Bofors in  
a new 6-barrel type mount.

\*\* See section 4, Armament.

2. General Remarks

VANGUARD will be the first British battleship to be completed since the five units of the KING GEORGE V Class passed into service, 1940-42. In fact, she is the only other capital ship of the United Nations navies--aside from the KING GEORGE's and American battleships--on which construction has been continued between 1939 and 1944. Authorized under the British 1940 Naval Program, VANGUARD was ordered from John Brown & Co., Ltd, Clydebank, Scotland, on 14 March 1941, laid down on 2 October 1941, and finally launched on 30 November 1944. She is scheduled for completion by Christmas 1945, though it is understood that this date might not be met. Her sponsor was Princess Elizabeth.

While the launching was alluded to in the press, no reference identifying VANGUARD, either by name or specific design, was released at the time. Commentators have apparently inferred that she belongs to the previously announced LION Class, on which work was actually suspended in 1939. Since then her name has been officially made public.

3. Design

In keeping with traditional British practice in naval type-design development, VANGUARD is a lineal descendant of her predecessors, the KING GEORGE V Class. Essentially, she is an enlarged, slightly faster, 4-twin-turret version of the KING GEORGE V, and in no way reflects the contrast found between the American IOWA Class on the one hand, and the SOUTH DAKOTA's and NORTH CAROLINA's on the other. Her principal reported innovations are:

- (a) Beam of 108'0"
- (b) Sharply rising sheer
- (c) Squared-off stern

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The figure reported for VANQUARD's beam will make her the widest British capital ship yet built, and should endow her with underwater protection and stability superior to that of the KING GEORGE's with their 103' beam. The sharply rising sheer, though unsubstantiated to date due to lack of recent graphic information, is interesting in view of the very wet forecastles of the KING GEORGE V Class units, whose bows are characterized by comparatively little sheer and flare, and low freeboard. In VANQUARD the squared-off stern makes its debut in British battleship construction. It had been previously fitted in the FIJI and UGANDA Classes of British light cruisers, and included in the first reported design of the suspended LION Class of fast battleships. It is to serve a two-fold purpose: to increase the effective water-line length at high speeds, and to obviate the use of all furnace (specially treated) plating in the construction of the stern.

All main strength members are riveted, including the shell, inner bottom, frames, the main deck, and the under course of the second deck. If there are any welded connections to these members, they are very local. The platforms, third deck, and most bulkheads are welded. VANQUARD's structure is reported to be well regulated and to give indications of excellent shipbuilding practice for riveted construction. No aluminum is being used.

In general arrangement of the design, shape, and distribution of the superstructure, and the flush-deck hull, VANQUARD is apparently very similar to the KING GEORGE V. She has a single rudder. All three anchors have recessed hawsepipes, which were adopted in this ship to reduce difficulties experienced with spray in previous vessels. Though originally provided for, it was recently decided not to fit aircraft or aircraft equipment. Aircraft handling space and hangars amidships are to be utilized for other purposes. Fitted as a fleet flagship, VANQUARD's Admiral's and Captain's quarters will be placed in the after superstructure.

#### 4. Armament

Official returns list VANQUARD's main battery as 8 - 15" guns. Supplementary information is to the effect that:

- (a) The 15" guns are to be disposed in twin turrets;
- (b) These guns and mounts were originally fitted in the large cruisers GLORIOUS and COURAGEOUS (1915-17) prior to their conversion into aircraft-carriers;
- (c) These guns and mounts are the same as those mounted in the existing older 15"-gun capital ships.

Should this be the case, VANQUARD will be unique in being the only modern capital ship armed with a 30-year old main battery. Her offensive power would be less than that of the smaller KING GEORGE V Class. In the absence of an official explanation, it must be assumed that war emergency demands on British heavy industry prevented the manufacture of modern heavy guns and mounts for this ship. It is possible that the ship's design provides for an eventual replacement of these old guns by a modern main battery.

Four Mk. 37 (American) directors will be provided for the control of the 5".25 secondary dual-purpose battery. Another innovation is the reported adoption of six-barrel Bofors mounts in the close-defense AA battery. The number of 20 mm weapons is, as yet, unspecified.

#### 5. Protection

As in the KING GEORGE's and the modernized units of the QUEEN ELIZABETH Class, the armored conning tower has been dispensed with. In its stead, a lightly armored ship control station has been fitted in the upper forward part of the tower bridge, just below the enclosed flag bridge. In VANQUARD, the

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>ALUSNA MOSCOW</u>		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	
RELEASED BY	26 OCT 44	FOR ACTION CNO	PRIORITY
DATE	1520		ROUTINE
TOR CODEROOM	THOMASSON		DEFERRED
DECODED BY	FORBES	FOR INFORMATION	PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY	THOMPSON		ROUTINE
ROUTED BY			DEFERRED
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
261441Z		NCR 3448	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME: DATE TIME GCT

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

(FROM ALUSNA MOSCOW TO CNO)

ON 24 OCT BRITISH AMBASSADOR ADDRESSED A LETTER TO MR. MOLOTOV REQUESTING THAT 2 RUMANIAN PASSENGER LINERS SS BESSARABIA AND SS TRANSYLVANIA BE MADE AVAILABLE TO USE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS TROOPSHIPS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR. THEY REQUEST EARLY AGREEMENT AND MAKE IT CLEAR THEY DO NOT IN ANY WAY WISH TO PREJUDICE THE QUESTION OF ULTIMATE DISPOSAL OF THESE 2 RUMANIAN SHIPS.

ACTION	
F-0	
F-01	
F-02	
F-05	
F-07	
F-1	
F-2	
F-20	
F-3	
F-30	
F-31	
F-32	
F-33	
F-34	
F-4	
FX01	
FX30	
FX37	
FX40	
IG-00	
VCNO	

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MAY 23 1974

16....ACT

ADD: ARMY.....COMINCH.....CNO.....CP-13.....NAVAIDE..

(PER OP-16-A-3)

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

OPNAV 19-87

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

**DISPATCH**

DRAFTER <b>F-02</b>	EXT. <b>4016</b>	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <b>COMINCH AND CNO</b>	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY <b>ADMIRAL E J KING</b>		<b>ADMIRALTY</b>	PRIORITY 2
DATE <b>25 OCTOBER 1944</b>			ROUTINE 3
TOH CODEROOK <b>1438</b>			<b>RRRRRRR</b> 4
DECODED BY	BASEGRAM 5		
PARAPHRASED	CHECKED	FOR ACTION	6
BY <b>ROBERTS</b>	BY <i>[Signature]</i>		7
ROUTED BY	BY <b>ROBERTS</b>		8
		INFORMATION	9
			PRIORITY 10
			ROUTINE 11
			DEFERRED 12
			13
			14

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**251424 NCR 47558**

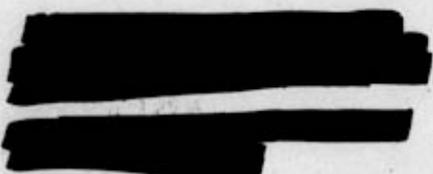
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

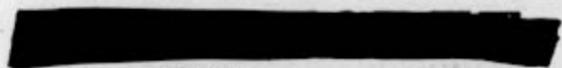
PARAS 2 AND 3 YOUR 121507Z REFERS. WILL LSI'S HAVE BEEN ALTERED FOR TROPICAL SERVICE INCLUDING INCREASED VENTILATION, INCREASED FRESH WATER CAPACITY AND AWNINGS WHEN THEY DEPART U.K. IN JANUARY. COM 7TH FLEET ASKS IN CONSIDERING EMPLOYMENT.

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OSD Letter, 6-8-78  
MAY 23 1974

COMINCH COPIES 1 TO 8



NO. 1 ADMIRAL. NO. 2 FILE. NO. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. NO. 4 SPECIAL.



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**251424**

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By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER  
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~ "IVI"  
PRIORITY

W3

From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
Forward, Versailles, France

To: War Department  
CG, United Kingdom Base Section, London, England

Rr: S 61229 7 October 1944

S 61229 to for action (1) AGWAR for Combined Chiefs  
of Staff to for information (2) Cen Dist UK Base Section London  
pass to British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower cite SHGDS.  
This is SCAF no 99.

Vessels referred to in your WX 35219, 30 September,  
FACS-86, were taken in hand by British Forces upon capture  
of Caen. Present situation is:

- (A) The one vessel afloat the Gravdal about ready  
to sail to UK for refit.
- (B) Threescuttled ships-repairs proceeding slowly dock-  
ing to be reviewed early November.
- (C) Seven incompleated ships-now work proceeding.

MWT surveyors opinion is that there is a possibility  
of repairing scuttled ships sufficiently to tow them to the  
UK for completion or it will not be possible to complete the  
ships on the stocks within measurable time in view of the  
shortage of skilled labor and of essential material.

Procedure applied in this and similar cases arising  
in the future will be in accordance with your directive.

End

ACTION: CC/S

INFO : Adm Leahy, Gen Arnold, Gen Somervell, OFD, Gen Bissell  
Adm King, Log

CM-IN-7036

(7 Oct 44)

2243Z

sjw

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NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

**DISPATCH**

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <b>CINCPAC</b>		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE OP	OP OP 1
RELEASED BY		<b>COTCPAC</b>	PRIORITY 2
DATE <b>5 OCT 44</b>			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODER ROOM <b>1426</b>			DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY <b>ROWLAND</b>			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY <b>ROWLAND</b>	CHECKED BY <b>HARTIGAN</b>	<b>CINCSWPAC</b>	OP OP OP 6
ROUTED BY <b>ROWLAND</b>	DECODED BY <b>ROWLAND</b>	<b>COM 7TH PHIB</b>	PRIORITY 7
		<b>COMINCH</b>	ROUTINE 8
		<b>COMPHIBTRAPAC</b>	DEFERRED 9
		<b>COM 12</b>	BASEGRAM 10
		<b>ADCOMPHIBSPAC</b>	PRIORITY 11
		<b>ADCOMPHIBSPAC</b>	DEFERRED 12
		<b>COM 7TH FLT</b>	BASEGRAM 13
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW 14
	<b>050233</b>	<b>NCR 5701</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
		<b>DECLASSIFIED</b>	16
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**CINCPAC SHOOTS ACTION TO COTCPAC AND INFO TO COMINCH COMPHIBTRAPAC COM 12 COMPHIBSPAC ADCOMPHIBSPAC COM 7TH FLT (VIA RDO HOLLANDIA) COM 7TH PHIB AND CINCSWPAC. THIS IS TOP SECRET.**

IN ADDITION TO THE 5 APA MADE AVAILABLE FOR LOADING AND ROUTING TO SOPAC BY MYDIS 071143 AND NOMINATED BY URSER 03162 OF 6 SEPTEMBER, REQUIRE 7 OTHER APA TO BE UNLOADED AND READY IN ALL RESPECTS FOR COMBAT SERVICE IN SOWESPAC BY 20 NOVEMBER. THIS URGENT MILITARY COMMITMENT MAY REQUIRE USE OF SOME OR ALL OF THE 5 APA ASSIGNED TRAINING DUTY WITH YOU. URSER 03162 AND MYSER 04915 OF 17 SEPTEMBER REFER. REPLACEMENTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER NEW CONSTRUCTION APA THEN UNDER SHAKEDOWN. ARLINGTON (AP 174) IS ACCEPTABLE AS 1 OF 7 REQUIRED. SHIPS AVAILABLE FOR LIFT ONLY TO SOUTHWEST PACIFIC MOUNTING PORTS TO BE DESIGNATED BY COM 7TH FLEET ON A NO DELAY BASIS. ARRANGE DETAILS DIRECT WITH COMPHIBTRAPAC AND COM 12. ADVISE SHIPS SELECTED.

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 4 SPECIAL.

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

WAR DEPARTMENT  
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~~SECRET~~ "AMUG"

URGENT

From: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
Forward, Versailles, France

To: War Department  
War Office, London, England  
Air Ministry, London, England

Nr: FWD 16671 2 October 1944

From SHAEF Fwd signed Eisenhower to EKFOR Main,  
Twelfth Army Group Main, Sixth Army Group, FAAA, ARAF  
Main, ANKF Main, SPHQ cite SHOCT for info AGWAR, Admiralty,  
TROOPERS, Air Ministry, USSTAF Advance Headquarters, Bomber  
Command, Coastal Company, ADGB Fwd 16671.

It is desired that every effort be made to preserve  
from destruction by Allied Force Passenger liners observed  
in enemy ports and not known to be employed in furthering  
German military operations.

End

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: CC/S  
CG AAP  
ASF  
G-2  
Adm. King  
Col. Park  
Log

CM-IN-1975 (3 Oct 44) 0251Z

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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 11-10-71

Signature- *RAAF*

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WAR DEPARTMENT  
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~~SECRET~~ AMUG

From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces,  
Forward, Versailles, France

To: War Department  
CG, United Kingdom Base Section, London, England  
Allied Force Headquarters, Caserta, Italy

No: FWD 16535 1 October 1944

SHAEP Forward from Eisenhower signed SCAEF cite  
SHGDS 011530 A to for action (1) AGWAR for Combined Chiefs  
of Staff rpt for information (2) UK Base Section for British  
Chiefs of Staff FWD 16535. This is SCAF 96.

This acknowledges your WX 35219 subject eleven  
600 ton tankers in dockyard near Caen. The Ministry of  
War Transport has this matter in hand.

Upon further advise from the ministry regarding  
the availability of French labor and material to complete  
the seven unlaunched and three scuttled tankers you will  
be advised.

Acknowledge.

ACTION: CC/S

End.

INFORMATION: Adm. Leahy  
CG AAF  
OPD  
Gen. Bissell  
Adm. King  
Log

CM-IN-1694 (2 Oct 44) 2101Z mk

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**DISPATCH**

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <b>COMINCH</b>		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY		COMINCH ADMIN <i>WJS</i>	PRIORITY 2
DATE <b>13 SEPTEMBER 1944</b>			<del>RRRRRRRRRR</del> 3
TOR CODEROOM <b>132224</b>			DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED <b>MONROE</b>	CHECKED <b>MCKEEL</b>		6
BY	BY		7
ROUTED BY	DITTOED <b>MONROE</b>		8
			PRIORITY 9
			ROUTINE 10
			DEFERRED 11
			BASEGRAM 12
			13
			14
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<b>131955</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> 16
<b>NCR 10185</b>			17

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

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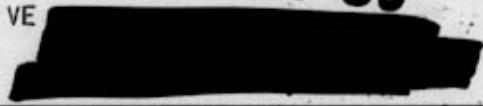
COMINCH SERIAL 3.

AM CONSIDERING STOPPING THE CONSTRUCTION OF DESTROYER ESCORT VESSELS. HAVE READY ON MY RETURN THE NUMBER OF VESSELS WHICH ARE 90 OR MORE PERCENT COMPLETE, THE NUMBER OF VESSELS FROM 80 TO 90 PERCENT COMPLETE, AND SO ON. EXPECT TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON ABOUT 1730 SUNDAY 17TH AFTER THE LAUNCHING OF THE FRANK KNOX AT BATH MAINE. ETA LATER.

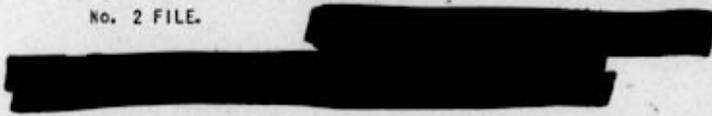
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MAY 23 1974

**ACTION-F-30**

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