

CHAPTER I

Commissioned

ADREAM of long standing materialized the morning of June 4, 1934, when the U. S. S. RANGER was officially added to the list of Navy ships on active duty.

The ceremony was brief and colorful, with the personnel drawn up in formation on the flight deck, all came to attention with the arrival of Rear Admiral Arthur St. Clair Smith, acting Commandant of the Fifth Naval District, Captain Arthur L. Bristol, Jr., prospective Commanding Officer, and a party composed of Naval and Shipbuilding officials.

Mr. Ferguson, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, in a speech of one sentence, presented the ship to the Navy Department. Admiral Smith, representing the Navy Department, presented Mr. Ferguson with a receipt and, in the name of the Navy Department, provisionally accepted the ship. Captain Bristol then read his orders to command. When finished he turned to Commander Pownall, the Executive Officer, with the order "Set the watch." The order was given and over the loud speakers came the shrill pipe of the boat-

CAPTAIN ARTHUR L. BRISTOL, JR.

