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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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August 31, 1944.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Miss Tully.

This is a letter called for by
the President. He will want to consider
it when and if he has leisure.

W. Brown
WILSON BROWN.

F

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

(No date given)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

This is in response to your request of 4 August for a further suggestion concerning appropriate names for the three aircraft carriers, large, (CVB) now scheduled to be launched in December, 1944, and April and September, 1945.

By cancelling certain names already assigned to naval vessels the names of successful battles of the present war may be made available for CVBs. It is suggested that only two of the three CVBs be named at this time and that assignment of a name to the last CVB to be launched be delayed in order to await further developments in the Pacific. Accordingly, the following names are recommended:

MIDWAY
CORAL SEA

The names MIDWAY and CORAL SEA are presently assigned to aircraft carriers, escort, (CVE) which are now in commission. However, in the event you approve this suggestion the names MIDWAY and CORAL SEA can be transferred to CVBs and suitable new names assigned to the CVEs.

In the event you do not approve the suggestion made above, the following names are recommended for CVBs:

TARAWA
SAIPAN

The name TARAWA is currently assigned to an aircraft carrier (CV-40), now under construction. In the event that you approve the second suggestion, TARAWA can be transferred to a CVB and a new name assigned to CV-40. Since CV-40 is not scheduled to be launched until 30 June 1945, a new name need not be assigned to this vessel until March 1945, at which time names of new battles may be available.

May I have your views in this matter?

Respectfully,

JAMES FORRESTAL

J.F. OK. F.D.R.
August 31, 1944

*Orig ret'd to Sec. Navy
9/1/44*