

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
Map Room Papers, 1941-1945
Box 162**

**Folder:
Naval Aide's Files**

(A1-1) Habbakuks (Floating Airdromes for Asia Theatre) July 1942-January 1945

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A1

January 29, 1945.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

Subject: Construction of the Second Replacement Group of Eight (8) CVE's of the 105 Class.

Reference: (a) SecNav's Memorandum to the President dated 14 December 1944 (copy attached).

1. The President has approved the request contained in reference (a) for the construction of the second replacement group of eight (8) Aircraft Carriers, Escort (CVE), of the 105 Class.

WILSON BROWN,
Vice Admiral, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to the President.

Navy Dept folder
2-44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEC 29 1944

file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Construction of eight aircraft carriers, escort,
for replacement purposes.

The attached memorandum from the Secretary of the Navy requests your approval of a second group of eight aircraft carriers, escort (CVE), for replacement purposes.

Construction of the first group of eight carriers for replacement purposes was recommended to you by the Secretary of the Navy on December 17, 1943, in order to maintain orderly construction at the plant of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Company and to permit completions to follow without interruptions. The Chief of Naval Operations directed that construction of these vessels be carried on at the rate of about eight ships per year. The last of this group is now scheduled for delivery early in the calendar year 1946.

If construction of an additional group of eight carriers is approved now, deliveries will probably be made during the period from July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947. These vessels will be of the CIMARRON class, and the eight proposed for construction will cost about \$65,000,000.

It is difficult to appraise the need for these vessels for replacement purposes due to the lack of any sound basis for estimating probable future losses, and it may be that the construction of this second group of eight, in addition to the eight already under construction, will result in an increase in the number of this type to be in commission. However, they are vulnerable to attack not only by surface vessels, but also by aircraft, and losses could exceed present estimates.

The foregoing is a resume of the information available in this office with respect to this program. Whether the construction of the additional carriers now recommended should be approved or not is primarily a military question concerning which I would prefer not to make any recommendation. I do feel that the matter should be referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for review, as there is no indication in the correspondence that this has been done.

Charles D. Smith
Director

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

December 20, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET

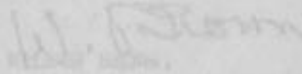
and the continued expense outside attacks
indicate the urgency of accelerated
recommendation for a replacement program

FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Secretary of the War Relocation Authority
you have authorized a commitment of eight

F. D. R.

Very respectfully,



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

December 18, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Second Battle of the Philippines and the continued Japanese suicide attacks indicate the urgency of the enclosed recommendation for a replacement program of eight (8) aircraft carriers, escort (CVE).

The Secretary of the Navy reminds that you have authorized a replacement of eight and he now requests a second replacement group of eight (8) in accordance with the established replacement program.

Very respectfully,


WELSON BROWN.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

14 DEC 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum for the President

My dear Mr. President:

The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations on 31 October 1943 established a replacement program of eight (8) Aircraft Carriers, Escort (CVE) to follow the CVE 105 class program.

You approved my Memorandum serial 0711323-05 dated 17 December 1943 for the construction of the first eight (8) replacement CVE's.

Your approval now is requested of the construction of the second replacement group of eight (8) CVE's of the 105 class which the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations considers should be initiated without delay.

Yours sincerely,

James Forrestal

J. F.
OK
ZMP