

# The Story of the USS Block Island Escort Carriers in World War II Maritime

The USS Block Island escort carriers were a class of 24 escort carriers built for the United States Navy during World War II. These ships were designed to be smaller and less expensive than traditional aircraft carriers, but they were still able to carry a significant number of aircraft. The Block Island escort carriers were used to protect Allied convoys from German U-boats, and they also participated in a number of other important naval battles.

## Design

The Block Island escort carriers were designed by the United States Navy's Bureau of Ships. The ships were based on the hull of the C3 cargo ship, but they were modified to accommodate an aircraft hangar and flight deck. The Block Island escort carriers were 553 feet long and 70 feet wide, and they had a displacement of 15,100 tons. The ships were powered by two diesel engines that gave them a top speed of 18 knots.



## Valor and Courage: The Story of the USS Block Island Escort Carriers in World War II (Maritime Currents: History and Archaeology) by Benjamin J. Hruska

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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The Block Island escort carriers were armed with two 5-inch guns, eight 40mm anti-aircraft guns, and four 20mm anti-aircraft guns. The ships also carried a number of aircraft, including fighters, bombers, and torpedo bombers.

## **Service**

The USS Block Island escort carriers were commissioned into the United States Navy between 1943 and 1945. The ships served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of war. In the Atlantic, the Block Island escort carriers helped to protect Allied convoys from German U-boats. In the Pacific, the Block Island escort carriers participated in a number of important naval battles, including the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the Battle of Okinawa.

The USS Block Island escort carriers were decommissioned from the United States Navy after the end of World War II. Some of the ships were sold to foreign navies, while others were scrapped.

## **Legacy**

The USS Block Island escort carriers played a vital role in the Allied victory in World War II. These ships helped to protect Allied convoys from German U-boats, and they also participated in a number of important naval battles. The Block Island escort carriers are a testament to the ingenuity and determination of the American people.

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