



429-086

1. USS Laffey
2. Patriots Point, South Carolina
3. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
4. 1985
5. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
6. Exterior Side view
7. Photo #1

336

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1. USS Laffey
2. Patriots Point, South Carolina
3. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
4. 1985
5. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
6. Forward twin 5"/38 caliber gun mounts
7. Photo #2



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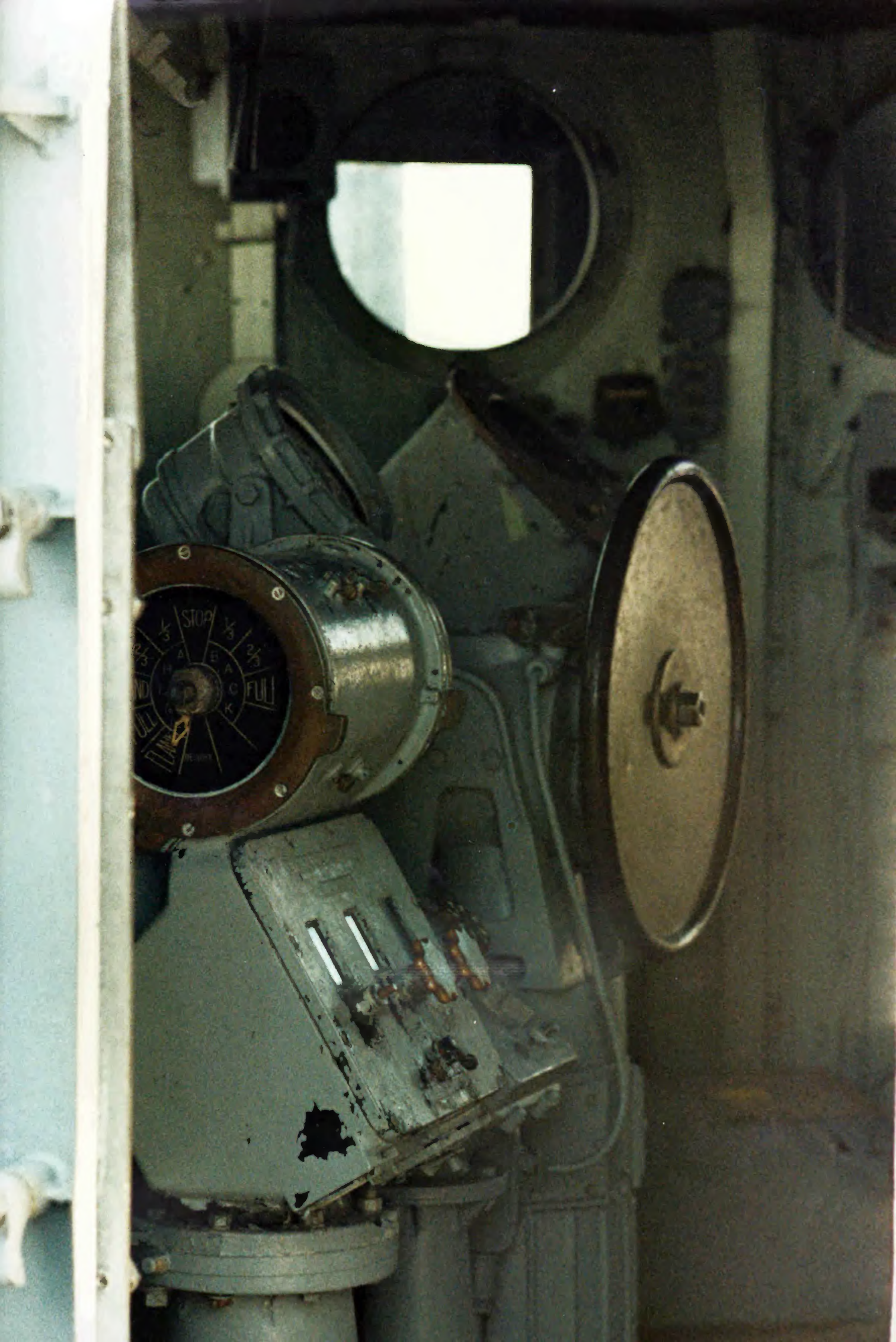
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1. USS Laffey
2. Patriots Point, South Carolina
3. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
4. 1985
5. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
6. Flight Deck and Helo Hanger
7. Photo #3

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1. USS Laffey
2. Patriots Point, South Carolina
3. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
4. 1985
5. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
6. Bridge
7. Photo #4

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TAKES
PLEASURE IN PRESENTING THE PRESIDENTIAL
UNIT CITATION TO THE

UNITED STATES SHIP LAFFEY DD724

FOR SERVICE AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING
CITATION:

FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN ACTION AS A
PICKET SHIP ON RADAR PICKET STATION NUMBER
ONE DURING AN ATTACK BY APPROXIMATELY THIRTY
ENEMY JAPANESE PLANES, THIRTY MILES NORTHWEST
OF THE NORTHERN TIP OF OKINAWA, APRIL 16, 1945,
FIGHTING HER GUNS VALIANTLY AGAINST WAVES OF
HOSTILE SUICIDE PLANES PLUNGING TOWARD HER
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS, THE U. S. S. LAFFEY
SENT UP RELENTLESS BARRAGES OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT
FIRE DURING AN EXTREMELY HEAVY AND CONCENTRATED
AIR ATTACK, REPEATEDLY FINDING HER TARGETS, SHE
SHOT DOWN EIGHT ENEMY PLANES, CLEAR OF THE
SHIP AND DAMAGED SIX MORE BEFORE THEY CRASHED
ON BOARD. STRUCK BY TWO BOMBS, CRASH-DIVED BY
SUICIDE PLANES AND FREQUENTLY STRAFED, SHE
WITHSTOOD THE DEVASTATING BLOWS UNFLINCHINGLY
AND, DESPITE SEVERE DAMAGE AND HEAVY CASUALTIES,
CONTINUED TO FIGHT EFFECTIVELY UNTIL THE LAST
PLANE HAD BEEN DRIVEN OFF. THE COURAGE, SUPERB
SEAMANSHIP AND INDOMITABLE DETERMINATION OF
HER OFFICERS AND MEN ENABLED THE LAFFEY
TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY AGAINST ALMOST INSUR-
MOUNTABLE ODDS, AND HER BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE
IN THIS ACTION REFLECTS THE HIGHEST CREDIT
UPON HERSELF AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL
SERVICE."

FOR THE PRESIDENT
JAMES FORRESTAL
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

THE ABOVE PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO
OUR SHIPMATES, LIVING AND DEAD,
WHO FOUGHT
SO GALLANTLY TO SAVE OUR SHIP.
U.S.S. LAFFEY ASSOCIATION

479-086

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1. USS Laffey
2. Patriots Point, South Carolina
3. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
4. 1985
5. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum
6. Presidential Unit Citation
7. Photo #5

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