

June 19. 2000

I am the daughter of James Bruce Oliver who served aboard the U.S. South Dakota. His shipmates called him "Woody".

Dad was on the South Dakota when she was commissioned march 20, 1942 and was aboard during the shake down cruise. He was in the battle of Santa Cruz and Guadalcanal.

My dad had a good friend while on the ship, V.H.

My dad and Mr. Gemme were the artists who painted the scoreboard on the ship. Dad said it was painted on the conning tower right above the officer of the day's deck. He and Mr. Gemme dropped a pot of paint on the officer of the day's head while they were painting the scoreboard. My dad painted the ship and Mr. Gemme painted the airplane on the scoreboard. I thought this information might be interesting and if I asked dad he might tell me who the officer was they "painted" that day.

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