

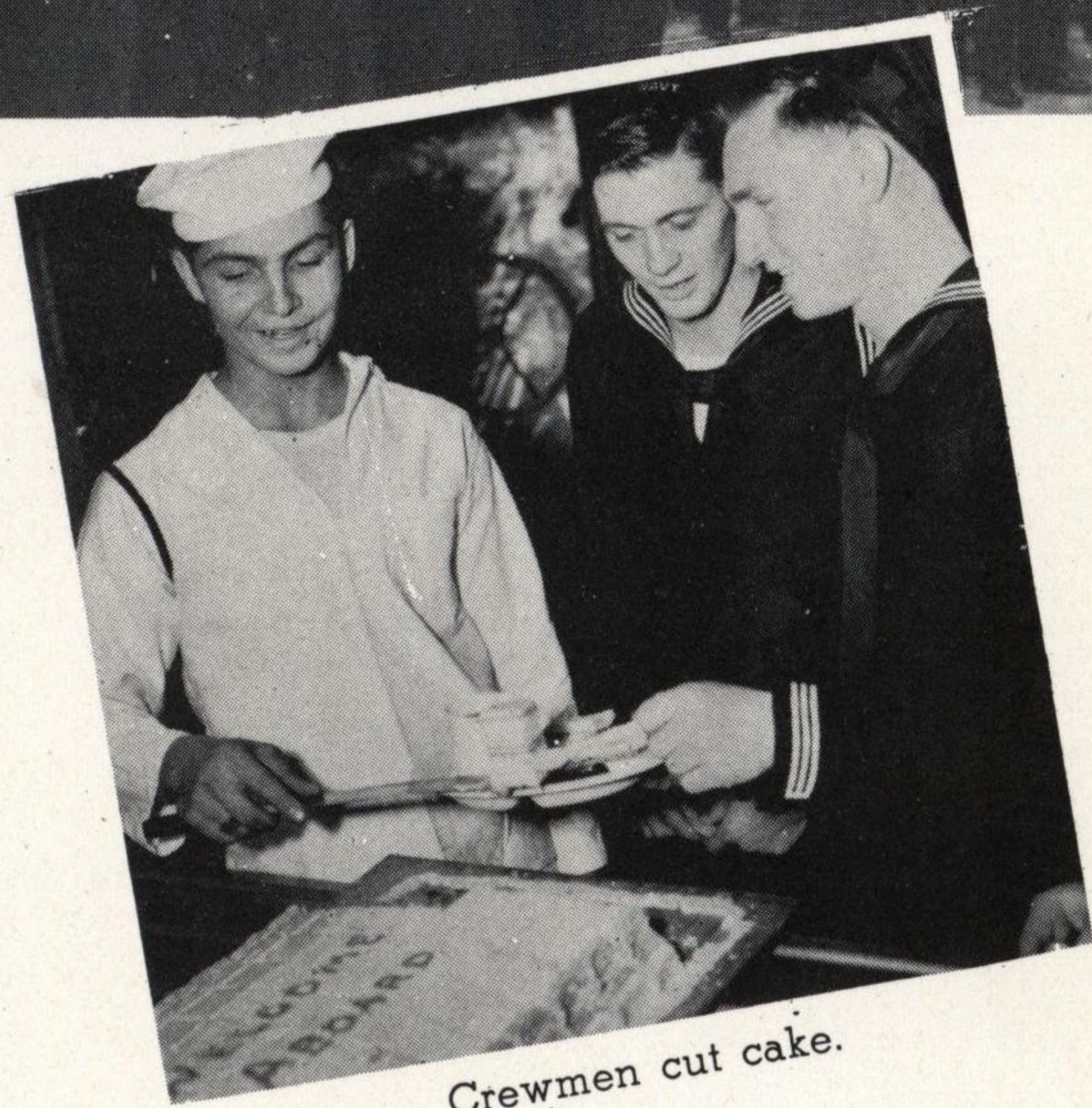


Hangar deck parade — Captain Bowman assumes command.

# COMMISSIONING

She's big, she's rugged, and she's ready to go — she's a "Lady with a Past" — the U.S.S. Commencement Bay.

Her past begins in 1944 when the citizens of Pierce County, Washington, by war bond purchases financed the first of the 105 class escort carriers. At first she was called the St. Joseph's Bay, but when the Tacoma Todd-Pacific Shipyards finished her, she was commissioned on Nov. 27 as the U.S.S. Commencement Bay, taking her name from the water into which she was launched.



Crewmen cut cake.

Captain, Sponsor Florence Eves watch as Mrs. Bowman slices commissioning cake.

