



Robert Goldthwaite directing the following department heads:

- Cdr. Richard R. Lyons—First Lieutenant
- Cdr. Richard Phillips—Engineering Officer
- Cdr. T. O. Dahl—Air Officer
- Lt. Cdr. H. E. Gillespie—Medical Officer
- Lt. Cdr. R. E. Patterson (Survivor from the old YORKTOWN)—Navigator
- Lt. Cdr. H. R. Bierer—Supply Officer
- Lt. Cdr. V. C. Cheek—Communication Officer
- Lt. W. T. Groner—Gunnery Officer

Typical of the new crew ordered to the BELLEAU WOOD was Lou Mitnick, fireman first class, who was cleaning sides on the old TUSCALOOSA in the Brooklyn Navy Yard when he was handed a clearance card and told to be on his way to Philly. There he reported to the Receiving Ship and was assigned to the BELLEAU WOOD. After reporting to the Personnel Officer, he—but here he is with his own words:

*"I rushed in a chit for leave, but the officer, after looking through some papers, said, 'You're just the man we are looking for, B division has been waiting weeks for a fireman like you'. I retired wearily to the Wellsbach Building, got squared away, and prepared to hit the sack. Reveille the next morning was held by a boatswain who walked around shouting and blowing his whistle; he was the first one I got to know. His name was Skelton. After breakfast I met the chiefs and some of the boys and was ready to get my first glimpse of the BELLEAU WOOD. It was cold that morning hiking down to the dock. Suddenly somebody yelled, 'That's her!' You could have knocked me over with a feather. All this time I had thought the BELLEAU WOOD was one of the big Essex class carriers, but there she was, a little ugly flat top and a starboard list to boot. For a moment I wished I'd joined the Army."*

**The following Executive Officers have served the BELLEAU WOOD:**

<b>Commander Robert Goldthwaite</b>	<b>March 31 - October 17, 1943</b>
<b>Commander Richard R. Lyons</b>	<b>October 17 - December 9, 1943</b>
<b>Commander William Miller</b>	<b>December 9, 1943 - July 7, 1944</b>
<b>Commander Theodore O. Dahl</b>	<b>July 7, 1944 - January 17, 1945</b>
<b>Commander Richard R. Ballinger</b>	<b>January 17 - October 4, 1945</b>
<b>Commander William W. Hollister</b>	<b>October 4, 1945 -</b>