



Captain Raney with officers and men who were through "the flames" with him when he was their Executive Officer.

There were officers and men who had served on the old converted WAKEFIELD as shipmates of Captain Raney. They gathered around their new Commanding Officer to be photographed with him. Captain Raney was impatient to press the ship into action. After two test runs, and gun practice in Southern waters, the vessel returned to Boston and tied up at Commonwealth Pier. There was much essential work that still needed to be done in the ship's interior, and which demanded the attention of yard workmen every time the vessel arrived in America thereafter, but on the 13th of April, 1944, troops came aboard the new transport, to sail as soon as loaded for somewhere in Europe.