

DD-341



DD-936



DDG-31

USS Decatur Association Newsletter



1st QTR -- 2013 -- Issue 1

Spotlight on Decatur Sailors

DDG-31's James Bussert (STCM retired)



I was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1936 and my family moved to Massachusetts, then to San Diego.

I enlisted after graduating from Pasadena High School in 1954. From boot camp, I went to Sonar School and to my first ship. It was an APD(DE converted to carry troops for the amphibs). We decommissioned her in 1957. I shipped over on the East Coast to see the Med.

I was teaching Sonar School in San Diego, CA, when I received orders to the Decatur and joined her in Subic, PI in August 1968. After the WestPac cruise, I received orders in March 1969 to precomm a new frigate 1055,

where as an E-9, I was the leading sonarman for 2 years. I retired in 1979 after shore tours on the CruDes Staff and teaching at their Sonar School.

I continued my ASW work as a Mantech contractor for 5 years. I moved to NSWC Dahlgren, VA in 1994 when a base realignment (BRAC) transferred my program. I have continued working there on surface ASW Fire Control.

My hobby is writing professional articles for journals. It started when I won the U S Naval Institute (USNI) essay contest in 1972 and 1973 (below: with VADM Calvert). Since then I have published over 200 naval articles in over a dozen magazines, foreign and domes

tic. My topical interests shifted from the USSR to China in 1990. In 2011, I co-authored a book on China Navy Combat System Technology, 1949-2010 for the USNI press.

I have two grown sons, Glenn (born during the Decatur's 1968-1969 WestPac deployment) and Christopher.



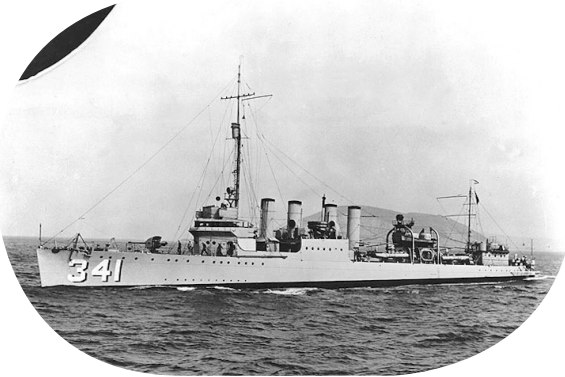
Decatur -- Information and Statistics



DD-5

Displacement 420; length 250'; beam 23'7"; draft 6'6"; speed 28 knots; complement 73; armament 2 3", 2 18" torpedo tubes; class Bainbridge

The second Decatur (DD-5) was launched 26 September 1900 by William R. Trigg Co., Richmond, Va.; sponsored by Miss M. D. Mayo, great-grandniece of Commodore Decatur; and commissioned 19 May 1902, Lieutenant L. H. Chandler in command.



DD-341

Displacement 1,190; length 314'5"; beam 30'8"; draft 9'3"; speed 36 knots; complement 126; armament 4 4", 2 3", 4 21" torpedo tubes; class Clemson

The third Decatur (DD-341) was launched 29 October 1921 by Mare Island Navy Yard; sponsored by Mrs. J. S. McKean; and commissioned 9 August 1922, Lieutenant C. K. Osborne in command.



DD-936

CLASS - FORREST SHERMAN As Built

Displacement 4619 Tons (Full), Dimensions, 418' 6" (oa) x 44' 11" x 15' (Max)
Armament 3 x 5"/54 DP (3x1), 4 x 3"/50 (2x2), 2 Hedgehog ASW Mortars,
4 x 21" tt.(4x1) 6 x 12.75" Mk 32 ASW TT (2x3).

Machinery, 70,000 SHP; Geared Turbines, 2 screws

Speed, 33 Knots, Range 4500 NM@ 20 Knots, Crew 324.

Operational and Building Data

Laid down by Bethlehem Steel, Quincy. September 13 1954.

Launched December 15 1955 and commissioned December 7 1956.



DDG-31

Class - FORREST SHERMAN As Built

She was recommissioned on 29 April 1967, as Decatur passed her acceptance trails and sailed for her new home port of Long Beach, CA on 22 August 1967. She was pronounced "ready for service" on 10 June 1968 and deployed for WestPac on 18 July 1968. She was decommissioned on 30 June 1983 and sunk in 2004.

Groups at each Reunion



The USS Decatur reunion in Washington, DC – 6-9 September 2012



Reunion in Boston, MA-Duck Tour-2011



Reunion in Charleston, SC – 2010



Reunion in Norfolk, VA – 2009



Reunion in Corpus Christie, TX – 2008



Reunion in Las Vegas, NV – Sahara – 2007



Reunion in Branson, MO – 2006

2013 Decatur Reunion Particulars

Please attend our 2013 reunion in San Diego, CA. It will be in September, 2013 (4 nights)... Thursday-Sunday...I'm negotiating the exact dates.

ALL sailors that served aboard any Decatur are welcome.

Please send a \$40 reunion registration fee to:

USS Decatur Association (Checks payable to):
P.O. Box 829
Pittsfield, MA 01202-0829

Please join our USS Decatur Association:
Send \$24 for TWO years of membership (or)
our NEW option of a LIFETIME membership
for \$125 to:

USS Decatur Association (Checks payable to):
P.O. Box 829
Pittsfield, MA 01202-0829

Next issue -- Look for:



- The next installment of our own GM2 Orville T. Shipp's compelling DD-341 exploits during WW II.
- More Reunion information.
- Our next Decatur sailor spotlight -- James Jamison -- the DD-341's WW II Silver Star recipient.
- Info on our 1st annual USS Decatur reunion golf tournament.
and much more...

Fun from the Past Reunions



2012 Farewell Dinner in Washington, DC



2011 at Fenway Park in Boston, MA



2010 Touring in Charleston, SC



2009 in Norfolk, VA



2008-Lexington-Corpus Christie, TX

This is GM2 Orville T. Shipp's (we lost him on 7 January 2010) article chronicling the USS Decatur (DD-341) throughout her WW II years. I'll provide a page each Newsletter. The pages are NOT edited and are presented directly as they came from his typewriter.



WORLD WAR II LOG
By Orville Shipp

This is a log partially kept during the period of July 1942 until November 1945, during World War II by Orville Shipp; many incidence and some trips were not logged or time and dates recorded.

The war started on December 7, 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I was a junior in high school. I volunteered for service in the Navy on July 28, 1942 and was sent to Great Lakes training station for basic training for 8 weeks. (Serial # 6117753) At the end of basic training I was entered into gunnery school for 8 weeks at Great Lakes.

In December 1942, I was sent to Pier 92 Brooklyn navy yard and was taken on board the destroyer USS Decatur DD341. This ship was built in 1922 held a compliment of about 150 men. I was classed as a seaman first class in the gunnery department of about 13 men; later on I advanced to 3rd class gunners mate then to 2nd class gunners mate. We had 6-three inch guns, 4-20mm and numerous rifles and pistols to maintain. The second day on board we set out to escort the Queen Mary (a British liner that was hauling troops) into New York harbor. I was sea sick for three days, and never got sea sick again (was I glad).

First trip - February 9th, left New York. February 11, arrived in Norfolk, VA February 13th, left Norfolk. February 19th, arrived in Aruba, a small island off of South America, which had a large oil refinery. February 21st left Aruba with 4 tankers and 3 destroyers for escort. I believe we had destroyers Baingridge DD246 and Broome DD210 as our other escort ships. March 8, left Gibraltar and San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 26th; this first trip had partially rough seas and reports of German subs in our area continually. Weather was warm and trip uneventful.