

## **USS COLLETT – Timelines & Shipmates of 1943-45**

(Compiled with the help of many COLLETT shipmates)

### **Overview of 1943-1945**

The USS COLLETT is named in honor of LCDR John Austin COLLETT, a naval aviator whose TBF aircraft was lost in the fierce battle of Santa Cruz in the Pacific on 26 October 1942. Her keel was laid by the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine on 16 Oct 1943 as a 2200-ton SUMNER class destroyer; 376 feet in length, 40 feet abeam. The USS COLLETT was commissioned on 16 May 1944 at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, MA.

After a short fitting out and shakedown period in the Atlantic, COLLETT headed for the Pacific, reaching the war zone in early November 1944.

The ship joined Task Force 38 of the THIRD Fleet for her baptism under fire of the northern Philippine Islands. As an active ship of the fleet, COLLETT remained in the war providing gunfire support, radar picket patrol, anti-submarine patrol, and carrier escort and protection, all with the 3rd and 5th Fleet. COLLETT saw action in the battle of Okinawa, the occupation of Iwo Jima, the neutralization of Japanese air power in the Philippine Islands, and the final operations off the home islands of Japan – per “Welcome Aboard” Brochures, the May 1964 version of “History of the USS COLLETT”, and Cruise Books.

In 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt has been President since 1933 and remains so until he dies in 1945. In 1945, Harry S. Truman becomes President and remains so until 1953.

### **Timelines & Shipmates**

To view the timeline or list of shipmates for a given year, move your cursor over the corresponding line below and click your mouse button.

[The Year 1943](#)

[The Year 1944](#)

[The Year 1945](#)