

USS COLLETT – Timelines & Shipmates of 1950-55

(Compiled with the help of many COLLETT shipmates)

History of the Ship Prior to 1950

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. The 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 COLLETT was commissioned on 16 May 1944 at the Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA.

She remained in continuous commission as an active ship of the fleet and saw action in WWII and the Korean War providing gunfire support, radar picket patrol, anti-submarine patrol, and carrier escort. Beginning in 1946, COLLETT alternated between Cold-War WESTPAC cruises as a member of the Seventh Fleet and local operations along the west coast of the US – per “Welcome Aboard” Brochures and Cruise Books.

Overview of 1950-1955

The USS COLLETT participates actively in the Korean conflict; she performs missions similar to those of WWII. On 19 Sep 1950, COLLETT is part of the “Sitting Duck” Squadron in Inchon Harbor.

Following the Korean War, COLLETT continues to alternate between WESTPAC cruises and local operations along the west coast of the US, spending about 6 months on each side of the Pacific each year – per the “Decommissioning Ceremony” and a 1964 version of “History of the USS COLLETT.”

In 1950, Harry S. Truman has been President since 1945 and remains so until 1953. In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes President and remains so until 1961.

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.

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