

## **USS COLLETT – Timelines & Shipmates of 1960-1965**

(Compiled with the help of many COLLETT shipmates)

### **History of the Ship Prior to 1960**

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. 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. She was commissioned on 16 May 1944 at the Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA. The COLLETT 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. On 13 Sep 1950, COLLETT was part of the “Sitting Duck” Squadron at Inchon Harbor. Throughout the 1950s, COLLETT alternated between Cold-War WESTPAC cruises as a member of the 7th Fleet and local operations along the west coast of the US – per “Welcome Aboard” Brochures and Cruise Books.

### **Overview of 1960-1965**

16 years of arduous sea duty wear out a destroyer’s equipment. Tactics and weapons change. Consequently, in January 1960, COLLETT entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a complete overhaul including conversion from a general purpose destroyer under the FRAM (Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization) program. The ship was converted to an Anti-Submarine Warfare ship with the installation of a helicopter landing platform and modern torpedoes. All 40 MM mounts were removed. Half of the superstructure was removed and replaced. The reconstructed COLLETT was outfitted with the latest electronic equipment to search out the enemy on all fronts but, primarily, to combat the submarine menace. High-speed anti-submarine torpedoes were installed and a helicopter landing platform was provided to give the ship another vehicle to deliver torpedoes. This long range kill capability is the ship’s greatest asset –per a 1964 version of “History of USS COLLETT.”

Throughout the 1960s, COLLETT continued to alternate between WESTPAC cruises local operations along the west coast of the US. Home ported in Yokosuka, Japan, during a two-year tour of overseas duty from 1962 to 1964, the ship performed a variety of missions in the Far East including operations in the Taiwan Strait & Tonkin Gulf. Her assignments included Search and Rescue, (SAR), Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS), and plane guarding for aircraft carriers – per the “Decommissioning Ceremony”

In 1960, Dwight D. Eisenhower has been President since 1953; in 1961, John F. Kennedy becomes president and remains so until 1963 when he is assassinated. Lyndon Johnson becomes President in 1963 and remains so until 1969.

### **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 1960](#)

[The year 1961](#)

[The year 1962](#)

[The year 1963](#)

[The year 1964](#)

[The year 1965](#)