

WELCOME ABOARD



**USS MCKEAN (DD-784)
COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET**

WELCOME ABOARD UNITED STATES SHIP McKEAN (DD -784)

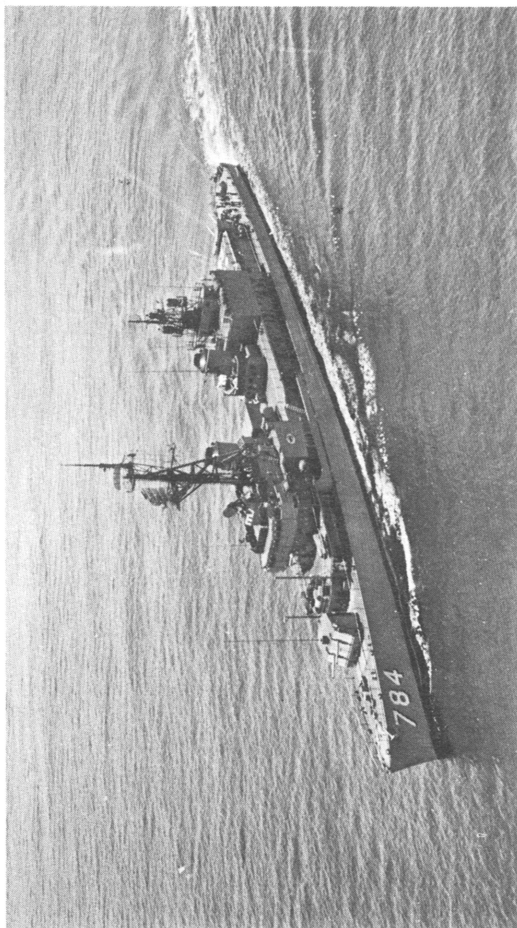
USS McKEAN (DD-784) is a World War II destroyer of the USS GEARING CLASS. She was built by TODD Shipyards in Seattle Washington and was commissioned on 9 JUNE 1945. She is the second ship to bear the name of Commodore William Wister McKEAN, a noted Union commander in the Civil War. Her predecessor, USS McKEAN (APD-5), was sunk in action in late 1943 near Bougainville.

The present McKEAN has distinguished herself again and again by showing both versatility and proficiency. She has undergone two major conversions to adapt to the constantly changing needs of the fleet. Originally built as a fast and powerful gunship, her prime targets were in the surface, either other ships or shore based units. In 1952 she was converted to a radar picket ship, with a mission to discover and combat hostile aircraft. In 1964, McKEAN again entered a shipyard for conversion, this time under the "Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM Mark I) Program." She left drydock with an antisubmarine capability. Despite her specialization, McKEAN has never been so limited that she could not offer troops ashore the assurance of her 5 inch guns, nor was she ever too busy to pick up pilots ditched at sea. Indeed, the versatility of our ship has helped the destroyer ship type earn the reputation of being the "backbone of the fleet."

Perhaps more than any other type ship, destroyers have followed John Paul Jones' intention, "Give me a fast ship for I intend to go in harms way!" McKEAN has proven herself in more than thirty-three years of service by participating in the Inchon Landing and uncovering the first mine field of the Korean War; by serving more than 18 consecutive months off Korea and in the Taiwan Straits; by earning eight battle efficiency pennants, and numerous other commendations and awards; by preventing a military outpost at My Trang, Vietnam from being overrun; by being the only conventional destroyer to keep up with nuclear powered ships on a Pacific Ocean transit; and by making seven deployments to the Western Pacific between 1965 and 1973. In AUGUST 1972, McKEAN assumed an added mission, that of a Naval Reserve training ship. Indeed, she has been in the Naval Reserve Force longer than any other destroyer commission. With a manning level of 65% of normal, McKEAN continues to carry out all missions required of a modern destroyer and additionally contributes to national security by serving as an operational, sea-going classroom for nearly 100 Selected Reservists, who drill monthly at sea for two week periods annually. Naval Reservists from various units throughout the Western U.S. also serve onboard McKEAN for their annual two week active duty for training periods. In the summer of 1973, McKEAN participated in the first Naval Reserve cruise to the Western Pacific. With reservists augmenting her active duty crew, McKEAN steamed over 17,000 nautical miles, visited ports in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Guam, Midway and Hawaii and operated with naval units of the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and the Government of the Republic of China, proving the responsiveness and readiness of McKEAN to again answer the call to overseas duty.

In JUNE 1978, McKEAN celebrated her 33rd birthday, a milestone which can be proudly shared by her crews, both past and present, as a tribute to their professional performance and dedication. Now located only a few miles from where her keel was laid, over 33 years ago, McKEAN stands ready for immediate response in the event of Navy mobilization. Since arriving in Seattle, McKEAN has operated with other Destroyer Squadron 37 ships and those of Canada, Great Britain, and New Zealand in several multinational exercises maintaining a high degree of training and readiness. The McKEAN and her crew have served as Ambassadors for the Navy, attending the Portland Oregon Rose Festival annually and frequenting many small ports up and down the Western Coast of the United States and Canada.

We are proud of the McKEAN. She is not young by warship standards, but she will never fail our nation. We hope you can feel and share our pride in McKEAN and her crew during your visit.



COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

The Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (NAVSURFPAC) is commanded by a Vice Admiral with headquarters at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California.

The primary mission of the Commander, Naval Surface Force, is to provide combat-ready ships and men to the Commanders, U.S. Third and Seventh Fleets. The Navy's area of responsibility in the Pacific encompasses about 85 million square miles

The Commander is also responsible for the training, readiness, discipline and morale of his forces.

With the exception of the Submarine and Naval Air Forces, COMNAVSURFPAC commands all other surface ships in the Pacific Fleet.

While deployed, these ships and men may be engaged in anti-submarine warfare exercises, search and rescue missions, provide gunfire support, take part in fleet and amphibious exercises, or may visit other countries on good-will missions.

When in their homeports, ships' crews enjoy leave and liberty, conduct refresher training, make necessary repairs, perform routine upkeep of their ships and train new men for duty in today's navy.