

# USS McCaffery DD/DDE- 860

Shipmates Association

C/O James Bell, Editor

763 E. Gaines In

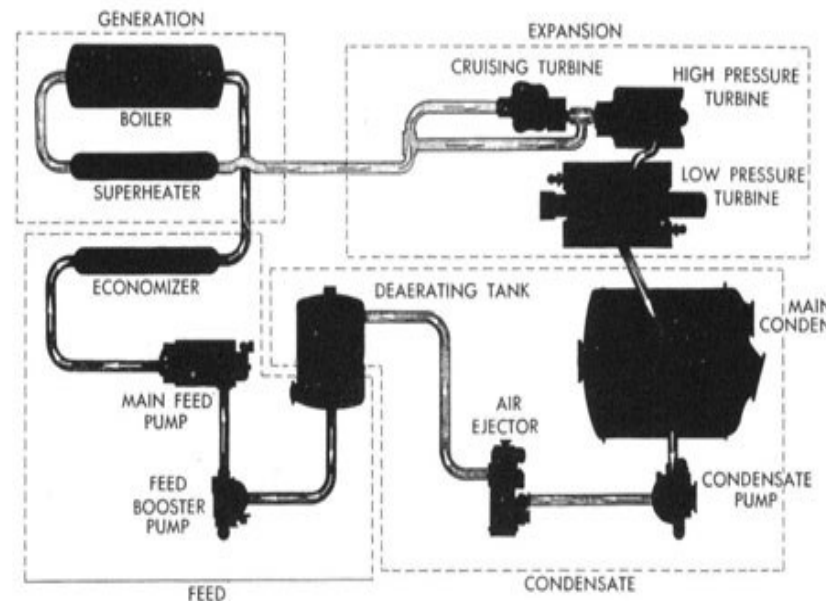
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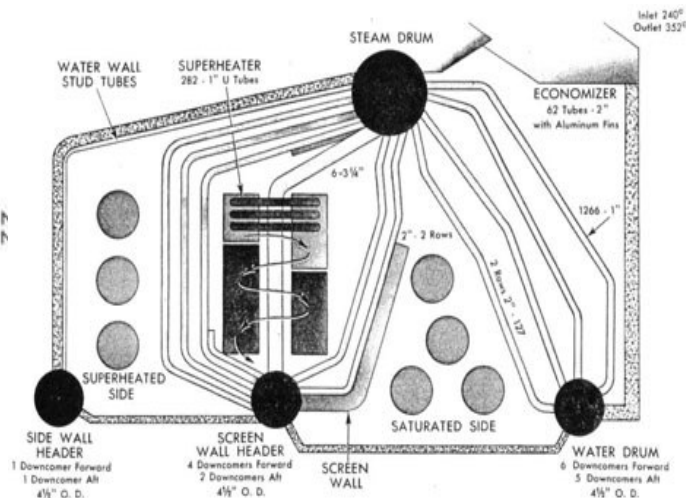
Confidential crisis chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net)  
or text to **838255**

If you have E Mail service and receive this N/L by US mail, please consider E mail only.

This would greatly reduce the cost of printing and mailing. Notify Nick Donatiello at [NDonatiello@donatiello.net](mailto:NDonatiello@donatiello.net)



Thought you BT's and MM's would like these drawings from [Destroyer Steam Propulsion Manual, 1946](#).



# USS MC CAFFERY DD/DDE-860

## SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION FALL 2020



**From The Editor:** Hello shipmates, spouse's and friends of the McCaffery. Welcome back, Hope you all are weathering the virus impact to us and our great country. In this issue you will find some interesting articles sent / phoned to me by shipmates about personal experiences before and while serving on the Mac. If any one has a story to tell, send it to me. Hope your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are joyous and filled with happiness.

James Bell

### Presidents Message:

Hello Shipmates,

I hope you are all well and safe, and that the Covid19 virus is far away. I am hunkered down like the rest of you and will be very glad when we have a vaccine, hopefully early next year according to Dr. Fauci. I am disappointed that our San Antonio reunion in association with the Tin Can Sailor Association had to be cancelled because of the virus, but better safe than sorry. The TCS says that the next reunion will be in Baltimore in September of 2021. I am looking forward to that and getting together with shipmates. The reunion will go from Sunday (registration/check-in) through the following Thursday when we all return home. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be filled with optional tour opportunities including Fort McHenry, the British attack on which was the inspiration for our National Anthem. Baltimore's Inner Harbor has a world class aquarium, many restaurants featuring crab cakes, the USS Constellation, a museum ship from the 1850s that served in the Med and the Civil War, USS Torsk, a WWII submarine, and the USCGC Taney that survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. There will be an informal dinner Monday evening, and a Farewell Banquet Wednesday evening. Tuesday evening is open for ships to get together. Details and registration will be mailed out in April of next year. I urge you to join the TCS so you can receive their excellent newsletter. Also please contribute some money to cover the costs of our McCaffery Newsletter. Be well and take care.

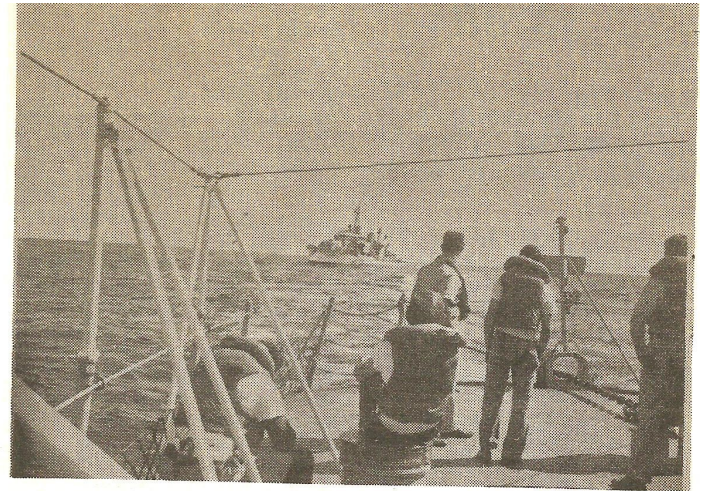
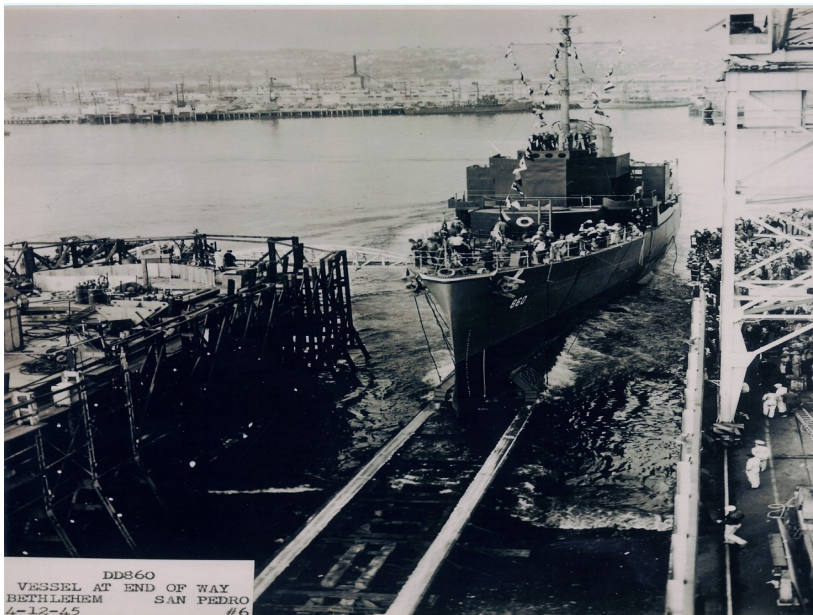
Best, Doug Hackett

President, USS McCaffery Shipmates Association





. We note with sadness the passing on June 17, 2020 of Patricia McCaffery Liebler, niece of LtCol Joseph P. McCaffery USMC, KIA on Bougainville Nov. 1, 1943, after whom our ship is named. LtCol McCaffery was Commanding Officer of the Second Marine Raider Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry. On April 12, 1945 Patricia was 9 years old when at Bethlehem Steel in San Pedro, CA, she christened the USS McCaffery with her mother Mrs. Lucy Kelly McCaffery in attendance. Ms. Liebler loved to visit the McCaffery and was frequently invited aboard, especially when the ship was in port at the Brooklyn Navy Ship Yard. Ms. Liebler appreciated the fact that her Uncle Joe was honored by United States Navy by having a ship named after him. She prayed often for the ship and its crew's safety. Ms. Liebler, along with many other McCaffery family members and relatives, was a strong and loyal supporter of the USS McCaffery Shipmates Association. It should also be noted that Ms. Liebler's father, LtCol Hugh F. McCaffery, US Army Air Corps, was also killed in WWII, so she felt doubly honored by recognition of their service to our country.



**LAWE TOWS McCAFFERY** -- These sailors of the USS William C. Lawe watch the strain being taken on the tow line to the USS McCaffery. It's part of underway training scheduled by Capt. Ralph E. Wilson, Jr., ComDesDiv 82, while the two ships were en route to Mombasa Kenya and the Middle East area.

As long as we are hunkered down because of the virus, here are a couple of book suggestions: Tom Hanks has a great DD movie called Greyhound that is based on WWII Atlantic convoy defense. Several books have been written about that part of WWII. They are worth reading because they are so authentic and so exciting to read. They are: **The Lonely Sea**, A. Maclean; **The Good Shepherd**, C.S. Forester; **The Cruel sea**, N. Montserrat; **HMS Ulysses**, A. Maclean. Good Shepherd is the book Hanks' movie is based on. Enjoy. Doug.



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Contact information, Veterans Affairs

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/  
compensation](https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation)

If you are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, connect with our caring, qualified responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves.

**Call 800-273-8255 and press 1**

**Text 838255 Start a confidential chat**

**Call TTY if you have hearing loss 800-799-4889** Get more resources at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net).

Moving, changing e mail service or know some deceased shipmate? Notify: USS McCaffery Association, 631 Squaw Rock Road, Moosup, CT 06354 E Mail- [despathy860@gmail.com](mailto:despathy860@gmail.com).

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Listed below are the shipmates that have contributed to the publication of the newsletter. Your continued generous support is needed and greatly appreciated. When sending checks, **please make payable to James Bell** with McCaffery Association on the memo line.

Name	Year	Rank/Rate			
Bell, John M	62-64	*LT	Pielli	Arthur A.	60-62 FN
Bayrd, Dr. Garrett	1972	PN2	Pryor, Rayford V.		47-50 EN3
Biegen Robert J.	71-73	FTG2	Savage, Phil A.		71-72 ETN2
Campbell, Howard M.	59-60	FTA3	Shoemaker, William G.		65-68 BT2
Foster, Torrey N.	57-58	*LT	Trezza, Anthony J.		56-58 SK3
Jerabek, Richard J.	66-69	E3	Turk, J. Don		69-71 YN2
Lockhart, Bruce W.	69-70	SN	<b>Yevincy James, (June)</b>		46-47 BT3
McGregor, William R.	66-70	ETN3	(in loving memory of Jim)		
Means, Douglas D.	71-73	RD3			
Ormsby, Duane G.	67-70	QM3			

**Thanks for the generous donations, we are well in the black.**

### Shipmate Comment's::

Trezza Anthony J. 56-58 SK3

" Jim, Just received my newsletter yesterday and was saddened we will not have a reunion this year. I hope I can make it next year. Anyhow accept my donation for the postal cost's. I have no E mail or computer, Mail only. "

Pielli, Arthur A. 60-62 FN

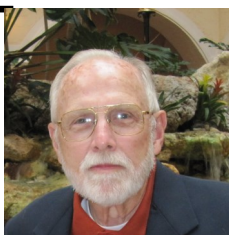
"Jim, Thank you for your dedication and beautiful newsletter, Regards."

Yevincy James (June) 46-47 BT3

" James, Just a small donation to keep the newsletter in print" June Yevincy — Memory of Jim.

Pryor, Rayford V. 47-50 EN3

"Thanks James, I was the Engineman on the captains gig for 2 1/2 years, several in the laundry. And most of the time crews Motor Whale Boat. The officer in charge during the China assignment was Lt. Grainger from Georgia; that was an experience. We also protected the Iowa, Atlantic fleet. Our group



There is no justification for taking away individuals' freedom in the guise of public safety.

~ Thomas Jefferson

## USS Liberty 1967 : Phone conversation with Thomas Roper, 53-55 LTjg

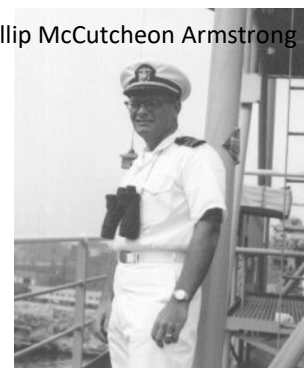
“ I was assigned to the USS McCaffery in early 1953 and soon became the Communications Officer. My assigned bunk room was a two man room located below the 1st division deck containing the ships large safe. Shortly after reporting aboard , a recent Naval Academy grad named Phillip McCutcheon Armstrong was also assigned to the McCaffery. He was assigned to the two man bunkroom with myself. We became good friends. Phillip became the 3rd division Officer while the ship made several cruise's to various ports. After a couple of years Philip was transferred to other duty stations but we remained in contact. In 1967 Philip became the Executive Officer of the USS Liberty, AGTR-5 , an Electronic surveillance ship. ” **The following information was copied and edited from readily available public sources on the internet**

The USS Liberty, a World War II-era cargo ship, refitted as a surveillance vessel, was deployed to the eastern Mediterranean in the days leading up to 1967 war between Israel and Egypt. Its mission was to gather signals intelligence on Israel's Arab opponents and their Soviet advisers and monitor the situation from international waters off the coast of Sinai, Egypt.

In the morning hours of June 8, 1967, the Israeli aerial reconnaissance spotted an unidentified ship 70 miles off the coast of Gaza. Three hours later, a second reconnaissance flight spotted an unidentified ship 20 miles off the coast of nearby El-Arish. The Israeli Air Force notified the Israeli naval command that these two sightings were the USS Liberty. The ship was marked as neutral and removed from the threat board.



Phillip McCutcheon Armstrong



Shortly afterward, the Israeli military received word that El-Arish was under naval bombardment. This report turned out to be an error, but that was not discovered until long after three torpedo boats were dispatched to investigate. The boats spotted a vessel in the vicinity of El-Arish and, based on its speed and its profile, assumed it was an unmarked Egyptian destroyer. The boats called in the ship's position to the Israeli Air Force. At just before 2 p.m. local time, four Israeli fighter planes strafed the Liberty with 30-mm cannons and rocket fire. The Liberty spotted the torpedo boats and prepared to mount a defense. Captain William McGonagle spotted the Israeli flag on the boats and ordered his men not to fire, but the order was not received by all the ship's gunners. The torpedo boats took a burst of machine gun fire and responded with several torpedoes and cannon. When the air and sea attack was over, 34 crew members of the Liberty were dead, Including **Phillip McCutcheon Armstrong** and 171 more were wounded. The ship sustained major damage and barely escaped being sunk

### **Ships Store: USS McCAFFERY MERCHANDISE :**

Blue Polo Shirts s-m-l-xl \$20.00, xxl \$24.00, xxxl \$26.00 , white T's at \$8.50 with pic , blue T's with Tin Can Pic on back \$20.00 (limited supply) , Pic's can be found on TCS web and Mac web.

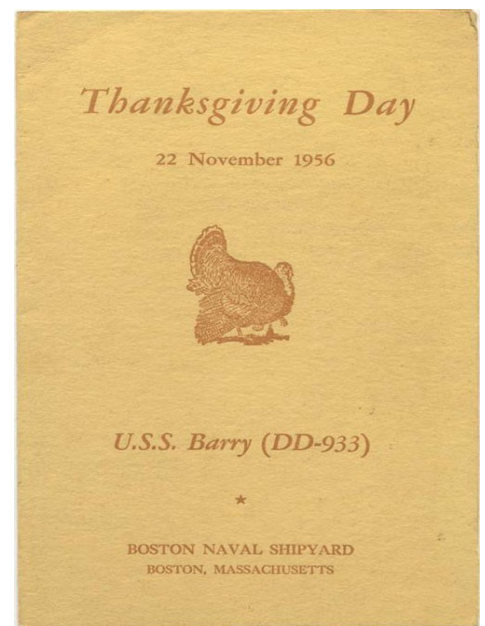
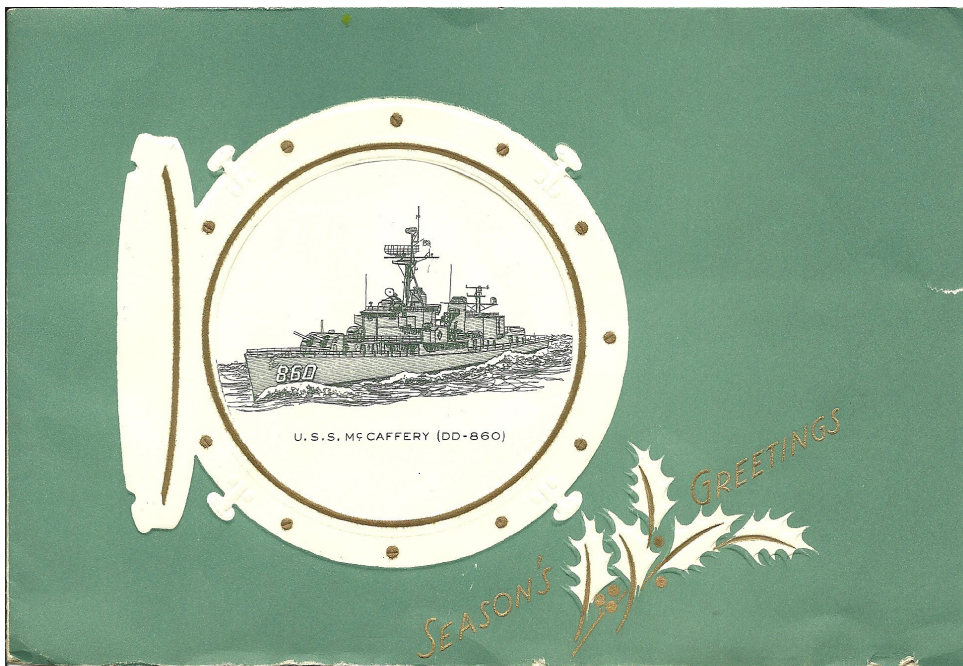
Jackets \$35.00, xxl , \$38.00 Caps \$17.50 , Lic Plate Holders \$8.00 , Patches .  
“Drive Them Into The Sea” & “Hedgehogs” \$5.50 each/two for \$10.00. USS  
McCaffery Shoulder Patches \$2.50.

When placing an order, Send to: Ron Trippett 17 Bay View Circle ,Salem Mass  
01970. / rontrippett@comcast.net

[www.publichealth.va.gov](http://www.publichealth.va.gov)

Blue Water Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23 are eligible for the Agent Orange Registry. Note: being in the registry does not verify eligibility for benefits.





Letter from Kupper, Emil A. 64-65 SOSN

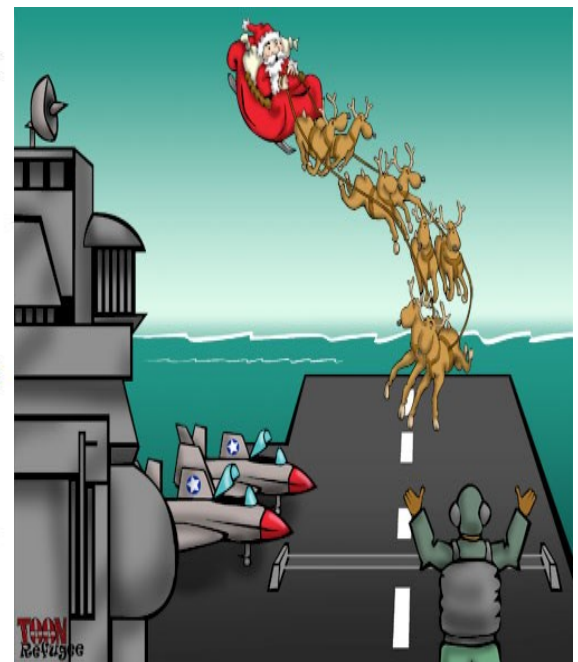
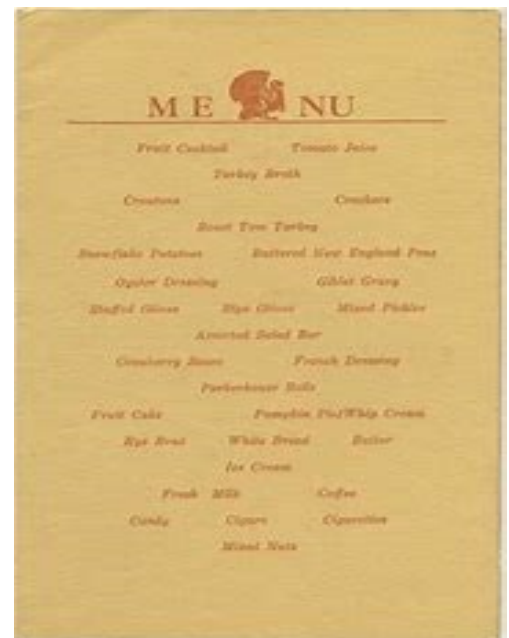
"Enclosed is a Christmas card I sent home from the McCaffery in 1964. Please share with all the Shipmates I was sent to the McCaffery right from boot camp in September 1964 for 7 months temporary sea duty before going to Fleet Sonar school.

I had never been on a ship before so a hurricane was coming to Florida and they sent all the ships from Mayport out to sea to ride out the hurricane. So my first time at sea was on the McCaffery in a Hurricane.

I was so seasick, moaning and throwing up the chief said just let him stay in his rack. It's the first time I knew why they call them Tincans.

Never got sick after that my whole time on ships in the Navy

Hope all are well."

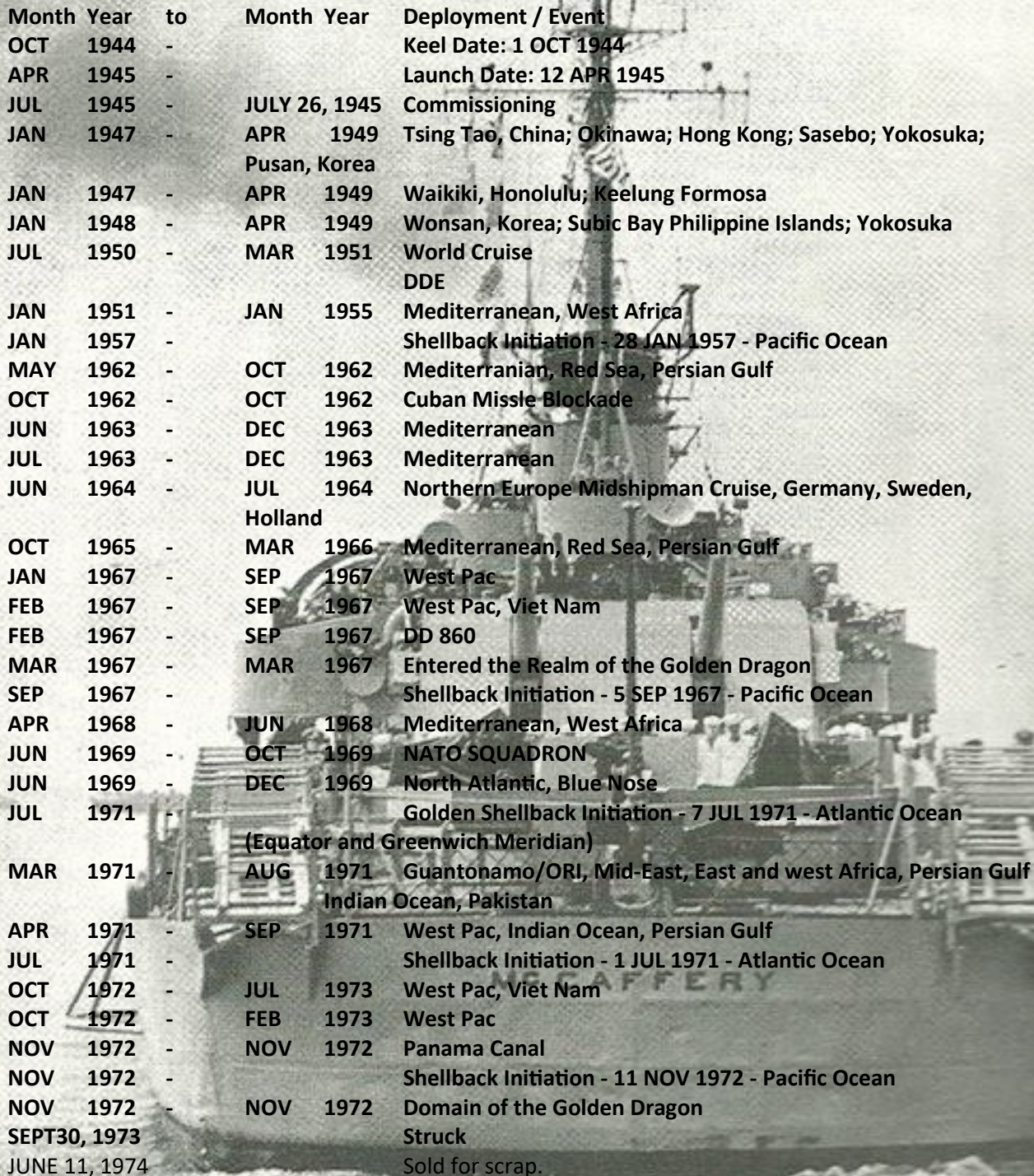




## U.S.S. MCCAFFERY (DD-860)

## DRIVE THEM INTO THE SEA

## DD-860 DEPLOYMENTS - MAJOR EVENTS



Month	Year	to	Month	Year	Deployment / Event
OCT	1944	-			Keel Date: 1 OCT 1944
APR	1945	-			Launch Date: 12 APR 1945
JUL	1945	-	JULY 26, 1945		Commissioning
JAN	1947	-	APR 1949		Tsing Tao, China; Okinawa; Hong Kong; Sasebo; Yokosuka; Pusan, Korea
JAN	1947	-	APR 1949		Waikiki, Honolulu; Keelung Formosa
JAN	1948	-	APR 1949		Wonsan, Korea; Subic Bay Philippine Islands; Yokosuka
JUL	1950	-	MAR 1951		World Cruise DDE
JAN	1951	-	JAN 1955		Mediterranean, West Africa
JAN	1957	-			Shellback Initiation - 28 JAN 1957 - Pacific Ocean
MAY	1962	-	OCT 1962		Mediterranean, Red Sea, Persian Gulf
OCT	1962	-	OCT 1962		Cuban Missile Blockade
JUN	1963	-	DEC 1963		Mediterranean
JUL	1963	-	DEC 1963		Mediterranean
JUN	1964	-	JUL 1964		Northern Europe Midshipman Cruise, Germany, Sweden, Holland
OCT	1965	-	MAR 1966		Mediterranean, Red Sea, Persian Gulf
JAN	1967	-	SEP 1967		West Pac
FEB	1967	-	SEP 1967		West Pac, Viet Nam
FEB	1967	-	SEP 1967		DD 860
MAR	1967	-	MAR 1967		Entered the Realm of the Golden Dragon
SEP	1967	-			Shellback Initiation - 5 SEP 1967 - Pacific Ocean
APR	1968	-	JUN 1968		Mediterranean, West Africa
JUN	1969	-	OCT 1969		NATO SQUADRON
JUN	1969	-	DEC 1969		North Atlantic, Blue Nose
JUL	1971	-			Golden Shellback Initiation - 7 JUL 1971 - Atlantic Ocean (Equator and Greenwich Meridian)
MAR	1971	-	AUG 1971		Guantanamo/ORI, Mid-East, East and west Africa, Persian Gulf Indian Ocean, Pakistan
APR	1971	-	SEP 1971		West Pac, Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf
JUL	1971	-			Shellback Initiation - 1 JUL 1971 - Atlantic Ocean
OCT	1972	-	JUL 1973		West Pac, Viet Nam
OCT	1972	-	FEB 1973		West Pac
NOV	1972	-	NOV 1972		Panama Canal
NOV	1972	-			Shellback Initiation - 11 NOV 1972 - Pacific Ocean
NOV	1972	-	NOV 1972		Domain of the Golden Dragon
SEPT30, 1973					Struck
JUNE 11, 1974					Sold for scrap.

... GOING HOME!!  
TILL THE NEXT ONE