

U.S.S. TURNER JOY (DD-951)

FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS TURNER JOY (DD 951)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-291Sh)

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Subj: Ship's History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7

Encl: (1) History of USS TURNER JOY (DD-951); revised 31 December 1965
(2) Photograph of new configuration

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded herewith.



R. B. McCLINTON

Copy to: (w/encls)
COMCRUDES PAC
COMDESRON NINETEEN
COMCRUDES FLOT THREE

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951)

The United States Navy is charged with the high task of maintaining global peace through the employment of flexible, mobile sea power. An essential element of the Navy's flexibility and mobility is its destroyer force, of which USS TURNER JOY is a proud member.

USS TURNER JOY is named in honor of the late Admiral C. Turner Joy, USN, a distinguished naval figure of World War II and the Korean War. As commanding officer of the cruiser USS LOUISVILLE, and later as cruiser division commander, he participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific during World War II, including Guadalcanal, Philippines, and Iwo Jima. During the Korean War, Admiral Joy was both Commander, United States Naval Forces in the Far East and Senior United Nations Delegate at the Panmunjom truce talks. For his service, Admiral Joy was awarded the Legion of Merit four times.

The TURNER JOY is a general-purpose destroyer of the latest post-war class, the last of her kind to be built. She measures 418 feet in length, 45 feet, 6 inches abeam, and displaces 3900 tons. Her steam turbines and twin screws propel her at speeds greater than 30 knots. Her firepower consists of three 5-inch dual-purpose guns and one twin 3-inch rapid-fire mount for surface and anti-aircraft firing. She also carries modern anti-submarine weapons and is designed for the installation of more advanced weapons now under development. Her crew consists of more than 250 officers and men, who are trained for such diverse duties as anti-submarine warfare, anti-air warfare, shore bombardment, and the screening of high-speed combat vessels.

The keel of USS TURNER JOY was laid September 30, 1957. Launched on May 5, 1958, she was christened by Admiral Joy's widow, Mrs. C. Turner Joy. The ship was built by the Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging Company of Seattle, Washington, for the United States Navy and placed in commission on August 3, 1959.

Upon completion of her fitting out at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton Washington, the TURNER JOY made a thirty-day goodwill tour to Central and South America. At Puntarenas, Costa Rica, the President of Costa Rica came aboard for an official visit, the first ever made by a president of that nation to a United States Naval vessel. After shakedown training in San Diego and a post-shakedown availability at Bremerton, the TURNER JOY arrived in Long Beach, California, where she joined Destroyer Squadron THIRTEEN as Squadron Flagship in March 1960. Two months later she deployed to the Far East and operated as part of the SEVENTH Fleet until November, 1960. Operations included lifeguard duty for President Eisenhower's Far East visit, Formosa Patrol and maneuvers with the Fast Carrier Task Forces. During this deployment the TURNER JOY visited the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, and Japan. Upon her return to Long Beach in November, the ship reported to Commander FIRST Fleet for duty.

After a period of upkeep in late 1960, TURNER JOY participated in type and fleet exercises until August 1961. The performance of ship and crew during this period earned the TURNER JOY the Type Commander's "E" for Battle Efficiency. She then commenced her first shipyard overhaul, at which time newer, more effective equipment was installed. Following the overhaul, the ship joined Destroyer Squadron NINETEEN as Squadron Flagship.

June 1962 found the TURNER JOY deploying once again to the Far East, where she operated as part of a Fast Carrier Attack Force in the SEVENTH Fleet, and primarily with the USS BON HOMME RICHARD. The bonds of co-operation between carrier and destroyer sailors were forged more closely when, on the night of September 22, a downed pilot from the BON HOMME RICHARD was rescued by the TURNER JOY Life Guard Detail. Places visited during this deployment included the Philippines, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Upon her return to Long Beach and the FIRST Fleet in December, 1962, the TURNER JOY was awarded four plaques by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE, for performance in the flotilla-wide competition for the period of 1 November 1961 - 31 December 1962. Included were awards for Expert in Mobility, Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, and First Place in Flotilla Competition.

From January through April 1963, the TURNER JOY underwent upkeep and participated in numerous type training exercises. A shipyard overhaul at Mare Island, California, followed in May, where more modern equipment was installed. Returning to Long Beach in June, the ship began another period of type and fleet exercises. Once again, the skill of the TURNER JOY's crew earned her a Battle Efficiency "E", awarded by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE, in August 1963. The ship's training and upkeep cycle continued until the following spring, when the TURNER JOY deployed to the Western Pacific for the third time.

Upon reporting to Commander SEVENTH Fleet in March 1964, the TURNER JOY commenced what appeared to be a routine deployment. She alternately operated with fast attack carrier task groups in the South China Sea and visited Far Eastern ports including Subic Bay in the Philippines, Hong Kong, B.C.C., and Yokosuka, Sasebo, Yokohama in Japan. During her stay in Yokohama on 15 and 16 May, more than 4,000 Japanese, including a group of 54 orphans, visited the ship. The orphans were entertained by crew members and given gifts as souvenirs of their visit to the TURNER JOY.

The tenor of the cruise changed on 2 August, when the USS MADDOX was attacked by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. The TURNER JOY was dispatched immediately to the aid of the MADDOX. Two nights later, on 4 August, both destroyers were attacked in the Gulf by several high-speed torpedo boats. In the ensuing engagement which lasted more than two hours, the TURNER JOY sank two motor torpedo boats and damaged two others while sustaining no damage herself.

Following subsequent routine operations in the South China Sea, the TURNER JOY returned to Long Beach and FIRST Fleet early in October, 1964 to commence a period of leave and upkeep.

In November, the TURNER JOY was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for outstanding heroism in action in the Gulf of Tonkin operation.

The ship entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 18 December to commence a three month overhaul.

Following completion of the overhaul in March 1965, TURNER JOY operated from San Diego during the months of April and May to undergo refresher training. On 10 July, in company with other units of Destroyer Squadron NINETEEN, TURNER JOY departed Long Beach for her fourth Western Pacific deployment.

Following a twenty-one day transit, TURNER JOY reported for duty with the fast attack carrier USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) and operated both with the carrier and as a detached radar picket ship. The 23rd of September found TURNER JOY in the Gulf of Thailand conducting the first naval gunfire support mission ever conducted off South Vietnam's west coast. Two days later she was on the east coast of South Vietnam engaged in similar fire support efforts. The ship expended 667 rounds of high explosive ammunition on twenty targets during these assignments. After a brief upkeep period in Subic Bay, the ship returned to the coastal area of South Vietnam for two weeks of shore bombardment, ranging from Cape St. Jacques to Chu-Lai. TURNER JOY patrolled the coast for a week, firing 364 rounds against twenty-three targets with excellent effect. On 25 October TURNER JOY was ordered to a position near Chu-Lai to provide support for friendly U.S. and South Vietnamese ground forces. During the course of the day and the night, TURNER JOY expended more than 700 rounds and repulsed a Viet Cong attack on the ground forces. Destroyed were 57 structures and 35 Viet Cong infantrymen. At the conclusion of this intense action, a round which had misfired in one of the five-inch gun mounts detonated while efforts were being made to clear it from the gun, damaging the mount, killing three men and injuring three others. After placing the casualties in the care of medical facilities ashore at Da Nang, TURNER JOY proceeded to Subic Bay for repairs. Six days later the ship sortied with the attack carrier USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14) for operations in the South China Sea and later port visits to Subic Bay, Hong Kong and Yokosuka, Japan. At year's end TURNER JOY was again on station off the South Vietnamese coast standing by to provide naval gunfire support to friendly forces ashore.