

USS COLLETT – Timelines & Shipmates of 1966-70 & the Years 1974 to 1988

(Compiled with the help of many COLLETT shipmates)

History of the Ship Prior to 1966

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. Through the 1950s & 1960s, COLLETT alternated between Cold-War WESTPAC cruises as a member of the 7th Fleet and local operations along the west coast of the US. In 1960, COLLETT was modified by the FRAM (Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization) program. On 19 Jul 1960 during sea trials she collided with the USS AMMEN (DD-527); details are given on our website. - (per “Welcome Aboard” Brochures and Cruise Books)

Overview of 1966-1970

Throughout the 1960s, COLLETT continued to alternate between Cold-War WESTPAC cruises as a member of the 7th Fleet and local operations along the west coast of the US. The USS COLLETT participated actively in the Vietnam conflict. Home ported in Yokosuka, Japan, during a two-year tour of overseas duty from 1966 to 1968, the ship performed a variety of combat missions in the Tonkin Gulf. Assignments included Search and Rescue (SAR), Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS), Operation Sea Dragon, and planeguarding for attack carriers. The ship underwent three months of regular overhaul early in 1969. Six weeks of refresher training in all phases of destroyer tactics in June and July prepared COLLETT for her WESTPAC deployment in 1969-1970. – (per the “Decommissioning Ceremony”)

In 1966, Lyndon Johnson has been President since 1963; in 1969, Richard Nixon becomes President and remains so until he resigns in 1974.

Timelines & Shipmates

To view the timeline or list of shipmates or for a given year, move your cursor over the corresponding line below and click your mouse button.

[The year 1966.](#)

[The year 1967.](#)

[The year 1968.](#)

[The year 1969.](#)

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[After Decommissioning by the USN - The Years 1974 to 1988.](#)