

**The Federal  
Shipyard  
and Dry Dock  
Company  
at  
Kearny, New Jersey**

This is a list of Navy warships, arranged alphabetically by ship name, built at the Federal Shipyard and Dry Dock Company, a subsidiary of United States Steel. The shipyard was located in Kearny, New Jersey and operated from 1918 up to the end of World War II in 1945. Many of these ships had impressive war records and were awarded battle stars as recognition. The number of battle stars is noted for each ship. Many of these ships also had unusual or noteworthy exploits and this is also noted. The main source of information was the Navy History Center web site, <http://ww.history.navy.mil/> and also the publication The Tin Can Sailor, published by the National Association of Destroyer Veterans. Ships built by the Federal Shipyard at Port Newark are not included.

Naval ship abbreviations:

AG	Repair ship
AGC	Amphibious Force Flagship
AK	Cargo ship
AKA	Attack Cargo ship
AO	Oiler
AP	Transport
APA	Attack transport
AS	Submarine tender
AV	Seaplane tender
CL	Light cruiser
CVE	Escort aircraft carrier
DD	Destroyer
DE	Destroyer escort
DMS	Fast minesweeper



<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-183	USS Aaron Ward	Four	11-22-41
AKA-53	USS Achernar	Three	12-3-43
	This attack cargo ship was also awarded three battle stars for the Korean War.		
DE-167	USS Acree	Five	5-9-43
AG-34	USS Alcor		1928
DD-692	USS Allen M. Sumner	Four	12-15-43
	This destroyer also received battle stars for the Korean war and Viet Nam conflict. She also assisted in the quarantine of Cuba during the missile crisis of the Kennedy administration		
AKA-55	USS Alshain	Five	1-26-44
DD-411	USS Anderson	Ten	2-4-39
	Participated in the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.		
AP-76	USS Anne Arundel	Five	11-16-40
	Originally named Mormacyork, this Attack Transport was acquired by the Navy.		
AGC1-1	USS Appalachian	Four	1-29-43
	Amphibious Force Command ship for the invasion of Kwajalien, Guam, Leyte and Lingayen Gulf. Served as press headquarters for atomic bomb tests in 1946.		
AKA-16	USS Aquarius	Eight	7-23-43
CL-51	USS Atlanta	Five	9-6-41
	Probably because of its name, this light cruiser was christened by Margaret Mitchell, the author of <u>Gone With the Wind</u> . The ship was sunk off Guadalcanal. A second Atlanta (CL-104) was built at Camden, NJ and in 1980 a nuclear sub with the same name was launched.		
DD-698	USS Ault	Five	3-26-44
	Also awarded two battle stars for the Viet Nam conflict.		
DD-453	USS Bristol		7-25-41
	Torpedoed and lost off Algeria in 1941.		
DD-660	USS Bullard		4-9-43
DD-666	USS Black		5-21-43

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-704	USS Borie Transferred to Argentina as Hipolito Bouchard D-26 in 1972		8-21-44
DD-484	USS Buchanan Very active in the Pacific in WWII and in 1949 transferred to Turkey as Gelibolu D-346.		3-21-42
AKS-1	USS Castor Originally named Challenge this cargo ship also earned two battle stars for Korean War service.	Three	5-20-39
AKA-17	USS Centaurus	Six	9-3-43
AKA-18	USS Cepheus	Two	10-23-43
AKA-58	USS Chara This cargo ship was also awarded seven battle stars for Korean War service.	Four	3-15-43
DD-697	USS Charles S. Sperry Four Korean War battle stars.	Four	3-13-44
DD-667	USS Chauncey Two Korean War battle stars.	Seven	3-28-43
DD-668	USS Clarence K. Bronson One Korean War battle star.	Nine	3-18-43
DD-705	USS Compton	One	9-17-44
DE-172	USS Cooner		7-23-43
DD-695	USS Cooper	One	2-9-44
DE-438	USS Corbesier	Two	2-13-44
DD-669	USS Cotton One Korean War battle star.	Nine	6-12-43
DE-448	USS Cross	One	7-4-44
DD-659	USS Dashiell	Ten	2-6-43

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt.Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-618	USS Davison In 1945 this destroyer was converted to a high-speed minesweeper and reclassified as DMS-37.	Three	7-19-42
AKA-59	USS Diphda Six Korean War battle stars.	One	5-16-44
DD-670	USS Dortch One Korean War battle star.	Eight	6-20-43
DD-485	USS Duncan This destroyer sank on 12 October 1942, only eight months after being launched.	One	2-20-42
DD-439	USS Edison	Six	11-23-40
DD-619	USS Edwards	Fourteen	7-19-42
DD-398	USS Ellet Screened Task Force 16, which launched B-25's on Doolittle's raid on Tokyo, the first time Japan was bombed in WWII. Strategically unimportant, but a huge boost for the American war effort and morale.	Ten	6-11-38
DD-454	USS Ellyson	Seven	7-25-41
DD-696	USS English Four Korean War battle stars.	Four	2-27-44
DD-719	USS Epperson Five Korean War battle stars.		12-2-45
DD-640	USS Ericsson In May 1945 helped sink a German submarine off Block Island.	Three	11-23-40
AS-22	USS Euryale Originally named Hawaiian Merchant, acquired by the Navy and commissioned as a submarine tender in April 1943.		1941
AK-1	USS Federal World War I cargo ship.		1918
DD-445	USS Fletcher Five Korean War battle stars. This was the original of what is known as the Fletcher class of Destroyers.	Fifteen	5-3-42

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt.Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-368	USS Flusser	Eight	9-28-35
	On 5 December 1941 Flusser left Pearl Harbor thus was away from the base at the time of the Japanese attack.		
CL-121	USS Fresno		3-5-46
DD-706	USS Gainard	One	9-17-44
	Navy Unit Commendation for extraordinary heroism in action off Okinawa. In 1963 served as support ship on recovery station during launching of Project Mercury with astronaut L. Gordon Cooper.		
DD-671	USS Gatling	Eight	6-20-43
	One Korean War battle star.		
AP-111	USS General A.E. Anderson		5-2-43
	One Korean war battle star.		
AP-115	USS General George M. Randall		1-30-44
AP-113	USS General H.W. Butner		9-19-43
	Two Korean War battle stars.		
AP-176	USS General J.D. Breckinridge		3-18-45
	Four Korean War battle stars.		
AP-110	USS General John Pope		3-21-43
	Six Korean War battle stars.		
AP-116	USS General M.C. Meigs		3-13-44
	Six Korean War battle stars.		
AP-112	USS General W.A.Mann		10-13-43
AP-117	USS General W. H. Gordon		5-7-44
	Transported troops to Viet Nam in 1967.		
AP-118	USS General W.P. Richardson		8-6-44
AP-114	USS General William Mitchell		10-31-43
	This transport was named after a controversial air power advocate.		
AP-119	USS General William Weigel		9-3-44
	Seven Korean War battle stars.		

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-620	USS Glennon Sunk by a German shore battery in 1944.	Two	8-26-42
IX-218	USS Guardaqui This tanker was commissioned in 1945.		1921
DD-112	USS Hamman This destroyer took part in the battle of Coral Sea and the battle of Midway, two of the most historically significant events of the war in the Pacific. She rescued nearly 500 men from the aircraft carrier Lexington, which was sunk at Midway. Unfortunately later in the war she was lost to a Japanese submarine.	Two	2-4-39
DD-702	USS Hank Four Korean War battle stars.	Four	5-21-44
DD-708	USS Harlan R. Dickson Participated in the Cuban blockade.		12-17-44
DD-700	USS Haynsworth In September 1944 this destroyer escorted the Queen Mary with Winston Churchill on board. In 1962 she was part of the Cuban blockade.	Three	4-15-41
DD-672	USS Healy	Eight	7-4-43
DE-510	USS Heyliger		8-6-44
DD-673	USS Hickox Two Korean War battle stars.	Nine	7-4-43
DD-709	USS Hugh Purvis Aided in the recovery of John Glenn's Mercury space capsule. Also participated in the Cuba quarantine of 1962. In March 1966 she rescued the crew of the fishing boat Good Will II.		12-17-44
DD-674	USS Hunt Hit by a Kamikaze off Okinawa in April 1945 but survived. Cruised around the world in 1954		8-1-43
DD-694	USS Ingraham One Korean War battle star. Navy Unit Commendation for action off Okinawa. Assisted in atomic bomb test at Bikini	Four	1-16-44

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-621	USS Jeffers	Seven	8-26-42
	Participated in “D Day”, the Normandy invasion. Later converted to a high-speed minesweeper (DMS-27). In August 1945 joined occupation forces at the surrender in Tokyo Bay.		
DD-447	USS Jenkins	Fourteen	6-21-42
	One Korean War battle star. Took part in the African Campaign in November 1942. She then transferred to the Pacific and participated in numerous sea battles for the next three years. She was decommissioned at San Diego in May 1946. Then in November 1951 she was recommissioned as DDE-447 for the Korean War. This much-decorated destroyer also shelled enemy troops to assist Marines fighting in Viet Nam		
DD-701	USS John W. Weeks	Four	5-21-44
	Fought in many Pacific sea battles all the way to Tokyo Bay. Decommissioned in May 1950 and recommissioned in October that same year. Completed a round the world cruise in October 1953. In 1959 she participated in “Operation Inland Sea” during the opening of the Saint Lawrence Seaway. She was the first Navy destroyer to enter each of the Great Lakes. During this cruise she escorted the HMS Britannia with the Queen of England on board. In march 1960 in company with USS Ault, DD-698 (also built in Kearny) transited the Bosphorus , and the two became the first United States warships to enter the Black Sea since 1945.		
CL-52	USS Juneau	Four	10-25-41
	Early in 1942 Juneau assumed blockade patrol off Martinique and Guadaloupe Islands in the former French West Indies to prevent the escape of Vichy French Naval units. Later in 1942 she took part in many Pacific sea battles. On November 13, 1942 she was sunk by a Japanese torpedo off Gudalcanal. All but ten of her entire crew went down with the ship, including the five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa. After that loss to one family, the Navy established a rule that brothers had the choice of serving on the same or different ships. They also started a tradition that there would always be a Navy warship named “The Sullivans”. As of March 2005 a guided missile destroyer, USS Sullivans DDG-68 operates out of Mayport Florida. And the last surviving crew member from the Juneau of the ten that lived, resides in Eatontown New Jersey.		
CL-119	USS Juneau		7-15-45
	The second light cruiser with this name was awarded five Korean War battle stars.		
AK-43	USS Jupiter	Six	1939
	Seven Korean War battle stars. This transport built before WWII, was acquired by the Navy on 19 June 1941.		

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt.Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-432	USS Kearny	Three	9-13-40
	This destroyer, which was named for Commodore Lawrence Kearny, fought the enemy before America was engaged in WWII. While escorting a convoy in the North Atlantic in October 1941, three merchant ships were torpedoed. Kearny immediately began dropping depth charges. Later that same night a torpedo struck Kearny on the starboard side. She managed to steam to Iceland and later returned to Boston for permanent repairs. She subsequently took part in the invasion of North Africa and much of the action in the Mediterranean.		
DD-713	USS Kenneth D. Bailey		6-17-45
	Redesignated as DDR-713 on 29 August 1953.		
DD-661	USS Kidd	Four	2-28-43
	Four Korean War battle stars. In April 1945 Kidd was hit by a Kamikaze killing 38 of her crew and wounding 55.		
DD-448	USS LaValette	Ten	6-21-42
DD-399	USS Lang	Eleven	8-27-38
	President Franklin D. Roosevelt came aboard Lang for a short trip in 1939.		
DD-486	USS Lansdowne	Twelve	2-20-42
	Lansdowne sunk one, and possibly two German submarines in 1942. That same year she also rescued 450 crewmembers from the aircraft carrier Wasp (CV-7), which was later sunk.		
AP-73	USS Leedstown	One	1933
	Built as Santa Lucia and acquired by the Navy and renamed on 20 August 1942. She was attacked by German bombers later that same year and sank about 12 miles from Algiers.		
AKA-60	USS Leo	Two	7-29-44
	Five Korean War battle stars.		
DD-675	USS Lewis Hancock	Nine	8-1-43
	Two Korean War battle stars. After sixteen months of combat in the Pacific this destroyer had only four casualties and no damage. In 1953 she circumnavigated the world. In August 1967 she was transferred to Brazil and was commissioned in the Brazilian Navy as Piqui, D-31		
AKA-12	USS Libra	Nine	11-12-41

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt.Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-622	USS Maddox	Two	11-12-41
	Took part in the invasion of Sicily. She was attacked by a German dive bomber, which hit her aft magazine causing the ship to sink within two minutes and lose all but 74 of her crew.		
DE-176	USS Micka		8-22-43
DD-639	USS Moale	Five	1-16-44
	One Korean War battle star.		
AKA-98	USS Montague		2-12-45
	Four Korean War battle stars,		
AKA-61	USS Muliphen	Two	8-26-44
AKA-95	USS Marquette		4-29-45
DD-676	USS Marshall	Eight	8-29-43
	Four Korean War battle stars.		
AKA-96	USS Mathews		11-22-44
DD-488	USS McCalla	Ten	3-20-42
DD-677	USS McDermut	Ten	10-17-43
	Five Korean War battle stars.		
DD-678	USS McGowan	Nine	11-14-43
	Two Korean War battle stars. Transferred to Spanish Navy as Jorge Juan (D-25) November 1960.		
DD-679	USS McNair	Eight	11-14-43
	Two Korean War battle stars.		
DD-680	USS Melvin	Ten	10-17-43

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt.Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
AK-42	USS Mercury	Five	7-15-39
	The fifth ship to bear this name, this cargo ship had an unusual combat experience in June 1944. While anchored off Saipan, she was attacked by a Japanese torpedo bomber. The plane's torpedo hit the amidships living compartment on the port boat deck and continued on, breaking in two without detonating. The torpedo's main body was found in the First Lieutenant's compartment, and the fuse mechanism was found in the engine room, while the explosive component of the warhead (TNT) was spread over the port boat and bridge decks. The plane itself collided with the aft starboard boom, which stood passively in the enemy's path, knocking the plane out of control and causing it to crash 500 yards off the starboard quarter.		
AKA-97	USS Merick		1-28-45
DD-623	USS Nelson	Two	9-15-42
AO-23	USS Neosho	Two	4-29-39
	After delivering aviation fuel to Ford Island on 6 December 1941, this fleet oiler was still in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. She maneuvered through the Japanese fire, which was concentrated on the battleships moored at Ford Island. Unfortunately, she was later sunk by Japanese aircraft.		
AKA-14	USS Oberon	Six	3-18-42
	Five Korean War battle stars.		
AKA-100	USS Oglethorpe		4-15-45
	Two Korean War battle stars.		
AS-20	USS Otus	One	11-20-40
DD-360	USS Phelps	Twelve	7-18-35
DD-498	USS Philip	Nine	10-13-42
DD-431	USS Plunkett	Five	3-7-40
	After extensive action in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, Plunkett was transferred to the Nationalist Chinese in February 1959 and renamed Nan Yang DD-17.		
DD-490	USS Quick	Four	5-3-42

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt.Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-369	USS Reid	Seven	1-11-36
<p>During the attack on Pearl Harbor, Reid and her group of destroyers fired at the Japanese planes and downed at least one. On 31 August 1942 she sank the Japanese submarine RO-61. She also downed two enemy planes off New Guinea. Near Surigo Straits on 11 December 1944 she destroyed seven Japanese planes before she sank from repeated Kamikaze crashes. Her 150 survivors were picked up by landing craft in her convoy.</p>			
DD-499	USS Renshaw	Eight	10-13-42
<p>Following shakedown, Renshaw reported to the Pacific Fleet in the Spring of 1943 and took part in many bombardments of Japanese held islands. In November 1944 she spotted a Japanese submarine on the surface near Leyte and with accompanying destroyers immediately opened fire. After a brief one-sided duel, during which the submarine returned fire with small caliber weapons, the enemy vessel was destroyed. While in the Mindanao Sea on 21 February 1945, Renshaw was struck by a torpedo, which exploded on contact flooding the firerooms. The ship lost all power, a large section of the hull was warped by the explosion and bulkheads and decks were fractured. Even though 19 men were killed and 20 injured, within minutes, damage control parties had the flooding reduced by half and the main propulsion machinery suffered no damage. After temporary repairs, Renshaw proceeded from the forward area under her own power to the Todd Shipyards in Tacoma Washington, where permanent repairs were completed in October 1945.</p> <p>On Navy Day, 27 October 1945, in New York Harbor, President Harry S Truman reviewed the greatest victory parade in naval history from Renshaw. During the Korean War Renshaw had two tours of duty in the Far East. In August 1954 she rescued a British airman from the sea while acting as plane guard for the British carrier HMS Warrior.</p> <p>On 17 December 1961 she recovered the nose cone of Discoverer 36 and In October 1962 she participated in the recovery of Project Mercury Astronaut Wally Schirra.</p> <p>In March 1965, Renshaw, in company with other units of DesDiv 252 (Destroyer Division) departed Pearl Harbor on short notice to augment destroyer forces in the South China Sea. During April and May, she served in surveillance roles and in support of carrier striking force operations. In June, she was on Taiwan patrol, returning to Vietnamese waters in July and returning to Pearl Harbor in September.</p> <p>In October and December, Renshaw served as alternate recovery ship in Project Gemini. In July 1966, she operated in the Tonkin Gulf and the Taiwan Gulf. She was awarded five battle stars for Korea and six for Viet Nam. Sadly, she was scrapped in 1970.</p>			

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WW II Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-500	USS Ringgold	Ten	11-11-42
<p>In September 1943 Ringgold joined a fast carrier task force built around Yorktown (CV-10), Essex (CV-9), and Independence (CVL-22) that attacked Marcus Island and then the Gilberts, Tarawa, and Makin. In October 1943 the task force struck at Wake Island, one of the crucial battles in the Pacific. Later that year at Tarawa, Ringgold fired on what was identified as a Japanese submarine, but in fact was the American sub Nautilus (SS-168). Fortunately, the hit on the conning tower ruptured her main induction valve, but the sub was able to submerge in "dire circumstances" and her damage control people worked well and fast so the sub was able to survive this incident of "friendly fire". Larger craft could not venture into the lagoon at Tarawa so Ringgold and three other destroyers provided the only on-call gunfire support. At the end of this gruesome day, 1,500 marines were dead or wounded of the 5,000 that invaded the island.</p> <p>After completing repairs in December, Ringgold took part in the assault and capture of Kwajalein and Eniwetok Atolls. In June 1944 she took part in the Marianas operations and during the invasion of Guam she served as Landing Craft Control Vessel and provided gunfire support. Ringgold participated in most of the action that took place in the Pacific right up to VJ Day (victory in Japan). In 1959 she was modernized at Charleston, S.C. and transferred to the Federal Republic of Germany and redesignated as Z-2.</p>			
AGC-3	USS Rocky Mount	Six	3-7-43
<p>Navy Unit Commendation.</p>			
DD-456	USS Rodman	Five	9-26-41
<p>In July 1942 Rodman escorted a seven-troopship convoy to the Firth of Clyde in Scotland, then continued on to the Orkneys where she operated with the British Home Fleet. She participated in Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa. In October 1943 Rodman returned to the US and in November departed Norfolk for Bermuda where she sailed in the advance scouting line screening the Battleship Iowa (BB-61) carrying Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Teheran Conference. In May 1944 she joined Operation Neptune, the Naval phase of Operation Overlord, the Normandy Invasion and aided in shore bombardment. In October she escorted a convoy back to the US and went on to Boston where she was converted to a Destroyer Minesweeper, emerging from the yard as DMS-21. In January 1945 she got underway for the Pacific and in March she participated in minesweeping operations off Kerama Re Ho, then prepared for the assault on Okinawa. In the area between Iheya Retto and Okinawa, a Kamikaze crashed Rodman's port bow killing sixteen men and wounding twenty. She was hit twice more in the ensuing battle. After temporary repairs she returned to the US where permanent repairs were done at Charleston. After WWII she had two five month tours with the sixth fleet in the Mediterranean. Reclassified in January 1955 as DD-456, she decommissioned in July 1955 and was transferred to the Republic of China to serve as RCS Hsien Yang DD-16.</p>			

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
AO-28	USS Sangamon	Eight	11-4-39
	<p>After service as a fleet oiler off the west coast and Hawaiian waters, Sangamon shifted to the Atlantic fleet in the spring of 1941 and carried fuel from the Gulf Coast oil ports to bases on the East coast, Canada, and Iceland.</p> <p>In 1942 she was converted to what was then known as an auxiliary aircraft carrier. She was the first of what became known as escort aircraft carriers, CVE's, of which more than 120 were eventually built. Later CVE's were built as carriers from the keel up, but used a hull design similar to the original tanker. I served on CVE-120, the USS Mindoro from 1950 to 1953. In WWII they were called "Jeep Carriers".</p> <p>Sangamon provided air cover for the invasion of North Africa. After repairs she sailed for Panama and the Pacific and in July 1943 she was redesignated as CVE-26. She took an active part in numerous sea battles in the Pacific and was attacked by Kamikazes on two occasions but remained afloat. Three of her air groups (planes, pilots, and maintenance personnel temporarily assigned to a carrier) were awarded Presidential Unit Citations.</p>		
AKA-62	USS Sheliak	One	10-17-44
DD-502	USS Sigsbee	Ten	12-17-42
	<p>After many months of action, Sigsbee was hit by a Kamikaze in April 1945. She was towed to Guam for temporary repairs and then sailed to Pearl Harbor where a complete new sixty-foot stern was installed.</p>		
DD-707	USS Soley		9-8-44
	<p>One Korean War battle star.</p>		
DD-381	USS Somers		3-13-37
	<p>This destroyer had an unusual experience. Prior to the US entry into WWII, Somers was involved with various light cruisers in the capture of several disguised German merchant ships. As a result of these incidents, the crews of Somers and Omaha (CL-4) were awarded salvage money by the United States District Court for Puerto Rico.</p>		
DD-645	USS Stevenson	Seven	11-11-42
DD-646	USS Stockton	Eight	11-11-42
CI-120	USS Spokane		9-22-45
DD-717	USS Theodore Chandler	Eight	10-20-45
	<p>Nine Korean War battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation for Viet Nam service.</p>		

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
AKA-63	USS Theenim	One	10-31-44
DD-647	USS Thorn	Seven	2-28-43
AKA-19	USS Thuban	Seven	4-26-43
	Three Korean War Battle Stars.		
DD-648	USS Turner		2-28-43
	<p>This destroyer encountered a German submarine in the Atlantic in October 1943 while serving as an advance ASW (anti-submarine warfare) escort for a convoy. She fired all her guns at the sub and probably sunk it, but this was never confirmed. Later in the war, in January 1944, after returning to the US, while anchored off Rockaway Point, Long Island she was devastated by a series of internal explosions which caused her to capsize and sink. Fifteen officers and one hundred twenty three crewmen were lost and the survivors were taken to a hospital on Sandy Hook. The cause of the explosions was never determined.</p>		
DD-466	USS Waller	Twelve	8-15-42
	<p>After a shakedown cruise, which is a sea-going test that everything on a ship is working as designed, Waller sailed for the Pacific via the Panama Canal and arrived in January 1943. She took part in numerous air and sea battles and served as flagship for Captain Arleigh "31 knot" Burke in March 1943. That same month Waller led two other destroyers and three light cruisers in a raid on Kula Gulf that sank two Japanese destroyers.</p> <p>Waller continued her operations in the Solomons through the end of 1943 and into 1944. The Japanese were attempting to resupply their trapped garrisons using their destroyers as transports and supply ships in what became known as the Tokyo Express. These ships clashed with American destroyers and cruisers in a series of spectacular night actions. At the same time the American ships were bombarding the Japanese held islands.</p> <p>While escorting troop and supply ships, Waller changed course to pursue what had looked like four enemy ships. She soon sighted and fired on three ships at a distance of 20,000 yards almost hitting the ships. In reality it was PT-157, PT-159, and PT-160 that had unintentionally strayed north of their assigned patrol area. The PT's fired torpedoes at the attacking "enemy" and sped off southward. Fortunately there were no hits or this would have been another tragic example of death by "friendly fire".</p> <p>In the months that followed Waller and other ships in the area were repeatedly attacked by Japanese bombers and torpedo bombers and shot down many of them but at the cost of some American ships. In June Waller began to bombard enemy positions on Saipan and later at Guam and Tinian. Early in January 1945, she shifted the scene of her operations to Lingayen Gulf, as American forces were landing there. While thus engaged, she scored hits on two suicide boats and poured some 3,000 rounds of ammunition at both air and surface targets.</p>		

A joint Australian-American effort against Borneo kept Waller busy from May to July. She then rejoined the Third Fleet to be in readiness for the planned invasion of the Japanese home islands. While en route toward Honshu, escorting a convoy, the news came through that the Japanese had accepted the unconditional surrender terms of the Potsdam Declaration.

Returned to the Seventh Fleet, Waller entered Shanghai, China in September and was one of the first American warships to make port at that Chinese city. The destroyer neutralized a Japanese suicide boat garrison base when a 21 man landing force from the ship assisted local Chinese authorities in disarming an estimated 2,700 Japanese at Tinghai. While returning to Shanghai in October, Waller struck a Japanese mine wounding three officers and twenty-two men. The ship sustained enough damage to warrant a dry-docking at Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Works at Shanghai. She departed Chinese waters for San Diego in December. Placed out of commission soon thereafter, she remained in reserve at Charleston, S.C. until the onset of the Korean War. Selected as one of the Fletcher-class units to be converted to escort destroyers, Waller was redesignated as DDE-466 in March 1949 and recommissioned in July 1950. Following shakedown, she joined Escort Destroyer Squadron 2 as flagship in January 1951. In May of that year she headed west to participate in the Korean War. She joined Task Force 95 as it was proceeding to Wonsan Harbor. For 10 days, she fired shore bombardment missions against communist targets, hurling some 1,700 rounds of 5-inch shells on enemy positions. In October she returned to the United States. From 1951 to 1956 Waller participated in many ASW exercises off the east coast and made two extensive deployments to the Mediterranean and two to the Caribbean. She entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard late in 1956 and was again modified, this time with extensive alterations to her ASW battery. She made numerous Mediterranean deployments over the next four years. In September 1968, the destroyer departed Norfolk with DesDiv 362 for Vietnamese waters. Arriving in October she reported immediately to the gunline and took up patrol duties off Qui Nhom, South Vietnam. Supporting Korean troops, her 5-inch gunfire did extensive damage to Viet Cong bunkers and storage areas, before she moved south to a station off Phan Thiet, where she supported the US Army 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. During this deployment she destroyed numerous Viet Cong structures as well as interdicted the movement of Viet Cong supply traffic by destroying trails. After having fired 2,400 rounds and completing her gunline assignment, Waller received a "well done" from Commander, Task Unit 70.8.9. Proceeding to Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, Waller joined Intrepid (CVS-11) and later Ranger (CVA-61) for attack carrier escort duties. After 109 days of this duty, the veteran destroyer started for home on 2 March 1969. After a brief tour as a Naval Reserve training ship on the east coast, Waller was decommissioned and struck from the Navy list on 15 July 1969. In addition to the 12 WWII battle stars she also received two more for the Korean War and two for Viet Nam service. Ironically she was disposed of as a target in February 1970. SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI.

<u>Hull Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>WWII Batt. Stars</u>	<u>Launched</u>
DD-699	USS Waldron	Four	3-26-44
	Waldron participated in many sea battles in WWII and shore bombardment of Viet Nam. She was awarded one battle star for Viet Nam service. In 1973 she was sold to the Columbian Navy and commissioned as ARC Santander, DD-03.		
DD-703	USS Wallace L. Lind	Four	6-14-44
	This destroyer saw much action in the Pacific all the way to Tokyo. In September 1945 she went alongside Shangri-La (CV-38) and took on board Vice-Admiral John H. Towers and his staff and then transported them to Tokyo Bay for the surrender ceremonies. In 1946 she was with the Atlantic Fleet but in 1950 she returned to the waters off Korea for blockade patrol and bombardment. In later years with Norfolk as her homeport she sailed to many ports all over the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. In September 1960 while operating with NATO forces in the North Atlantic she crossed the Arctic Circle and all were initiated into the Royal Order of the Blue Noses. For the next seventeen years, the Lind operated in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and many of the world's seas. In 1973 she was transferred to the Republic of Korea where she served that Navy as DaeGu (DD-97). She had also been awarded four battle stars for the Korean War and three for Viet Nam service.		
AKA-94	USS Winston		3-26-44
	Awarded seven battle stars for the Korean War and seven for Viet Nam service.		

Near the point in the Kearny meadows where the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers converge, the site of the long-gone Federal Shipyard and Dry Dock company, there is a monument:

Dedicated to the veterans who served aboard the ships launched from this Kearny Federal Shipyard and to the men and women who built them.

The 132 warships built in Kearny were awarded more than 500 battle stars which contributed significantly to victory in World War II, the last war that all the American people felt was totally justified, and the last war that resulted in a decisive victory.

Ray Mangin  
Lakewood, NJ  
Formerly of Kearny, NJ  
Formerly of the United States Navy

