

The Commanding Officers
USS O'Bannon (DD-450)
and

USS Nicholas (DD-449)
request the honor of your presence at
the Decommissioning Ceremony of
USS O'Bannon (DD-450)
and

USS Nicholas (DD-449)
on Friday, the thirtieth of January
nineteen hundred and seventy at eleven-thirty o'clock
U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor

RSVP
433-2103

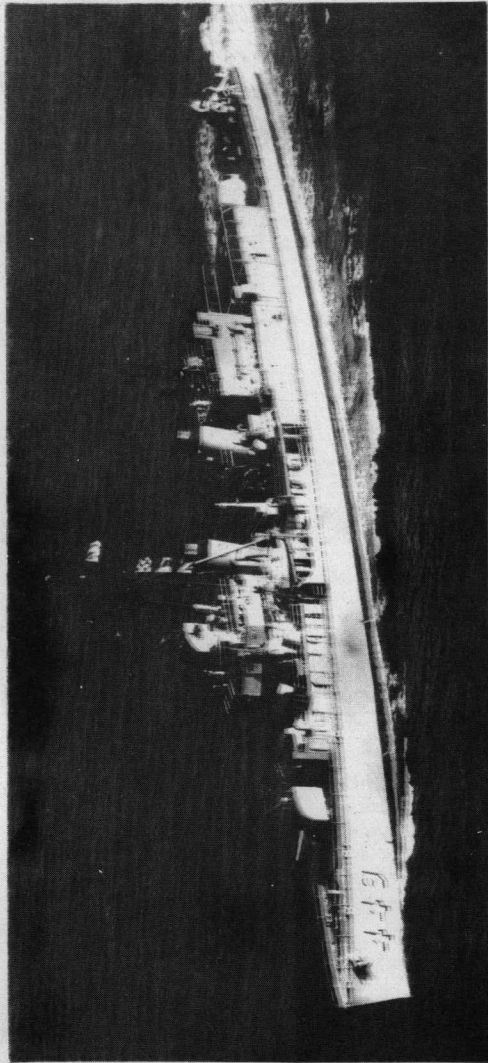
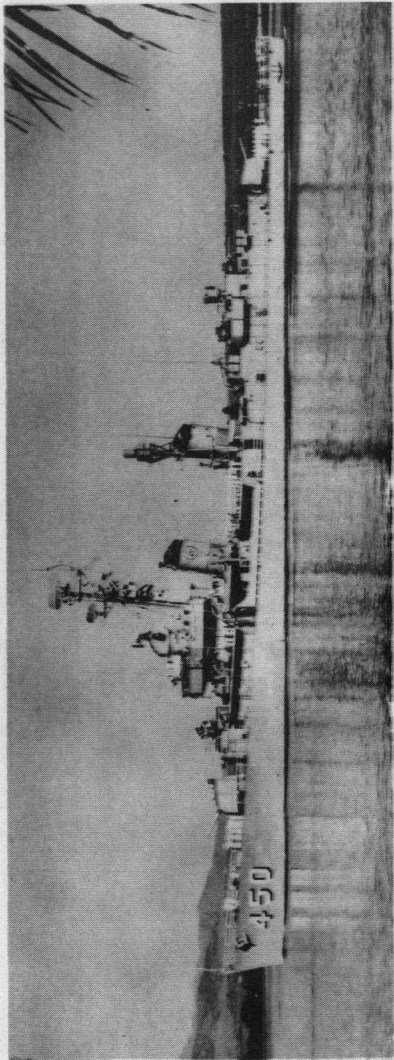
Service Dress White
Civilian: Informal

Decommissioning Ceremony



**USS O'BANNON (DD-450)
AND
USS NICHOLAS (DD-449)**

**1130 30 JANUARY 1970
U. S. NAVAL STATION
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII**



COMMANDING OFFICERS
USS NICHOLAS (DD-449)

LCDR W. D. BROWN	JUN 42 - JAN 43
LCDR A. J. HILL	JAN 43 - DEC 43
CDR R. T. S. KEITH	DEC 43 - FEB 45
CDR D. C. LYDON	FEB 51 - MAR 53
CDR H. C. MAGON	MAR 53 - JUN 55
CDR J. C. ELIOT	JUN 55 - JUN 57
CDR J. B. KAYE	JUN 57 - JAN 59
CDR E. L. KELLY	JAN 59 - MAY 60
LCDR D. G. FOXWILL	MAY 60 - JUN 60
CDR R. A. HILSON	JUN 60 - APR 62
CDR D. E. CUMMINS	APR 62 - JAN 64
CDR R. C. NEWCOMB	JAN 64 - SEP 65
CDR W. B. HOOFFSTEITER	SEP 65 - AUG 67
CDR J. M. HENSON	AUG 67 - JUL 69
CDR J. B. HURD	JUL 69 - JAN 70



Ship's History

USS NICHOLAS was commissioned on 4 June 1942 at Boston Naval Shipyard the first FLETCHER class destroyer to join the fleet and the second U. S. warship named in honor of Major Samuel Nicholas, the first commissioned officer in the U. S. Marine Corps. Three short months after commissioning, Nicholas engaged in her first battles of the Second World War, in the Guadalcanal theater. Early in the morning of 6 July 1943 the task group to which NICHOLAS was attached made contact with Japanese surface vessels in "The Slot." The resulting action was the Battle of Kula Gulf, during which USS HELENA was sunk. In spite of continuing attacks by Japanese warships, NICHOLAS returned to complete the rescue of nearly seven hundred HELENA survivors. For her exploits on this night, NICHOLAS was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

There followed a war record of continuous action and service, including the downing of seven enemy aircraft plus two possible kills. Shore bombardment, task force operations, landings, escort duty and surface battles are all noted in NICHOLAS' war diary.

On 2 September 1945, NICHOLAS moored alongside Custom House Pier, Yokohama, Japan, to transfer to USS MISSOURI eighty-seven allied U. S. Army and Naval representatives for the formal Japanese surrender ceremony. NICHOLAS earned sixteen battle stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Ribbon for participation in World War II.

In January 1947, the ship was inactivated and placed in the reserve fleet, remaining there until its conversion to escort destroyer and subsequent recommissioning in February 1951. During the period 1951 to 1953, the ship took part in the Korean and Formosa Straits patrols. NICHOLAS was present for Operation Castle, the atomic test series of 1954. In July 1960, NICHOLAS completed seven months of FRAM (Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization) overhaul, part of a program to modernize and extend the life of the fleet's destroyers. The ship's anti-submarine warfare potential was increased by the FRAM.

Homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, NICHOLAS is attached to Destroyer Squadron 25. In December 1969, she completed her fourteenth Western Pacific deployment serving the Seventh Fleet in a wide variety of tasks including naval gunfire support, plane guarding, search and rescue patrol, and antisubmarine escort duties. In addition, the ship has participated in several NASA Apollo space program missions, acting as contingency recovery vessel.

With her decommissioning NICHOLAS completes a distinguished 27 year career of service to the Navy and the nation in both war and peace.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS Marine Band

PARADING OF COLORS AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
Lieutenant Ray O. Swift, CHC, USNR

OPENING REMARKS
Captain D. C. Redgrave, USN
Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Five

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS
Commander J. B. Hurd, USN
Commanding Officer, USS Nicholas (DD-449)

Captain J. P. Iredale, USN
Commanding Officer, USS O'Bannon (DD-450)

HAULING DOWN OF COLORS AND DECOMMISSIONING

TRANSFER OF SHIPS TO INACTIVE SHIPS FACILITY, PEARL HARBOR

BENEDICTION
Lieutenant Harry T. Jones, CHC, USN

COMMANDING OFFICERS
USS O'BANNON (DD-450)

LCDR E. R. WILKINSON	JUN 42 - JAN 43
CDR D. J. McDONALD	JAN 43 - MAY 46
CDR D. J. GARRISON	FEB 51 - APR 52
CDR B. B. JARMAN	APR 52 - JUN 54
CDR J. F. MADDOX	JUN 54 - DEC 55
LCDR E. L. COCHRAN	DEC 55 - MAR 56
CDR W. L. BARNARD	MAR 56 - APR 58
LCDR B. D. SLAYMAKER	APR 58 - APR 60
CDR D. S. STANLEY	APR 60 - MAR 62
CDR D. MILLER	MAR 62 - MAR 64
CDR T. F. UTE	MAR 64 - JAN 65
CDR A. J. KAYE	JAN 65 - OCT 65
CDR J. W. WELLS	OCT 65 - JUN 68
CAPT J. P. IREDALE	JUN 68 - JAN 70



Ship's History

On May 17th, 1938, Congress authorized the construction of the second USS O'BANNON (DD-450) by the Bath Iron Works at Bath, Maine. The ship is named in honor of Marine Lieutenant Presley O'BANNON, who successfully defeated pirates at Tripoli in 1805. Commissioned on June 26, 1942, O'BANNON became one of the most highly decorated ships of World War II without sustaining a hit or personnel casualty.

The ship is a 2100-ton FLETCHER class Destroyer, modified for anti-submarine warfare. Her full wartime complement includes 20 officers and 260 enlisted men. The ship is 376'6" in length, 39'4" abeam and has a draft of 13'6". The ship's armament includes two 5" mounts, two 3" mounts, torpedo tubes, and anti-submarine projector and depth charges. The ship has an oversized rudder and twin screws, and is steam-driven by four boilers.

O'BANNON's combat record during World War II earned her reputation as the toughest destroyer in the Pacific, and she proudly flies the Presidential Unit Citation awarded for her outstanding personnel.

After commissioning in 1942, O'BANNON proceeded to the Solomon Islands, and was present for the Battle of Guadalcanal. On the night of 12-13 November, O'BANNON sank a Japanese "KANKO" class battleship and delivered destructive gunfire to a Japanese cruiser while engaging vastly superior forces. With the exception of O'BANNON, all destroyers engaged in the action were either sunk or heavily damaged. O'BANNON's other actions included: New Georgia, Kula Gulf, Vella la Vella, Hollandia, Leyte, Luzon, Bataan, Corregidor, Mindoro, Tarakan Island, Manila Bay, Borneo, Okinawa, and the formal surrender of Japan at Tokyo Bay.

O'BANNON performed every function assigned as a destroyer, earning 18 Battle Stars while assisting in the sinking of a Japanese battleship, three cruisers, six destroyers, numerous barges, one gunboat, and three submarines. She was equally adept in anti-aircraft action, destroying 9 to 13 enemy aircraft.

O'BANNON was removed from active service in 1947, converted for anti-submarine operations, and recommissioned in 1951. She has since served in the U.S. Pacific Fleet through the Korean action and during the ensuing period of international tension. She has taken part in attack carrier strike operations and shore bombardment in the Vietnam area, firing thousands of rounds at enemy targets.

O'BANNON's decommissioning marks the end of a long proud history of service to the nation, both at war and in peace.