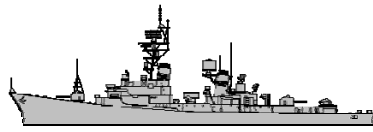




ACVA

Adams Class Veterans Association, Inc.



March 20, 2006
Volume 1, Issue 1

Press Release

Adams Class Veterans Association Working to Save First Guided Missile Destroyer

The story of the historic ADAMS class of guided missile destroyers begins in 1955, when a World War II era destroyer, the USS GYATT (DD-712), entered the Boston Naval Shipyard for conversion into the world's first guided missile destroyer test ship. Using German technology from scientists captured at the end of World War II, it was hoped that the US could develop ships capable of firing guided missiles at enemy aircraft to protect the carrier task force at sea – a feat never before envisioned as possible. On December 1, 1956, after the conversion, the USS GYATT was re-designated DDG-712, DDG signifying a guided missile capable destroyer, versus a “plain, guns only” destroyer (DD) like those of WW II. The USS GYATT spent the next three years conducting intensive evaluation and development exercises along the Atlantic Coast. On May 23, 1957, her hull number was changed to DDG-1, in recognition of her pioneering position and new mission. Shortly after completion of the testing, the GYATT returned to the US fleet and was re-designated DD-712.

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President's Corner: Words of Wisdom From Our President Thomas E. Crosser

It's hard for me to believe that it has already been four years since I first heard about efforts to save USS Adams DDG-2. A lot has happened since our Buchanan Association voted to send \$250.00 to the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum in Bay City, MI. The SVNSM group is long gone as far as Adams is concerned but the effort to save her is "Alive and Well."

ACVA has managed to show NAVSEA enough progress that Adams is still on Donation Hold. We have managed a steady increase in the number of ACVA Members and Plank Owners. We have issued our first Press Release and we have seen our story published in national magazines. Current ACVA membership stands just over 230.

We raised money and paid for site surveys in Florida. We are working hard in Florida to convince a very small list of cities that a Navy Memorial and Museum with Adams as the center piece would be a great tourist attraction and educational asset. Our Local Support Group in the Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg area of Florida is growing in size and is spreading the word about our effort to save Adams.

As ACVA President, I encourage everyone to continue to make contacts with old Adams Class shipmates and spread the word, "We will do everything in our power to save USS Adams DDG-2 and to see her as one of the finest Memorial and Museum Ships anywhere."

Tom Crosser

Member



Mission Statement

- **Work with all Adams class groups and organizations to Save, Restore and Preserve the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2.**
- **Educate the public on the rich naval heritage of the Adams class DDG ships;**
- **Document the roles Adams class DDG ships in United States history;**
- **Show the importance of preserving historic naval vessels and memorabilia for future generations to appreciate.**

Board of Directors

<i>President:</i>	<i>Thomas E. Crosser</i>	<i>USS Buchanan DDG-14</i>
<i>Special Assistant - City Search Team:</i>	<i>James H. Aldrich, Jr.</i>	<i>USS Sellers DDG-11</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Richard A. Watson, Jr</i>	<i>USS Barney DDG-6</i>
<i>Executive Secretary & Parliamentarian:</i>	<i>David F. Myerly</i>	<i>USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Herman Chambers</i>	<i>USS Benjamin Stoddert DDG-22</i>
<i>Director – Newsletter:</i>	<i>Roger Raines</i>	<i>USS Lawrence DDG-4</i>
<i>Director – Membership and Ship Liaison:</i>	<i>Jack Cistrano</i>	<i>USS Semmes DDG-18</i>
<i>Director - Webmaster:</i>	<i>James Bosworth</i>	<i>USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2</i>
<i>Director – Public Relations</i>	<i>Craig T. Bernat</i>	<i>USS Lawrence DDG-4</i>
<i>Director – Fundraising (Temporary)</i>	<i>Craig T. Bernat</i>	<i>USS Lawrence DDG-4</i>
<i>Assistant to the Board:</i>	<i>Len Gordon</i>	<i>USS Conyngham DDG-17</i>

ACVA History

The Adams Class Veterans Association, Inc. formed in Jan 2004, after the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum announced they were abandoning efforts to attain the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2, as a museum ship for Bay City, Michigan.

Our goal is to save the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2, the first Guided Missile Destroyer and the US Navy's first Guided Missile Ship, as a museum ship. We have representatives from all 23 "Adams Class DDG" ships and several from the German Adams Class DDG's who have joined our group.

The History of the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2

In The Beginning

On June 16, 1958, the keel was laid for the USS Charles F. Adams. She was the first destroyer planned and built as a guided missile ship. The Adams was built at the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, and was the first in a line of 23 Adams Class DDG ships.

The ship was named for Charles Francis Adams, Secretary of the Navy from 1929 to 1933. Secretary Adams was a world-class yachtsman, winning the America's Cup in 1921 as the master of the *Resolute*.

The USS Charles F. Adams was launched on September 8, 1959, and commissioned at Charlestown Navy Yard, on September 10, 1960 in Boston, Massachusetts. After commissioning and testing, the Adams made an initial Northern Europe good will tour in 1961 as the flagship of the Commodore of DesRon6. Stops were made at many cities which had not been visited by the US Navy since the end of World War 2. From Northern Europe the Adams sailed south down the Kiel Canal to Kiel, Germany and in the spring of 1962 was assigned to the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The DDG-2 returned to a home port of Charleston, SC in mid 1962.

Outfitting

The Charles F. Adams was designed to meet the new challenges of the Cold War. Bristling with more antenna and guidance systems than guns, the Adams used technology as well as conventional weapons to fight her battles. She was armed with two rapid firing, single barreled 5" 54 caliber guns, one twin Tartar surface-to-air missile launcher, one ASROC 8-tube launcher and two triple torpedo tubes

Missions

The first active duty stop for the Adams was the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Blockade. She also served as flagship for Cold War surveillance of Soviet submarines in the North Atlantic, and patrolled the turbulent waters of Lebanon, Libya and the Persian Gulf when troubles brought the Navy to those regions in the late 1970's and all of the 1980's.

Retirement

The USS Charles F. Adams was decommissioned in 1990 and retired to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard to await final disposition. In January, 1997, the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum Committee was founded and began efforts to bring the "**Charlie Deuce**" to Bay City, Michigan, to serve as a living museum. The Saginaw group quit this effort in October 2003 and the Adams Class (DDG) Veterans Association (ACVA) formed in early 2004 to begin work to have the Adams become a naval ship museum.

GYATT's guided missile testing against airborne targets having been successful, Bath Iron Works was awarded a contract in 1957 to start building the future ships of surface warfare, the Guided Missile Destroyer. On June 15, 1958, the keel was laid for the first destroyer of this new generation of ships, the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2). She was commissioned on Sept. 10, 1960 and for the next 30 years steamed the oceans of the world. From the shores of the United States, she steamed to the coasts of Cuba, Europe, The Middle East, Mediterranean, India, Vietnam, and everywhere else she was needed.

There were 29 ADAMS Class DDG's built in several US shipyards. Most (23) were built for America's needs and were numbered DDG-2 to DDG-24. However, as other nations saw the potential of these ships, three each were built for Australia and West Germany. The Greek government also saw the potential and as the US Navy decommissioned several DDG ships they purchased them and put them into service in their own Navy. All three Australian DDG's have been sunk or became artificial reefs. Two of the German DDG's, have been disposed of by sinking in target practice, leaving the "FGS Molders", which opened June 24, 2005, as a museum ship in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The Greek government decommissioned all DDG ships and is considering keeping one as a museum ship.

Over the past five years all of the US Navy DDG's have met their demise, save one. Some were sold to foreign navies, some were sunk as targets during US and Foreign naval exercises, and some were sold for scrap. One ship remains, the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2), the first Guided Missile Destroyer (DDG) built from the keel up as a guided missile ship. She is somewhat untouched, and has been assigned "DONATION

ACVA PRESS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 3, 2005

CRAIG T. BERNAT

ACVA DIRECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Ship Reunions

2006

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS DDG-2

USS TATTNALL DDG-19

Branson, Missouri...September 2006

Please note that this is tentative.

<http://www.bozair.com/adamsmen/DDG2.html>

http://fivekiller1n0.tripod.com/Tattnell_DDG-19.html

USS LAWRENCE DDG-4

Las Vegas, NV...June 25-29, 2006

Washington, DC...June 20-24, 2007

www.ussslawrence.com

USS SELLERS DDG-11

Las Vegas, NV...September 11-14, 2006

<http://www.usssellers.com/>

USS BUCHANAN DDG-14

Branson, MO...May 17-21, 2006

<http://www.uss-buchanan-ddg14.org/>

USS JOSEPH STRAUSS DDG-16

Virginia Beach, VA... April 24-27, 2006

<http://ussjosephstrauss.org/>

USS CONYNGHAM DDG-17

Fall River, MA...May 7-11, 2006.

Charleston, SC...Date not set, 2007

<http://www.usscopyinghamassoc.org/>

USS SEMMES DDG-18

Buffalo, NY.....June 23-26, 2006

<http://www.semmesddg18.org/>

USS GOLDSBORO DDG-20

Las Vegas, NV.....September 10-15, 2006.

<http://www.ussgoldsborough.com/Reunion.htm>

Rommel D-187

Kiel, Germany...May 12-14, 2006

.....June 2007

<http://www.z-rommel.de/>

USS BENJAMIN STODDERT DDG-22

King of Prussia, PA,..... Oct 4 - 8, 2006.

<http://www.ddg22.com>

Ship Timelines

Hull No.	Name	Commissioned	Years in Service	Disposition
DDG 2	Charles F. Adams	09/10/60	29.9 yrs	NAVSEA Museum Hold
DDG 3	John King	02/04/61	29.1 yrs	Sold for scrap 2/10/99
DDG 4	Lawrence	01/06/62	28.2 yrs	Sold for scrap 12/03?
DDG 5	Claude V Ricketts	05/05/62	27.5 yrs	Sold for scrap 11/8/02
DDG 6	Barney	08/11/62	28.4 yrs	Sold for scrap 2005
DDG 7	Henry B Wilson	08/11/60	28.8 yrs	Sunk as target 8/15/03
DDG 8	Lynde McCormick	06/03/61	30.3 yrs	Sunk as target 2/24/01
DDG 9	Towers	06/06/61	29.3 yrs	Sunk as target 10/9/02
DDG 10	Sampson	06/24/61	30.0 yrs	Sold for scrap 10/15/03
DDG 11	Sellers	10/28/61	28.0 yrs	Sold for scrap 9/29/03
DDG 12	Robison	12/09/61	29.8 yrs	Sold for scrap 6/21/94
DDG 13	Hoel	06/16/62	28.3 yrs	Converted to Power Barge
DDG 14	Buchanan	02/07/62	29.6 yrs	Sunk as target 6/14/00
DDG 15	Berkeley	12/15/62	28.9 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 16	Joseph Strauss	04/20/63	26.8 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 17	Conyngnam	06/13/63	27.3 yrs	Sold for scrap 4/15/94
DDG 18	Semmes	12/10/62	28.8 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 19	Tattnall	04/13/62	27.8 yrs	Sold for scrap 2/10/99
DDG 20	Goldsborough	12/10/62	29.5 yrs	Transferred to Australian Navy
DDG 21	Cochrane	03/21/63	26.5 yrs	Sold for scrap 9/19/01
DDG 22	Benjamin Stoddert	09/12/64	27.3 yrs	Sunk 02/03/01
DDG 23	Richard E Byrd	03/07/64	26.1 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy
DDG 24	Waddell	08/28/64	28.1 yrs	Transferred to Greek Navy

Adams Class Veterans Association, Inc. (ACVA, Inc.)

Anyone supporting our mission can be a member & persons are not required to have been in the military.

Please complete this form and mail or email to: DaveDDG2@aol.com

Check our web page at <http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org>

No Dues At This Time

Persons Sending Donation Checks for \$25 or more become ACVA Plank owners.

Checks should be made out to "ACVA, Inc." and sent to:

ACVA Executive Secretary c/o Dave Myerly 5 Bush Road Denville, New Jersey 07834-2906

*** Required Information:**

* Name (First Middle Last): _____

* Mailing Address (St/Rd): _____

* City/State/Zip: _____

* Home Phone: - - - - - Fax: - - - - -

* Primary E-mail: _____ @ _____

Secondary E-mail: _____ @ _____

REMEMBER TO UPDATE ME IF YOU CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESSES

* How would you like to help achieve our goals? Indicate your preference(s).

Place X after the appropriate statements:

1 Not directly involved. _____ 2 Participate in online discussions. _____

3 Assist with special projects. _____ 4 Like to serve on the board. _____

Comments:

If you served in the military please complete the following fields.

Rate & Rank at Discharge: _____ Date You Left Service (Mo/Day/Yr) _____

Ship(s) Name(s) and Hull #(s)	Dates From-To
1. USS _____	_____ - _____
2. USS _____	_____ - _____
3. USS _____	_____ - _____

Add Additional Lines As Needed.

Other Duty Station Assignments:

Facility / Location	Dates From-To
A. _____	_____ - _____
B. _____	_____ - _____

Add Additional Lines As Needed.

DESTROYERMEN

By: J.A.Donahue - USS HUDSON (DD-475)

**There's a roll and a pitch, a heave and a pitch
To the nautical gait they take,
For they're used to the cant of the quarter deck's slant
As the white toothed combers break
On the plates that hum like a beaten drum
To the thrill of the turbines might,
As the knife bow leaps through the foamy deep
With the speed of a shell in flight.
Oh, their scorn is deep for the crews who keep
To the battleship's steady floor
For they love the lurch of their own frail perch
At thirty five knots or more.
They don't get much of the drill and such
That the battleship sailors do
For they sail the seas in dungarees
A grey destroyer's crew.
They need not climb at their sleeping time
To a hammock that sways and bumps
For they leap kerplunk into a cozy bunk
That quivers and bucks and jumps.
They hear the sound of the seas that pound
On the half inch plates of steel
And they close their eyes to the lullabies
Of the creaking sides and keel.
They're a lusty crowd that's vastly proud
Of the slim grey craft they drive
Of the roaring flues and the humming screws
Which make her a thing alive.
They love the lunge of her surging plunge
And the murk of her smokescreen too.
As they sail the seas in their dungarees
A grey destroyer's crew.**