

THE SHIP ... The U.S.S. FRANK KNOX 00-742 was a 2250 ton, long hull, FRAM MK II Destroyer whose primary mission was anti-submarine warfare and employment as a surface action & gun-fire support unit.

The ship was built at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine in 1944 and received the name of World War II Secretary of the Navy and well-known publisher William Franklin Knox. She was 390 feet long, 41 feet wide and carried a varying crew of 16 officers and 260 enlisted men. The ship was commissioned on December 11th, 1944 with CDR. Joel C. Ford USN as its first skipper and LCDR E.A. Hoggard, Executive Officer.

The ship proceeded to the Pacific War Zone and joined Admiral "Bull" Halsey's Third Fleet in operations against the Japanese home islands. In November, 1946 the FRANK KNOX sailed to Tsingto, China where she operated from until 1948; shortly before the communist revolution in that country. The ship returned to Western Pacific waters during the Korean Conflict to serve as an original unit of 'Task Force 77' in actions at Inchon, Hung Nam and Wonsan Harbor. In February, 1955 she took part in the Nationalist Chinese evacuation of the Tachen Islands. From late 1961 until September, 1964 the FRANK KNOX was homeported in Yokosuka, Japan as part of the Seventh Fleet. During this period she served in a variety of supporting roles throughout the Western Pacific from the North Philippine Sea to the Gulf of Tonkin. In early spring 1964 the FRANK KNOX participated in the First Concord Squadron's Indian Ocean cruise to Madagascar, Kenya & Aden, and, later in the same year, visited Eastern Australia prior to proceeding to her new homeport. San Diego, California.

The U.S.s. FRANK KNOX deployed for her new homeport June 4th, 1965. While in transit from the South China Sea to Keelung, Taiwan; on July 18th, 1965 she ran aground on Pratas Reef. As a result of extensive salvage operations, the ship was pulled clear of the reef on August 24th, 1965 and towed to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She then departed for Yokosuka, Japan and on arrival she was drydocked and an extensive restoration was begun at the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility.

386 days later she put to sea for the first time and sea trials on October 18th, 1966. On departure from Yokosuka she took place in Destroyer Division 172 and resumed her duties as an operational unit of the Pacific Fleet. Her third deployment was operations off the coast of North Vietnam in support of friendly forces ashore in South Vietnam.

She returned from deployment to San Diego November 13th, 1970 and was decommissioned on January 30th, 1971. She was sold to Greece and formally recommissioned as the Hellenic Ship THEMISTOCLES (D-210) on February 3rd, 1971.

SHE SERVED HER COUNTRY WELL IN THREE WARS.