

JOINING THE KNOX AND THE KOREAN WAR

Life Member, Roger Carter graduated from FT School and joined the Frank Knox in November 1949. Carter recalls *“I was home on leave in June 1950 when the No. Korean Army invaded the So. Korean territory. A telegram arrived at the house to report to my ship immediately. The Knox had completed yardwork and was in some state of readiness for the quick journey to the Korean conflict. The ship departed for Korean waters in July 1950. The CO was CDR Sam Caldwell according to Carter. Caldwell was followed by CDR Gary Jewett and then CDR Dewitt Griffin.”* GM-2 Bill Fell (Orv Krieg’s first petty officer) reported aboard the Knox in December 1949 and assumed his duties as one of the lead petty officers. Orv Krieg GM-3 would join the Knox crew in September 1950. These three men and LT Russell Judah, who was recalled to active duty and left his job as a petroleum engineer. Judah recalls *“I was hi-lined aboard the Knox in October 1950. The weather was really bad”*. Judah was assigned the job of Damage Control Assistant (DCA) in the Engineering Department. Ensigns John Sartin and William King would join the Frank Knox in mid-1954 and later deploy to the Formosa, Korean areas. Sartin and King are quoted later in this newsletter. Arriving in the Seventh Fleet area, the Knox was likely assigned to the Formosa (Taiwan) area to block a Communist Chinese invasion of that Island. However, Carter and others recall working up and down both coasts of the Korean Peninsula. The Knox was awarded 6 battle stars for her activities during the Korean conflict, including the Inchon Invasion Campaign, September 1950.