



United States Ship
KING
(DDG-41)



Commissioning
Ceremony

17 September 1977

The Commissioning Ceremony

The Naval Commissioning Ceremony, an ancient tradition dating back to the earliest recorded periods of naval history, marks the formal initiation of a warship in the naval forces of her nation. At the moment of breaking her commission pennant, she attains special status in international law. From that instant, she is recognized as an extension of the sovereign soil of her parent nation and accorded special rights and privileges as well as responsibilities.

Since her launching, KING has been a tribute of American industry. But today she will assume other dimensions. With the breaking of her commission pennant, KING becomes the responsibility of her Captain and Crew. Together, they will breath life into her. From this day forward, she will be instilled with the personality and soul which reflect the will, spirit, and dedication of those who serve in her. It is these men who will make her and keep her ready for whatever she may be called upon to do, in peace or war.

The pomp and circumstance associated with this ceremony evolved from pagan rituals contrived to ward-off evil spirits and dangers of the sea. We have outgrown these ancient superstitions, but we believe that your presence here today will do much to bear us "fair winds and a following sea" in all that lies ahead. Thanks for coming.

The Commission Pennant

The origin of the commission pennant is said to date from the 17th century. In 1652, a Dutch admiral defeated an English fleet and thereafter cruised with a broom at his masthead to signify that he had swept his enemies from the sea. The following year, the British admiral Robert Blake reversed the situation and hoisted a long streamer at his masthead—a chastizing gesture to his adversary whom he had whipped from the water. Ever since, the narrow coachwhip pennant has been the distinctive mark of a man-of-war.

Today, when the order is given to commission KING, the commission pennant will be hoisted at the mainmast. It will fly day and night so long as the ship remains commissioned in the service of her nation, and will be hauled-down only to display the personal flag of a Flag Officer or Squadron Commander embarked in the ship.

Military Honors

The rendering of military honors to senior officials of all nations is a routine part of life aboard a Navy warship. The kinds of honors rendered depend on the rank of the official, the occasion, and the location of a given ceremony.

A typical set of honors for an Admiral begins with the Bugler or Boatswain's Mate sounding "Attention" as the Admiral's barge or vehicle approaches the ship. Using a high-pitched wind instrument known as a "boatswain's call," the Boatswain's Mate pipes the barge or vehicle alongside. He then pipes the Admiral aboard and through a formation of Sideboys—who, in earlier days, were assembled to assist the distinguished visitor climb aboard by way of the somewhat unsteady Jacob's ladder. As the Admiral steps aboard, his personal flag is broken. As he reaches the end of the Sideboy formation, the Honor Guard presents arms and the band sounds-off with ruffles and flourishes, followed by the Admiral's March, and sometimes a gun salute. After the musical or gun salute, the Admiral is invited to inspect the Honor Guard.

The honors described above are referred to as full official honors and are normally rendered only to the ranking official at a ceremony. Because KING is not a commissioned ship until her pennant is broken, honors are not accorded today until commissioning and breaking the personal flag of the senior officer present eligible for command at sea.

Less Formal "side" honors are rendered more frequently than are full honors and would normally be accorded today upon departure from the ship of each member of the official party. In lieu of individual side honors calling for a platform party and other distinguished guests will be through an honor cordon of eight sideboys.

United States Ship

KING

(DDG-41)

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BUILT BY

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
Bremerton, Washington

Keel Laid 1 March 1957
Commissioned 17 November 1960
Decommissioned 30 April 1974

Modernized By

Boland Marine Manufacturing Corporation
New Orleans, Louisiana

And

Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, Virginia

Recommissioned 17 September 1977



"MORALE IS A CONVICTION OF EXCELLENCE"

Adm Ernest J. King

HISTORY OF THE USS KING (DDG-41)

USS KING (DDG-41), a Guided Missile Destroyer, was authorized by Congress in the 1956 Shipbuilding Program. Her keel was laid on 1 March 1957 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. KING was launched on 6 December 1958, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Oliver W. VAN BERG, daughter of Fleet Admiral KING. KING was commissioned and proudly took her place in the Navy on 17 November 1960 as the first ship named after Fleet Admiral Ernest J. KING.

This class Guided Missile Destroyer is designed to provide Fast Carrier Striking Forces with anti-aircraft and anti-submarine defense. In order to accomplish this mission, KING is equipped with recent technological developments in air search radars and sonar to detect the enemy, and with sophisticated anti-aircraft and anti-submarine missiles with which to destroy him. Additionally, KING was one of the first ships to be equipped with the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS), a high speed digital computer complex which has revolutionized the concept of anti-air warfare.

KING is 512 feet long and has a beam of 52 feet. Fully loaded she displaces 5800 tons. Her high pressure steam turbines make her capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots. She possesses many habitability features designed for the comfort of her crew.

KING's main armament is her TERRIER missile system. The TERRIER is a surface-to-air, supersonic, solid propellant missile capable of intercepting and destroying any present-day aircraft. The missile system is backed up by one 5"54 caliber gun for defense against enemy air and surface units.

KING's anti-submarine capability consists of the ASROC (Anti-Submarine Rocket) system and two triple-tube torpedo launchers. These weapons systems, combined with the ship's speed, maneuverability and underwater detection equipment give KING a formidable anti-submarine warfare potential.

KING is a complex and vital part of the United States Navy and in a very real sense, a true representative of our nation. She is manned by men from all areas of the United States—men who are constantly training to main-

tain KING's high state of combat readiness. Her complement of 400 officers and enlisted men work together to serve a shipboard organization divided into five departments: Engineering, Operations, Weapons, Supply, and Navigation.

KING has served nine deployments to the Western Pacific/South-eastern Asia area. She earned the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), the Vietnam Service Medal with 1 silver and 1 bronze star, the Republic of Vietnam Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation during these tours of duty. While serving in these deployments, KING was an integral part of the U. S. SEVENTH Fleet serving in roles as Force Anti-Air Warfare Coordinator, Search and Rescue, Strike Support Ship, Naval Gunfire Support, and in direct support of Fast Carrier Striking Forces in the Positive Identification and Radar Advisory Zone concept.

Having completed an Anti-Air Warfare Modernization Program designed for her class of destroyers, KING is now equipped with the Standard Missile I System which incorporates increased capability for defense against current anti-ship missiles. In conjunction with updated weapons systems, KING also received the SPS-48A Air Search and Surveillance Radar which combines long range search with the ability to determine altitude and size of enemy air threats. Quick reaction and destruction of potential air threats is provided through improved command and control capability of the Navy Tactical Data System which receives target data from ship's sensors and fire control computers for tactical display.

KING's first Commissioning Officer was Commander M. E. BUSTARD, USN. Her subsequent Commanding Officers have been: Commander F. H. SONNTAG, USN; Commander T. E. GROVES, USN; Commander E. L. COCHRANE Jr., USN; Commander C. P. TESH, USN; Commander W. L. READ, USN; Commander J. D. SCULL, USN; Commander D. M. JACKSON, USN; Commander R. R. TARBUCK, USN; and Commander Donald R. ANDERSON, USN.

The Prospective Commanding Officer of KING is Commander Grant A. SHARP, U. S. Navy.