

JOE BARTON
6TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOME OF THE
SSC
NATIONAL LABORATORY

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DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4306

February 10, 1992

Mr. J.C. Campbell

Dear J.C.:

Enclosed is a letter from the National Personnel Records Center in response to the inquiry I made on your behalf. I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with your reunion.

I hope you will find the enclosed information useful and informative. If you need my help in contacting the National Archives and Records Administration and/or the Naval Historical Center, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

JB:sr

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION OFFICE:
809 E. UNIVERSITY, SUITE 222
COLLEGE STATION, TX 77840-2116
(409) 846-1986

CONROE OFFICE:
300 WEST DAVIS, SUITE 807
CONROE, TX 77301-2803
(409) 780-2281

ENNIS OFFICE:
303 WEST KNOX, SUITE 101
ENNIS, TX 76819-3942
(214) 875-8488

FORT WORTH OFFICE:
3509 HULEN, SUITE 108
FORT WORTH, TX 76107-6811
(817) 737-7737



National Personnel Records Center

9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

FEB 06 1992

Honorable Joe Barton
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
3509 Hulen, Suite 103
Ft. Worth, TX 76107

Dear Mr. Barton:

This is in response to your inquiries of November 25, 1991, and January 22, 1992, on behalf of J.C. Campbell, which were received in this Center on November 27, 1991, and January 30, 1992. Mr. Campbell is requesting the names of the crewmen who served on the USS Frank E. Evans (DD754) in 1951 through 1953, and the ship's history.

The 1951 through 1953 muster rolls of the USS Frank E. Evans (DD754) are not on file at this Center. We suggest that Mr. Campbell contact the following office for further assistance.

National Archives and Records Administration
General Archives Division
NNRG
Washington, DC 20350

Enclosed is a copy of the ship history of the USS Frank E. Evans (DD754) compiled on April 5, 1954. Subsequent information on the ship may be available by contacting the office shown below.

Naval Historical Center
Ships History Branch
Building 57
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20350

We understand that some individuals have had success in locating members of their organizations by placing advertisements in publications of various veterans organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We hope this information will be helpful to Mr. Campbell.

Sincerely,

Marcia R. Haley

for DAVID L. PETREE
Director

Enclosures

National Archives and Records Administration

Navy Department
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Division of Naval History (Op-29)
Ship's Histories Section

HISTORY OF USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)

One of the Navy's fastest first line destroyers, the USS FRANK E. EVANS arrived in the Pacific theatre in time for the closing stage of World War II. Her keel was laid in April 1944 at the Bethlehem Steel Company, Staten Island, New York. As she slid down the ways on 3 October of the same year, she was christened by Mrs. Frank E. Evans, widow of the destroyer's namesake.

Brigadier General Frank Edgar Evans, USMC, was born in 1876 in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Upon being graduated from Princeton University he accepted a commission of Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps in 1900. During World War I he sailed for France with the Sixth Regiment of Marines where he served as Regimental Adjutant and Commander of Camp Genicart, and as Regimental Adjutant and Operations Officer in the Toulon Sector where he participated in the Aisne-Marne Defensive.

In recognition of his services in France, he was awarded a Meritorious Service Citation by the Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Force for exceptional meritorious and conspicuous service as Adjutant, Sixth Regiment Marines, with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service as Adjutant, 6th Regiment Marines. During the trying events of the early part of June, 1918, while in action against the enemy at Belleau Woods, he carried the administrative burdens of his regiment with great efficiency. His untiring efforts, constant diligence, and intelligent transmission of orders from the Brigade Commander during a number of days when his Regimental Commander was in advanced headquarters and not always in communication, contributed in no small degree to the successful part played by the 6th Regiment in the operations against the enemy from the 1st to the 16th of June, 1918."

Brigadier General Evans died at the Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor on 25 November 1941.

The new destroyer was accepted by the Navy at the commissioning ceremonies on 3 February 1945, and turned over to her first commanding officer, Commander Harry Smith, USN. Her shakedown cruise was taken in and around Bermuda and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. On 25 March she teamed up with the DICKSON and DUNCAN to conduct a negative search on a reported submarine contact. On 28 March she returned to Brooklyn Navy Yard for limited upkeep, and then steamed to Pearl Harbor. She departed Pearl Harbor on 29 May as screen for a convoy enroute to Eniwetok. From there she reported to Commander THIRD Fleet for duty, and spent the remainder of June on escort duty from Ulithi to Okinawa.

The FRANK E. EVANS then took radar picket station southwest of Okinawa as a fighter director ship. On July 4th she rescued a Marine pilot from a crash landing in her vicinity. On the 8th, she moved to the picket station northwest of Okinawa. She was relieved on picket station on the 14th to escort

a group of tankers to a rendezvous with Carrier Division 22. Upon completion of this mission, the destroyer resumed her patrol in the Okinawa area, where she remained until the end of the war with the exception of short tours of escort duty. During this period enemy aircraft were taken under fire on three different occasions, and although no hits were scored, the aircraft were driven from the vicinity. On 30 July the FRANK E. EVANS rescued an Army Lieutenant who had parachuted from his damaged plane in the area.

During World War II the FRANK E. EVANS earned one Battle Star on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Medal for participating in the following operation:

1 Star/Okinawa Gunto operation

Assault and occupation of Okinawa Gunto -- 24-30 June, 1945

She also received the Navy Occupation Service Medal and China Service Medal for the period 2 September 1945 - 6 March 1946.

Following the cessation of hostilities the destroyer underwent a short period of upkeep in Buckner Bay. On 29 August she sailed for patrol in the Yellow Sea and Gulf of Chihili with Task Group 71.1 to enforce the terms of the Japanese surrender. On 2 September she proceeded to Dairen, Manchuria in company with the HUBBARD to secure the release of U.S. Naval prisoners of war reported to be in the area. She was relieved at Dairen on the 7th and ordered to Jinsen, Korea, where she supported the landings of the occupation troops. The ship remained in Asiatic waters on occupation duties until 6 March 1946. Upon her return to the United States she underwent pre-decommissioning overhaul, and on 14 December 1949 was placed out of commission in reserve, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Less than three months after the outbreak of the Korean conflict the USS FRANK E. EVANS was taken out of mothballs on 15 September 1950 and placed in active service. Due to the national emergency, 95% of her crew had recently entered the Navy from civilian life, either as Naval Reservists recalled to active duty or as new recruits just out of training. Following her commissioning, the destroyer with her new crew went through a strenuous period of intensive training in the San Diego area. On 2 January 1951 she departed San Diego for the Far East and combat duty with the SEVENTH Fleet.

On 16 February 1951 the longest sustained naval bombardment in history had its start when United Nations ships laid off the shore of Wonsan and razed that large eastern seaport. Two battleships, three cruisers, 34 destroyers, and 11 frigates participated in this siege. The FRANK E. EVANS was present shortly after the beginning, and actively participated in eleven duels with enemy shore batteries. During these actions she received many near misses, some of which sprayed shrapnel or splashed water on board. During a counterbattery action on 18 June while patrolling close to enemy positions, two shells bursts sprayed one side of the ship with shrapnel causing 30 hits on the decks and superstructure, with minor injuries to four of the crew. A total of 71,800 rounds of ammunition were pumped into the area during the bombardments, with as many as 6000 enemy troops being eliminated in a single day's bombardment.

-3- USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754)

In addition to the Wonsan action, the DD 754 was also one of the ships which initiated and participated in the continuous siege and bombardment of Songjin. She conducted naval gunfire missions at the bomblines in front line support of United Nations forces ashore and also at Chongjin against important shore installations, enemy junks, sampans and mining operations off the north-east of Korea. During her tour of duty the gallant fighting ship expended nearly 10,000 rounds of 5-inch ammunition on enemy targets, and captured two enemy sampans, taking six North Korean prisoners. Besides her devastating gunfire against the enemy, she aided in the rescue of six United Nations pilots downed off the east coast of Korea, and coordinated and controlled day and night bombing missions for Allied planes.

On 24 August 1951 the FRANK E. EVANS sailed from Korea homeward bound. Upon her arrival at San Diego, California she had steamed more than 52,000 miles in carrying the war to the enemy shores. In 1952 she conducted another Far Eastern tour of duty, and at present is still active with the U. S. Pacific Fleet.

During the Korean conflict the destroyer earned the Korean Service Medal with three Engagement Stars for participation in the following combat operations:

- 1 Star/First U. N. Counter Offensive -- 5 February - 21 April 1951
- 1 Star/Combat China Spring Offensive -- 22 April - 8 July 1951
- 1 Star/U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive -- 9 July - 17 August 1951

She was awarded the China Service Medal for the periods 26 May - 8 June 1952, and 13 - 17 June 1952.

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STATISTICS

OVERALL LENGTH	376 feet
BEAM	41 feet
SPEED	34 knots
COMPLEMENT	16 officers and 325 men
DISPLACEMENT	2200 tons

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Compiled: 5 April 1954