

Feature

Navy to Commission USS Stark Oct. 23

USS Stark (FFG-31), the fifth Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided missile frigate to be built for the U.S. Navy by the Seattle Division of Todd Pacific Shipyards, is scheduled to be formally commissioned into active service on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Todd Shipyard in Seattle. Principal speaker will be Representative Joel Pritchard of Washington's First Congressional District.

The ship is named for the late Admiral Harold R. Stark, USN, of Wilkes-Barre, who was chief of Naval Operations from Aug. 1, 1939 to March 26, 1942. During World War 2 he commanded U.S. Naval forces in Europe. Admiral Stark retired from the Navy in April 1946 and died in August 1972 at the age of 91.

Latest Warship Named For Wilkes-Barre Native

Attending Saturday's ceremonies will be Mrs. Edwin W. Semans, daughter of Admiral Stark.

The Stark is the seventh ship of this class to be completed by the Seattle yard. In addition to the five U.S. Navy frigates, Todd Seattle has built two for the Australian Navy. Six others, four for the U.S. Navy and two for Australia, are still under construction.

The 445-foot frigates of 3,600 tons displacement are versatile combatants designed for defense against submarines, surface ships and aircraft. They are powered by twin gas turbines with the 40,000 horsepower transmitted through a single shaft, variable pitch propeller system.

Their design features a fully integrated combat system, equipment for two helicopters, a propulsion central control station, and a bridge control console from which one crewmember can direct both the ship's direction and speed. A modular design allows major systems and components to be repaired and replaced with minimum disruption to surrounding equipment.

Weapons include surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, a new model 76mm gun, anti-submarine torpedoes and helicopters. Crew size, including a helicopter detachment, is about 185 officers and enlisted.

Following commissioning, USS Stark is scheduled to depart the Seattle area in mid-November for her new homeport of Mayport, Fla. The ship will be a unit of Destroyer Squadron Eight.

Cmdr. Terrence W. Costello, III, USN, of Eldorado Springs, Mo. is Stark's first commanding officer.

Admiral Stark served his country with distinction for four decades. Born Nov. 12, 1880 in Wilkes-Barre, he attended the public schools and Harry Hillman Academy there before receiving his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Following graduation in 1903, he served on many ships including the battleship USS Minnesota when she was part of the Battle Fleet which made the famous December 1907 to February 1909 cruise around the world.

In June of 1917, he reported for shore duty at the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, RI. Shortly after the entry of the United States into WWI, Stark assumed command of Torpedo Flotilla, Asiatic Fleet but was transferred in November to the Staff of the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces operating in European waters for the remainder of the war.

Stark earned a Distinguished Service Medal for boldly leading a squadron of small and old destroyers through monsoons from the Philippines to Gibraltar. The ships arrived ahead of schedule and carried out an active role in the anti-submarine campaign in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

During the peace time years, his service included assignments as Aid to two Navy Secretaries, command of battleship West Virginia, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance (1934-1937) and Commander of Cruiser Division 3, Battle Force. Stark attained the rank for Rear Admiral on Nov. 2, 1934 and was advanced to Admiral on Aug. 1, 1939 following his appointment as Chief of Naval Operations on Apr. 1, 1939.



Admiral Harold R. Stark

Admiral Stark's second award of the Distinguished Service Medal was for acting with resolute decision to hasten capital ship construction for the "Two Ocean Navy" which proved to be a key to victory in WWII. He instituted in cooperation with Great Britain effective trans-Atlantic convoy protection as well as the anti-submarine warfare measures which bridged the Atlantic from both North and South America.

Admiral Stark Commanded Naval Forces in Europe

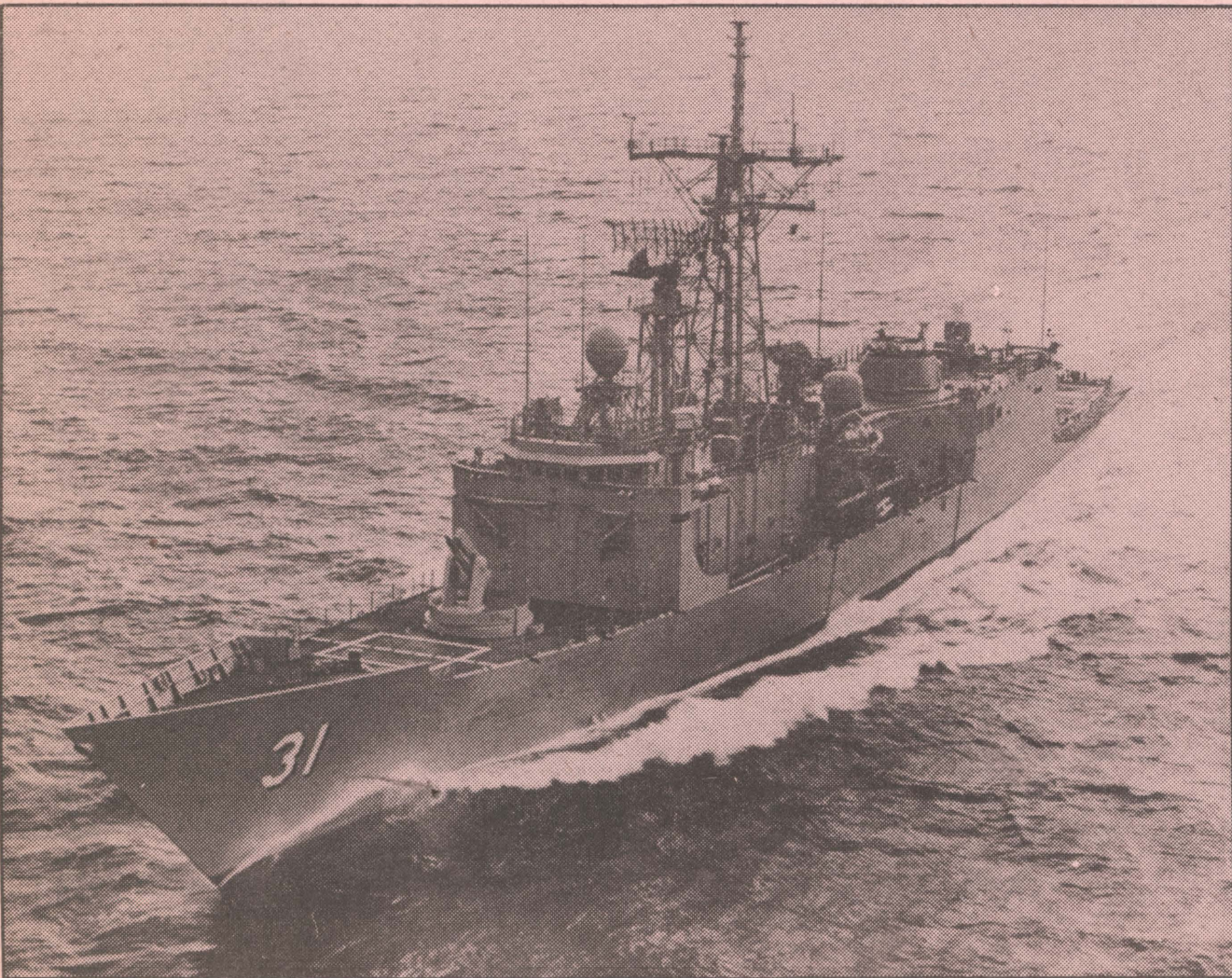
In March 1942, he took command of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and thereafter providing the primary liaison between the British and American navies for logistics for the British Isles, including the massive staging, training, and logistics for the 2,904 U.S. Naval ships and craft manned by 124,000 officers and men participating in the Normandy invasion.

Although he did not participate in the actual amphibious assaults on the coast of Normandy in June, 1944, his personal contributions by far exceeded his responsibilities, resulting in the award of a third Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

General Eisenhower additionally presented Admiral Stark with the Army's Distinguished Service Medal for rendering brilliant and distinguished service, not only as a naval administrator, but as a skillful diplomatic emissary in relations with Allied authorities which so greatly contributed to the liberation of Europe.

In the fall of 1945 Stark was assigned to the Office of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. and served until he retired April 1, 1946. Stark's many U.S. awards and decorations were supplemented by a long list of honors from foreign governments including Britain, France, Brazil, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Admiral Stark continued to live in Washington, D.C., where he remained active in a variety of Navy organizations and clubs. He died Aug. 20, 1972 at the age of 91. His wife the former Katherine Rhodes also of Wilkes-Barre predeceased him.



USS Stark

Oct. 15, 1982

Mrs. Edwin W. Semans; daughter of the late Adm. Harold R. Stark, USN, a native of Wilkes-Barre, U.S. Naval Academy graduate and former Chief of Naval Operations; asked that we provide you this information about the commissioning of a new U.S. Navy ship named for him; the guided missile frigate USS Stark (FFG-31).

USS Stark will be commissioned in Seattle, Wash., Saturday, Oct. 23, 1982.



U.S. Navy

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 67-82

Oct. 14, 1982

USS STARK COMMISSIONING SET FOR OCT. 23

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U.S. Navy
PRESS RELEASE
USS STARK COMMISSIONING - 2

add / The USS Stark is a

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ADMIRAL HAROLD R. STARK

"STARK" (FFG-31) is named for Admiral Harold R. Stark who served his country with distinction for four decades. Born 12 November 1880 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, he attended the public schools and Harry Hillman Academy there before receiving his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy. Following graduation in 1903, he served on many ships including the battleship USS MINNESOTA when she was part of the Battle Fleet which made the famous December 1907 to February 1909 cruise around the world.

In June of 1917, he reported for shore duty at the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, Rhode Island. Shortly after the entry of the United States into WW I, Stark assumed command of Torpedo Flotilla, Asiatic Fleet but was transferred in November to the Staff of the Commander, U. S. Naval Forces operating in European waters for the remainder of the war. Stark earned a Distinguished Service Medal for boldly leading a squadron of small and old destroyers through monsoons from the Philippines to Gibraltar. The ships arrived ahead of schedule and carried out an active role in the anti-submarine campaign in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

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Admiral Stark's second award of the Distinguished Service Medal was for acting with resolute decision to hasten capital ship construction for the "Two Ocean Navy" which proved to be a key to victory in WW II. He instituted in cooperation with Great Britain effective trans-Atlantic convoy protection as well as the anti-submarine warfare measures which bridged the Atlantic from both North and South America. In March 1942, he took command of U. S. Naval Forces in Europe, and thereafter providing the primary liaison between the British and American navies for logistics for the British Isles, including the massive staging, training, and logistics for the 2,904 U. S. Naval ships and craft manned by 124,000 officers and men participating in the Normandy invasion. Although he did not participate in the actual amphibious assaults on the coast of Normandy in June 1944, his personal contributions by far exceeded his responsibilities, resulting in the award of a third Navy Distinguished Service Medal. General Eisenhower additionally presented Admiral Stark with the Army's Distinguished Service Medal for rendering brilliant and distinguished service, not only as a naval administrator, but as a skillful diplomatic emissary in relations with Allied authorities which so greatly contributed to the liberation of Europe. In the fall of 1945 Stark was assigned to the Office of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. and served until retired 1 April 1946. Stark's many U. S. awards and decoration were supplemented by a long list of honors from foreign governments including Britain, France, Brazil, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Admiral Stark continued to live in Washington, D.C., where he remained active in a variety of Navy organizations and clubs. He died 20 August 1972 at the age of 91. His wife the former Katherine Rhodes also of Wilkes-Barre predeceased him.

COMMANDER TERRENCE W. COSTELLO, III

Commander Terrence W. Costello, III, a native of Eldorado Springs, Missouri, graduated from Missouri University, NROTC Class of 1966, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Commander Costello was also awarded a Masters of Arts in Political Science from Oklahoma University.

Commander Costello was initially assigned to USS JOHN R. PERRY (DE 1034), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he served as Damage Control Assistant. In April 1968, Commander Costello report to An Thoi, Republic of Vietnam where he served one year as Officer-in-Charge of a riverine patrol craft - PCF 38. Upon completion of Destroyer School in December 1969, he returned to sea as Weapons Officer in USS SAMPLE (FF 1048), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In December 1971, Commander Costello assumed command of USS ENHANCE (MSO 437) homeported in Long Beach, California. His most recent sea tour from October 1977 to May 1979 was as Executive Officer of USS PAUL (FF 1080) homeported in Mayport, Florida.

Assignments ashore have included attending the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island during the academic year 1973-1974, NROTC Instructor at Oklahoma University from 1974 to 1977 and Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District, Indianapolis from June 1979 to December 1981.

Commander Costello's personal awards include the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Combat "V", Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Purple Heart with gold star in lieu of second award, Presidential Unit Citation with bronze star in lieu of second award and Combat Action Ribbon.

Commander Costello is married to the former Susan Hayward of San Diego, California, and they have two children, Terrence and Christine.

