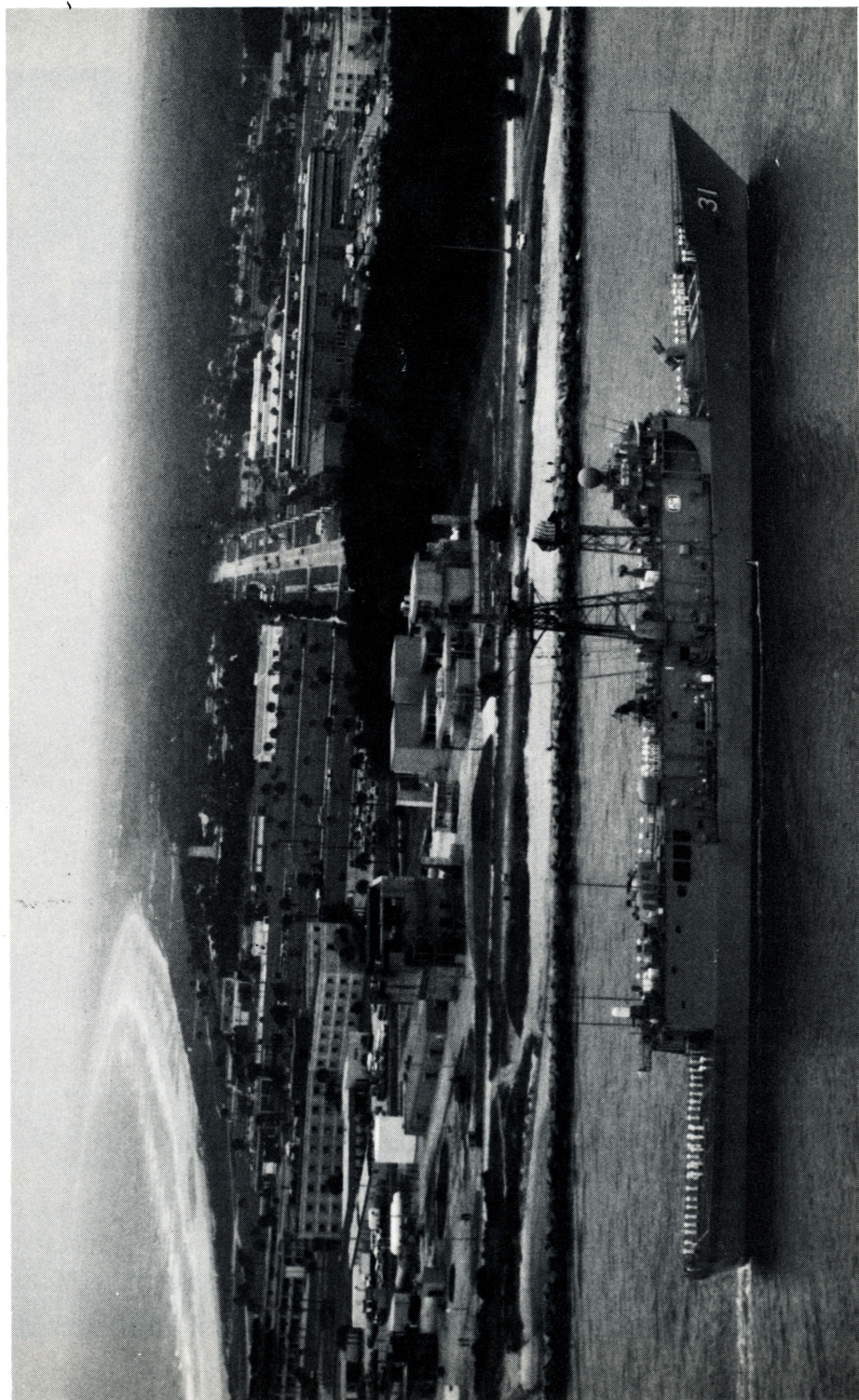




WELCOME ABOARD



**UNITED STATES SHIP
STARK
(FFG-31)**



USS STARK CREST

Gold and blue are the colors associated with the Navy. The globe refers to Admiral Stark's global outlook of the U.S. Navy which began early in his naval career when, after graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, he sailed around the world with the U.S. 'Great White Fleet'. The globe further alludes to Admiral Stark's World War I experience as commander of a torpedo flotilla which he led from the Philippines to the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean which took an active part in the anti-submarine campaign.

The chain encircling the globe symbolizes the U.S. two ocean concept foreseen by Admiral Stark while Chief of Naval Operations. The chain also alludes to the Admiral's service as Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe where his diplomatic and tactical abilities proved that the Navy was the vital link which ensured support for allied forces ashore by conveying supplies from the U.S. and transporting of allied troop replacement forces.

The anchor and the four blue stripes on the pentagon reflect Admiral Stark's forty-year Naval career culminating as Chief of Naval Operations and Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe during World War II. The four stars reflect both his rank and the three Navy and one Army Distinguished Service Medals he earned during his illustrious career.

UNITED STATES SHIP STARK (FFG-31) FAST FRIGATE GUIDED MISSILE SHIP

Built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Seattle, Washington

Keel Laid 24 August 1979

Launched 30 May 1982

Commissioned..... 23 October 1982

Sponsor..... Mary Stark Semans, daughter of the late Admiral Harold R. Stark

USS STARK (FFG-31) CHARACTERISTICS

	Feet	Meters
Length.....	445	135.7
Beam.....	45	13.7
Draft.....	24	7.3
Displacement.....	4100 Tons	3280 Metric Tons
Crew.....	203 Total (188 Enlisted, 15 Officers)	
Maximum Speed.....	28 Plus Knots	
Propulsion.....	Two General Electric LM 2500 Gas Turbines (40,000 SHP) Two 360 HP Electric Auxiliary Propulsion Units One Controllable Reversible Pitch Propeller	
Electrical Plant	Four Detroit-Allison V-16 Diesel Generators	
Weapons.....	20 MM MK 15 Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) MK 13 Guided Missile Launcher - Harpoon Anti-Surface Missile - SM-1 Standard Anti-Aircraft Missile 76 MM MK 75 Fully Automated Rapid Fire Naval Gun MK-32 Torpedo Tubes (Two Triple Tube Mounts) - MK 46 Anti-Submarine Torpedo	
Combat System.....	AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar MK-92 Fire Control System AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Warfare System AN/SQS-56 Digital Hull Mounted Sonar MK-36 SRBOC Decoy Launching System AN/SLQ 49 Anti-missile Decoy System Naval Tactical Data System Joint Operation Tactical System	
Aircraft Capability.	Anti-Submarine Warfare Helicopter: SH-2F	



USS STARK (FFG-31) MISSION AND HISTORY

USS STARK (FFG-31) was launched on May 30, 1982 and commissioned October 23, 1982 in Seattle, Washington. STARK is the twenty-fifth of fifty-five Oliver Hazard Perry class Guided Missile Frigates, the largest class of ships since World War II. STARK was named for the former Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Harold R. Stark.

The ship is the result of a careful plan to provide a portion of the in-depth protection required for military and merchant shipping, amphibious task forces and underway logistics groups. In executing this mission, STARK will help meet our nation's far-ranging international commitments and keep the vital sea lanes open. In order to ensure a large class of capable yet relatively inexpensive ships, many innovative concepts are incorporated into her design. Some of these concepts include modular construction techniques and the utilization of numerous labor-saving devices to reduce the number of personnel required to operate the ship. STARK also incorporates many improvements in habitability, including lounge areas for the crew and improved messing facilities.

In today's combat environment, the ability to respond rapidly and effectively is the key to success. All of STARK's systems are designed to meet this important requirement. The propulsion system is a computer-controlled gas turbine power plant with engines similar to those found on the Air Force C5A strategic transport and the civilian DC 10 jetliners. STARK's propulsion system can be brought 'on line' and made ready in less than one-eighth the time required for a conventional steam or nuclear powered ship.

STARK's combat system integrates a computerized command and control system with the ship's sensors and weapons. Digital computers provide rapid evaluation of potential threats detected by radar, sonar and other sensors. Should the need arise, surface-to-air or surface-to-surface missiles, rapid fire naval gunnery, anti-submarine torpedoes, close-in weapons system (CIWS), or the LAMPS (Light Airborne Multipurpose System) MK I helicopter can be employed to counter any potential threat from air, surface or sub-surface platforms. Since its commissioning in October of 1982, STARK has traveled over 235,000 nautical miles, visiting 69 different ports in 31 separate countries around the world. Her early deployments include Middle East Force (Jun - Dec 1984), Great Lakes (Jun - Aug 1985), Middle East Force (Feb - Aug 1987). During the 1987 deployment, STARK was struck by two missiles fired by Iraqi aircraft. The fires that resulted claimed 37 lives, and only the heroic action of the crew saved the ship. Today the only remaining sign of this tragic event is the memorial engraving mounted in the midships passageway which lists the names of the lost shipmates, but the crew will always remember the 37 shipmates who gave their lives. Later deployments include Standing Naval Force Atlantic (Jan - Jul 1990) and Middle East Force (Aug 1991 - Feb 1992). STARK has participated in numerous fleet exercises which include Solid Shield 85, CORTRAMID 86, Operation Sharp Spear 89, PCO operations 91, MEFEX 3-91, SWOS School Ship 91, PCO Operations 92, the Haitian humanitarian operation, Able Manner, and several Caribbean counter-drug operations. STARK's notable achievements include rescuing 16 people from a burning merchant vessel hit by Iranian missiles in the Persian Gulf in 1984, welcoming aboard over 105,000 visitors during the Great Lakes Cruise, rescuing two downed helicopter pilots in the Persian Gulf in 1991, completing 77 boardings in just 25 operating days during Red Sea Maritime Interdiction Operations, seizing a drug boat loaded with over 14,000 pounds of marijuana during counter drug operations, earning the nomination for the Marjorie Sterret Battleship Fund Award and winning the Battle 'E' award for the 1992 competitive cycle.



ADMIRAL HAROLD R. STARK, USN

USS 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 public schools and the Harry Hillman Academy before receiving his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Following graduation in 1903, he served on many ships including the battleship USS MINNESOTA while she steamed with the Great White Fleet on the famous December 1907 to February 1909 cruise around the world.

In June 1917 he reported for duty at the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, Rhode Island. Shortly after the United States entered World War I, Stark assumed command of Torpedo Flotilla, Asiatic Fleet, but was soon transferred to the Staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces and operated in European waters for the remainder of the war. Stark earned a Distinguished Service Medal for boldly leading a squadron of small, 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.

In the years following WW I, his service included assignments as Aide to two Navy Secretaries, command of battleship WEST VIRGINIA, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Commander of Cruiser Division Three, Battle Force. Stark attained the rank of Rear Admiral on 2 November 1934 and was promoted to Admiral on 1 August 1939 following his appointment as Chief of Naval Operations on 1 April 1939.

Admiral Stark's second Distinguished Service Medal was for his resolute decision to hasten the capital ship construction for the 'Two Ocean Navy', which proved a key to victory in WW II. In cooperation with Great Britain, he instituted effective trans-Atlantic convoy protection as well as 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, thereafter providing the primary liaison between the British Navy and U.S. Navy for logistics for the British Isles. This included the massive staging, training, and logistics for the 2,904 U.S. Naval ships and craft, and the 124,000 naval personnel participating in the Normandy invasion. Although he did not participate in the actual amphibious assaults on the Normandy coast in June 1944, his personal contributions resulted in the award of a third 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, directly contributing to the liberation of Europe. In Autumn 1945, Admiral Stark was assigned to the Office of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington D.C. He served there until he retired 1 April 1946. His many U.S. awards and decorations were supplemented by numerous honors from foreign governments including Britain, France, Brazil, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Admiral Stark settled 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.