

Great Ships of The U. S. Navy

U.S.S. Agerholm

by Mike Prero

USS Agerholm (DD-826) was a Gearing class destroyer in the United States Navy. She was the only ship named for Harold Crist Agerholm, a Marine Private First Class who was killed during the assault on Saipan, and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Completing her overhaul in late 1950, Agerholm trained for war and set a course for the Far East. She entered the combat zone on 19 February 1951. The destroyer also aided in shore bombardment, training her guns on Wonsan on 28 April and 1 May to 4 May, and on Kojo on 29 April. Agerholm returned to San Diego on 20 September for upkeep and local operations.

In May 1952, the warship left San Diego for her second tour with TF 77 in Korea. In addition to screening and plane guard duties, Agerholm conducted naval gunfire support as required. During one exchange of gunfire with a communist shore battery a single enemy shell struck the destroyer in the after part of the ship, starting a small fire in the crew's after berthing compartment but causing only minor damage to the weatherdeck. Agerholm continued on assigned duties until December, when she set a course for San Diego, arriving there on 21 December.

After several months of preparation and fulfilling local training commitments, Agerholm got underway on 8 September for her sixth WestPac cruise. Although the Korean War had ended, the 7th Fleet conducted various operations to ensure the continuation of peace in the Far East. Agerholm steamed many miles in support of the Formosa patrol, designed to deter both the Chinese Nationalists and the Chinese communists from invading each other, before she returned to her home port on 16 April.

Agerholm served two deployments in Vietnam, seeing action, and spent several years serving all over the Pacific. Agerholm was decommissioned on 1 December 1978 and sunk as a target on 18 July 1982. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Agerholm_\(DD-826\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Agerholm_(DD-826))]

Agerholm being sunk by an UGM-109 launched from USS Guitarro, 1982.

