

Great Ships of The U. S. Navy

U.S.S. Douglas H. Fox by Mike Prero

USS Douglas H. Fox (DD-779) an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was named in honor of Lieutenant Commander Douglas H. Fox, the commanding officer of the USS Barton (DD-599), who went down with his ship when she was torpedoed and sunk in the naval battle of Guadalcanal 13 November 1942. Douglas H. Fox was launched 30 September 1944 by Todd-Pacific Shipyards, Inc., Seattle, Washington; sponsored by Mrs. J. T. Boone; and commissioned 26 December 1944, Commander R. M. Pitts in command.

Douglas H. Fox departed Norfolk 21 July 1947 for a tour of duty in the Mediterranean. On 29 September, while bound for Trieste, she struck a World War II era mine which severely damaged her stern, killed 3 and injured 12 of her crew. Fox returned to the Mediterranean and visited various ports there until 28 September 1948, when she joined USS Huntington (CL-107) for a goodwill cruise to Mombasa, Kenya; Durban, South Africa; and round Cape Horn to Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Montevideo. She returned to Norfolk 8 December 1948, for operations off the Virginia Capes until 5 January 1950 when she arrived at Charleston, South Carolina. She was placed out of commission in reserve there 21 April 1950.

Recommissioned 15 November 1950, after the outbreak of war in Korea, Fox served on the East Coast until 22 January 1952 when she got underway from Norfolk for the Far East. She joined the screen of TF 77 on patrol off Korea, and participated in the bombardment of Wonsan 13 March 1952. Later in March, she joined USS Manchester (CL-83) in conducting harassing fire against enemy troops on the east coast of Korea. In May she began independent operations, shelling targets, supporting minesweeping operations, and weakening the North Korean fishing industry by capturing 26 sampans.

Fox served tours of duty with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean from 7 November 1956 to 20 February 1957. Between 7 August 1959 and 26 February 1960, she served again in the Mediterranean, as well as in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, returning to Norfolk for overhaul. From June through the end of 1960, H. Fox operated off the East Coast on NATO maneuvers, and patrolling in the Caribbean during unrest in Central America.

After completing a 1961 Mediterranean deployment, Fox participated in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercises and patrols through March 1962. At that time the ship went into the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization conversion. In November 1962, she departed from the yard with this increased ASW capability, more modern, comfortable quarters, and a longer life expectancy with the United States Navy.

In 1973, after decommissioning, the ship was sold to Chile for further naval service. As the Ministro Portales (DD-17), it served its new country for another 22 years. This ship was decommissioned from the Chilean Navy in 1990. Ministro Portales was sunk off Cape Horn on 11 November 1998.

[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Douglas_H._Fox_\(DD-779\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Douglas_H._Fox_(DD-779))]

