

DEs Provide Convoy Protection

The seven ships accompanying the WASP in Task Force 66 are members of the Navy's new class of destroyer escorts.

Last month when these ships, in company with the WASP, headed for the Mediterranean, they set an unofficial speed record across the Atlantic for destroyer escorts when the group arrived at Gibraltar less than six days after departure from the United States.

The first of this new class of ships is the USS DEALEY (DE-1006) which was commissioned in mid-1954. The primary mission of the DEALEY and the ships of her class is ocean convoy protection against submarines.

In their assignments, these ships have displayed the versatility of their class. In antisubmarine operations, for instance, these new destroyer escorts have shown their ability to replace a valuable destroyer as a screening ship. It is readily seen that the DEALEY-class ships represent a definite advance in ocean strategy by combining the destroyer's speed with the destroyer escort's maneuverability.

Here's a brief glimpse at each of these ships.

U.S.S. DEALEY

The USS DEALEY (DE-1006), commissioned at Boston Navy Yard on 3 June 1954, is the first of the



LCDR A. W. Vittek
USS DEALEY

Navy's new class of destroyer escorts.

Sponsor at the time of commissioning was Mrs. Samuel David Dealey, widow of the Navy commander for whom the ship is named. CDR Dealey began his career at the Naval Academy and continued throughout his life to serve as a naval officer. He was in command of the USS HARDFP when that submarine was overdue and presumed lost in January, 1945.

The Commanding Officer of the DEALEY, LCDR A. W. Vittek, USN, enlisted in the Navy in 1938 and by 1943 had advanced to the rating of Chief Quartermaster. That September he was commissioned an Ensign. He assumed command of the DEALEY on 28 June 1957.

U.S.S. CROMWELL

The USS CROMWELL (EF-1014), commissioned on 24 November 1954 at Boston Navy Yard, is the second of the Navy's ocean escort class of ships.

The ship is named for Congressional medal of honor winner CAPT John P. Cromwell, USN, who during World War II went down with the badly damaged submarine USS SCULPIN.

The CROMWELL had a great day on 4 August 1956 when VADM J. L. Holloway, USN, then Chief of Naval Personnel, accompanied by Commander Destroyer Force, Atlantic, and Commander Destroyer Flotilla TWC, visited the ship for an inspection and presentation. Admiral Holloway presented the CROMWELL with the Battle Efficiency Plaque for Escort Squadron TEN.

Upon returning from Europe in late 1957, the ship's company again assembled on the boat deck for the Battle Efficiency Award ceremony. She won not only the second consecutive such award, but also the Anti-submarine Warfare "F" and Gunnery "E" for excellence in antisubmarine warfare and gunnery proficiency.

Commanding Officer is LCDR A. L. Moore, USN. He enlisted in the Navy in 1939 and was assigned to flight training in 1942. After graduation from flight school, he served in aviation activities until

1950 when he was assigned general line duty. He assumed command of the CROMWELL on 7 April 1958.

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LCDR A. L. Moore
USS CROMWELL

U.S.S. JOHN WILLIS

The USS JOHN WILLIS (EF-1027) is the smallest combatant vessel in the U. S. Navy capable of two-flooding the ICETACT flag.

During the winter of 1957, the

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LCDR D. F. Cummings
USS JOHN WILLIS