



SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

Show and Tell Information Form

(Use back if required)

Ship's Name: USS STODDARD (DD 566)

Model Builder: Frank Dengler

1. Ship's History

- a. Type/Class: Destroyer / FLETCHER (DD 445) Class
- b. Namesake: SN James Stoddard, USN, born in 1838 in Port Robinson, Ontario, Canada, enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Detroit, MI, in 1863. On 5 Mar 1864, he and shipmates SN William J. Franks and SN Bartlett Laffey went ashore with a howitzer from the gunboat USS MARMORA to help repulse a Confederate attack on Yazoo City, MS. Engaging in hand-to-hand combat and wounded in the neck, Stoddard carried out his mission, and was promoted to acting master's mate in April 1864. He resigned from the U. S. Navy in May 1865. All three sailors received the Medal of Honor and became destroyer namesakes.
- c. Shipbuilder & Location: Seattle Tacoma Shipbuilding, Tacoma, WA.
- d. Date Commissioned/In-Service: 15 Apr 1944.
- e. Operations: Operating from Adak and Dutch Harbor, AK from August 1944 to Apr 1945 in snow, fog, and heavy seas, STODDARD bombarded Japanese airfields and installations in the Kuril Islands. In May she escorted USS TICONDEROGA (CV-14) through strikes on Tarao then assumed a picket station off Okinawa where she shot down 2 kamikaze aircraft, had 1 probable kill, and 2 assists. Then STODDARD screened Carrier Task Force (CTF) 38 strikes on Japan and bombarded Chi Chi Jima until the cessation of hostilities on 15 Aug 1945.

She was placed out of commission in 1947 and was berthed in reserve Fleet at Charleston, SC until Nov 1950 when she was recommissioned. Based in Newport, RI, STODDARD periodically deployed for service with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean until 1954 when she transited to San Diego, CA. She operated with the 1st Fleet (renamed 3rd Fleet in 1973) in the Eastern Pacific or the 7th Fleet in the Western Pacific until 1969. In 1955 she assisted in the evacuation of Chinese Nationalists from the Tachen Islands. In the latter 1950s she patrolled Taiwan Strait during periods of tension with China. In 1961 she helped mitigate a crisis in Laos. In 1963 she appeared in the movie "A Ticklish Affair" filmed in San Diego.

STODDARD, radio call sign "Buck Board", deployed to the Tonkin Gulf off Vietnam in 1965, '66, and '68. There she conducted naval gunfire support to destroy North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) attacking U.S. forces, radar installations, ammunition dumps, and shore batteries. She also provided pilot rescue, waterborne logistics craft interdiction, and carrier escort services. On 17 Mar 1967 STODDARD was hit by a shore battery while rescuing a downed aviator near the mouth of the Song Giap River.

Decommissioned 25 Sep 1969 she became the last FLETCHER Class destroyer stricken from U. S. Navy 1 Jun 1975. Reconfigured with remote control engines and

steering, instrumentation, and a radar controlled, 3,000 rounds per minute 20mm Close-In Weapon System (CIWS), STODDARD operated out of the Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, CA for 1983-84 tests vs. Exocet and Harpoon missiles led by CDR Frank Dengler, USN. She continued to serve as a CIWS test ship into 1990.

f. Fate: Sunk by SEAL Team ONE 64nm NNW of Kauai, HI 22 Jul 1997.

g. Awards / Accomplishments: 3 Battle Stars for service in the Pacific during in World War II. 3 Battle Stars for service in the Vietnam Conflict. Navy Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service 18 Jan - 5 Feb 1967 and 8 - 29 Mar 1967.



USS STODDARD (DD 566), 21 Apr 1944, World War II “5 Gun” Configuration, Measure 32 “Dazzle” Camouflage, from <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/pix1/0556605.jpg>



USS STODDARD (DD 566), 13 Nov 1961, “4 Gun” Configuration, “Haze Gray” Camouflage, from <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/pix1/0556613.jpg>

2. Model Fabrication

- a. Materials: Wood Hull, Sheet Plastic Superstructure, Brass & Casting Resin Fittings
- b. Scale: 1:192
- c. Era & Configuration Depicted: 1967 Vietnam era FLETCHER Class with to 4 x 5"/38 Gun Mounts, 3 x Twin Mark 33 3"/50 Gun Mounts, 2 x Triple Mark 32 Anti-Submarine Torpedo Tubes reconfigured from mid-World War II FLECHTER Class with 5 x 5"/38s, 10 x Bofors 40mm/60s, 7 x Oerlikon 20mm/70s, 2 x Quintuple 21" Torpedo Tubes, 6 x Depth Charge Throwers, 2 x Depth Charge Racks
- d. Model Construction Period: ≈ 6 months
- e. Techniques: Located blueprints and photos of STODDARD and similarly reconfigured destroyers and used them to fabricate the superstructure out of sheet plastic so model could feature open watertight doors and appear more "3 dimensional".
- f. Issues & Solutions: To avoid fabricating multiple Mark 33 Twin 3"/50 gun mounts: (1) built a prototype, (2) poured 2-part Room Temperature Vulcanizing (RTV) silicone rubber over the prototype (disassembled to base-trunions and gun assemblies) to make a mold, (3) filled molds with 2-part casting resin.



USS STODDARD (DD 566) 1:192 Model, 9 Oct 2018, Destroyer Squadron 21 Stack Logo, Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club patch, Name & Service Summary Plate, Glass Case Removed, Black Deck Tread Paths Pending