

USS Laffey DD-724 in Korean War

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. It ended unofficially on 27 July 1953 in an armistice. USS Laffey DD-724 supported US Navy operations in the war. See <https://www.laffey.org/HomePage/DD724ColdWar.html>.

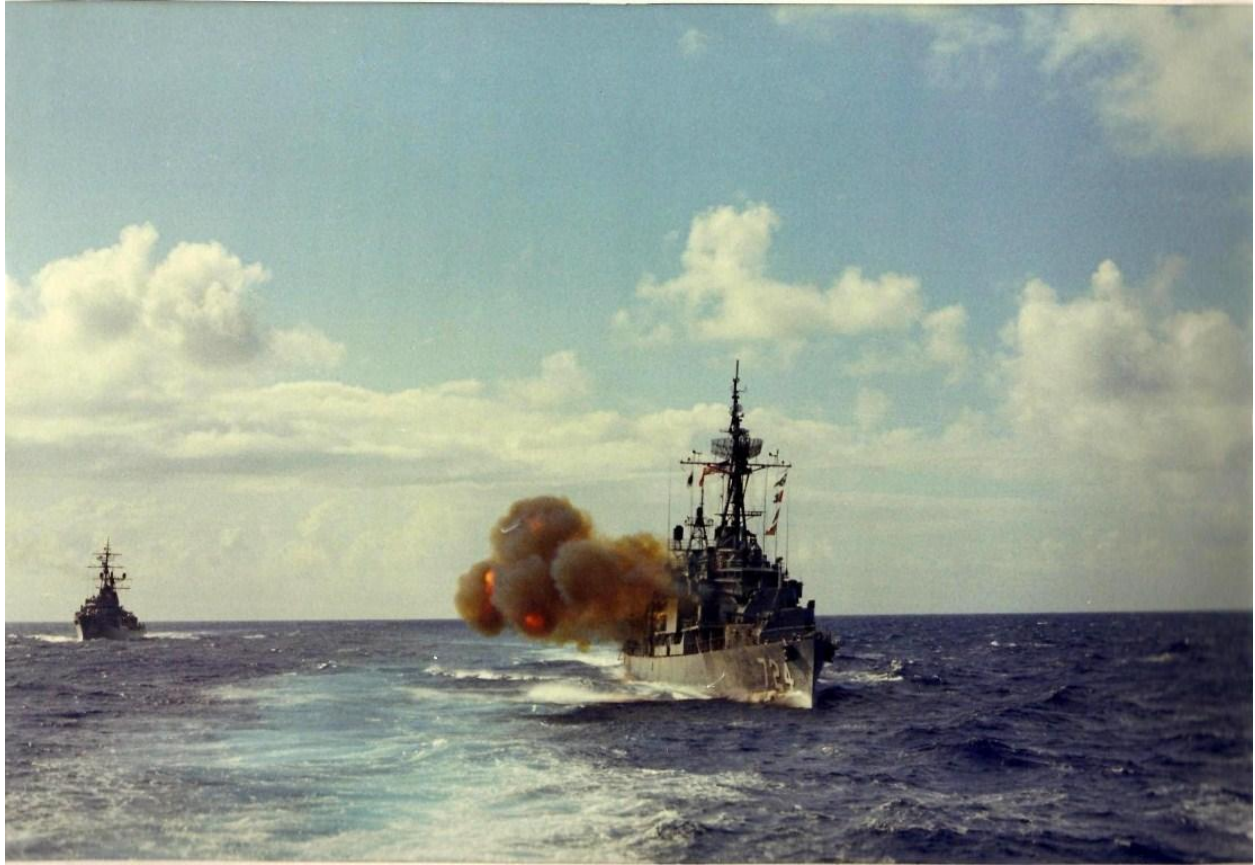


USS Laffey Recommissioning Ceremony January 26, 1951 San Diego, California

Per Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Laffey_\(DD-724\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Laffey_(DD-724)). "Korean War - Laffey was recommissioned on 26 January 1951, with Commander Charles Holovak in command. After shakedown out of San Diego, she headed for the east coast of the US, arriving at Norfolk in February for overhaul followed by refresher training at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. In mid January 1952, she sailed for Korea, arriving in March. Laffey operated with TF 77 screening carriers Antietam and Valley Forge.

In May, with Captain Henry J. Conger in command, Laffey she took part in the blockade of Wonsan in Korea. "Although frequently subjected to hostile fire in Wonsan Harbor while embarked in his flagship, the U.S.S. LAFFEY, Captain Conger conducted a series of daring counterbattery duels with the enemy and was greatly instrumental in the success achieved by his ship. By his inspiring leadership, sound judgment and zealous devotion to duty throughout, Captain Conger contributed materially to the success of the Naval blockade of the east coast of Korea and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." — Dan A. Kimball, Secretary of the Navy

After a brief refit at Yokosuka on 30 May, Laffey returned to Korea where she rejoined TF 77. On 22 June, she sailed for the east coast, transiting the Suez Canal and arriving Norfolk on 19 August.”

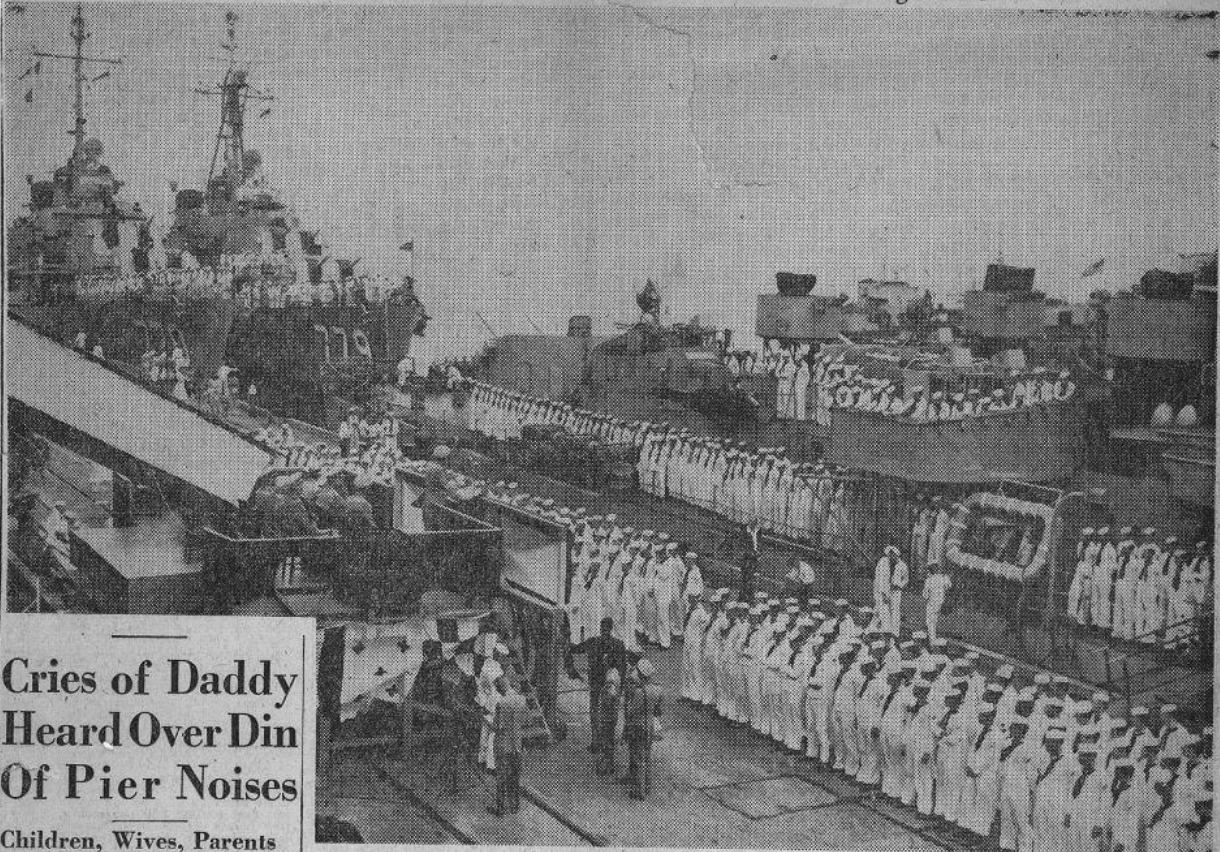


During the Korean War, USS Laffey DD-724 provided gun fire support.

On 22 June 1952, USS Laffey departed for the east coast, transiting the Suez Canal and arriving Norfolk on 19 August. This was an “Around the World Cruise” documented in “World Cruise ‘and 52” <https://www.laffey.org/Cruises/1952%20World%20Cruise/52wcfntcover.htm> and <https://www.laffey.org/Cruises/Bob%20Longsdon's%20Album/logsdon1.htm> .

USS Laffey DD-724 Returned to Norfolk VA on 19 August 19, 1952. Newspaper article from the Virginian-Pilot below "The 2,200 ton Laffey - unscratched by the enemy in nearly seven months operating off - was the of the four to ease alongside Pier 21 at the Convoy Escort Piers. She is the flagship of Captain William S. Whitside, USN, the squadron commander." Also see “Cries of Daddy Heard over the Din Pier Noises. Children, Wives, Parents, and even the Pet Dogs Welcomed Men Home”. This describes the joy of all welcoming the men of Laffey and other ships home.

They Fought in Korean Waters, Circled Globe in Getting Home



**Cries of Daddy
Heard Over Din
Of Pier Noises**

**Children, Wives, Parents
And Even the Pet Dogs
Welcome Men Home**

By Frank Blackford

Several hundred wives, parents, grandparents, children and a black cocker spaniel turned out yesterday to welcome home from Korea some 1,200 men aboard four destroyers.

"Daddy, daddy, daddy, daddy!" shouted a small girl in a crisp white dress, repeating the word over and over again as the first of the destroyers docked at the Convoy Escort Piers at 10 a. m.

The little girl kept up her cry at intervals and waved almost continuously despite a lengthy welcoming ceremony which took place before the men and their families were reunited. She stopped only when a bronzed sailor came striding across the dock and swept her up in his arms.

The destroyers Douglas H. Fox, Laffey, Lowry and James C. Owens left Norfolk in January on a journey which took them through the Panama Canal, into action off the Korean coast and a return trip via Gibraltar in a round-the-world circuit.

Cake Marks Homecoming

For 10 days before the arrival of the four vessels, Steward First Class Alfred Hightower, USN, in charge of the galley aboard the Laffey, worked on an elaborate cake to celebrate the return home.

Hightower, a native of Panama City, Canal Zone, said the cake weighed an estimated 120 pounds. He used 40 pounds of sugar to

See Welcome, Page 20

Three admirals, Norfolk's Mayor, hundreds of other greeters at welcoming ceremonies for four destroyers back from war zone.

Virginian-Pilot Photos by Breon

**Welcome Home, Well Done Accorded
Four Destroyers on Return From War**

By Jesse Glasgow

Navy Norfolk welcomed home four more destroyers from Korea yesterday, this time four ships which had circled the globe since leaving their home port last January.

Three admirals, the Mayor and hundreds of wives, children and friends were on hand to welcome the 1,200 returning veterans, each of them in his own way.

The admirals and Mayor Duckworth told the men they had done a fine job, both in battle and as goodwill ambassadors during stops in 10 world ports en route back to Norfolk.

From the relatives, the welcome

home was more personal for hugs, kisses and cries of "Hiya, Pop" made it that way.

The 2,200-ton Laffey—unscratched by the enemy in nearly seven months of operating off Korea—

was the first of the four to ease alongside Pier 21 at the Convoy Escort Piers.

She is the flagship of Capt. William S. Whiteside, USN, who commands the fleet.

See Destroyers, Page 20

We honor all Korean War Era veterans including many USS Laffey Association members:

Archibald Robert L.

Bilsten Don

Bowman Gerald

Brandt LeRoy "Lee" 52-53

Branyon Jack

Collins Thomas

Conger Henry J. CDR CO USS Laffey in Korean War

Cox, James (Jim)

DeBell Richard S

Doll Ralph

Folino Joe

Fox Frank R.

Givens Dr. Donald L

Greene Robert Earl

Harrington Walter

Jacobs Richard G.

Jagielski Jr. Joseph M

Jakubik Emil

Johnson Ralph Wayne

Jowers Bobby

Kozash John

Lacore Pete

Lee Ottis Dean (OD)

Leitschuh Clarence Leroy

Logsdon Robert

Lowe Herbert W

McAdoo William

McDougle Frank O.

McIlwain James

Nash F. Keith

Nash F. Keith

Owens, Jr. John

Phoutrides Ari

Pollak Bill

Saul Jimmy L.

Scaggs Lloyd

Stacy John

Teachey, Sr. Wendell Vann

Volz Robert Louis

Vorgity Donald 52- 56

Korean War vets at the 2003 USS Laffey Association Reunion 5 – 8 October 2003 in Portland Maine



Request comments or suggestions to president@laffey.org.