







"This ship is built to fight. You had better know how."

Arleigh Burke

Coat of Arms

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)

The Shield

The crest outlined in blue and gold stands for the outstanding achievements in battle of Admiral Burke against the naval power of Japan, a formidable foe.

The fist and mace symbolize the offensive defense power of the new destroyer. The mace, also a symbol of authority, represents Admiral Burke's outstanding service as Chief of Naval Operations. It also refers to Admiral Marc Mitscher, an influential figure and mentor, for whom Admiral Burke served as Chief of Staff.

Admiral Burke's Destroyer Squadron 23, represented by the boarder of 23 ovals, was the only United States Destroyer Squadron awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, signified by the canton of blue yellow, and red. The ovals also refer to the year 1923 in which Midshipman Burke was graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. Twenty-three also reflects Admiral Burke's distinguished service on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as (OP-23)

The Crest

The mounted figure of St. George recalls Admiral Burke's celebrated victory in the Battle of Cape St. George over Japanese naval forces. His mantle bears a gold cross for the Navy Cross awarded to the Admiral. The birch branch on the helmet represents Admiral Burke himself, a reference to his name derived from his Scandinavian heritage. The red sea dragon symbolizes Japanese naval power assaulted by the forces under Captain Burke's command. It is gorged with the two gold stars he was awarded for outstanding service. The lance impaling the dragon signifies ordinance on target. The capabilities of the new destroyer, the most powerful and survivable ever built, are signified by the full armor and equipment of the warrior St. George. The Admiral's nickname "31-Knot Burke" is recalled by the number 31 on the horse's harness.



Admiral Arleigh Burke, United States Navy

The United States Navy's most famous destroyer squadron commander, Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, was born in Boulder, Colorado on 19 October 1901. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy on 8 June 1923, and receiving a commission as Ensign in the United States Navy he served on the ARIZONA (BB 39) and PROCYON (AG 11) before returning to the Academy for post graduate education and then the University of Michigan where he received his master's degree in engineering in 1931.

During World War II, he received orders to the South Pacific where, under Admiral Halsey, he successively commanded Destroyer Squadron 43, Destroyer Squadron 44, Destroyer Squadron 12, and Destroy Squadron 23. Known as the "Little Beavers" after their insignia based on the comic strip character, Destroyer Squadron 23 covered the initial landings in Bougainville in November 1943, and fought in twenty-two separate engagements during the next four months. The final score of the "Little Beavers" sinkings was one enemy cruiser, nine destroyers, one submarine, several smaller ships, and approximately thirty aircraft.

From Destroyer Command in the South Pacific, he reported in March of 1944 as Chief of Staff to Commander, Fast Carrier Task Force 58 under Admiral Marc Mitscher. While serving with this famed carrier force, Admiral Burke was promoted to Commodore. He was aboard BUNKER HILL and ENTERPRISE when they were hit by Japanese suicide planes during the Okinawa campaign.

At the outbreak of the Korean war, Admiral Forrest Sherman, then CNO, ordered Admiral Burke to duty as Deputy Chief of Staff to Commander Naval Forces, Far East. From there, he assumed command of Cruiser Division five, and in July 1951 he was made a member of the United Nations Truce Delegation to negotiate with the communists for a military armistice on Korea. After six months in the truce tents, he returned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Strategic Plans Division until 1954.

In April 1954, he took command of Cruiser Division Six, and in January 1955 assumed command of Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet in which capacity he served until August 1955 when President Eisenhower nominated him to succeed Admiral Robert B. Carney as Chief of Naval Operations, by passing 87 active duty officers senior to him. He served an unprecedented three terms in that office before transferring to the Retired List on 1 August 1961.

DDG 51, the lead ship in the new class of AEGIS guided missile destroyers, has been designated by the Secretary of the Navy, as ARLEIGH BURKE in honor of Admiral Burke, national hero, and Navy surface warrior. The event marks the first time a lead Navy ship has been named for a living person.



ENS Arleigh Burke be-
neath of the 14-inch
guns of USS ARIZONA
(BB 39), 1923.

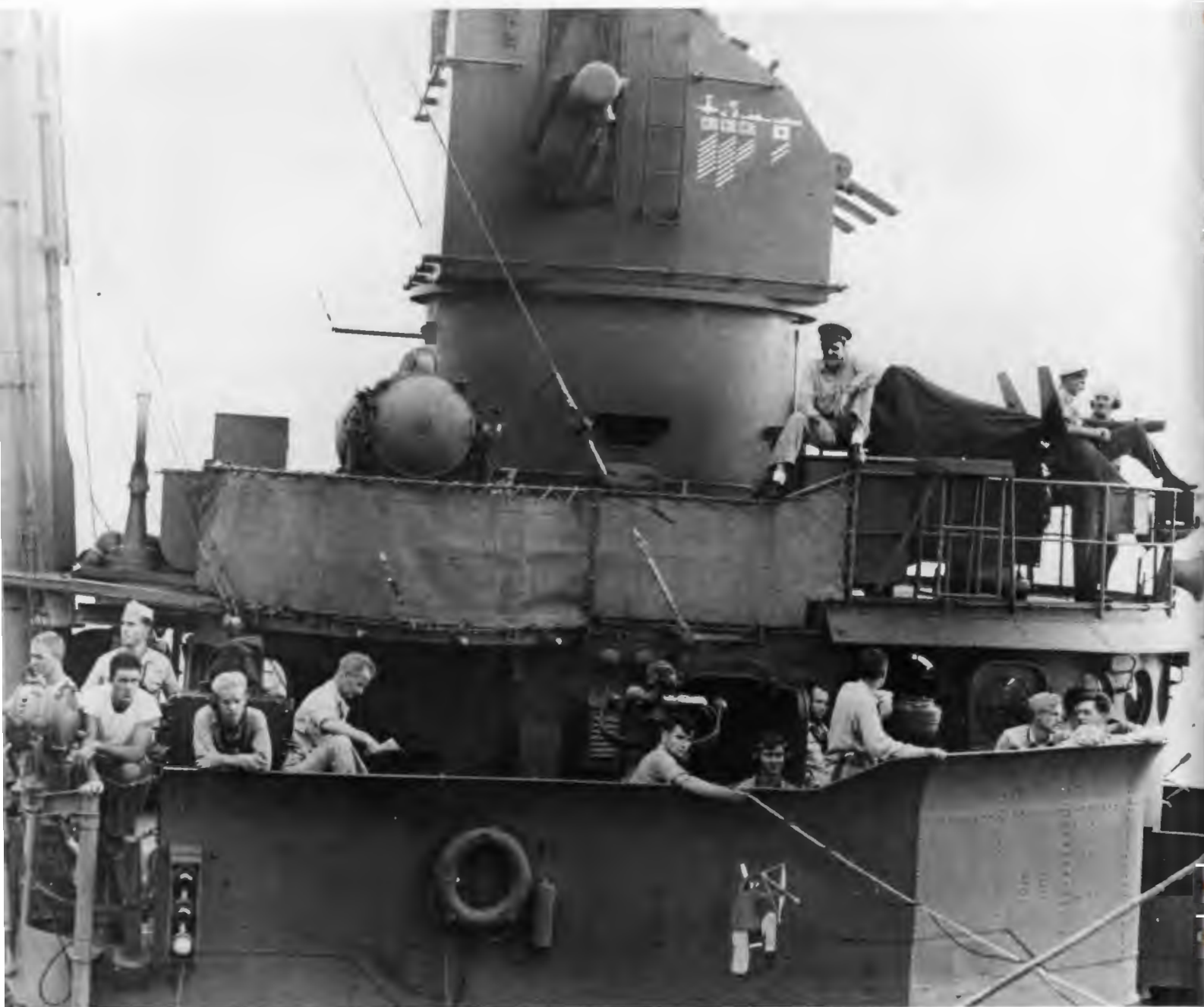


LT Arleigh Burke
in action with a
motion picture
camera while
Officer-in-Charge
of the Battle
Force Camera
Party, 1934-1935.



CAPT Arleigh Burke, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 23, reading on the starboard bridge wing of his flagship, USS CHARLES AUSBURNE (DD 570), during operations in the Solomons in 1943-1944. Note of the squadron's "Little Beaver" on the side of the bridge. Also, note impressive score board painted on the side of the MK 37 Director over the bridge

Captain Arleigh Burke, USN. 1945





Commodore
Arleigh Burke is
highlined from USS
CALLAGHAN (DD
792) to USS
LEXINGTON (CV 16)
off IWO JIMA, 18
February 1945.



Commodore
Arleigh Burke with
Vice Admiral Marc
A. Mitscher,
Commander, Task
Force 58, on board
USS RANDOLPH
(CV 15) operating
off Okinawa, June
1945.





Korean War
Armistice Talks U.N.
Delegate RADM
Arleigh Burke
surrounded by
correspondents on
his return from the
Kaesong Cease Fire
Talks, 12 July 1951.



RADM Arleigh
Burke reading
outside his tent at
the U.N. advanced
camp at Munsan-Ni,
Korea, August 1951.



RADM Burke, COMDESLANT, tours USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571), 31



ADM Arleigh Burke
takes oath of office as
Chief of Naval
Operations, 17 August
1955.



ADM Arleigh Burke
takes oath of office for
his third term as Chief
of Naval Operations,
17 August 1959. The
Navy Judge Advocate
General administers
the oath while the
Secretary of the Navy
looks on.



Facing Page.
ADM Arleigh Burke,
Chief of Naval
Operations.
Photograph taken in
late 1950s.



**ADM Arleigh Burke
is greeted by
Generalissimo
Chiang Kai-Shek
during the
Admiral's visit to
Taiwan in 1955.**



**ADM Arleigh Burke
at a dinner given by
the Navy League of
the United States,
at Oakland, CA, 23
September 1959.
Fleet Admiral
Chester W. Nimitz
is on the right.**



**Facing Page.
ADM Arleigh Burke
with the Vice
President of the
United States at the
Tenth Annual State
of the Nation and
Silver Quill Award
Dinner,
Washington, DC, 27
January 1961.**



ADM Arleigh Burke on board USS PATRICK HENRY (SSBN 599) during the count down for a Polaris missile firing 22 September 1960.



Joints Chiefs of Staff in session. Left to right: GEN L.L. Lemnitz, Chief of Staff, USA; ADM A.A. Burke, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; GEN N.F. Twining, USAF, Chairman, JCS; GEN T.D. White, Chief of Staff, USAF; and GEN D.M. Shoup, Commandant, USMC. 10 February 1960.





Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN, Ret 18 October 1977.
ArleighBurkeAssociation.org



ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) KEEL CONSTRUCTION CEREMONY

JULY 31, 1986

Pages 20 and 21. Admiral Arleigh Burke making his address.





Mrs. Arleigh Burke.



ADM Arleigh Burke welding his initials on the keel.
ArleighBurkeAssociation.org



The Prospective Commanding Officer making his address.



Laying the keel. ArleighBurkeAssociation.org



















Pages 34 and 35. ADM and Mrs. Burke touring the ship during construction



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Launching

"Special ceremonies at the launching of a new ship are among our oldest traditions. For thousands of years our nautical ancestors have done so. For us, as it was for them, the sea is vast, powerful, and unpredictable — demanding the utmost of the men and of the ships who ventured far from shore and safety. Instinctively, they sought divine protection for their craft from the tempests and dangers posed by the sea. While we are still concerned about dangers to our ships from that quarter, our greatest concern lies with the potential dangers posed by other Men-O-War both above and beneath the surface. Against these great dangers, we also ask for divine providence."

ARLEIGH BURKE

Admiral, United States Navy, Retired

16 September 1989

RIGHT: Final preparations for launching in the early morning hours of 16 September 1989.







Pages 42 and 43. "Rallying the ship."





The ship is literally lifted off of the mariner's rail by "man-power" in preparation for sliding down the causeway.











The LITTLE BEAVERS.



Pages 48 and 50. Members of the ship's prospective crew.











Pages 53 and 54. The ship sliding down the causeway.





Mrs. Miles, ADM and Mrs. [Archie Bell](#) and the Prospective Commanding Officer.





Mrs. Arleigh Burke

Sponsor

Mrs. Arleigh Burke has been known for years as the "First Lady of the Navy."

Born Roberta Gorsuch in Lawrence, Kansas on 3 January 1899, Mrs. Burke was raised in the Midwest and in Washington, D.C. She met Admiral Burke on a blind date during his plebe year at the Naval Academy. Four years later, on 7 June 1923 — the day Arleigh Burke became Ensign Arleigh Burke — Miss Roberta Gorsuch became Mrs. Arleigh Burke. The newlyweds managed a one-night honeymoon in Baltimore before heading west to Bremerton, Washington and Ensign Burke's first duty aboard USS ARIZONA. It was the joyous start of a marriage that has endured nearly seven decades.

It was also the beginning of a military life of frequent separations and uprootings, But Mrs. Burke, who possesses the rare ability to turn chaos into order, quickly developed a foolproof system of house hunting to satisfy a husband who wanted to spend his shore leave with her, while still not losing sight of his beloved ship.

She has always been a Navy wife — first and foremost. When her husband limited her baggage to one household box and a wardrobe trunk, she managed. When her husband was sent to gunnery school in New York City and she was given a household budget of \$120 to stretch out for six weeks, she managed.

During the war years, she lived in Washington, D.C. She devoted herself to Red Cross work and to helping other Navy wives learn to cope with their husbands' long wartime absences. For the U.S. Navy, as well as Admiral Burke, Roberta Burke went about her job with an inner strength that never seemed to falter.

Asked once about her marriage, Mrs. Burke said:

"It's like moving from a house to an apartment. You bring all your favorite properties and you enjoy the things you like best. Its that way with another person. You appreciate the best things about them more as the years go by ..."

During the years Admiral Burke spent as Chief of Naval Operations, Mrs. Burke was one of Washington's warmest and most elegant hostesses. She is also an accomplished musician. Yet, in spite of all this, she remains a modest woman. When asked what her biography should say, she answered:

"Just tell them I am the wife of Arleigh Burke."

Mrs. Milton Miles

Matron of Honor

After graduating from Cornell University in 1925, Wilma "Billy" Miles set out on the first of what would soon become a lifetime of journeys and adventures. In the beginning, her travel companion was her husband, Ensign Milton Miles. Later, their entourage grew to include three young sons. Whether journeying in and out of China during the turbulent 1920's and 30's, or across Asia by train and ammunition truck just before World War II, Billy Miles was never one to say no to a new experience.

During the war years, Mrs. Miles earned a Master's degree in Home Economics from Columbia University and began a twelve-year volunteer stint as Chairman of the Washington, D.C. Red Cross Nutrition Service. There she met Mrs. Burke and the two became good friends. It was Mrs. Burke who drew the illustrations for the nationally circulated Nutrition Service brochure. It was also Mrs. Burke who patiently taught the youngest Miles sons to play the accordion.

Mrs. Miles' husband, Vice Admiral Milton Miles, died in 1961, shortly after his retirement from the Navy. Today, Mrs. Miles continues her interests in "good friends, good food and good travel." She has four grandsons and one great granddaughter.













Pages 64 and 65. ADM and Mrs. Arleigh Burke arriving for the first sea trial — TRIAL ALPHA.



TRIAL ALPHA



ADM Arleigh Burke with the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Surface Warfare.





Headed for the open seas.













ADM Arleigh Burke with the Secretary of the Navy on the bridge.



Pages 74 and 75. ADM and Mrs. Arleigh Burke on the bridge.







Secretary of the Navy in the Engineering Central Control Station.





Above: Secretary of the Navy and ADM Arleigh Burke.

Below: Secretary of the Navy, Prospective Executive Officer, ADM Arleigh Burke, Prospective Commanding Officer.



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Page 80 and 81. Members of the prospective crew explaining the functions of the AEGIS Combat System to visiting dignitaries.









Above: COMNAVSURFPAC, COMNAVSURFLANT, ADM Arleigh Burke.

Below: Quartermaster from prospective crew "shooting bearings."





Ship's prospective navigator logging the ship's position.











TRIAL BRAVO

ORDINANCE
ON
TARGET





















TRIAL CHARLIE

READY FOR OPERATIONAL USE









