

## **FORREST SHERMAN (DD-931)**

Updated 19 August 2010

### **FORREST SHERMAN (DD-931)-class Destroyer**

**Displacement:** 3,807 (full load)

**Length:** 418'5"

**Beam:** 45'2"

**Draft:** 14'2"

**Armament:** 3 – 5"/54 guns

4 – 3"/50 guns

1 depth charge track

2 depth charge projectors (Hedgehog)

4 ASW torpedo tubes

**Built By:** Bath Iron Works Corp., Bath, Maine

**Laid Down:** 27 October 1953

**Launched:** 5 February 1955

**Sponsor:** Mrs. Forrest P. [Dolores] Sherman, widow of the late Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, USN (1896-1951)

**Commissioned:** 9 November 1955

**Decommissioned:** 5 November 1982

**Stricken:** 27 July 1990

**Disposition:** Placed on donation hold for potential disposition as a memorial or museum, June 2001; removed from donation hold 2 Apr 2010; designated for disposal by dismantling 22 July 2010.

**NHL / NRHP Eligible:** Yes, per U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, Determination of Eligibility Notification dated 19 August 2010.

**SHIP HISTORY:** History is in the process of being written for DANFS (see sources below).

**AWARDS:** 1 NUC (Northern Europe, 5 May-1 September 1970), 2 AFEM (Lebanon, 20-28 August 1958 and Taiwan Straits, 20-27 September 1958) 2 NESM (Cuba, 21-26 April 1961 and Middle East Force/Indian Ocean, 1 April-11 July 1980).

**NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS / EVENTS:** FORREST SHERMAN was the name of the first destroyer class designed since World War II that evolved from the wartime GEARING (DD-710) class, and as such she is an evolutionary design, not revolutionary. FORREST SHERMAN, being the first (“lead”) ship of her class, is a quantitative assessment (i.e., she just happens to be the first laid down and the first in numerical sequence) not qualitative. The features of FORREST SHERMAN were the features of other ships in the class as well. FORREST SHERMAN’s machinery arrangement reflected the conventional fire-room/engine room/space/fire-room/engine room arrangement that was similar to the GEARING-class. The main propulsion plant was a conventional four-boiler, two geared, steam-turbine combination, but the plant operated at a higher steam pressure (1,200 psi) and produced greater ship horsepower (shp) than the propulsion plant of any other previous destroyer, the 70,000 shp of the FORREST SHERMAN class being mid-way between the 60,000 shp of the GEARING class and 80,000 of what would become the MITSCHER (DL-2) class, and the 85,000 shp of the guided missile destroyers of the FARRAGUT (DDG-37) class that also had four boilers and two geared turbines. The guided missile destroyers of the CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2) class, considered a modified FORREST SHERMAN-class design, had four boilers and two geared turbines that produced 70,000 shp, identical to the FORREST SHERMAN class.

One of a class of eighteen ships, FORREST SHERMAN is one of four – BARRY (DD-933), EDSON (DD-946), FORREST SHERMAN (DD-931), and TURNER JOY (DD-951) – that still remain afloat. Nine FORREST SHERMAN-class ships have been “disposed of in support of Fleet training exercise[s],” and five have been “sold by Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping.”

FORREST SHERMAN did not receive a Presidential Unit Citation (PUC), and did not figure in combat that resulted in the award of a Medal of Honor (MOH) or a Navy Cross (NC) for heroism to a member of her crew. No President has served on board FORREST SHERMAN. The ship represented an evolutionary change, not revolutionary and the design was not repeated (missiles having become more significant weapons). The 5"/54 caliber gun (the main battery) had already been tested on board the large carriers of the MIDWAY (CV-41) class, and the all-gun armament of the FORREST SHERMAN class was not repeated in subsequent classes.

**CONCLUSION:** Eligible

**SOURCES:** R.W. Venable and R. F. ErkenBrack, “Navy’s Newest Destroyer,” *BuShips Journal*, July 1953; “New Class of Large Destroyers Under Construction,” *All Hands*, November 1953; Norman Friedman, *U.S. Destroyers: An Illustrated Design History*, Revised Ed. (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004); Malcolm Muir, Jr., *Black Shoes and Blue Water: Surface Warfare in the United States Navy, 1945-1975* (Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1996); FORREST SHERMAN (DD-931) Command History Reports, 1955-1990; Naval Vessel Registers and Armament Summaries on file in the History and Archives Division, Naval History and Heritage Command.