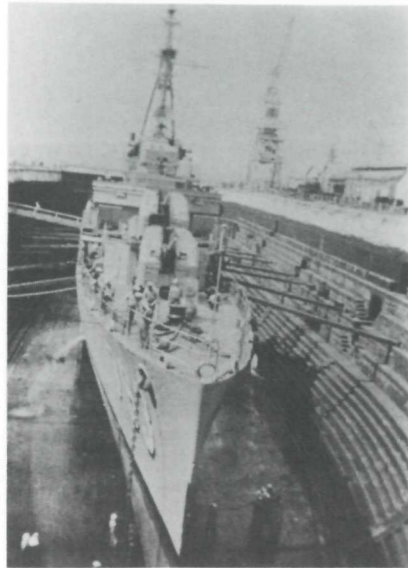

USS CASSIN YOUNG
DD-793

World War II Destroyer



Boston National
Historical Park



In Dry Dock Two, Charlestown Navy Yard for overhaul, 1950's.

The Ship 1950's

With the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, many destroyers were recalled to service. *Cassin Young* was recommissioned on September 7, 1951 and initially served in Atlantic and Mediterranean waters. In 1952, *Cassin Young* underwent a major overhaul at the Charlestown Facility, Boston Naval Shipyard, beginning her association with this navy yard.

In 1954, as part of an around-the-world cruise, the ship carried out patrols in Korean waters. From 1955-1959, *Cassin Young* performed routine duties in Atlantic and Caribbean waters with four Mediterranean deployments. During those years, the ship returned to the Boston Naval Shipyard five more times for overhauls to keep ahead of an unavoidable problem: old age. But *Cassin Young* could still perform well which she proved in 1959 when the ship was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" for overall excellent performances in all exercises that year. On April 29, 1960, *Cassin Young* was again decommissioned and mothballed at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia.



Specifications

Type Fletcher Class Destroyer
 Displacement 2050 Tons (standard)
 Length 376'6"
 Beam 39'9"
 Draft 17'9"
 Top Speed 36 Knots/41 mph
 Crew, 1940's 325
 Crew, 1950's 250
 Built San Pedro, CA
 Modernized Charlestown Navy Yard

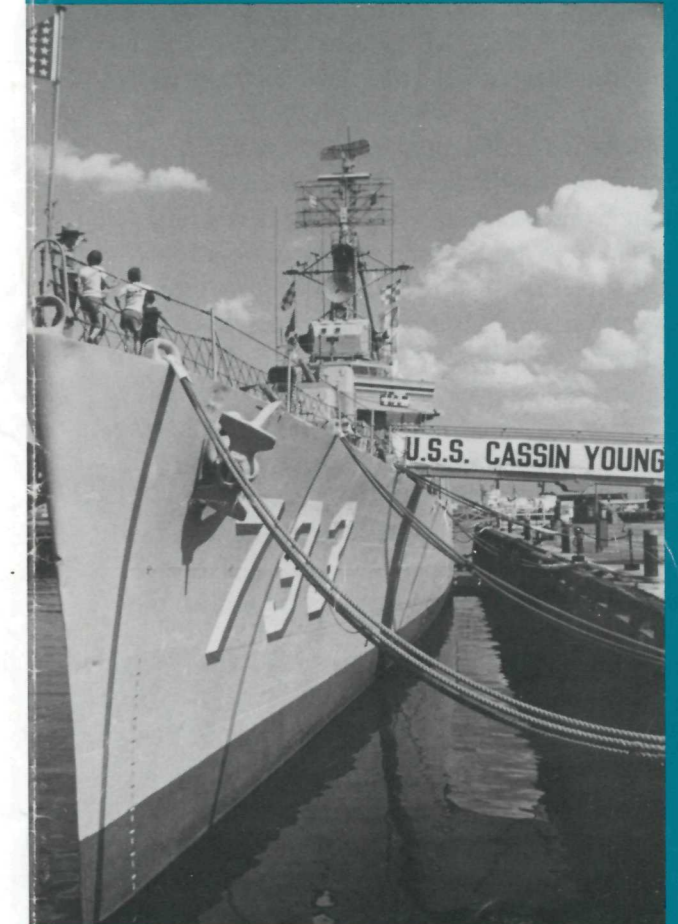
Anti-Aircraft Guns 5-5"/38 caliber,
 10-40 mm,
 7-20 mm later
 removed, but one
 replaced for display.

Anti-Submarine Warfare 2 Depth Charge
 Racks, 6 K-Guns;
 1950's changes —
 Hedgehogs added,
 K-Guns replaced by
 Mk-32 Torpedoes,
 1 Depth Charge
 Rack removed.

Anti-Ship Weapons 10 Torpedoes in
 two quintuple banks,
 forward bank
 removed in 1952,
 5-5"/38 caliber
 same as used
 for anti-aircraft.

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Photos courtesy of National Archives and National Park Service

Charlestown Navy Yard
 Boston National Historical Park
 National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior



For Your Safety

Cassin Young has not been modified for visitor safety.

Watch your step and head for low-hanging and deck-mounted equipment.

Do not run — anywhere! The steel decks pose an extreme hazard.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times while on board.

Moving mechanisms such as hatches, foot pedals, valves, etc., can cause injury — please do not touch.

Eating, drinking, smoking or use of any tobacco is not permitted on the ship.

If you have any questions or problems, **please ask a ranger.**

The Ship Today

Cassin Young now has a new mission. Maintained and staffed by the National Park Service and volunteers, *Cassin Young* is an example of the type of ship built, repaired, and modernized in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Although built in California, fourteen Fletcher-Class destroyers just like her were produced at this yard. *Cassin Young* also provides a more modern contrast to *USS Constitution* and is a memorial to destroyermen and the ships they served on. She has been open to the public since 1981 and is basically restored to her late-1950's appearance.

Cassin Young was then assigned to RP Station 1 where, on April 12, the ship came under massive attack. Six Kamikazes were shot down, but one hit the mast and exploded fifty feet above the ship. One sailor was killed and 59 were wounded. After repairs, *Cassin Young* returned to Okinawa in July for further duty. Only individual Kamikaze attacks were now occurring as the Japanese hoarded 10,000 aircraft to throw against the U.S. fleet in the upcoming invasion of Japan.

Cassin Young's most severe test came just sixteen days before Japan surrendered. At 3:26 a.m. on July 30, a single Kamikaze crashed the starboard side of the main deck near the forward smoke stack. There was a tremendous explosion amidships and the ship lay dead in the water. The crew contained the damage, restored power in one engine and got the ship underway within twenty minutes. Casualties were 22 men dead and 45 wounded. *Cassin Young* was the last ship hit by Kamikazes in the vicinity of Okinawa. For her determined service and gallantry on the Okinawa radar picket line she was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation. After returning to California, the ship was repaired, decommissioned on May 28, 1946, and placed in the reserve or 'mothball' fleet.

Destroyers

The first destroyers were designed at the beginning of the twentieth century to counter a small, but feared, ship — the torpedo boat. The destroyer, which also carried the newly invented torpedo, was developed to protect capital ships from torpedo boat attacks. *Bainbridge*, the first American destroyer, was commissioned in 1902. She displaced 400 tons, was 250 feet in length, mounted two three-inch guns and two torpedoes. As the new destroyers grew in size and carried more torpedoes, they replaced torpedo boats and assumed the role of a torpedo attack ship.

In World War Two, the destroyer was truly an all-purpose ship, ready to fight off attacks from the air, the surface and under the surface. They handled a variety of duties such as picket ship, escorting larger ships and convoys, shore bombardment, rescuing pilots who were forced down at sea and even acting as mailman for the fleet. The 2050-ton Fletcher-Class destroyer was considered one of the best destroyers of the period. One hundred seventy-five of these ships were built between March, 1941 and February, 1945. Being 376 feet, 6 inches in length meant that they could carry five five-inch dual-purpose guns, ten torpedoes, depth charges and antiaircraft guns. Their ability to refuel at sea enabled them to carry less fuel yet operate effectively in the vastness of the Pacific. Fletcher-Class destroyers incorporated the



World War Two camouflage, off California, 1944.

lessons learned from earlier destroyer construction along with ongoing combat operations.

Destroyers are still the workhorse ships in the modern navies of the world. Although they now carry guided missiles and are twice as large as *Cassin Young*, the destroyer is still an important and versatile type of combat vessel.



The Man

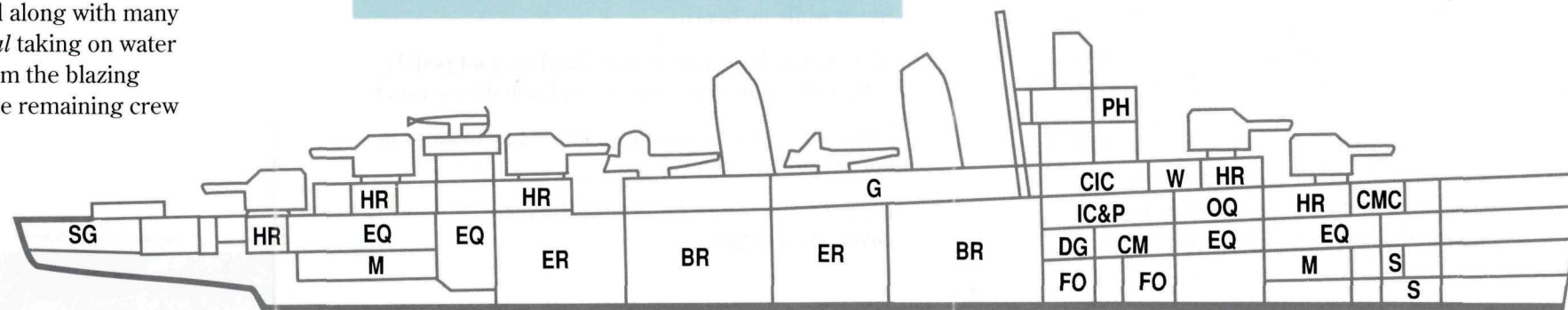
Destroyers in the U.S. Navy are generally named for Navy and Marine Corps personnel who have distinguished themselves in the service of their country. *USS Cassin Young* bears the name of a navy commander awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Cmdr. Young was in command of the repair ship *Vestal* which was moored alongside battleship *Arizona*. When *Arizona* blew up, he was blown overboard along with many members of his crew. With *Vestal* taking on water from several hits and set afire from the blazing inferno that had been *Arizona*, the remaining crew began to abandon ship.

Just as the first of the crew began to flee “a figure, like some sea creature, rose from the water and stood athwart the gangway. It was Ted Young... ‘Where the hell do you think you’re going?’ he asked the first sailor. ‘We’re abandoning ship’ the sailor replied. ‘Get back aboard,’ Young roared, ‘You don’t abandon ship on me!’” Cmdr. Young got the fires under control, picked up survivors from *Arizona* and managed to move *Vestal* across the harbor where he beached her for later salvage.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, *Cassin Young* was promoted to captain and given command of the heavy cruiser *San Francisco*. On the night of November 12-13, 1942, during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, Capt. Young died amidst an avalanche of shellfire from three Japanese warships. For his conspicuous gallantry in the face of the enemy, he was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross. *USS Cassin Young (DD 793)* was commissioned in 1943, honoring this gallant officer.

Key

BR Boiler Room	IC&P Internal Communications & Plot
CIC Combat Information Center	M Magazine
CM Crew Mess	OQ Officers’ Quarters
CMC Crew Mess, Chiefs	PH Pilot House
DG Diesel Generator	Q Quarters
EQ Enlisted Quarters	S Storage
ER Engine Room	SG Steering Gear
FO Fuel Oil	W Wardroom
G Galley	
HR Handling Room	



USS Cassin Young — General Arrangement as of 1943

The Ship 1940's

Cassin Young was built by Bethlehem Steel Corporation at San Pedro, California and commissioned on December 31, 1943. Assigned to the Central Pacific, *Cassin Young* first experienced combat in April, 1944, attacking Japanese strongholds in the Caroline Islands. In June, the ship escorted American amphibious forces that invaded the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Guam. In August, the ship was reassigned to Task Group (TG) 38.3, which included several aircraft carriers. For the remainder of the Pacific war, *Cassin Young* would be in the forefront of the naval offensive against the Japanese.

Between October 23 and October 27, 1944, TG 38.3 and *Cassin Young* participated in several actions that were part of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. She rescued over 120 men from carrier *Princeton* when that ship sank on October 24 and participated in the Battle of Cape Engano the next day when four Japanese carriers were sunk by the American carriers that *Cassin Young* was helping to escort. During the remainder of 1944, the ship continued to escort the carriers of TG 38.3 as they provided air cover to American troops engaged in the liberation of the Philippines. *Cassin Young* also experienced the new Japanese suicide tactic of the Kamikaze (divine wind) aircraft for the first time.



Practice firing of 40 mm guns, 1944.

In January, 1945, TG 38.3 went to sea for attacks against the island of Formosa, Indochina (Vietnam) and southern China. American ships had proved that they could penetrate deep within enemy waters and the stage was set for the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. During February and March, *Cassin Young* supported Marine operations on Iwo Jima and helped ‘soften up’ Okinawa for the upcoming assault on that island. In preparation for the Okinawa operation, *Cassin Young* was reassigned to Task Force 54, the gunfire and covering force for the entire invasion fleet.

April 1, 1945 was D-Day at Okinawa. After escorting assault craft to the beaches and providing shore bombardment, *Cassin Young* took up the duties of radar picket ship, possibly the most hazardous duty performed by any warship during World War Two. The picket’s role was to provide early warning of impending air attacks to the main fleet. The ships assigned to the fifteen picket stations bore the brunt of over fifteen hundred Kamikaze attacks in the weeks and months ahead. Radar Picket (RP) Stations 1, 2, and 3 faced the worst of these attacks. On April 6 the Japanese launched the first of ten massed attacks, sending 355 Kamikazes and 341 bombers towards Okinawa. *Cassin Young* was on duty at RP Station 3. The ship downed three “bogeys” (enemy planes) and picked up survivors from the destroyers assigned to RP Stations 1 and 2 (both were hit and sunk by Kamikazes).