



FRIGATE
USS CLARK

ONE NAME, TWO SHIPS AND TWO ADMIRALS

It is very rare with navies from all nationalities to have had two ships with the same name that were not named after the same person. It goes without saying that ships with the same name cannot serve with the same navy at the same time. That could lead to a lot of confusion. Normally ships are named after for instance naval heroes. After a number of years that ship is struck from the list so the name disappears. Sometimes, only many years later, but also in a continuous line a new ship is given the same name. If you look at the names given with different navies there is mostly quite a long time between two ships that carry the same name. This is also the case with the US Navy ships named *Clark*.

The then king Willem I decided that there would always be a ship with the name Van Speyk in the Dutch navy and this has been the case from that moment on. Sometimes a *Van Speijk* is struck from the list and immediately succeeded by a ship that allotted that name. More often an existing ship is rechristened.

As indicated above two ships in the US Navy carried the name *Clark*. These ships did not only sail in two different eras with totally different global situations but it is most particular that the ships were not named after the same person. Of course this book is about the second ship of this name but it is interesting to briefly discuss the first *USS Clark*.



In the 1930s, the United States Navy built two classes of flotilla leaders, the Porter class, and the Somers class. Due to the regulations of the London Naval Treaty, these 13 ships had a displacement of 1,850 tons, compared to the 1,500 tons of a "standard" destroyer. When the treaty ended with the outbreak of World War II in Europe in 1939, the much larger Fletcher class was constructed, making the differentiation irrelevant.

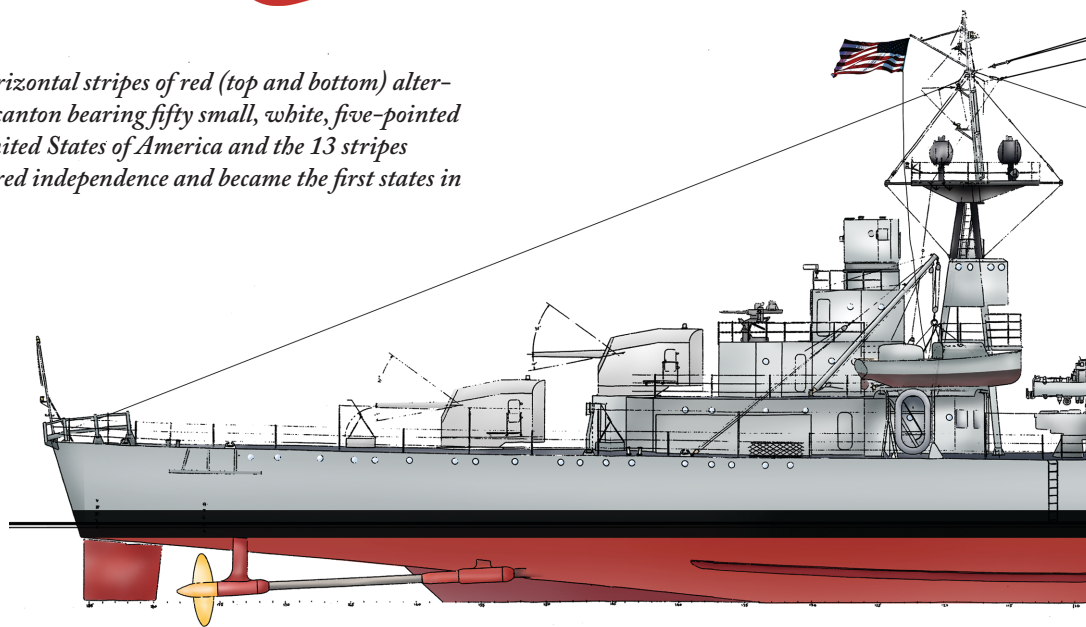


The national ensign consists of thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canton bearing fifty small, white, five-pointed stars. The stars represent the fifty states of the United States of America and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence and became the first states in the Union.

The first *Clark* was commissioned in 1936 and the second *Clark* in 1980. There was no ship with this name between 1946 and 1980.

In special cases there is always a ship with a particular name active with a navy.

A clear example is the name Van Speyk. He sacrificed himself during the Belgian insurgence of 1830 by blowing up himself and his ship. This to avoid that his ship and crew would fall in the hands of the Belgian insurgents when Belgium was still part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



This USS Clark (DD-361) was a Porter-class destroyer of the US Navy.

THE FIRST USS CLARK

This USS *Clark* (DD-361) was a *Porter*-class destroyer of the US Navy.

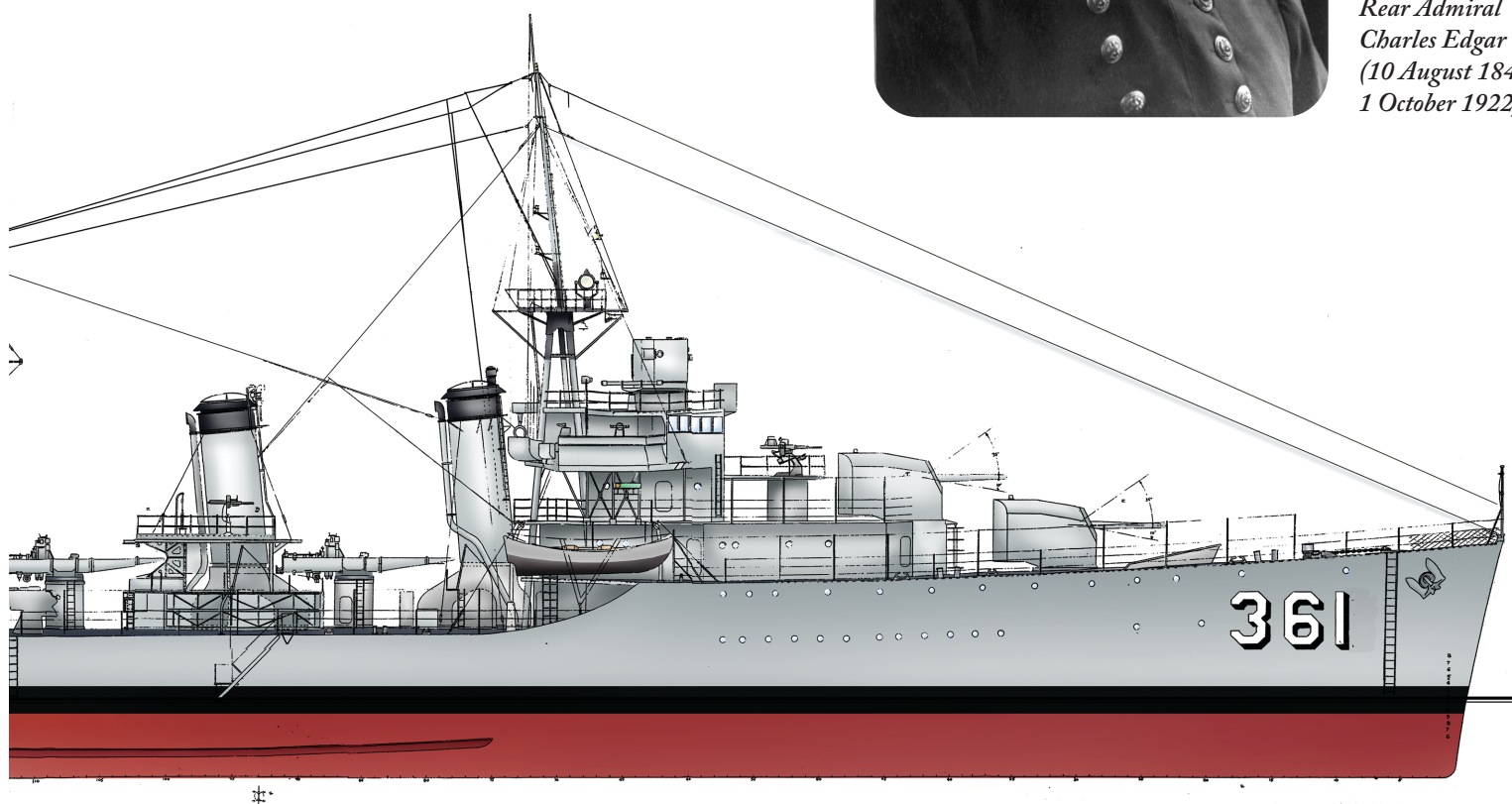
This ship was named after Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark. He was born in 1843 in Bradford and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1863. During the Civil War he commanded the *Ossipee* during the battle of Mobile Bay. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war in 1898 Captain Clark commanded the USS *Oregon*. He managed to arrive at Cuba with his ship after a stormy rounding of Cape Horn on time to be part of the destruction of the Spanish fleet. This great example of courage and perseverance led him to be promoted to Rear Admiral. He passed away on October 1, 1922 in Long Beach California.

The cause of the Spanish War was the Cuban request for US support to achieve independence. The Spanish would suffer huge numbers of casualties and it would confirm the name and fame of commodore George Dewey. His fleet destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in a short fight in which the Americans suffered only 8 wounded. Dewey was immediately promoted

to Rear Admiral by president McKinley. The war with Spain was not over yet. A second sea battle took place after 17,000 men landed on Cuba in June under the command of General W.R. Shafter. They attacked the Spanish fleet from land. Within three hours the Spanish fleet under the command of admiral Cervera was completely destroyed. The Spanish suffered over 600 casualties and more than 1700 Spanish were taken prisoner. The Americans suffered only one casualty and one wounded.



Rear Admiral
Charles Edgar Clark
(10 August 1843 -
1 October 1922).





USS CLARK DD-361

DD-361 was launched on 15 October 1935 at the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation in Quincy Massachusetts and baptized by Mrs S.Robinson. She received her commission on May 20 1936 under the command of Commander H.Thebaud. Before World War Two, USS *Clark* served on the Atlantic coast, the Caribbean and from Pearl Harbor. That became her home port from April first 1940. From Pearl Harbor she sailed to Samoa, the Fiji Islands and Australia. At the outbreak of war she was in San Diego California for major maintenance work. On December 27 she sailed from the West Coast to escort two convoys to Pearl Harbor. After that she carried out anti-submarine patrols

The large prewar 'leaders' were almost cruiser-like, as the Clark shows, with her tripod masts and enclosed twin 5 inch guns.

near Pago Pago. In February and March of 1942 she was part of a carrier taskforce for attacks on New Guinea. From April she escorted a large number of convoys from Noumea that supplied fuel, parts etc. for Carrier Task Forces. In December 1942 she sailed to Balboa to serve as the flagship of the Commander Southeast Pacific Force. Until 1944 she patrolled from a number of American ports. Between early

September 1944 and mid April 1945 she docked for major maintenance. Until the end of the war she was part of six trans-Atlantic convoys between the USA and the United Kingdom. She arrived in Philadelphia on June 15 1945 where she was decommissioned on October 23. She was broken up soon after that in March 1946. For her efforts during the Second World War she was awarded two Battle Stars.

Technical data

USS *Clark* DD -361

Class	Porter class destroyer
Displacement	1.850 tons; 2.597 tons fully loaded
Length	116 m. (381 ft.)
Beam	11 m. (36 ft.)
Draught	3 m. (10 ft.)
Propulsion	50.000 shp. Two geared turbines at 2 propellers Babcock & Wilcox boilers
Speed	37 knots
Range	6.500 nautical miles. at 12 knots
Complement	194 officers and enlisted



A rubber stamp on the ship's mail.

The *Porter*-class comprised eight ships in total. Only one of these ships, the name ship of the class USS *Porter* DD-356 was lost on 26 October 1942. She was torpedoed by the Japanese *I-21* in the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands, where she was a screening unit of TF61 (with the carriers *Enterprise* and *Hornet*).

Porter was torpedoed, and, after the crew had abandoned ship, sunk by gunfire from *Shaw* (DD-373). Although many believe she was torpedoed by Japanese submarine *I-21*, Japanese records don't support this. More likely, an errant torpedo from a ditching US TBF *Avenger* hit *Porter* and caused the fatal damage.

Technical data

Armament

As built

Guns:

1 x MK 33 Gun Fire Control System;
8 x 5 inch (4 x 2) 127 mm./38 cal;
8 x 1.1 inch 28 mm (2 x 4) AA;
8 x 21 inch 533 mm
torpedo tubes (2 x 4);
2 x Depth Charge stern racks

In 1945

1 x MK 27 Gun Fire Control System;
8 x 5 inch (4 x 2) 127 mm./38 cal;
4 x MK 51 Gun Directors;
12 x Bofors 40 mm. (2 x 4 and 3 x 2);
6 x Oerlikons 20 mm. (6 x 1);
torpedo tubes (2 x 4);
2 x Depth Charge stern racks

Abbreviations

The United States Navy normally indicates the type of ship before the pennant number. DD means Destroyer. The list of abbreviations runs as follows.

BB	Battleship
CA	Heavy Cruiser
CL	Light Cruiser
CLAA	Light Cruiser Air Defence
CV	Airplane Carrier
CVL	Light Airplane Carrier
CVE	Escort Airplane Carrier
SS	Submarine
DD	Destroyer
DE	Escort Destroyer
LCI	Landing Craft Infantry
LCM	Landing Craft Mechanized
LCT	Landing Craft Tanks
PC	Submarine Chaser
PT	Torpedo Boat

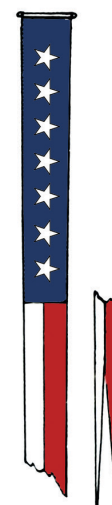
Besides these class indicators we also find the character N for Nuclear. For ship propelled by Nuclear Energy. For example; CVN USS *Enterprise*.



USS Clark entering port in 1941. The ships of the Porter- and Somers class were quite badly overweighted. During WW2 they were rebuilt with dual-purpose guns and their Mk 35 directors refurbished.

Other ships of this class:

- DD-357 USS *Selfridge*;
- DD-358 USS *Mc Dougal*;
- DD-359 USS *Winslow*;
- DD-360 USS *Phelps*;
- DD-362 USS *Moffett* and
- DD-363 USS *Balch*.



In the US Navy, the commissioning pennant is flown day and night at the loftiest point on the aftermost mast, from the moment the ship is commissioned until the moment she is decommissioned.

Admiral Joseph J. Clark

Joseph James Clark was born on 12 November 1893 in Chelsea Oklahoma. He was of Cherokee Indian descent. In 1918 he was the first native American to graduate from the United States Naval Academy. This is where he was nicknamed 'Jocko'. By the end of World War One he served on the cruiser *USS North Carolina* and witnessed the Atlantic Convoys. In 1921 he took command of the destroyer *USS Brooks*. In 1925 he started in a way a new career as pilot with the Navy flying corps. In this way he started a career in which he stood at the cradle of the developments of the Navy flying corps and the use of airplane carriers in war. Knowledge and competence that would be of great value and that would make him one of the most skilful commanders of the carrier fleet of the US Navy and commander of larger fleets.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he served as Executive officer on *USS Yorktown* but he became commander of *USS Suwanee CVL-27* on the Atlantic. When the new carrier *USS Yorktown CV-10* was commissioned, Joseph Clark became its first commander. During the carrier raids in 1943 the *Yorktown* was the flagship of admiral Pownall. This made it possible for him to gain extensive experience in the execution of attack plans using carriers and planes. In 1944 he was promoted to Rear Admiral and the command of Task Force 58. He was in command during the battle for the Marianas and the battle of the Philippine Sea.

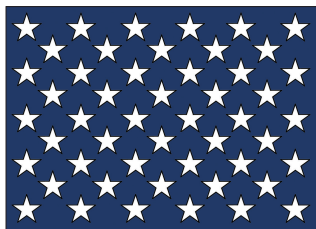
His flagship was *USS Hornet CV-12*. On the second day of the battle when the planes returned to the carriers at sundown he ordered to lit the landing lights of the carriers so that the pilots could find their ship and most of them landed safely.

During the Korean War he was commander of Fast Carrier Task Force (TF 77) and later Vice Admiral of the Seventh Fleet.

He retired as a full admiral on December 1 1953. He passed away on 13 July 1973 in St. Albans New York and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He was awarded the following distinctions: Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion d'Honneur (France) Legion of Merit, the Navy Commendation Medal en de Korean Order of Military Merit.



The Union Jack



The US Union Jack consists of the blue canton of the ensign.

Jacks are displayed at the jackstaff, a pole mounted on the bow of the ship, on ships in commission or in service. They are never flown ashore. The size of the jack is always the same as the size of the canton of the ensign at the flagstaff. The jack is displayed only during the hours between 8:00 a.m. and sunset, when the ship is not underway and the ensign is flying on the flagstaff. If the ensign is half-masted, so is the jack.

The "first Navy Jack" was one of a number of rattle-snake flags popular in the Continental Navy as well as throughout the colonies during the American Revolution. The symbolism is of a deadly animal that strikes only after giving fair warning.

On May 31, 2002, Secretary of the Navy directed that "the first Navy jack will be displayed on board all US Navy ships in lieu of the Union Jack, in accordance with Navy Regulations" for the duration of the global war on



terrorism. Display of the striped jack throughout the fleet actually began at morning colors on September 11, 2002, first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon.