

Contributed by Mike Smolinski

WELCOME ABOARD



AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON FIVE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET



As Commanding Officer, it is my pleasure to welcome you aboard the Attack Transport CALVERT.

From the sharpshooter's "E" painted on her gun mounts to the crossed anchors of excellence you see on every boat, CALVERT is a fighting ship - a vital member of the amphibious team. A veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, CALVERT has known a colorful and much-decorated past, and she stands ready today to steam to any corner of the globe in defense of the Free World.

CALVERT's role in the fleet encompasses far more than being merely a deterrent to war. A large - and much more enjoyable - part of our job is that of strengthening the peace. It is this facet of our mission that enables us to work with and for the people of our country and allied countries which brings us our richest rewards.

CALVERT is a proud ship, manned by dedicated, highly trained officers and men. The officers and men, and I, are pleased to have you aboard.

USS CALVERT

The Attack Transport USS CALVERT (APA-32) was built at Sparrow's Point, Maryland for the Delta Steamship Lines in 1942. She would have been the SS DEL ORLEANS, however, the Navy acquired her in September 1942 and on 1 October of that year she was commissioned as the USS CALVERT, named in honor of George CALVERT, first lord of Baltimore and for CALVERT County, Maryland. Her mission then, as now, was to land troops across an enemy held beach head and support the troops in their campaign ashore.

On 5 November 1943, just 38 days after being commissioned, the CALVERT was participating in the assault of French Morocco in North Africa. For this action the CALVERT received the first of many commendations. Thereafter CALVERT saw extensive action in both the European and Pacific theaters. After World War II CALVERT was decommissioned in January 1947.

When the Korean War started the call again went out for the "Old Warhorse" and CALVERT responded. She was recommissioned on 18 October 1950 and again assigned to the Pacific Fleet. She participated in the assaults and supply connected with the fighting in Korea, earning several commendations.

Since the Korean War she has rotated regularly to the Far East to become a part of the U. S. Seventh Fleet in that area. During the fall of 1954 she transported nearly 6,000 men, women, and children from Haiphong in northern Indo-China to Saigon and other ports in the south.

Since her recommissioning in 1950, CALVERT has been deployed to the Western Pacific area on twelve occasions. She is the relief flagship of Amphibious Squadron Five and has served as the flagship on the majority of deployments.

In her twenty-two years of service, CALVERT has garnered fourteen ribbons which are proudly displayed from her bridge, including the coveted Navy Unit Commendation which reads as follows:

"For exceptionally meritorious service in action against enemy aircraft, shore batteries and submarines in both the European and Pacific Campaigns. Operating over a long period of time in contact with the enemy and under numerous attacks, the USS CALVERT performed her duties as an attack transport in a consistent and efficient manner. By the meritorious performance of her assigned missions, the USS CALVERT contributed materially to the success of the campaigns. Her determination and effort were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

