

## USS EMMONS MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOOK DONATION

BOOK TITLE: *The Emmons Saga. A History of the USS EMMONS (DD457-DMS22)*

by Rear Admiral Edward Baxter Billingsley

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The USS EMMONS DD457/DMS22, a World War II Navy destroyer, fought courageously during WW II earning five battle stars in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of the war. She fought in the Battle of the Atlantic performing convoy escort duties to Murmansk, Russia; participating in the detection, prosecution and sinking of U-616 in the western Mediterranean; fought in the North Africa campaign during Operation Torch; escorted President Roosevelt embarked aboard USS Iowa to the Tehran Conference; and provided naval gunfire support off Omaha Beach, Normandy, during D-Day and later at Cherbourg, France.

On April 6, 1945, the EMMONS, while on radar picket duty off the southern coast of Okinawa, Japan, rendered assistance to a sister ship, USS RODMAN, which had been struck by a kamikaze aircraft. The EMMONS approached the RODMAN and circled her to provide maximum fire support against the attacking aircraft. Subsequently the EMMONS found herself under heavy kamikaze attack involving over 50 Japanese aircraft. The EMMONS, with the assistance of U.S. carrier-based fighter aircraft, fought a running gun battle for approximately four hours splashing six suicide aircraft before being struck by five kamikazes in quick succession. Sixty EMMONS crew members were killed in action and several were wounded. That evening orders were given to abandon the flaming hulk and the EMMONS was sunk the following day by US naval forces to prevent her from being captured by enemy forces.

*The Emmons Saga* is a history of brave men who operated in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of World War II. Admiral Billingsley provides us a microcosm of World War II naval warfare, while depicting life aboard a naval combatant and illuminating the bonds of friendship and trust that developed among this group of young, inexperienced, and untested youth. The USS EMMONS rose from the depths of obscurity in 2001 when her gravesite was discovered off the shores of Okinawa and charted by American recreational divers. Her rediscovery has focused renewed interest both in the United States and Japan into the character of the American youth of that generation.

Today, the USS EMMONS Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, works to preserve the memory of the EMMONS DD457/DMS22 and honor the memory of the shipmates who perished in her sinking on April 6, 1945. The Association also maintains and facilitates contact and relationships among former crew members of the USS EMMONS, their families and friends. The heroic exploits of the WW II veterans of the USS EMMONS DD457/DMS22 and their valiant ship is well documented on the USS EMMONS Association's web site, [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).