



Colahan in War Paint

I am not obsessed with the *USS Colahan DD-658*, but in a casual sort of way, I collect images of the ship on which I spent three years of my life. This one comes from Bob McDonald of Pagosa Springs, Colorado. I like it. The *Colahan* wears camouflage for the Pacific War battles of the mid-1940s. I was just a kid then, safe in Indiana. I wouldn't come aboard for another decade, but a number of sailors whom I now know and count as friends, including Ted Knudson, Earl Yingling, Henry Gaffin, Ray Loughrige and Bob McDonald, were aboard when this photo was taken. The bow numbers were small in those years, and I learned only recently, from a photo sent by somebody else, that small *stern* numbers were



Bob McDonald at San Diego reunion, 2004

also used during the Pacific War. The photo is not as crisp as it could be. It resides under glass at Bob's home. Bob, a plank-owner in his early 80s, shot the photo with a digital camera and mailed a JPG image to me. He remembers almost fondly the torpedo tubes between the stacks, clearly visible here but gone by the time I came aboard. This was Bob's "sleeping quarters." He spent many nights under these tubes with his life jacket as a pillow. "This was also where I recuperated from a fungus infection in both ears," he writes. "I was treated by Doc Dingman with sulfa drugs. I traveled everywhere with my jacket because I did not know how to swim."

Jackson Sellers, May 2005