



Old Sailor, Old Warship

Fifty years ago, when I was but a lad of 23, I reported aboard a Pacific Fleet destroyer, the *USS Colahan DD-658*, and I became her communications officer. Her glory days were over. She won eight battle stars in the Pacific War of the 1940s and another five in the Korean War of the early 1950s. But there was still a decade of life and service in her. In 1963, years after I left her, she was photographed in Hawaiian waters off Diamond Head. Terry

Sutherland, an old friend who served with me in the *Colahan's* wardroom, fashioned an oil painting based on that photo. *The Colahan Off Diamond Head*, it is called. Terry's painting was digitally reproduced on canvas, then stretched and framed for mounting on my workshop wall. The *Colahan* herself lies at the bottom of the Pacific near San Diego. Her enemies couldn't sink her, so the United States Navy did it for target practice.

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