

### **Podcast Intro Episode: (4 minutes)**

Hello everyone and welcome to *DE Classified* a podcast showcasing the history of Destroyer Escorts. Each month a member of the USS SLATER's education crew will highlight a specific Destroyer Escort and share the stories of the sailors who served aboard these Trim But Deadly ships.

Welcome to DE Classified! My name is Shanna Schuster, and I am the Visitor Engagement and Program Manager at the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum aboard USS SLATER. We are so excited to start this podcast and provide yet another medium to share the history of Destroyer Escorts.

Every quarter, USS SLATER publishes a newsletter, Trim But Deadly. Within this newsletter we keep everyone up to date on the restoration projects happening aboard the ship, as well as the education efforts of our tour guides. Probably most interesting component of this newsletter is the historical article. This article generally focuses on one destroyer escort and explores the history of that ship and what kind of tribulations she encountered during her service.

Like I said, this is the favorite part of our newsletter, and we get requests for more and more ships to be featured, and with a newsletter only coming out 4 times a year, we've got a back log. Hopefully, this podcast can help remedy that situation. Our education team wants to spread the stories of these ships as far and wide as possible. What better way to expand our reach than create a podcast and save the history of these under rated ships?

Each month a member of SLATER's education team will highlight a specific Destroyer Escort and share the stories of the sailors who served aboard them. We'll look at ships that were famously successful during battle like USS ENGLAND and USS BUCKLEY, but also ships with crews that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, like USS LEOPOLD and USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS. We'll explore ships like the USS KIRK, who shifted her focus from that of military defense to humanitarian efforts, as refugees crowded her decks to escape Saigon when it fell, ending the Vietnam War.

We will also be taking requests. If you have information or stories about a destroyer escort, give the museum a call or head to our website, [usslater.org](http://usslater.org), and let us know what you want to hear.

This podcast is produced, researched, and recorded by members of USS SLATER's education crew. SLATER is the last Destroyer Escort afloat in America out of 563 built for WWII. A museum ship in Albany, New York floating on the Hudson River, SLATER is open for tours seasonally. The research archives of the museum are used to create each of the stories we share.

The museum is a privately owned, not-for-profit organization. It receives no regular funding from the federal or state government, and no support from the US Navy. All operations are supported by ticket and merchandise sales, and private donors. If you'd like to help support this podcast or USS SLATER please head to [USS SLATER.org](http://USSSLATER.org) and leave a donation. Every dollar helps us on our mission of restoring SLATER back to her WWII configuration.

Thank you for listening to DE Classified. This podcast is brought to you by the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum aboard USS SLATER in Albany, New York. You can find a transcript of this episode, accompanying photos, and a bibliography at [USSslater.org/DE Classified](http://USSslater.org/DE%20Classified). Join us May 15th to DE Classify USS SLATER and answer the question "What is a Destroyer Escort?"