

Paul Hamilton's History



Paul Hamilton

Born on 16 October 1762 in Saint Paul's Parish, South Carolina, Paul Hamilton was the son of Archibald and Rebecca (Brandford) Hamilton. At the young age of 16, Paul Hamilton fought valiantly under Generals Gates, Marion, and Harden during the American Revolution. Paul Hamilton was the nation's third Secretary of the Navy, serving under President James Madison from 1809 to 1813. As Secretary of the Navy he was a strong proponent of military preparedness, especially sea fortifications. Although he wanted to strengthen the Navy, he found the Congress hostile and the President indifferent to his ideas. One of his greatest achievements was the passage of the Naval Hospitals Act of 1811 establishing a formal health care system for Sailors. Under heavy Congressional pressure, he resigned his post as Secretary of the Navy in 1813 to return to private life. Prior to his appointment as Secretary, he served the state of South Carolina in a number of high public offices, including State Senator, 1794, 1798-1799, Comptroller of Finance, 1800-1804, as well as Governor from 1804-1806. On October 1782 he married Mary Wilkinson. Paul Hamilton died on 30 June 1819 in Beaufort, South Carolina at the age of 56.

PAUL HAMILTON (DD 307) was launched 21 February 1919 by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation of San Francisco, California. The ship was sponsored by Miss Justin McGrath and was commissioned 24 September 1920 with Lieutenant Commander J. F. McClain in command. After acceptance trials off California, PAUL HAMILTON was assigned to Division Thirty-Three, Squadron Six, Flotilla Two of the Cruiser-Destroyer Force based at San Diego, California. She performed yeoman service with the Pacific Battle Fleet from 1920 to 1930. PAUL HAMILTON was decommissioned 20 January 1930 and was scrapped in 1931.



PAUL HAMILTON (DD 590) USS *Paul Hamilton*, a 2050-ton *Fletcher* class destroyer built at the Charleston Navy Yard, South Carolina, was commissioned in October 1943. She served with a destroyer training unit, based at Norfolk, Virginia, until April 1944, and was then sent to the Pacific.

In late 1944 and early 1945, *Paul Hamilton* operated in the Philippines, taking part in the Mindoro and Lingayen Gulf landings. In February and March, she participated in the Iwo Jima campaign, providing gunfire support for the Marines ashore as well as escort and rescue services. The destroyer was also active in a gunfire support role during the Okinawa campaign of March-June 1945. She returned to the U.S. for shipyard overhaul in July 1945, but, following Japan's surrender, was placed in reserve. After more than two decades in "mothballs", USS *Paul Hamilton* was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in May 1968. She was sold for scrapping in April 1970.



PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60)

Length: 505 ft.

Beam: 66 ft.

Draft: 32.5 ft.

Speed: 30+ Kts.

Displacement: 8,400 tons

Accommodations: 32 Officers, 313 Enlisted

Propulsion: 4 LM2500 Gas Turbine Engines (100,000 Shaft HP)

Construction: All Steel Hull and Super Structure for enhanced survivability

