

February 26, 1992

Embassy of Spain
4801 Wisconsin Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Att'n. Naval Attache

Dear Sir,

I am a former U.S. Navy serviceman who served on board the U.S.S. NOA (DD-841) from her commissioning in November 1945 until transferred off in December 1950. The former crew members are having their first re-union the end of March 1992.

Yesterday I went to Washington, D.C. and researched what history I could find about the NOA while she was a U.S. Naval vessel. I found out that the ship was decommissioned by the U.S. Navy in October 1973, sold to Spain and re-named the BLAS DE LEZO (D 65). In the current issue of Janes Fighting Ships (1991-1992) under Destroyers - Frigates/Spain, there is a picture of one of four Ex-US GEARING CLASS DESTROYERS and the BLAS DE LEZO is listed as one of this class. I take this to mean that this vessel is still in active service for your country. I personally find that very gratifying.

I am very interested in finding any new information which may be available on the service of this ship over the past 47 years so that I might share it with the other attendees at the re-union. Are there any current photographs available? I fully realize that time is quite short, but I would be extremely grateful for any information that you may be able to share with us.

Sincerely,

Arthur R. Ziemer
708 Beacom Lane
Merion, PA 19066

DESTROYERS

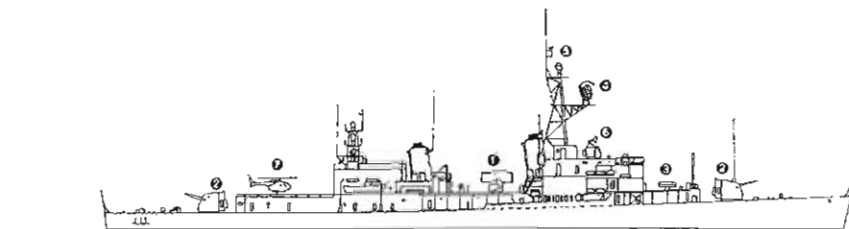
4 Ex-US GEARING CLASS

Name
 GRAVINA (ex-USS *Furse* DD 882)
 MÉNDEZ NÚÑEZ (ex-USS *O'Hare* DD 889)
 LANGARA (ex-USS *Leary* DD 879)
 BLAS DE LEZO (ex-USS *Noa* DD 841)

No	Builders	Laid down	Launched	Commissioned
D 62	Consolidated Steel Corporation	1944	9 Mar 1945	10 July 1945
D 63	Consolidated Steel Corporation	1945	22 June 1945	29 Nov 1945
O 64	Consolidated Steel Corporation	1944	20 Jan 1945	7 May 1945
O 65	Bath Iron Works	1945	30 July 1945	2 Nov 1945

Displacement, tons: 2425 standard, 3480 full load
Dimensions, feet (metres): 390.5 x 40.9 x 19
 (119 x 12.4 x 5.8)
Main machinery: 2 General Electric or Westinghouse geared turbines; 60 000 shp; 2 shafts; 4 Babcock & Wilcox boilers
Speed, knots: 34. **Range, miles:** 4800 at 15 kts
Complement: 274 (17 officers)

Missiles: A/S Honeywell ASROC Mk 112 octuple launcher (not in D 65), inertial guidance to 1.6-10 km (1-5.4 nm), payload Mk 46 torpedo.
Guns: 4 US 5 in (127 mm)/38 (2 twin) Mk 38 (D 65 has 6 (3 twin) mountings) Ø, 85° elevation, 15 rounds/minute to 17 km (9.3 nm); weight of shell 25 kg.
Torpedoes: 6—324 mm US Mk 32 (2 triple) tubes (Probably Honeywell Mk 46; anti-submarine, active/passive homing to 11 km (5.9 nm)) at 40 kts; warhead 44 kg.
Countermeasures: ESM: WLR 1, radar intercept.
ECM: ULQ 5 jammer
Fire control: Mk 37 GFCS
Radars: Air search, Westinghouse SPS 37 Ø, B/C band, range 556 km (300 nm)
 Lockheed SPS 40 (D 61-62), E/F band; range 320 km (175 nm)
Surface search: Raytheon SPS 10 Ø, G band.
Fire control: Western Electric Mk 25 or 28 Ø, I/J band
Sonars: Sangamo SQS 23, hull-mounted, active search and attack; medium frequency



MÉNDEZ NÚÑEZ

(Scale 1 : 1 200), Ian Sturton



GRAVINA

4/1990, van Ginderen Collection

Operational: Limited military role but still useful for surveillance
 Two were to have been paid off in 1991 and the remainder in 1992 but they may all remain in service for longer

Helicopters: 1 Hughes 500M can be embarked (O).

Programmes: *Gravina* transferred on loan 31 August 1972, remainder 31 October 1973. All were finally purchased 17 May 1978.

Structure: *Blas de Lezo* has two forward gun mounts, torpedo tubes by after funnel and no ASROC.

FRIGATES

Note: Four F 100 class frigates are at the design stage, following the demise of NATO FRF 90. The plan is to place orders in 1993

with the first laid down in December 1993 and the last completed by 2000. Stealth features will be an important part of the design

which will have a vertical launch air defence weapon system with four channels of fire

6 DESCUBIERTA CLASS

Name
 DESCUBIERTA
 DIANA
 INFANTA ELENA
 INFANTA CRISTINA
 CAZADORA
 VENCEDORA

No
 F 31
 F 32
 F 33
 F 34
 F 35
 F 36

Builders
 Bazán, Cartagena
 Bazán, Cartagena
 Bazán, Cartagena
 Bazán, Cartagena
 Bazán, Ferrol
 Bazán, Ferrol

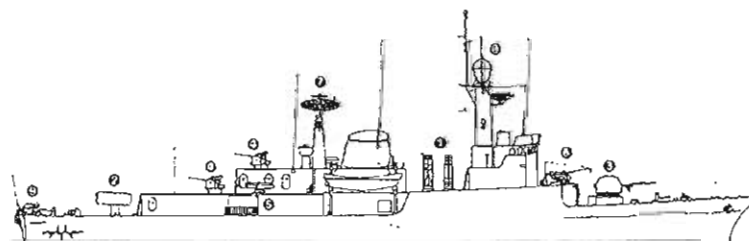
Laid down
 16 Nov 1974
 8 July 1975
 26 Jan 1976
 14 Sep 1976
 14 Dec 1977
 1 May 1978

Launched
 8 July 1975
 26 Jan 1976
 14 Sep 1976
 25 Apr 1977
 17 Oct 1978
 24 Apr 1979

Commissioned
 18 Nov 1978
 30 June 1979
 12 Apr 1980
 24 Nov 1980
 20 July 1981
 27 Mar 1982

Displacement, tons: 1233 standard, 1482 full load
Dimensions, feet (metres): 291.3 x 34 x 12.5
 (88.8 x 10.4 x 3.8)
Main machinery: 4 MTU-Bazán 16V 956 TB 31 diesels, 16 000 hp (18 000 bhp supercharged for 2 hours) 2 shafts, cp propellers
Speed, knots: 25. **Range, miles:** 4000 at 18 kts, 7500 at 12 kts
Complement: 118 (10 officers) plus 30 marines

Missiles: SSM 8 McDonnell Douglas Harpoon (2 quad) launchers Ø, active radar homing to 130 km (70 nm) at 0.9 Mach, warhead 227 kg. Normally only 2 pairs are embarked.
ASAM: Selenia Albatros octuple launcher Ø, 24 Raytheon Sea Sparrow semi-active radar homing to 14.6 km (8 nm) at 2.5 Mach, height envelope 15-5000 m (49.2-16 405 ft), warhead 30 kg.
Guns: 1 QQQ Melara 3 in (76 mm)/62 compact Ø, 85° elevation, 85 rounds/minute to 16 km (8.7 nm), weight of shell 6 kg for 2 Bofors 40 mm/70 Ø, 85° elevation, 300 rounds/minute to 12.5 km (6.8 nm), weight of shell 0.96 kg
 1 Bazán 20 mm, 120 12-barrelled Meroka, 85° elevation, 3600 rounds, muzzle combined to 2 km. Replacing one 40 mm gun.
Torpedoes: 1—324 mm US Mk 32 (2 triple) tubes Ø Honeywell Mk 46 Mk 46; anti-submarine, active/passive homing to 11 km (5.9 nm), 40 kts, warhead 44 kg.
AS mortars: 1 Bofors 375 mm twin-barrelled trainable Ø automatic loading, range 3600 m.
Countermeasures: Decoys: 2 Loral Hycor SRBOC 6-barrelled Mk 36 for Chaff and IR flares
 US Electric Masker, blade rate suppression
 ECM/ECM: Elettronica SpA Beta intercept and jammer
Combat data systems: SEWACO action data automation, Link 11 Longnet
Fire control: Signal WM 22/41 or WM 25, GM 101
Radars: Air search: Signaal OA 05/2 Ø, E/F band, range 331 km (177 nm) 2 m target
 Surface search: Signaal OA 05/2 Ø, E/F band, range 177 km (95 nm) 2 m target
 ASW search: Signaal OA 05/2 Ø, E/F band, range 177 km (95 nm) 2 m target



DESCUBIERTA Class (without Meroka)

(Scale 1 : 900) X1 Tarbo



INFANTA ELENA

11 1989, van Ginderen Collection