



USS Hugh Purvis Has Seen Varied Duty With Fleets Around The World.

Destroyer Purvis To Dock Here For Veterans Day

A Navy destroyer, the USS Hugh Purvis, will be docked in Georgetown this weekend in observance of Veterans Day with the public invited aboard Sunday and Monday.

The Purvis (DD-709) is scheduled to arrive in the Port of Georgetown on a high tide Saturday. The destroyer, which has seen duty throughout much of the world, will be open to the public from 1 to 5 P. M. Sunday and Monday.

The large conventional destroyer that was commissioned in 1945 is being dispatched to Georgetown for the Veterans Day weekend by the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet at the request of Congressman John L. McMillan and State Senator C. Claymon Grimes, Jr.

Equipped with twin 5-inch guns, the Purvis has a crew of 260 men. By coincidence, her presence here falls on Navy Sabbath as well as Veterans Day. Georgetown churches have been asked to note this annual Navy religious observance with an appropriate hymn or comment from the pulpit.

During her 26 years, the Purvis has seen varied duty on the world's seas and has been awarded three Battle Efficiency "E" awards and received the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Combat Action Ribbon for service off Vietnam where she provided carrier escort, gun fire support service and salvaged the USS Safeguard (ARS 25). The large destroyer has been

deployed in the Mediterranean 11 times, has participated in various operations in the North Atlantic and the Caribbean. She also has served as the Navy's host vessel for the America Cup Races off Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1956, the Purvis served as escort vessel during the evacuation of refugees from Haifa, Israel and for removal of officials of the UN truce team from Gaza, Egypt.

Almost a decade before that, the destroyer was assigned to the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and served with the United Nations mediator at Palestine in 1948.

The ship bears the name of Private Hugh Purvis, a U.S. Marine who was awarded the

Congressional Medal of Honor during the Korean Expedition of 1871.

Commanding the warship is Commander A. G. Hennessey, Jr., a native of Philadelphia.



CMDR. A. G. Hennessey, Jr.

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