



FREGATTE EMDEN





The Commanding Officer

The Commanding Officer of the FGN Frigate "EMDEN" is Commander Senior Grade Joachim Kolvenbach.

He was born in Königswinter on the 9th of April 1923. He is married and has four children.

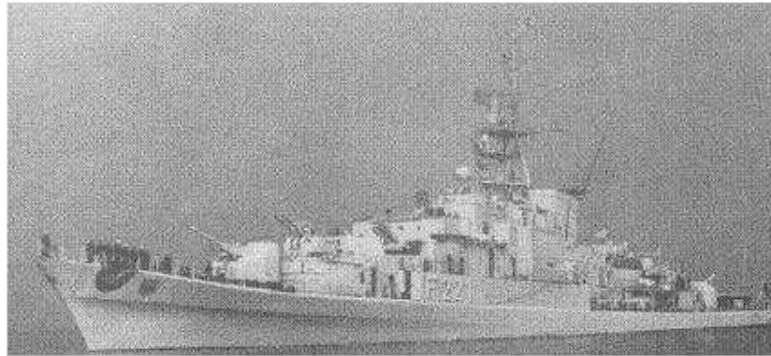
He joined the Navy October 1st, 1941, and sailed as a watch officer on board of minesweepers and submarines. Furthermore he was a teacher at the Torpedo School.

After World War II Commander Kolvenbach became an industrial merchant. He practised that job until 1960.

He joined the Federal German Navy as a Lieutenant on March 1st, 1960. Then he was assigned to different positions. He was a watch officer on coastal minesweepers, navigation- and operations officer aboard of FGN Frigates "KÖLN" and "KARLSRUHE", a teacher at FGN Navigation and Direction School, executive officer on FGN Frigate "LÜBECK", a teacher of Tactical Training Group, and Commanding Officer of FGN Destroyer ONE (Fletcher Class).

On October 1st, 1971, Commander Kolvenbach was appointed Commanding Officer of the FGN Frigate "EMDEN".

The Predecessors



The ship name "EMDEN" is well-known in German naval history. During World War I SMS Cruiser "EMDEN" carried out merchant warfare in the Pacific Ocean under the command of Fregattenkapitän von Müller. Originally, she belonged to the cruiser squadron of Graf Spee, but after the beginning of the war she was assigned to merchant warfare. The cruiser succeeded in sinking a Russian cruiser and a French destroyer as well as in destroying various merchant ships.

On November 9th, 1914, the "EMDEN" disembarked a landing force to the Cocos Islands with the mission of destroying the naval radio station there. Carrying out this operation she was taken unaware by the superior Australian cruiser "SIDNEY", and after a fire engagement over several hours she was defeated. SMS "EMDEN" was awarded the Iron Cross by the German Emperor. The "Iron Cross" on the bow of today's "EMDEN" keeps alive the memory of the honoured predecessor.

The second "EMDEN", also light cruiser, was commissioned in 1916. She was occasionally the Flagship of the Torpedoboats, and was sunk by her own crew in the Bay of Scapa Flow on June 21st, 1919.

The third "EMDEN" was the first cruiser built after World War I. She was commissioned in 1925 and served as a training ship. During her service she visited numerous places abroad. After having taken part in several operations in World War II she was bombed by enemy aircraft and sank in the Kiel Bay in 1945.

The Frigate

The FGN Frigate "EMDEN" was built by the Stülkenwerft and launched in Hamburg on March 21st, 1959, and was commissioned on October 24th, 1961.

The "EMDEN" has a displacement of 2600 tons, her overall length is 330 ft and she has a draft of 16 ft. The complement consists of 14 officers, 25 chief petty officers, 63 petty officers and 104 ratings. A well-balanced combination of weapon systems enables her to carry out anti-aircraft, anti-submarine and surface warfare effectively.

Her surface and surface-to-air weapon systems consist of three anti-air fire control systems and one combined air and surface fire control system. They control the two 100-mm-turrets and four 40-mm-guns.

The anti-submarine weapon system consists of one SONAR, one torpedo computer, four torpedo tubes, two quadruple rocket launchers and devices to lay mines and drop depth charges.

The propulsion plant – a combination of 4 Diesel engines and two gas turbines – produces 36,000 HP. Her maximum speed is 30 knots.

After commissioning the Frigate "EMDEN" was assigned to Escort Squadron 2, at Cuxhaven. Other ships of that squadron were the frigates "KÖLN", "KARLSRUHE", "AUGSBURG", "LÜBECK" and "BRAUNSCHWEIG".

The "EMDEN" has been stationed at the Naval Base Flensburg since April 26th, 1968, and is assigned to the Fleet Utility Squadron there. For certain periods she is at the disposal of FGN Underwater Weapon School and the FGN Naval Artillery School for practical training aboard of the students of these schools.

After her commissioning she took part in various NATO- and national exercises, and on her voyages abroad she visited several countries, viz. South America, Western Africa, Malta, France, Great Britain, Norway, Northern Ireland, Sweden and other countries.

