

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

CAPTAIN WILSON RANDOLPH BARTLETT, U. S. NAVY

Born in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, Captain Bartlett moved at an early age to Tacoma, Washington, where he attended the College of Puget Sound for a year, and was graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1935. He served three years in the carrier SARATOGA, and after flight instruction at Pensacola, had two years with Scouting Squadron 2, based on the carrier LEXINGTON, and ten months as Senior Naval Aviator of the cruiser CHESTER.

He was serving in the CHESTER, based at Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese attacked the Fleet there on December 7, 1941, precipitating World War II. He was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious service on February 1, 1942, when he engaged enemy fighter planes in combat over Taroa, Marshall Islands, and during one hour repelled nine savage attacks.

In 1943-1944 he commanded Composite Squadron 7 and served as Air Officer of the USS MANILA BAY, participating in operations in the Marshalls and Marianas, Western New Guinea, Hollandia, Leyte and others, and saw his ship hit by two Kamikaze aircraft. He is entitled to wear the Ribbon for the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the MANILA BAY, and was personally awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroic service during operations at Lingayen Gulf, P. I., on January 5, 1945.

During the latter months of the war and until March 1947, he served on the Staff of Commander Fleet Air, West Coast, first as Officer in Charge of CVE Shakedown Training, later as Assistant Operations Officer. He was then sent to the American Embassy, Santiago, Chile, as U. S. Naval Attache, and after two years there returned to the United States to serve as Operations Officer of the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C.

Successive duty as Executive Officer of the USS WRIGHT and as Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division 6, was followed by three months' duty as Executive Officer of the Mobile Training Unit of the French ship BOIS BELLEAU after that carrier escort, formerly the USS BELLEAU WOOD, was turned over to France on a loan basis under Mutual Defense Aid in September 1953. In January 1954 he reported to Jacksonville, Florida, as Executive Officer of the Naval Air Technical Training Center, and in October became Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit there.

Under orders of January 9, 1956, he is now in Copenhagen, Denmark, serving as U. S. Naval Attache and U. S. Naval Attache for Air to Denmark.

CAPTAIN WILSON R. BARTLETT, U. S. NAVY

PERSONAL DATA

Born: E. Grand Forks, Minnesota, 8/2/12
Parents: Richard D. Bartlett (Dec) and Mrs. Nettie Welsh Bartlett

Education: Stadium High School, Tacoma; College of Puget Sound
(1 yr); U. S. Naval Academy (BS, 1935); NAS, Pensacola (des.
NA, 6/24/39)

PROMOTIONS

Commissioned Ensign, 6/6/35; Lieutenant (jg), 6/6/38; Lieutenant,
2/42; Lieutenant Commander, 5/43; Commander, 3/1/44; Captain,
7/1/54

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

Bronze Star Medal, with Combat "V"
Air Medal
Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon (USS MANILA BAY)
American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign
Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 9 operation stars;
World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal,
Asia Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; Philippine Libera-
tion Ribbon with 2 stars

CITATIONS

Bronze Star Medal: "For heroic service as Air Officer of the
USS MANILA BAY, during operations against enemy Japanese forces
at Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands, on January 5, 1945.
Although suffering from shock and wounds after his ship had
been seriously damaged during an enemy air attack, Commander
Bartlett remained at his station on the bridge and directed the
jettisoning of torpedoes in planes and the extinguishing of fire
on the flight deck and spaces on the gallery deck. By his out-
standing leadership, courage and devotion to duty, he contributed
materially to the speedy resumption of flight operations and up-
held the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Air Medal: "For meritorious acts on 1 February 1942 while par-
ticipating in aerial flights against the enemy over Taroa,
Marshall Islands, as Commander of an aviation unit and pilot in a
Scout Seaplane, attached to a U. S. Warship. Despite enemy
fighter planes and intense anti-air fire from shore batteries,
he conducted successful reconnaissance and spotting missions.
Though all advantage appeared to be in favor of the enemy planes,
he engaged them in combat and during one hour repelled nine savage
attacks..."

Capt. W. R. Bartlett, USN

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE

Jun 1935 - Jun 1938 USS SARATOGA (Gunnery, Engineering Navigator, Comm. Off.)
Jun 1938 - Jun 1939 NAS Pensacola, Fla. (Student NA)
Jul 1939 - Aug 1941 VS2 USS LEXINGTON (Flight Navigator Comm. Officer)
Aug 1941 - Jun 1942 USS CHESTER (CA-27) (Senior NA)
Jun 1942 - Feb 1943 VGS-20 (Escort Scouting Squadron) (X.O.)
Feb 1943 - Jan 1944 VC-7 (C.O.)
Jan 1944 - Feb 1945 USS MANILA BAY (CVE-61) (Air Officer)
Feb 1945 - Jun 1946 ComFleetAirWestCoast (OnC CVE Shakedown Training)
Jun 1946 - Mar 1947 ComFleetAirWestCoast (Asst. Operations)
Jun 1947 - Aug 1949 U. S. Embassy Santiago, Chile (US Naval Attache)
Aug 1949 - Sep 1951 NAS Anacostia, D.C. (Operations Off.)
Sep 1951 - Dec 1952 USS WRIGHT (X.O.)
Dec 1952 - Aug 1953 Staff CarDiv-6 (Operations Officer)
Aug 1953 - Dec 1953 Mobile Training Unit French Ship BOIS BELLEAU (X.O.)
Jan 1954 - Oct 1954 NATTC, NAS Jacksonville (X.O.)
Oct 1954 - " " NARTU, NAS, Jacksonville (Commanding Officer)
Ordered
January 9, 1956 U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark (U.S. Naval Attache and U.S. NavAtt for Air)

NAVY - Office of Information
Biographies Branch
19 March 1958