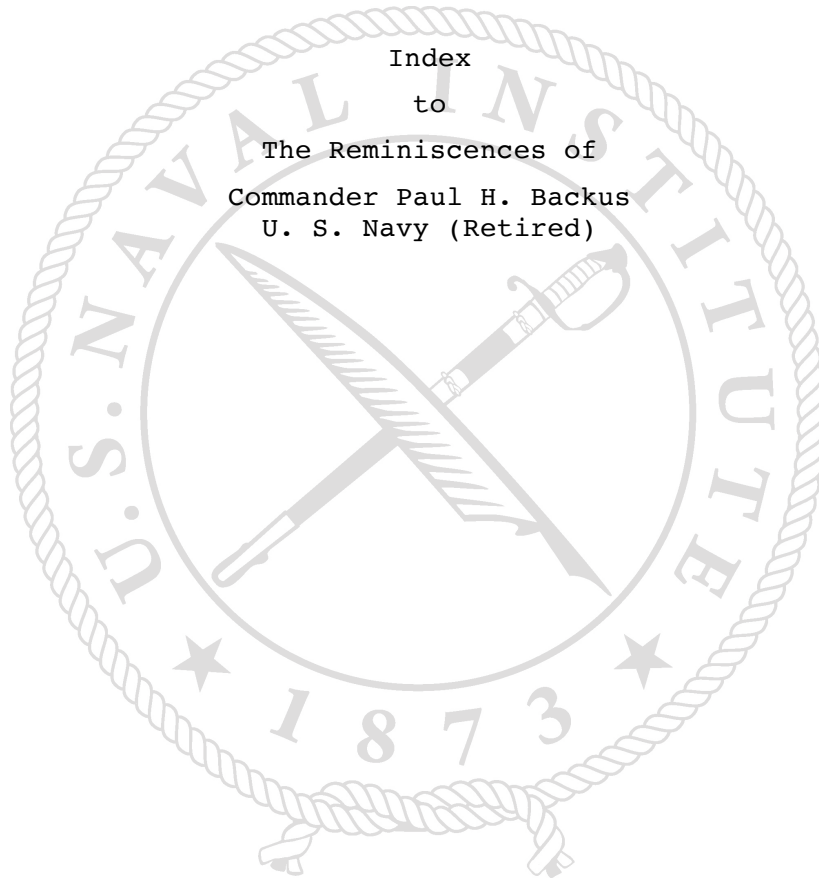


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The Reminiscences of
Commander Paul H. Backus
U. S. Navy (Retired)



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Berg, Commander Winfred E., USN (USNA, 1939)
Officer who was involved in the late 1950s in the Navy's early efforts to launch a space satellite, 421-423

Bergin, Captain Charles K., USN, USNA, 1927)
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Berkley, Lieutenant Commander Joseph B., USN (USNA, 1929)
As navigator of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, provided valuable training for officers of the deck, 126-128

Bernstein, Lieutenant Commander Henry E., USN (USNA, 1926)
Served as the first communication officer when the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) went into commission in 1942, 110-120

Berry, Commander Fred T., USN (USNA, 1945)
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Birthisel, Lieutenant Lawrence H., Jr., USN (USNA, 1934)

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Bishop, Max F.

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Blair, Clay, Jr.

Author who wrote a pro-Strategic Air Command article for The Saturday Evening Post in the late 1950s, 465; in the early 1950s, mounted a publicity campaign on behalf of flag rank for Captain Hyman Rickover, 471-472

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Bramble, Dr. Charles

Top-notch professor who taught ballistics at the Naval Postgraduate School in the mid-1940s, 212-213; early work with computers at Dahlgren around 1950, 251

Bremerton, Washington

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Brennan, Chief Boatswain's Mate Don, USN

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Bunting, Midshipman Davis E., USN (USNA, 1942)

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Burbage, Ensign Charles L., USN (USNA, 1941)

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Bureau of Naval Personnel

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Calhoun, Ensign Warren D., USNR

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California Institute of Technology, Pasadena

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Carew-Hunt, Geoffrey H., RN

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Clark, Rear Admiral John E., USN (USNA, 1927)

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Coast Guard, U.S.

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Coker, Lieutenant Charles W., USN (USNA, 1937)

Served as the main battery officer of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, 135-136, 158

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Cooke, Lieutenant (j.g.) Lemuel D., USN (USNA, 1939)

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Coyle, John

Civilian official who worked in the late 1950s on the development of the strategic concept for use of Polaris submarines, 461-463, 476

Crabb, Commander Lionel, Royal Navy (Retired)

Apparently killed while making an intelligence dive on a Soviet cruiser in 1956, 338-339

Crenshaw, Captain Russell S., USN (USNA, 1941)

In the early 1960s had a brief tour in the OpNav job dealing with ballistic missiles, 485

Curran, Midshipman James Albert, USN (USNA, 1941)

As vice president of his class, he helped represent the Naval Academy at the 200th anniversary of the University of Pennsylvania, 38-39; graduated high in the class, though he had trouble passing physical tests, 50; survived by swimming when his ship was torpedoed in 1943, 50-51

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Davenport, Ensign John B., USN (USNA, 1941)

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Davis, Lieutenant James J., Jr., USNR

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Understanding individual who served as executive officer of the Naval Academy in the late 1930s, 44, 52

DeMers, Ensign Adam W., USN (USNA, 1941)

Had unwanted social obligations as a junior officer in the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in 1941, 83; death of in 1943, 131-132

Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet

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Dickson, Lieutenant Commander David A., USN

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Dobie, Commander Ernest William, Jr., USN (USNA, 1940)

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Doherty, Ensign Joseph M., USNR

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Draper, Dr. Stark

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Dulles, John Foster

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Eaton, Lieutenant (j.g.) Torrey W., USN (USNA, 1941)

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Edison, Charles

In his capacity as Secretary of the Navy, Edison and his wife attended the Naval Academy ring dance at Annapolis in June 1940, 47-48

Education

Leonard's cram school in New York City in the 1930s provided an intensive preparation course for Naval Academy entrance examinations, 11-12; academic studies at the Naval Academy in the late 1930s-early 1940s, 35-36; the Naval Postgraduate School at Annapolis provided a demanding course in ordnance engineering in 1945-46, 201-206; Backus took Naval War College correspondence courses on strategy in the early 1950s, 261-263

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Felt, Admiral Harry D., USN (USNA, 1923)

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Finneran, Lieutenant Commander John F., Jr., USN

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Ford, Lieutenant (j.g.) Jones H., USNR

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Forrestal, James V.

As Secretary of the Navy right after World War II, reacted to the test-firing of the high-speed 8-inch/55 turrets at Dahlgren, 214

Foskett, Captain James H., USN

Served as a cruiser division commander on board the USS Huntington (CL-107) in 1948 but didn't appear up to the job, 231-233

Foy, Captain Edward J., USN (USNA, 1908)

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Freitag, Commander Robert F., USN

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Gardner, Captain Edward R., USN (USNA, 1922)

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Gatch, Captain Thomas L., USN (USNA, 1912)

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Gates, Thomas S.

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Gaver, Second Lieutenant Harry H., Jr., USMC

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Gentry, Captain Kenneth M., USN (USNA, 1930)

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German Navy

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Glenn L. Martin Company

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Gold, Captain Pleasant D., USN (USNA, 1923)

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Greene, Lieutenant (j.g.) William F., USN (USNA, 1940)

Lost with his shipmates when the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) was sunk without a trace in 1942, 60

Grenfell, Rear Admiral Elton W., USN (USNA, 1926)

Former ComSubPac who tried unsuccessfully around 1960 to get Polaris submarines based at Pearl Harbor, 491-492

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The battleship South Dakota (BB-57) fired one of her 16-inch guns into a farmer's field while doing shakedown training in Chesapeake Bay in 1942, 120-121; the South Dakota's score of enemy planes in the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942, 141-142; during target practice in 1952, the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) fired too close to the tug towing a target, 278-279; in the mid-1950s the British claimed, apparently incorrectly, that they could jam U.S. proximity fuzes, 358-359

Guns

Because parts had been removed for an upcoming inspection, the 5-inch/25-caliber antiaircraft guns in the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) were unable to fire during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 102-103; distribution of small arms on Ford Island following the Japanese attack, 110; powerful concussion from the 16-inch guns of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) during shakedown in 1942, 125-126; the South Dakota's outfit of antiaircraft guns was beefed up during a visit to Pearl Harbor in the fall of 1942, 134-135; damage to two of the 16-inch guns of the South Dakota's turret two made them questionable for use in battle in November 1942, 147-148, 160-161; 40-millimeter gun mount installed on the bow of the South Dakota in 1943, 169-170; the battleship Alabama (BB-60) accidentally fired two of her 5-inch guns into an adjacent mount in 1944, killing and injuring crewmen, 189

Halsey, Admiral William F., Jr., USN (USNA, 1904)

In late 1942 presented a Navy Cross to Captain Thomas Gatch of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57), 139; in 1944 Commander Harold Stassen checked out the South Dakota as a possible flagship for Halsey, 197-198

Hamm, Lieutenant Mann, USN (USNA, 1931)

As communication officer of the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in 1941, 71, 81-82

Hardwick, Lieutenant Harry J., USN (USNA, 1927)

As Naval Academy football coach in the late 1930s, forced Backus to choose between baseball and football, 24-26

Harvard Computation Laboratory

Use of computers to support the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance in the late 1940s and early 1950s, 250-251

Harvell, Lieutenant John T., USNR

Served as damage control assistant in the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, later requested a recommendation from the skipper, 279-281

Hasler, Commander William A., Jr., USN (USNA, 1938)

Was the first officer assigned to the Office of Special Projects in 1956, 368-369

Hayler, Commander Robert W., Jr., USN (USNA, 1941)

Visited Oran, Algeria, as commanding officer of a destroyer in 1952, 291-292; was the first commanding officer of the destroyer John Paul Jones (DD-932) when she was commissioned in 1956, visited Scotland that autumn, 352-353

Hayward, Rear Admiral John T., USN (USNA, 1930)

Advocacy in the late 1950s to have twin screws in Polaris-armed submarines, 415-416; as head of the Navy research program in the early 1960s, supported Captain Russell Crenshaw in his OpNav job dealing with Polaris, 485

Hazing

Done by upper classmen at the Naval Academy in the late 1930s, 15, 22-23

Henderson, Lieutenant Commander Harry H., USN (USNA, 1925)

As gunnery officer of the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37), organized the ship's survivors following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 95, 111

Henderson, USS (AP-1)

Transported U.S. servicemen and dependents from Hawaii to California following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 113-115

Hobson, USS (DMS-26)

Destroyer minesweeper that sank as a result of colliding with the aircraft carrier Wasp (CV-18) in April 1952, 286-288

Hoffman, Lieutenant (junior grade) Norman C., USNR

After his ship, the Oklahoma (BB-37), was sunk at Pearl Harbor, he joined the first crew of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, 118-119

Homosexuals

Apparent homosexual in the crew of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in World War II, 190-191; the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) received a homosexual sailor in a trade with another destroyer in the early 1950s, 316-318

Honolulu, Hawaii

Social life for junior officers from the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in the last months before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, 83-87

Howell, Captain Robert S., USMC

Did a fine job while commanding the 5-inch battery in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) during a night battle off Guadalcanal in November 1942, 159

Huntington, USS (CL-107)

Light cruiser that had a spectacular shooting capability, 225; relief of the gunnery officer in 1947, 225-226; Captain Arleigh Burke provided energetic leadership as commanding officer in 1948, 227, 233, 238-242; one crew member got in trouble for pulling down a Greek flag while drunk on liberty, 229-230; cruise to Africa, the Mediterranean, and South America in 1948, 229-236, 242; shore bombardment practice at Vieques, 236-237; Captain Burke dominated the ship handling, 239-241; reserve training cruise in early 1949, 242-243; inactivation and decommissioning of the ship in 1949, 243-248

Hustvedt, Rear Admiral Olaf M., USN (USNA, 1909)

Rigid battleship division commander who ordered the crew of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) to off-load a cargo of whiskey from the ship in 1943, 171-172; commanded a bombardment of Mille Atoll in March 1944, 200

Hypnosis

In 1948 hypnosis helped cure a chief boatswain's mate who suffered recurring nightmares as a result of handling body parts on board the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, 246-247

Iceland

Operations in Icelandic fjords by the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1943, 177

Indian Ocean

Covered in Naval War College strategy courses in the late 1940s and early 1950s, 262

Intelligence

Gathered by U.S. naval attachés in Britain in the mid-1950s, 333-334, 349-351, 360-361; gathered by Soviet

agents in Britain, 334-337; retired Royal Navy Commander Lionel Crabb was apparently killed while making an intelligence dive on a Soviet cruiser in 1956, 338-339; Backus and others photographed a Sverdlov-class cruiser during her visit to Great Britain in 1956, 339-343

International Geophysical Year

U.S. attempts to put an artificial earth satellite into space in the late 1950s, 420-428

Iowa, USS (BB-61)

Bombardment of Mille Atoll along with the battleship New Jersey (BB-62) March 1944, 199-202

Irvin, Rear Admiral William D., USN (USNA, 1927)

His Operational Development Force had a limited role in the testing of the new Polaris submarines in the early 1960s, 481-482

Isherwood, USS (DD-520)

As commanding officer in the early 1950s, Backus ensured the ship did not go on water hours, 32; Backus's predecessor as skipper had been a Japanese prisoner in World War II, 270-272; a number of the crew members in 1952 were reservists recalled to active duty because of the Korean War, 271-273, 277-281; Backus's initial efforts in conning the ship in 1952, 273-275; large turnover of the crew in 1952 following training at Guantanamo, 276-277; involved in ASW team training research, 281-283; handling of in difficult weather around Newport, Rhode Island, 283-285, 326-328; deployments to the Mediterranean in the early 1950s, 285-300, 303-323; concern about use of fresh water, 290-291; handling by the crew of various medical conditions--polio, heat exhaustion, and appendix--while the ship was in the Mediterranean in the early 1950s, 293-299; rapid turnover of officers, 301-303; discipline of the crew, 303-305; use of radioman as chief master at arms, 309-310; likely contact with Soviet submarine in the Mediterranean, 311-312; received a homosexual sailor in a trade with another destroyer in the early 1950s, 316-318; concern about fuel consumption during a transit to the Mediterranean, 318-321; had a successful torpedo exercise against a Sixth Fleet cruiser, 321-322; overhaul at Boston in 1954, 324-326; difficult trip to Florida in January 1954, 326-331

Italian Navy

Worked with the U.S. destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in a NATO ASW exercise in the early 1950s, 312-313

Italy

In the late 1940s, a prostitute nicknamed "Fargo Annie" worked on board the light cruiser Fargo (CL-106) at Naples, 227-229; Italian medical facilities aided crewmen of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 295-299; Backus had a difficult ship-handling experience at Naples in the early 1950s, 313-315

Jaap, Rear Admiral Joseph A., USN (USNA, 1932)

Headed the U.S. Navy's guided missile program in the late 1950s, 434

Japanese Navy

Attack on warships in Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, 98-99; effects of shooting at American ships during a night battle off Guadalcanal in November 1942, 149-160; treatment of Japanese survivors in the water after the battle, 161

Jarrett, Rear Admiral Harry B., USN (USNA, 1922)

Commanded Cruiser Division Four during Sixth Fleet exercises in the Mediterranean in the early 1950s, 321-323

Jarvis, USS (DD-393)

Junior officers on board in early 1941, 57; the commanding officer was apparently relieved for cause in 1941, 57-60; loss of the ship with all hands in 1942, 60-61, 112; torpedo-firing exercises in 1941, 61-63; commanding officer's expression of confidence in Backus, 63-64; administrative work by division officers, 64-66; relationships among the ship's officers, 66-67; Backus was strict in dealing with enlisted men, 68

John Paul Jones, USS (DD-932)

Newly commissioned destroyer that visited Scotland, the birthplace of Jones, in the autumn of 1956, 352-353

Johnston, Lieutenant Commander Paul F., USN (USNA, 1927)

As gunnery officer of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in November 1942, declined to make a decision on the use of 16-inch guns damaged the previous month, 147-148, 160-161; role in having a 40-millimeter gun mount installed on the bow of the South Dakota in 1943, 169-170

Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff

Established in the late 1950s to handle the targeting of U.S. nuclear weapons, 435

Jones, John Paul

The newly commissioned destroyer John Paul Jones (DD-932) visited Scotland, the birthplace of Jones, in the autumn of 1956, 352-353

Jupiter Missiles

Development of by the Army in the 1950s, 369-370, 402

Kenworthy, Commander Jesse L., USN (USNA, 1916)

While serving as executive officer of the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in 1941, was in a state of shock after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 96, 103

Key West, Florida

Site for testing in the early 1950s of Weapon Able for use against submarines, 257-258; ASW training at in the early 1950s, 267

Kimball, Lieutenant Commander Corydon H., USN (USNA, 1922)

Was apparently relieved for cause while serving as commanding officer of the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in 1941, 57-60; expressed confidence in Backus to handle the ship in his absence, 63-64

King, Commander Ed R., Jr., USN (USNA, 1936)

Was the victim of a shipboard prank in the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1948, 233-235; frustrated by lack of ship-handling opportunities in the Huntington, 241

King, Admiral Ernest J., USN (USNA, 1901)

As CominCh in early 1942, dictated that naval personnel wear gray uniforms that proved unpopular, 92

Kirkcudbright, Scotland

The newly commissioned destroyer John Paul Jones (DD-932) visited the birthplace of Jones in the autumn of 1956, 352-353

Kistiakowsky, Dr. George

As scientific adviser to President Dwight Eisenhower in the late 1950s, was interested in the Polaris ballistic missile program, 503-504

Kittler, Commander Fred W., USN (USNA, 1939)

Was involved in an intelligence operation against Soviet warships that visited Great Britain in 1956, 339-341

Knox, Frank

As Secretary of the Navy in early 1941, made the graduation address to that year's Naval Academy class, 49

Koppen, Henk

Dutch engineer who did impressive work in electronics for Hollandsee Signaal Apparaten in the 1950s, 360-362

Korean War

A number of the crew members of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in 1952 were reservists recalled to active duty because of the Korean War, 271-273, 277-281

Kwajalein Atoll

Bombardment of by the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1944, 192-193

Lake Champlain, USS (CVA-39)

Exercised with the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) off Florida in January 1954, 329-331

Landreth, Midshipman John Lewis, USN (USNA, 1941)

Did an outstanding job as editor of the 1941 Naval Academy yearbook, 21

La Spada, Ensign Jack A., USN (USNA, 1941)

Naval Academy roommate of Backus, 51; joined newly graduated classmates in dating Rose Bowl princesses in California in early 1941, 56-57

Leave and Liberty

Naval Academy midshipmen had eye-opening experiences when they visited Le Havre in the summer of 1938, 27-28; in 1938 some midshipmen were punished for returning late from leave because of a hurricane, 30; newly graduated ensigns dated Rose Bowl princesses in California in early 1941, 56-57; social life in Honolulu for junior officers from the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in the last months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, 83-87; crew of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) went ashore on the island of Tongatabu in the summer of 1942, 131-132; Backus got married to Marge Gardner during a brief leave period from the South Dakota in the summer of 1943, 178-179

Lee, Rear Admiral Willis A. Jr., USN (USNA, 1908)

Embarked in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in the summer of 1942 for the transit from the East Coast to the South Pacific, 130; was an observer on board the battleship Iowa (BB-61) for a bombardment of Mille Atoll in March 1944, 200-202

Leeds, Commander John R., USN (USNA, 1932)

Role as executive officer of the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1948 in dealing with a dispute with an embarked staff, 232; while serving in BuPers in the early 1950s, gave Backus a positive recommendation for destroyer command, 268-269

Little, Louis L.

Preference for "watch-charm guards" while coaching football at Columbia University in the 1930s, 7

Lockheed Corporation

A Lockheed employee named F. Dorne Barkley began applying systems analysis to the Polaris program in the late 1950s, 463-465

Loeb, William

New Hampshire newspaper publisher who in 1959 arranged for Backus to meet U.S. Senator Styles Bridges, 466-467; later got Backus to serve on the advisory board of his newspaper, 468

Lofberg, USS (DD-759)

The ship's crew was involved in ASW team training research in the early 1950s, 282

London, England

Living conditions encountered in the mid-1950s by U.S. naval personnel stationed in the city, 348-349

Long Beach, USS (CGN-9)

Guided missile cruiser that was considered briefly in the 1950s for installation of Polaris missiles, 402, 404-408

Loran

Development of the Loran C navigation system in the late 1950s, 437-444, 449-450

Lyman, Rear Admiral Charles H. III, USN (USNA, 1926)

Activities as U.S. naval attaché to Great Britain in 1956, 343-344

Lyndon, Lieutenant Dennis Charles, USN (USNA, 1935)

Served as gunnery duty officer on board the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) during night action off Guadalcanal in November 1942, 151-153

Magerovich, Lieutenant Leopold E., USNR

Served as navigator and chief engineer in the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 280; had an unhappy maneuvering experience while serving as officer of the deck in 1952, 285-286; as shore patrol officer, 304

Mail

Censorship of outgoing letters from the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1943, 180-182

Marianas Islands

Role of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944, 194-197

Marine Corps, U.S.

A Marine remained calm while guarding a Japanese prisoner at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 111; treatment of survivors in the water after a battle against the Japanese near Guadalcanal in mid-November 1942, 161

Marshall Islands

Bombardment of Kwajalein Atoll by the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1944, 192-193

Martin Company

See Glenn L. Martin Company

Maryland, USS (BB-46)

Moored at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack in December 1941, 104-106

Masterson, Rear Admiral Kleber S., USN (USNA, 1930)

Did a fine job while heading the ballistic missile branch of OpNav in the 1950s, 390, 434, 476

McCormick, Captain Lynde D., USN (USNA, 1915)

Proved initially unpopular with the crew of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) when he became commanding officer in 1943, 146-147, 171; demanding as skipper, 172; gave Backus an unsatisfactory fitness report in 1943 for an incident involving outgoing mail, 180-182

McCrea, Captain John L., USN (USNA, 1915)

Commanded the battleship Iowa (BB-61) during a bombardment of Mille Atoll in March 1944, 201-202

McDaniel, Lieutenant (j.g.) George T., Jr., USN (USNA, 1939)

Was involved in damage control when the destroyer Smith (DD-378) was set afire by a Japanese plane during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942, 143

McKenna, Lieutenant (j.g.) John J., USNR

Did an excellent job as chief engineer of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 300

McVay, Ensign Donald H., Jr., USN (USNA, 1953)

Served only a short time in the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in 1953 before leaving for flight training, 301-302

Medical Problems

Backus had a broken jaw and later a concussion from playing football as a Naval Academy midshipman in the late 1930s, 16-17, 23-24; Backus had seasickness problems while serving in the crew of the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in 1941, 58-60; a member of the crew of the

battleship South Dakota (BB-57) was seriously injured at the Navy yard at Philadelphia in 1942, 122-123; in 1948 hypnosis helped cure a chief boatswain's mate who suffered recurring nightmares as a result of handling body parts on board the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, 246-247; handling of various conditions--polio, heat exhaustion, and appendix--by the crew of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the Mediterranean in the early 1950s, 293-299; destroyer evacuation of a Marine with an eye injury in the early 1950s, 318-319

Mediterranean Sea

The aircraft carrier Wasp (CV-18) was poorly handled by her conning officer while in the Strait of Messina in 1953, 288-290; the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) had a likely contact with a Soviet submarine in the early 1950s, 311-312

Meier, Commander Louis L., Jr., USN (USNA, 1942)

Served as aide to the Secretary of the Navy in the late 1950s, 422-423

Merchant Ships

The Royal Navy inadvertently allowed the crew of a Soviet merchant ship to photograph a U.S. torpedo during testing in Britain in the mid-1950s, 336-338; brief consideration of merchant-type ships for launching Polaris missiles, 402; in the late 1950s the Navy studied the feasibility of arming merchant ships with Minuteman missiles, 410-413

Merino, Commander Jose T.

Chilean naval officer who was an assistant naval attaché in London during the mid-1950s, 347-348

Messina, Italy

The aircraft carrier Wasp (CV-18) was poorly handled by her conning officer while in the Strait of Messina in 1953, 288-290; site of medical advice about a crewman of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 295-297

Metsger, Captain Alfred B., USN (USNA, 1931)

As deputy director of naval research in 1957, indicated that he would not inform the CNO about the progress of the Vanguard rocket program, 423

Metzger, Colonel Louis, USMC

Received a personal greeting from the Duke of Edinburgh during a diplomatic reception in Great Britain in the mid-1950s, 345-346; promoted to general despite a poor fitness report, 346

Military Academy, U.S., West Point, New York

The cadets displayed an unfriendly attitude toward Backus when he visited West Point in the early 1930s, 4-5

Mille Atoll

Bombardment of by the battleships Iowa (BB-61) and New Jersey (BB-62) in March 1944, 199-202

Miller, Edgar E. "Rip"

As Naval Academy assistant football coach in the late 1930s, forced Backus to choose between baseball and football, 24-26

Miller, Rear Admiral George H., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1933)

Supporter of putting ballistic missiles in surface ships, 413

Miller, Glenn

Big-band leader whose group played for the Naval Academy ring dance in the spring of 1940, 45-49

Minuteman Missiles

In the late 1950s the Navy studied the feasibility of arming merchant ships with the missiles, 410-413; Air Force development of after Navy work on the Polaris, 475-478

Missiles

See Jupiter Missiles; Minuteman Missiles; Polaris Program; Regulus Missiles

Mississippi, USS (AG-128)

Conversion from battleship to ordnance test ship in 1946-47, 216-221; active sports program in the ship, 221-223

Moitoret, Commander Victor A., USN (USNA, 1941)

While stationed in London in the mid-1950s, read the intelligence reports that Backus was sending to Washington, 357-358

Moorer, Admiral Thomas H., USN (USNA, 1933)

As a captain in the late 1950s, was involved in the development of the strategic concept for Polaris submarines, 462

Mothballing

See Reserve Fleet

Mountbatten, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Louis, RN

Interest in the U.S. Polaris program as it was developing around 1960, 449-451

Naples, Italy

In the late 1940s, a prostitute nicknamed "Fargo Annie" worked on board the light cruiser Fargo (CL-106) at Naples and produced disciplinary problems for crew members, 227-229; Backus had a difficult ship-handling experience at Naples while commanding the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 313-315

Narragansett Bay

See Newport, Rhode Island

Naval Academy, U.S., Annapolis, Maryland

The midshipmen displayed a friendly attitude toward Backus when he visited Annapolis in the early 1930s, 4-5; Leonard's cram school in New York City in the 1930s provided an intensive preparation course for academy entrance examinations, 11-12; the fourth battalion was considered "non-reg" in the late 1930s and early 1940s, 12-13; disciplinary matters, 13, 18-20, 30, 40-41; the practice of "spooning" by upper classmen, 14; hazing by upper classmen, 15, 22-23; football in the late 1930s-early 1940s, 15-16, 18, 23-25, 28-30; midshipman medical problems, 16-17; dress parades, 17-18; the ship Reina Mercedes (IX-25), a former Spanish cruiser, served as the Naval Academy brig in the late 1930s, 18-19; officers of the class of 1941, 18-19, 36-45, 66, 264-267, 482; the yearbook Lucky Bag, 19-21; a black plebe had a short tenure as a midshipman in 1937, 21-22; baseball team in the late 1930s, 24-27; summer training cruises, 27-32, 34-35; brief flight training in the summer of 1939, 33; academics, 35-36; the ring dance for the class of 1941 was held in the spring of 1940, 45-49; graduation of the class of 1941 in February of that year, 49; some midshipmen needed extra time to get through the program, 52-54; as regimental commander in October 1938, Ned Beach presented the midshipmen for duty in repelling an attack from Mars, 54; sense of cliquishness among midshipmen from Navy families, 55; limited applicability of academy training to division officer jobs in the fleet, 65-66; members of the class of 1941 came up for selection for the rank of commander in the early 1950s, 263-267

Naval Institute, U.S.

In the late 1950s bought an article about satellites from Backus but never published it, 429; Backus won the Naval Institute prize essay contest in 1959, 465-466

Naval Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland

Provided a demanding course in ordnance engineering in 1945-46, 201-206

Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia

Test-fired 8-inch/55 turrets right after World War II, 214-215; early work with computers around 1950, 251

Naval Reserve

Training cruise for reservists on board the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1949, 242-243; a number of the crew members of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in 1952 were reservists recalled to active duty because of the Korean War, 271-273, 277-281

Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island

Backus took Naval War College correspondence courses on strategy in the early 1950s, 261-263

Naval Warfare Analysis Group

Development in the late 1950s of the strategic concept for use of the submarines, 460-463

Navigation

In the 1950s, defense contractor Autonetics produced the inertial navigation system for Polaris submarines, 393-304, 500-501; the Navy conducted bottom surveys around 1960 to facilitate underwater navigation by Polaris submarines, 435-448; development of the Loran C navigation system in the late 1950s, 437-444

Netherlands

The Dutch firm Philips was suspected of collaborating with the Germans in World War II, 359-360; work of the firm Hollandsee Signaal Apparaten, 360-362

Nevada, USS (BB-36)

Accompanied the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) on a trip to California in August 1941 and had to serve as an escort when one of the Oklahoma's propellers came loose, 88-89

New Jersey, USS (BB-62)

Bombardment of Mille Atoll along with the battleship Iowa (BB-61) March 1944, 199-202

Newport, Rhode Island

Served as home port for the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 271-275; handling of the Isherwood in difficult weather around Newport, 283-285, 326-328

New York City

U.S. Fleet visit to the city in the mid-1920s, 1; in the 1930s Leonard's cram school in New York provided an intensive preparation course for Naval Academy entrance examinations, 11-12; operation of tugboats in New York Harbor in the 1930s, 30-31

New York Navy Yard

Repair of battle damage to the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1943, 165; installation of a 40-millimeter gun mount on the bow of the South Dakota, 169-170

Nobska Report

In the mid-1950s, this study laid the foundation for the Navy's ballistic missile program, 364-366

Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia

Conversion of the USS Mississippi (AG-128) from a battleship to an ordnance test ship in 1946-47, 216-221

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The U.S. destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) worked with an Italian destroyer during NATO ASW exercises in the Mediterranean in the early 1950s, 312-313; NATO service chiefs made a tour of U.S. research and development facilities in the mid-1950s, 372-376; initiated a request in the late 1950s for a medium-range ballistic missile, 477-478

Norton, Lieutenant (j.g.) Gerald S., USNR (USNA, 1939)

Was temporarily stunned when his turret in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) was hit by a Japanese bomb in October 1942, 136-137

Norway

Combined U.S.-Royal Navy operations in the vicinity of in 1943, 174

Nuclear Weapons

Great concern on the part of Royal Navy officers when Backus learned in the mid-1950s about British problems getting nuclear warheads from the United States, 353-356; targeting of ballistic missiles, 395-396, 412-413, 435, 473; Skybolt was a U.S. airborne nuclear weapons system that the British were interested in during the early 1960s, 451-453; development in the late 1950s of the strategic concept for use of the submarines, 460-463

Observation Island, USS (EAG-154)

Test ship used during the Polaris missile development program in the late 1950s, 406; testing of Loran C navigation system, 438

Oklahoma, USS (BB-37)

Had a crackerjack signal gang when Backus reported aboard in 1941, 69-70, 81-82; Captain E. J. Foy was a popular skipper, 71, 73-74, 82-83; collision with the battleship Arizona (BB-39) in October 1941, 71-76; near-collision

with the carrier Enterprise (CV-6) in November 1941, 76-77; emphasis on station-keeping in formation, 78-81; little emphasis on combating shipboard fires, 79-80; social life for junior officers, 83-87; one of the ship's propellers came loose during a voyage to California in August 1941, 88-89; shipboard uniforms in late 1941, 91-93; Captain Howard Bode was thoroughly disliked during his brief tenure as commanding officer in late 1941, 93-95; events on board during the day of the Japanese attack, 7 December 1941, 95-109, 113

Operational Development Force

Role in the testing in the early 1950s of Weapon Able for use against submarines, 256-259; had a limited role in the testing of Polaris submarines when they entered the fleet in the early 1960s, 481-482

Oran, Algeria

Site of a visit by the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the spring of 1952, 293

O'Rourke, Commander Stephen C., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1939)

Reached the Naval Academy in 1935 on an alternate appointment, graduated in 1939, later served in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57), 14

Osborn, Commander James B., USN (USNA, 1942)

In 1960, commanded the first Polaris submarine to go on patrol, 446, 501

PBY Catalina

Planes that woke up battleship personnel when they took off from Pearl Harbor in late 1941, 99

PT Boats

Operating around Guadalcanal at the time of a big night battle in November 1942, 157

Padfield, Captain Bernard S., RN

Royal Navy officer who inadvertently told Backus in the mid-1950s about British problems getting nuclear warheads from the United States, 353-356

Pancoast, Lieutenant Leonidas W., USN (USNA, 1927)

Executive officer who succeeded to command when the skipper of the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) was apparently relieved for cause in 1941, 59-60

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Events on board the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) during the Japanese attack on 7 December 1941, 95-109; conditions ashore following the departure of the Japanese, 109-112

Philadelphia Naval Hospital

In 1948 hypnosis helped cure a chief boatswain's mate who suffered recurring nightmares as a result of handling body parts on board the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, 246-247

Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

Inactivation and decommissioning of the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1949, 243-248

Philippine Sea, Battle of

Role of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in this June 1944 action, 194-197

Philip, Prince, Duke of Edinburgh

Personally greeted a U.S. Marine colonel during a diplomatic reception in Great Britain in the mid-1950s, 345-346

Philips

Dutch and Swedish firms suspected of collaborating with the Germans in World War II, 359-360; acquired the firm Hollandsee Signaal Apparaten, 362

Photography

Backus and others photographed a Sverdlov-class cruiser during her visit to Great Britain in 1956, 339-343

Pietermartizburg, South Africa

Visit to by officers from the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1948, 233

Polaris Missiles

Development work on solid propellants, 370; Dr. Stark Draper and guidance systems, 392-393; targeting of, 395-396, 412-413, 435, 473; decision for submerged launch of missiles, 400-401; consideration of surface ships armed with Polaris, 402-408; Polaris came at the expense of the Regulus missile, 408-410, 434-435; possible competition from a sea-based Minuteman missile, 410-413; advent of the A-3 version, 411-412; range of, 495-496

Polaris Program

Nobska report laid the foundation in the mid-1950s, 364-366, 389-90; support role of the Bureau of Ordnance, 365-366, 368-369; role of the Ballistic Missiles Branch in OpNav in the late 1950s, 367, 384-385, 414-415; establishment and role of the Office of Special Projects, 367-369, 381-383, 391-392, 437-441, 445, 450, 454-456, 486-487, 492-493; Navy interaction with the Army and Air Force, 369-371; establishment in the mid-1950s of the

Defense Department Ballistic Missile Committee, 376-378; Joint Army-Navy Ballistic Missile Committee, 378-380; role of the Navy Ballistic Missile Committee, 379-389, 394-400; the challenge of funding the program within the fixed budget levels of the late 1950s, 385-386; system concepts developed by the Navy Ballistic Missile Committee, 387-389; development of operational requirements for the system, 394-440, 404-405, 414-415; role of submariners in the program in the late 1950s, 429-433; the Navy conducted bottom surveys around 1960 to facilitate underwater navigation by Polaris submarines, 435-448; U.S. relationships with the British on Polaris development, 449-453; negotiations for basing in Scotland, 451-453; a Lockheed employee began applying systems analysis to the Polaris program in the late 1950s, 463-465; Congress received briefings and testimony on the program in the late 1950s, 466-470, 490-491; development of operational concepts, 472-474; program milestones, 500-502

Polaris Submarines

In the 1950s, defense contractor Autonetics produced the inertial navigation system for Polaris submarines, 393-304, 500-501; design considerations, including number of screws per submarine, 415-418; concern about selecting and training two crews per submarine, 418-419; role of submariners in the program in the late 1950s, 429-433; the Navy conducted bottom surveys around 1960 to facilitate underwater navigation, 435-448; development of systems in the late 1950s for communicating with Polaris submarines, 453-459; concern about developing systems so that submarines in distress could provide information, 458-460; development in the late 1950s of the strategic concept for use of the submarines, 460-463; operational command structure, 479-480; Operational Development Force had a limited role in the testing of, 481-482; selection of bases, 489-490; security of classified information, 492-495; selection of commanding officers, 496-498

Polio

Suffered by a crewman in the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 293-295

Portsmouth, USS (CL-102)

Inactivation and decommissioning of the ship at Philadelphia in 1949, 243-244

Pride, Ensign Lewis Bailey, Jr., USN (USNA, 1941)

Served as an officer of the Naval Academy class of 1941 until killed at Pearl Harbor, 43; actions of on board the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 97-101

Prisoners of War

Some of Commander William Spears's actions as skipper of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s may have been influenced by the fact that he was a Japanese prisoner in World War II, 270-272

Promotion of Officers

The Naval Academy class of 1941 came up for selection for the rank of commander in the early 1950s, 263-267; Backus was passed over for captain in 1958 and 1959, 482-484, 504-505

Prostitution

Practiced in France in the late 1930s, 28; in the late 1940s, a prostitute nicknamed "Fargo Annie" worked on board the light cruiser Fargo (CL-106) at Naples and produced disciplinary problems for crew members, 227-229

Proximity Fuzes

In the mid-1950s the British claimed, apparently incorrectly, that they could jam U.S. proximity fuzes, 358-359

Raborn, Rear Admiral William F., Jr., USN (USNA, 1928)

Work on the Polaris development program while serving as head of the Office of Special Projects in the late 1950s, 369, 381, 386-388, 400-402; studied the feasibility of putting Minuteman ballistic missiles in surface ships, 410-413; limited involvement in development of communications for Polaris submarines, 454-456, 460; did an excellent job of selling the Polaris program to Congress, 469-471; objected to the officer named as Backus's relief in the early 1960s, 485

Racial Discrimination

Naval Academy Midshipman George Trivers lasted only a few weeks as a plebe in 1937, 21-22

Radar

Use of by the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) after she had been damaged off Guadalcanal in November 1942, 150-153; upgrades to equipment in the South Dakota in 1943, 165; fire control capability in the South Dakota in 1943, 174-175; the Dutch firm Signaal Apparaten produced a radar antenna in the 1950s that was superior to the U.S. counterpart, 361

Radio

Clearance of radio frequencies in the late 1950s to permit the startup of the Loran C navigation system, 442; development in the late 1950s of systems for communicating with Polaris submarines, 453-459

Rand Corporation

Analytical work done for the Air Force by this think tank in the late 1950s, 371, 378, 468, 475-477

Rawlings, Commander Frank T., Jr., USN (USNA, 1945)

Involved in the targeting of nuclear weapons in the late 1950s, 435

Ray, Ensign James H., USN (USNA, 1938)

Served as a junior officer in the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in the early 1940s, 57, 67; died in August 1942, 61; had an attractive wife with one hand, 67

Regulus Missile

Was killed by CNO Arleigh Burke in the 1950s in order to fund the Polaris program, 408-410, 434-435

Reina Mercedes, USS (IX-25)

In the late 1930s, midshipmen were punished by being confined on board this former Spanish cruiser that served as the Naval Academy's brig, 18-19

Rescue

A number of survivors were pulled out of the water at Pearl Harbor following the Japanese attack in December 1941, 106-109

Research and Development

Bureau of Ordnance ballistics research projects in the late 1940s and early 1950s, 248-250; testing in 1951 of underwater rockets, 252-256, 400; development and testing in the late 1940s and early 1950s of Weapon Able for use against submarines, 256-260; work on torpedoes in the late 1940s and early 1950s by the Bureau of Ordnance Hydro-ballistics Committee, 260-261; the crew of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) was involved in antisubmarine warfare team training research in the early 1950s, 281-283; development work in the 1950s on solid propellants for ballistic missiles, 370; NATO service chiefs made a tour of U.S. research and development facilities in the mid-1950s, 372-376; in 1948 Lieutenant Robert Truax proposed that the Navy develop a ballistic missile, 424-425; after the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, OpNav had put together a report on what it had done in the satellite field over the years and to recommend a development program, 424-426; successful satellite program, 427-428; formation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency in the late 1950s as an outgrowth of efforts in the U.S. space program, 428-429; development of the Loran C navigation system in the late 1950s, 437-444, 449-450; development in the late 1950s of systems for communicating with Polaris submarines, 453-459

Reserve Fleet

Inactivation and decommissioning of the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) at Philadelphia in 1949, 243-248

Ricketts, Rear Admiral Claude V., USN (USNA, 1929)

While in OP-06 in the late 1950s, had a role in negotiations with the British for basing of Polaris submarines, 453

Rickover, Rear Admiral Hyman G., USN (USNA, 1922)

Attempts in the late 1950s to influence the design of Polaris-armed nuclear submarines, 415-418, 498-499; role in selecting and training two crews per submarine, 418-419; in the early 1950s writer Clay Blair, Jr., mounted a publicity campaign on behalf of flag rank for Rickover, 471-472; selection of submarine commanding officers, 497-498; Trident submarines became too large because of Rickover's influence, 499

Riggs, Captain Ralph S., USN (USNA, 1918)

Did a fine job as commanding officer of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1944, 206-208

Rivers, Representative L. Mendel

South Carolina congressman who did not have an influence in the selection around 1960 of Charleston as the East Coast base for Polaris submarines, 490-491

Rockets

Bureau of Ordnance test program in 1951 of using underwater-fired rockets as weapons for submarines, 252-256, 400; U.S. attempts to put an artificial earth satellite into space during the International Geophysical Year in the late 1950s, 420-428

Rodriguez, Ensign Richard, USNR

As a junior officer in the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 90, 107-108

Rohow, Commander Fred M., Medical Corps, USN

As senior medical officer in the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37), he abandoned ship when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 107

Rommel, Ensign Herbert F., Jr, USNR

While serving as officer of the deck for the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37), used profanity over the general announcing system to let the crew know that the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was the real thing, 98

Rowney, Ensign James V., USN (USNA, 1941)

Was on board the carrier Enterprise (CV-6) during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942, 142

Royal Navy

Combined U.S. and British naval operations out of Scapa Flow in the Orkneys in 1943, 170-178; provided a warm reception for U.S. naval attachés in Britain in the mid-1950s, 333, 356-357; allowed the Soviets to photograph a U.S. torpedo during testing in Britain in the mid-1950s, 336-338; retired Commander Lionel Crabb was apparently killed while making an intelligence dive on a Soviet cruiser in 1956, 338-339; great concern on the part of Royal Navy officers when Backus learned in the mid-1950s about British problems getting nuclear warheads from the United States, 353-356; relationships with the U.S. Navy on Polaris development around 1960, 449-453

Rumble, Captain Henry P., USN, USNA, 1933)

As an assistant naval attaché in Britain in 1956, helped Backus collect intelligence against the Soviets, 341

Russell, Admiral James S., USN (USNA, 1926)

As Vice Chief of Naval Operations in the late 1950s, had a role in connection with the development of the Polaris submarine program, 419-420

Sailing

At the Naval Academy in the late 1930s, 13

Saipan, Marianas Islands

Shore bombardment of the island by the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in June 1944, 196-197

Sanders Associates

New Hampshire defense contractor that developed--but was unable to sell to the Navy--a system to communicate distress situations on board Polaris submarines, 459-460

San Francisco, USS (CA-38)

Served as the target ship for a torpedo-firing exercise by the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in 1941, 62

Santa Cruz Islands, Battle of

The battleship South Dakota (BB-57) was damaged during this battle in October 1942, 136-138, 147; the South Dakota's score of enemy planes shot down in the battle, 141-142; the destroyer Smith (DD-378) was set afire by a Japanese plane during the battle, 142-144

Satellites

U.S. attempts to put an artificial earth satellite into space during the International Geophysical Year in the

late 1950s, 420-428; after the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, OpNav had put together a report on what it had done in the satellite field over the years and to recommend a development program, 424-426; in the late 1950s, the Naval Institute bought an article about satellites from Backus but never published it, 429

Scanland, Captain Francis Worth, Jr., USN (USNA, 1934)

Headed Ballistic Missiles Division when it was established in OpNav in 1956, 367, 396, 398, 402-403, 433; commanded Polaris missile facility in Charleston, 490

Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands

Combined U.S. and British naval operations out of Scapa Flow in 1943, 170-178

Scotland

Combined U.S. and British naval operations out of Scapa Flow in 1943, 170-178; the newly commissioned destroyer John Paul Jones (DD-932) visited Scotland, the birthplace of Jones, in the autumn of 1956, 352-353

Seasickness

Backus had problems while serving in the crew of the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in 1941, 58-60; Backus experienced one episode when he was commanding officer of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 269-270

Security

The Royal Navy inadvertently allowed the crew of a Soviet merchant ship to photograph a U.S. torpedo during testing in Britain in the mid-1950s, 336-338; great concern on the part of Royal Navy officers when Backus learned in the mid-1950s about British problems getting nuclear warheads from the United States, 353-356; classified information about the new Polaris submarines around 1960, 492-495; around 1960 the Air Force fed classified information about Polaris to a congressman in the Air Force Reserve, 493-494

Ship Handling

Captain E. J. Foy's skill minimized damage when the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) collided with the battleship Arizona (BB-39) in October 1941, 72-73; emphasis in the pre-World War II battle line on station keeping in formation, 78-81; Captain Arleigh Burke dominated the ship handling when he commanded the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1948, 239-241; Backus's initial efforts in conning the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in 1952, 273-275; handling of the Isherwood in difficult

weather around Newport, Rhode Island in the early 1950s, 283-285, 326-328; the Isherwood had trouble getting under way from anchorage at Oran, Algeria, in 1952, 292-293; Backus had a difficult ship-handling experience at Naples in the early 1950s, 313-315

Shore Bombardment

By the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) at the Marshalls and New Guinea in 1944, 191-193; role of plaster models in preparing gunners on board the South Dakota to bombard Saipan in 1944, 196-197; of Mille Atoll by the battleships Iowa (BB-61) and New Jersey (BB-62) in March 1944, 199-202; the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) practiced at Vieques in 1948, 236-237

Shriver, Lieutenant (j.g.) R. Sargent, Jr., USNR

Capable officer who served in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) during World War II, 162-163

Shutt, Commander Richard G., USN (USNA, 1941)

Role in the Office of Special Projects during the Polaris development program of the late 1950s, 381

Sides, Rear Admiral John H., USN (USNA, 1925)

Expressed the belief in the mid-1950s that the Navy should get into ballistic missiles, 365, 389-390

Signaal Apparaten, Hollandsee

Dutch firm that did impressive work in electronics in the 1950s, 360-362

Sims, Commander William E., USN (USNA, 1942)

Disappointed at the cancellation of his Regulus missile program in the late 1950s, 434-435

Simulators

The crew of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) was involved in antisubmarine warfare team training research in the early 1950s, 281-283

Sixth Fleet, U.S.

Questionable transit by the carrier Wasp (CV-18) in the Strait of Messina in 1953, 288-290; incident involving smuggling of cigarettes by the crew of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 303-305; destroyer screen operations in the 1950s, 306-309; the had a likely contact with a Soviet submarine in the early 1950s, 311-312; the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) had a successful torpedo exercise against a Sixth Fleet cruiser in the early 1950s, 321-322

Skybolt

Airborne nuclear weapons system that the British were interested in during the early 1960s, 451-453

Slack, Lieutenant Commander Leslie M., USN (USNA, 1934)

Put Backus on report in 1943 for reporting an achievement in connection with the gun turrets in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57), 180-182

Smith, Captain Allan E., USN (USNA, 1915)

As commanding officer of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1943-44, insisted on ship's force repairs to a damaged gun turret, 182-188; gave Backus a favorable fitness report in 1944, 208

Smith, Vice Admiral Harold Page, USN (USNA, 1924)

As Chief of Naval Personnel in the late 1950s, asked Backus to remain on active duty even after being passed over, 483-485

Smith, Captain Levering, USN (USNA, 1932)

After some initial reluctance, in the late 1950s developed Polaris A-1 missile with 1,200-mile range, 495-496; technical competence, 496

Smith, USS (DD-378)

Set afire by a Japanese plane during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942, 142-144

Softball

Played by the crew of the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in 1941, 87-88; played by the crews of the battleships South Dakota (BB-57) and Washington (BB-56) in World War II, 188

Sonar

Use of by Polaris submarines for navigation in the early 1960s, 436

South Africa, Union Of

Visit to Pietermaritzburg by the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1948, 233

South Dakota, USS (BB-57)

Members of the first crew, 14, 118-119; trip to Philadelphia for commissioning in March 1942, 117-118; trials and shakedown training in 1942, 120-121, 123-124, 128-129; no silver service from the state of South Dakota, 121; shipyard period at Philadelphia around the time of commissioning, 121-123; slight grounding, 123-124; leadership style of Captain Thomas Gatch, 123-126, 145-147; powerful effect of the 16-inch guns, 125-126;

officer of the deck training, 126-128; ran into a whale off Casco Bay, 129; Rear Admiral Willis Lee embarked in the summer of 1942 as division commander, 130; stop at Tongatabu in September 1942 included a grounding, 131-133; the ship's outfit of anti-aircraft guns was beefed up during a visit to Pearl Harbor in the fall of 1942, 134-135; during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942, 136-138, 141-145; damaged during night battle between Guadalcanal and Savo Island in November 1942, 141, 149, 153-155, 158-160, 164-165; living conditions for the ship's officers, 148-149; crewmen killed, 149, 158-159, 164-165; interaction with the battleship Washington (BB-56) following the battle off Savo Island, 150-153, 155-157; maneuvering of in the battle, 157-158; went to Brooklyn in 1943 for modernization and repair of battle damage, 162, 165, 169-170; reserve officers in the crew, 118-119, 136-137, 153, 162-167; off-ship training of crew members by General Electric, 165-167; cruise to Great Britain in 1943 and operations with the Royal Navy, 167-178; Rear Admiral Olaf Hustvedt ordered the crew to off-load a cargo of whiskey in 1943, 171-172; incident involving mail censorship in 1943, 180-182; ship's force repairs to a damaged turret, 182-188, 204-206; homosexual in the crew in World War II, 190-191; role of the ship during the Central Pacific campaign in 1943-44, 191-198, 203-204; checked in the spring of 1944 as a possible flagship for Admiral William Halsey, 197-198; religious executive officer dictated wardroom dietary practices, 207; in 1948 hypnosis helped cure a chief boatswain's mate who suffered recurring nightmares as a result of handling body parts on board the South Dakota in 1942, 246-247

Southerland, Captain Leonard B., USN (USNA, 1927)

As commanding officer of the carrier Lake Champlain (CVA-39) in early 1954, was inconsiderate about the needs of escorting destroyers, 330-331

Soviet Navy

The destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) had a likely contact with a Soviet submarine in the early 1950s, 311-312; maintained a sizable naval attaché presence in London in the mid-1950s, 334-335; retired Royal Navy Commander Lionel Crabb was apparently killed while making an intelligence dive on a Soviet cruiser in 1956, 338-339; Backus and others photographed a Sverdlov-class cruiser during her visit to Great Britain in 1956, 339-343; copied German fire control equipment in designing the Sverdlov-class cruisers, 343; harassment around 1960 of U.S. ships doing bottom-contour surveys for Polaris submarines, 447

Soviet Union

Individuals on board a Soviet merchant ship photographed a U.S. torpedo being tested by the British in the mid-1950s, 336-337; after the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, OpNav had put together a report on what it had done in the satellite field over the years and to recommend a development program, 424-426

Space

U.S. attempts to put an artificial earth satellite into space during the International Geophysical Year in the late 1950s, 420-428; after the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, OpNav had put together a report on what it had done in the satellite field over the years and to recommend a development program, 424-426; in the late 1950s, the Naval Institute bought an article about satellites from Backus but never published it, 429

Spears, Commander William O., Jr., USN (USNA, 1938)

Former prisoner of the Japanese who commanded the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in the early 1950s, 270-272

Special Projects, Office of

Established in 1956 to guide the Navy's newly established ballistic missile program, 367-368; Bill Hasler as first director, 368-369; cooperation with the Navy Ballistic Missile Committee, 381-382; sought the lion's share of the credit for the success of Polaris, 382-383, 486-487; function of the steering task group within Special Projects, 391-392; role in the development of systems to facilitate underwater navigation by Polaris submarines, 437-441, 445; relations with the British, 450; involvement in development of communications for Polaris submarines, 454-456; unsuccessful attempt to get some potentially revealing photographs released, 492-493

Sperry Corporation

Declined to invest in the development of the Loran C navigation system in the late 1950s, 448

Spruance, Admiral Raymond A., USN (USNA, 1907)

Role in the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944, 195

Stassen, Commander Harold E., USNR

Staff officer who went aboard the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in the spring of 1944 to ascertain its suitability as a flagship for Admiral William F. Halsey, 197-198

State Department

Role in getting the Loran C navigation system accepted by various nations in the late 1950s, 441-444; role in negotiations for basing of Polaris submarines in Scotland, 452-453; received Navy briefings in the late 1950s on the strategic concepts for use of the Polaris submarines, 462-463

Stevens, Captain Harold R., USN (USNA, 1922)

Commanded the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1948-49, 242-244

Stillman, Commander Carl F., USN (USNA, 1927)

Religious individual who served as executive officer of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in World War II, 207

Strategy

Backus took Naval War College correspondence courses on strategy in the early 1950s, 261-263; development in the late 1950s of the strategic concept for use of the Polaris submarines, 460-463

Strong, USS (DD-467)

Crew members had to swim away to avoid being injured after this destroyer was torpedoed in the Solomons in July 1943, 50-51

Submarine Squadron 14

Role in the development of the Polaris program in the late 1950s, 430-431

Surveying

The Navy conducted bottom surveys around 1960 to facilitate underwater navigation by Polaris submarines, 435-448

Sverdlov-Class Cruisers (Soviet)

Retired Royal Navy Commander Lionel Crabb was apparently killed while making an intelligence dive on a Soviet cruiser in 1956, 338-339; Backus and others photographed a Sverdlov-class cruiser during her visit to Great Britain in 1956, 339-343; the Soviets copied German fire control equipment in designing the Sverdlov-class cruisers, 343

Systems Analysis

A Lockheed employee named F. Dorne Barkley began applying systems analysis to the Polaris program in the late 1950s, 463-465

Taylor, Commander Edwin J., Jr., USN (USNA, 1924)

Big man who became the executive officer of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in the summer of 1943, 140

Thebaud, Commander Leo Hewlett, USN (USNA, 1913)

Wise, understanding individual who served as executive officer of the Naval Academy in the late 1930s, 20, 36-40, 44, 52-53

Thompson, Commander Raymond W., Jr., USN (USNA, 1933)

In 1942 moved from the ship's company of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) to the staff of the embarked division commander, Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee, 130; while in command of Destroyer Division 42 in the early 1950s, was quite praiseworthy of Backus and the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520), 315-316

Thresher (SSN-593)-Class Submarines

Early ships of the class were built simultaneously with the early Polaris submarines around 1960-61, 416-417

Tongatabu, Friendly Islands

The battleship South Dakota (BB-57) ran aground on a coral head during a brief visit in September 1942, 131-133

Torpedoes

Firing exercises in the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in 1941, 61-63; effects on the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, 101-102, 113; as threat to the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in World War II, 149-150; work on torpedoes in the late 1940s and early 1950s by the Bureau of Ordnance Hydro-ballistics Committee, 260-261; the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) had a successful torpedo exercise against a Sixth Fleet cruiser in the early 1950s, 321-322; the Royal Navy inadvertently allowed the Soviets to photograph a U.S. torpedo during testing in Britain in the mid-1950s, 336-338

Training

Naval Academy summer training cruises in the late 1930s, 27-32, 34-35; brief flight training for midshipmen in the summer of 1939, 33; torpedo-firing exercises in the destroyer Jarvis (DD-393) in 1941, 61-63; shakedown cruise for the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) in 1942, 120-124; officer of the deck training in the South Dakota, 126-128; General Electric training of South Dakota crew members in 1943, 165-167; cruise for naval reservists on board the light cruiser Huntington (CL-107) in 1949, 242-243; ASW training at Key West in the early

1950s, 267; the crew of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) took refresher training at Guantanamo in early 1952, 276-279; the crew of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) was involved in antisubmarine warfare team training research in the early 1950s, 281-283; the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) had a successful torpedo exercise against a Sixth Fleet cruiser in the early 1950s, 321-322

Trident Submarines

Became too large because of Admiral Hyman Rickover's influence, 499

Trivers, Midshipman George J., USN

This black plebe lasted only a few weeks at the Naval Academy in 1937, 21-22

Truax, Lieutenant Robert C., USN (USNA, 1939)

In 1948 proposed that the Navy develop a ballistic missile, 424-425

Turkey

A Turkish technical officer reacted poorly to a perceived slight during a NATO tour of U.S. research and development facilities in the mid-1950s, 373-375

Turrets

Damage to two of the 16-inch guns of turret two in the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) made them questionable for use in battle in November 1942, 147-148, 160-161; General Electric equipment used in the turrets of the South Dakota in 1943, 166; dirty turrets in the British battleship Duke of York in 1943, 175-176; installation of General Electric receiver-regulators in battleship turrets in 1943, 180-182, 204-206; ship's force repairs to a turret jammed in train on board the South Dakota, 182-188; in the mid-1940s Backus wrote a graduate thesis on 8-inch/55 turrets, 213-214; firing of the 8-inch turret, 214-215

Uehlinger, Commander Archibald E., USN (USNA, 1922)

Served as executive officer and temporary skipper of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) during the autumn of 1942, 139-141

Uniforms-Naval

Various uniforms used in the fleet in 1941-42, 91-93

Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, Pennsylvania

Founded in the 1920s, this school was strong in military drill and athletics, 2-6; hazing, 15

Vanguard Rockets

U.S. attempts to put an artificial earth satellite into space during the International Geophysical Year in the late 1950s, 420-428

Vasey, Commander Lloyd R., USN (USNA, 1939)

As an officer assigned to OP-605 in the late 1950s, he was involved with the planning for the Polaris system, 415, 472

Venezuela

Visited by the Naval Academy training squadron in the summer of 1940, 34

Visual Signaling

The battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) had a crackerjack signal gang in 1941, 69-70; used at night by the Oklahoma during maneuvers in October 1941, 72, 74-76

Volonte, Commander Joseph E., USN (USNA, 1943)

Worked with Backus in the late 1950s on ballistic missiles and the role of the Navy in space, 367, 378-379, 424, 428-429, 433

Vossler, Captain Francis A. L., USN (USNA, 1907)

As the Naval Academy's commandant of midshipmen in 1940, was incensed by kissing that took place at the annual ring dance, 46-47

Wakelin, James H., Jr.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy who presented a letter of commendation to Backus in the late 1950s, 483

Ward, Captain Norvell G., USN (USNA, 1935)

Role in the development of the Polaris program in the late 1950s, 430-431

Washington, USS (BB-56)

Was briefly mistaken for a German warship in 1942 by the crew of the battleship South Dakota (BB-57), 128-129; interaction with the South Dakota following the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal in November 1942, 150-153, 155-157

Wasp, USS (CV-18)

Aircraft carrier that collided with with the destroyer minesweeper Hobson (DMS-26) resulting in sinking of Hobson in April 1952, 286-288; poorly handled by her conning officer in the Strait of Messina in 1953, 288-290

Weapon Able/Alfa

Development and testing of this antisubmarine weapon in the late 1940s and early 1950s, 256-260

Weather

In 1938 some Naval Academy midshipmen were punished for returning late because of a hurricane, 30; the cruiser Augusta (CA-31) and battleship South Dakota (BB-57) steamed to Newfoundland in heavy fog in 1943, 167-169; handling of the destroyer Isherwood (DD-520) in difficult weather around Newport, Rhode Island, in the early 1950s, 283-285, 326-328

Wertheimer, Albert

Skilled civilian who served as a senior technical adviser for the Bureau of Ordnance in the late 1940s and early 1950s, 251-254

Whales

During her shakedown training in 1942, the battleship South Dakota (BB-57) ran into a whale and sawed it in half, 128

Williams, Ensign William H., USN (USNA, 1939)

Had to give up his job as signal officer of the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in 1941 because he failed a physical exam, 69-70

Wood, Lieutenant Commander Hunter, Jr., USN (USNA, 1925)

Did a fine job of maneuvering the destroyer Smith (DD-378) after she was set afire by a Japanese plane during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942, 142-144

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts

Helpful attitude provided useful technical solutions to the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance during weapons testing in the early 1950s, 259-260

Wyoming, USS (AG-17)

Made a midshipman training cruise to Europe in the summer of 1938, 27-28; the Naval Academy football team practiced on board ship during the summer cruise, 28-29; scarcity of fresh water, 31-32

Zvansky, Chief Signalman Thomas, USN

Demonstrated excellent leadership as head of the signal gang of the battleship Oklahoma (BB-37) in 1941, 81-82; killed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, 113