

**Index to the Oral History of
Admiral Harold Page Smith, U.S. Navy (Retired)**

Alcohol

Drinking by crew members of the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 100-101, 112

Antiair Warfare

By ships of Destroyer Squadron Four with the British Eastern Fleet in 1944, 12, 103-104

By ships of Destroyer Squadron Four at Iwo Jima in 1945, 11

The battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) used drones in 1949-50 for antiaircraft target practice, 74

***Arizona*, USS (BB-39)**

Enlisted men in the crew in the late 1920s, 73, 81-82, 87, 111-112

Gunnery setup in the late 1920s, 78-79, 81, 87-93, 116

Operations in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Atlantic in the late 1920s, 78-81, 87-93, 96, 104-120

Ship handling in the late 1920s, 82-83

Recreation, including sports, in the late 1920s, 86-87, 111

Pet dogs, 88-89

Spotter planes used by the ship in the 1920s, 93-95, 111-112

Ship's boats, 81-82, 98

Torpedo practice in the late 1920s, 101-102

Extended overhaul and modernization at Norfolk Navy Yard, 1929-31, 81-84, 96-97, 115

Arliss, Captain Stephen H. T., Royal Navy

Operations in the British Eastern Fleet in early 1944, 12

Blandy, Admiral William H. P., USN (USNA, 1913)

In the early 1940s was Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, 38

As Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet, spent time on board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949, 38-39

Brown, Captain William D., USN (USNA, 1924)

Commanding officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) when she ran aground in January 1950, 29-31, 62

Budgetary Issues

Disposal of spare ships and torpedoes in the 1950s and 1960s to save money for the Navy, 102

Burke, Admiral Arleigh A., USN (USNA, 1923)

Served on board the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) and fleet auxiliary *Procyon* (AG-11) as a junior officer in the 1920s, 78, 113

Byrd, Senator Harry F.

Visited the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the Caribbean in early 1950, 27-28

California, USS (BB-44)

Scrapped in the 1950s to save money for the Navy, 103

Caloosahatchee, USS (AO-98)

Refueling of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949, 7, 20

Ceylon

Visited by ships of Destroyer Squadron Four in 1944, 12-13

Cherbourg, France

In August 1949 the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) anchored in the port during a midshipman training cruise, 17-25

Coffin, Ensign Clarence E. Jr., USN (USNA, 1927)

On the rifle team of the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 88

Commercial Ships

The British liners *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Mary* vied for space in Cherbourg, France, with the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in August 1949, 24-25

Congress, U.S.

Senators and representatives visited the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the Caribbean in early 1950, 27-28

Corman, Lieutenant Harry, USN (USNA, 1920)

Duty in a destroyer off the coast of Turkey in the early 1920s, 79

Served in the late 1920s in the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39), 79

Crosley, Captain Walter S., USN (USNA, 1893)

Commanded the battleship *Idaho* (BB-42) in the mid-1920s, 98-99

Cummings, USS (DD-365)

In August 1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt rode the ship from Alaska to the state of Washington, 32-33

Dennison, Captain Robert L., USN (USNA, 1923)

In the late 1940s served as President Harry S. Truman's naval aide, 4

Destroyer Squadron Four

Operations with the British Eastern Fleet in early 1944, 11-13

In August 1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt rode the destroyer *Cummings* (DD-365) from Alaska to the state of Washington, 32-33

As part of Task Group 38.1 during the October 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf, 52-53

At Iwo Jima in early 1945, 11

Disciplinary Matters

Captain's mast on board the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 81-82

Shortly before World War II, Smith suspended an officer who was late in returning to the destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224), 99

Black newspaper reporters who rode the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the summer in 1949 concluded that black sailors were treated fairly, despite a captain's mast for fighting, 23-24

Men of the *Missouri's* Marine detachment were taken to mast in 1950 for misbehavior ashore, 59-61

Drones

Used by the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949-50 for antiaircraft target practice, 74

Duke, Captain Irving T., USN (USNA, 1924)

Commanded the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1950-51, 35-36, 75-76

Duncan, Admiral Donald B., USN (USNA, 1917)

As Vice Chief of Naval Operations in 1951, had a hand in arranging Smith's first assignment as a flag officer, 69-70

Dunlap, USS (DD-384)

In early 1944 operated with the British Eastern Fleet, 11-12, 48, 95

In August 1944 escorted President Franklin D. Roosevelt during a voyage from Alaska to the state of Washington, 32-33

Gunfire support of the U.S. invasion of Iwo Jima in early 1945, 48, 95-96

Edwards, Rear Admiral Richard S., USN (USNA, 1907)

Known for his loud voice, he served in World War II as deputy chief of staff to CominCh, 42-43

Enlisted Personnel

In the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 73, 81-82, 87, 111-112

Black newspaper reporters who rode the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the summer in 1949 concluded that black sailors were treated fairly, despite a captain's mast for fighting, 23-24

Men of the *Missouri's* Marine detachment were taken to mast in 1950 for misbehavior ashore, 59-61

The *Missouri's* crew was capable but not handpicked, 67-68, 112-113

Fahrion, Rear Admiral Frank G., USN (USNA, 1917)

Served 1950-52 as Commander Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet, 69

Fanning, USS (DD-385)

Gunfire support of the U.S. invasion of Iwo Jima in early 1945, 96

Farragut, USS (DD-348)

Underway replenishment experiments in the mid-1930s, 109-110

Fechteler, Admiral William M., USN (USNA, 1916)

In 1942 served in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, 41-42

As Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet in 1950, was involved with the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) after she had run aground and then been refloated, 30, 40-41

Flanigan, Captain Howard A., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1910)

In the late 1920s was gunnery officer of the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39), 77-79

Served in London during World War II, 77

France

In August 1949 the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) visited Cherbourg during a midshipman training cruise, 17-25

Fraser, Admiral Sir Bruce, Royal Navy

Was on board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) for the Japanese surrender in 1945 and visited again in England in 1949, 21-22

Frucht, Captain Max Mike, USN

Commanded the fleet auxiliary *Procyon* (AG-11) in the mid-1920s, 123

Great Britain

In June 1949 the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) hosted British visitors in Portsmouth, England, during a midshipman training cruise, 17-22

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

In 1942 Admiral Ernest J. King pushed for a U.S. offensive at Guadalcanal, 43-44

Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, Naval Base

Intermediate stop for the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in 1929 on her way to Norfolk for modernization, 81-82

Training site for the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) during operations in 1949-50, 8, 27, 37, 40, 46-47, 120

Gunnery-Naval

By the 14-inch turrets of the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 78-79, 87-93, 116

Arizona's saluting battery in the late 1920s, 81

In the battleship *Nevada* (BB-36), 1929-31, 83
Star shell duel between the destroyer *Dunlap* (DD-348) and ships of the British East Fleet in 1944, 47-48
Antiaircraft firing by ships of Destroyer Squadron Four in 1944-45, 11-12, 103-104
Gunfire support of the U.S. invasion of Iwo Jima in early 1945, 48-49, 95-96
Shore bombardment practice by the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949-50 at Vieques, 10, 27-28
Drones were used by the *Missouri* in 1949-50 for antiaircraft target practice, 74
Missouri's shooting during the Korean War in the early 1950s, 68

HO3S

Sikorsky helicopter was used in a utility role by the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) during 1949 operations, 22-23

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

Role as Commander Third Fleet during the October 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf, 52-53
Funeral in Washington, D.C., on 20 August 1959, 50-52

Harbor Pilots

Role in guiding the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949-50, 62-65

Hart, Admiral Thomas C., USN (USNA, 1897)

As Commander in Chief Asiatic Fleet, inspected the destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224) in 1940, 56-57

Hawaii

Operations by the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the vicinity in 1928, 117-118

Helicopters

The Sikorsky HO3S was used in a utility role by the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) during 1949 operations, 22-23

Honolulu, Hawaii

The battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) anchored there in 1928, unable to go into Pearl Harbor, 117-119

Idaho, USS (BB-42)

Operation of the ship's boats in the mid-1920s, 98-99

Iowa, USS (BB-61)

Turret explosion on board in April 1989, 89-90, 116

Iwo Jima, Bonin Islands

Naval gunfire support of the U.S. invasion in early 1945, 11, 48-49, 95-96

Johnson, Rear Admiral Felix L., USN (USNA, 1920)

As Commander Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet in 1948, asked Smith to be his chief of staff, 1-2

Kimberly, Captain Victor A., USN (USNA, 1899)

Commanded the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) from June to September 1928, 80

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

Actions as Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet (CominCh) in 1942-43, 41-46

Kraker, Lieutenant George Patton, USN (USNA, 1920)

Served in the late 1920s as plotting room officer in the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39), 78

Leadership

Smith's style as commanding officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949-50, 27-29, 73-75

Leave and Liberty

For American midshipmen visiting England in the summer of 1949, 21

Leyte Gulf, Battle of

Role of Admiral William F. Halsey, Commander Third Fleet, during the October 1944 battle, 52-53

Longfellow, Lieutenant (junior grade) William J., USN (USNA, 1924)

Served as a turret officer in the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 78

Marine Corps, U.S.

Detachment on board the battleship *Nevada* (BB-36) in 1929, 97-98

Men of the Marine detachment of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) were taken to mast in 1950 for misbehavior ashore, 59-61

Marshall, General of the Army George C., USA

Role in strategic planning for the 1944 invasion of Normandy, 44-45

Died in October 1959, 50

Marvell, Rear Admiral George R., USN (USNA, 1889)

Commanded the Fleet Base Force in the mid-1920s, 123-124

Matthews, Francis P.

As Secretary of the Navy in late 1950, arranged for Smith to become Deputy Chief of Information, 69

Medical Problems

While commanding the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949-50 Smith experienced pain from his sciatic nerve, 31-32

Mendenhall, Captain William K. Jr., USN (USNA, 1923)

Served as chief of staff to Commander Cruiser Force Atlantic Fleet during a midshipman cruise in 1949, 17, 20, 58

Millett, Commander John R., USN (USNA, 1936)

Operations officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) at the time of her grounding in January 1950, 37

***Missouri*, USS (BB-63)**

In late 1948 Smith learned he would be commanding the ship, 1-2

Outward appearance in 1949 was marred by poor quality paint, 2-3, 13-14, 22, 58-59

By the late 1940s the size of the crew was well below World War II level, 2-4, 8-9, 36

Ship-handling qualities in 1949-50, 5-8, 28-29, 37, 63-65, 120

Operations in the Atlantic in 1949-50, 5-11, 14-15, 27-31, 39-40, 46-49, 54-55, 62-63, 66, 72, 74

Use of floatplanes and helicopters in 1949, 14-15, 22-23

Midshipman cruises in the summer of 1949, 15-26, 34, 57-58, 63-64, 75

Black newspaper reporters who rode the ship in the summer in 1949 concluded that black sailors were treated fairly, despite a captain's mast for fighting, 23-24

Enlisted personnel in the crew in 1949-50, 23-24, 59-61, 67-73, 112-113

Overhaul period at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in late 1949, 12-13, 64-65

Ran aground near Norfolk in January 1950 because of faulty navigation, 3, 6, 31, 34-37, 66-67

The grounding had no effect on the *Missouri*'s speed, 39-40

Gunnery in 1949-50, 10, 27-28, 47-48

Norfolk, Virginia, was the homeport for the ship in the late 1940s-early 1950s, 9-10, 54-57

Athletics among the ship's crew, 1949-50, 70-72

Shooting during the Korean War in the early 1950s, 68

Mountbatten, Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Louis, Royal Navy

As Supreme Allied Commander Southeast Asia in 1944, 12-13, 17, 45-46

As Britain's Chief of Defence Staff in the early 1960s, 12

Nash, Frank C.

Served 1953-54 as Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), 70

Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland

Summer cruises by midshipmen in the early 1920s, 5, 8

Naval Reserve, U.S.

Training of reservists on board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the late 1940s, 8-10

Navigation

Celestial navigation by the fleet auxiliary *Procyon* (AG-11) in the Caribbean in 1927, 123

In the crowded port of Cherbourg, France, in the summer of 1949, 24-25

The battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) ran aground near Norfolk in January 1950 because of faulty navigation, 3, 6, 31, 34-35

Nevada, USS (BB-36)

Went back into active service in 1929 after modernization at the Norfolk Navy Yard, 83-84, 97-98

News Media

Black newspaper reporters who rode the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the summer in 1949 concluded that black sailors were treated fairly, despite a captain's mast, 23-26

Coverage of the *Missouri* in early 1950, after she had been repaired following her grounding, 62

Nimitz, Fleet Admiral Chester W., USN (USNA, 1905)

In August 1959 attended the funeral of Fleet Admiral William Halsey in Washington, D.C., and asked consideration for promoting Admiral Raymond Spruance to five stars, 50-52

Norfolk, Virginia

Homeport for the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the late 1940s-early 1950s, 9-10, 54-56

Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia

Extended modernization period for the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39), 1929-31, 81-84, 96-97

Overhauled the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in late 1949, 13

Repairs to the *Missouri* in February 1950 after she ran aground, 62

Normandy, France

Strategic planning for the 1944 invasion of Normandy, 44-45

Orr, Commander Henry A., USN (USNA, 1905)

Commanded the fleet auxiliary *Procyon* (AG-11) in the mid-1920s, 123

Panama

The battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) visited Cristobal in the spring of 1949, 49

Parsons, Lieutenant Commander William Sterling, USN (USNA, 1922)

Served in the battleship *Idaho* (BB-42) in the mid-1920s, 122

Concern about fire control in *Farragut* (DD-348)-class destroyers in the mid-1920s, 122

Peckham, Commander George E., USN (USNA, 1931)

In 1949-50 served as executive officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63), 3, 25, 28, 34-35, 74

Planning

In 1942 Admiral Ernest J. King pushed for a U.S. offensive at Guadalcanal, 43-44

Strategic planning for the 1944 invasion of Normandy, 44-45

Portsmouth, England

In June 1949 the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) hosted British visitors during a midshipman training cruise, 17-20

***Procyon*, USS (AG-11)**

Operations in the mid-1920s, 84, 104, 122-124

Served as flagship for Commander Fleet Base Force in the 1920s, 104, 123

Promotion of Officers

In 1959, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Carl Vinson declined a request to promote Admiral Raymond Spruance to five stars, 50-51

Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington

Overhauled the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in 1928, 114-115

Quebec Conference

Issues at the Quadrant Conference in August 1943 involved the selection of Vice Admiral Louis Mountbatten as Supreme Commander Southeast Asia, 45-46

Racial Issues

Treatment of black sailors on board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949, 23-26

Refueling at Sea

Experiments involving the destroyer *Farragut* (DD-348) in the mid-1930s, 109-110

Ship handling during 1949 replenishment between the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) and the oiler *Caloosahatchee* (AO-98), 7, 20

Roosevelt, President Franklin D.

In August 1944 rode the destroyer *Cummings* (DD-365) from Alaska to the state of Washington, 32-33

Royal Navy

Operations of the British Eastern Fleet in early 1944, 11-12, 48, 95, 103-104

Ship Handling

On board the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 82-83

On board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949, 5-8, 28-29, 37, 63-64, 120

Smith, Rear Admiral Allan E., USN (USNA, 1915)

In the summer of 1949, as Commander Cruiser Force Atlantic Fleet, was embarked in the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63), 15, 19-20, 24, 57-58

Was involved in the aftermath of the grounding of the *Missouri* in early 1950, 30, 34-35

Smith, Admiral Harold Page, USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1924)

Wife Dee, 12-13, 17, 25-27, 54, 114, 117

As a Naval Academy midshipman in the early 1920s, 5, 8, 71

First commissioned service was in the battleship *Idaho* (BB-42) in 1924-25, 98, 122

Served in the crew of the fleet auxiliary *Procyon* (AG-11), 1925-28, 122-123

Served as division officer in the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in 1928-29, 73, 77-120

Service in the battleship *Nevada* (BB-36), 1929-31, 83-84

As gunnery officer in the destroyer *Farragut* (DD-348), 1934-37, 109-110

Commanded the destroyer *Stewart* (DD-224) from 1940 to 1942, 38, 56-57

Rode in a heroes' parade in New York City in 1942, 41-42

In 1942-43 served in the war plans section of the U.S. Fleet staff, 41-46, 77

Commanded Destroyer Squadron Four in 1944-45, 11-12, 32-33, 52-53, 95-96, 103-104

Commanded the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949-50, 1-41, 47-48, 53-68, 70-76

Served 1949-50 as chief of staff to Commander Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet, 69, 120-121

In 1950-51 was the Navy's Deputy Chief of Information, 69

Served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, 1951-53, 70

Served in the Office of the Comptroller of the Navy, 1955-56, 102

As Chief of Naval Personnel, 1958-60, 50-52

Served 1960-63 as Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe, 12

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

In August 1959 Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz asked consideration for promoting Admiral Spruance to five stars, 50-51

Stewart, USS (DD-224)

Activities in 1940-41, before the outset of World War II, 56-57, 99

Combat action around the Dutch East Indies in 1941-42, 38

Strategy

In 1942 Admiral Ernest J. King pushed for a U.S. offensive at Guadalcanal, 43-44

Strategic planning for the 1944 invasion of Normandy, 44-45

Swart, Captain Robert L., USN (USNA, 1924)

Supervised the overhaul of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in late 1949, 13

Tarrant, Vice Admiral William T., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1898)

Commanded the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) from 1927 to 1929, 80-81
After he retired, met with Smith in Washington, 79-80

Tennessee, USS BB-43)

Scrapped in the 1950s to save money for the Navy, 103

Thach, Captain James H. Jr., USN (1923)

Commanded the battleship *Missouri* BB-63) in 1948-49, 2-6

Torpedoes

Torpedo practice by the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in the late 1920s, 101
Disposal of spare torpedoes from the Navy inventory in the 1950s, 102

Training

Of Naval Reservists on board the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the late 1940s, 8-10
Midshipman cruises by the *Missouri* in the summer of 1949, 15-26
Training of the crew of the *Missouri* in early 1950 following the ship's grounding, 27-28, 47-48

Truman, President Harry S.

In late 1948 checked out Smith as potential commanding officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63), 4
The *Missouri* stayed in commission as long as he was President, 50, 68

Turkey

A U.S. destroyer off Smyrna was overrun by Greek refugees in the early 1920s, 79

Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

Target for shore bombardment practice by the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in 1949, 10
Site of joint training maneuvers in 1950, 27-28

Vinson, Representative Carl (Democrat-Georgia)

In 1959, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, declined a request to promote Admiral Raymond Spruance to five stars, 50-51

War Games

The battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) was involved in surface engagement games in the summer of 1949, 15-16

War Plans

In 1942 Admiral Ernest J. King pushed for a U.S. offensive at Guadalcanal, 43-44
Strategic planning for the 1944 invasion of Normandy, 44-45

Weather

In August 1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt rode the destroyer *Cummings* (DD-365) from Alaska to the state of Washington in rain and fog, 32-33

Willis, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Algernon, Royal Navy

In June 1949, as Commander in Chief Portsmouth, welcomed the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63), 18-20

Wooldridge, Rear Admiral Edmund T., USN (USNA, 1920)

Served in 1949-50 as Commander Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet, 29-30, 40, 69

Wortman, Captain Ward K., USN (USNA, 1900)

Commanded the battleship *Arizona* (BB-39) in 1928-29, 77, 79, 81-84, 119