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Reminiscences of
Admiral Alfred M. Pride
U.S. Navy (Retired)



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Strict disciplinarian as Navy flight instructor in 1917,
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Carney, Robert B. ("Mick"), Admiral, USN (USNA, 1916)

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Pride, Alfred Melville ("Mel"), Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Education prior to entering the Navy, pp. 1-4, 6, 8; family of, pp. 1-2, 6-7, 106-107; Navy experiences during the World War I period, pp. 7-16, 77; member of Atlantic Fleet Ship Plane Division shortly after World War I, pp. 17-26, 163-166; development of flight deck arresting gear while in the crew of the USS Langley (CV-1) in the early 1920s, pp. 27-36; the Langley's operations while Pride was a member of the crew in the early 1920s, pp. 37, 39-45, 53, 56-57, 61-63;

postgraduate education at Annapolis and MIT in the mid-1920s, pp. 46-47, 50-51; transfer from the reserve to the regular Navy in 1921, pp. 48-49; service in the USS Lexington (CV-2) when she was fitting out and first went into service in 1927, pp. 51-55, 57-61, 63-68, 72-74; as executive officer of the carrier Saratoga (CV-3) in 1941 and at the beginning of World War II, pp. 71-72, 120-124; aviation development work at the experimental division at Hampton Roads in the late 1920s and early 1930s, pp. 74-76, 79-85, 89-91; command of Fighting Squadron three in the early 1930s, pp. 86-89; as Navy working member of the Aeronautical Board in the 1930s, pp. 92-96; command of the Flight Test Division, Anacostia, in the mid-1930s, pp. 97-107, 167-169; duty on the fighter desk in the Bureau of Aeronautics in the mid-1930s, pp. 108-112; as air officer and Patrol Wing One staff officer on board the seaplane tender Wright (AV-1) in the late 1930s, pp. 112-117, 233-235; as commanding officer of the light carrier Belleau Wood (CVL-24) in 1943-1944, pp. 122, 125-134; command of all naval air stations in the Central Pacific in 1944-1945, pp. 134-136; command of air support units for U.S. Amphibious Forces Pacific in 1945, pp. 136-144; duty in the Office of Naval Material right after World War II pp. 144-145; as Commander Carrier Divisions Six and Four in 1946-1947, pp. 147-149, 151-61; duty as Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics from 1947-1951, pp. 161-162, 171-178, 180-189, 193-205; as the first Navy flag officer to fly a jet aircraft, pp. 219-220; as Commander Carrier Division Two in the Atlantic and Mediterranean in 1951-1952, pp. 205-209, 213-215; command of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland in 1951-1953, pp. 217-219; command of the Seventh Fleet from 1953 to 1955, pp. 144, 215-217, 221-231 as Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet from 1956 to 1959, pp. 231-233

Radar

Projected to be of little use in planned invasion of Japan towards the end of World War II, p. 140

Radio

Use of by naval aircraft to spot ships' gunfire in the 1920s, pp. 58-59; Red Chinese blanked out communications of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the mid-1950s, pp. 215-216

Reenlistments

Difficulty keeping men in the Navy right after World War II, pp. 160-161

Research and Development

See: Development-Aviation

Rochester, USS (CA-124)

Became flagship of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in early 1954 when the size of the fleet commander's staff was reduced, pp. 222-223

Rosendahl, Charles E., Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1914) Lighter-than-air advocate who was unhappy with lack of support from Pride in the late 1940s, p. 198

Royal Navy

Aircraft carrier arresting gear used in the early 1920s, pp. 29-32, 73; intelligence collection about the USS Langley (CV-1) in the 1920s, p. 68; British cruiser York sunk by Italian torpedoes at Suda Bay, Crete, in 1941, p. 157; development of aircraft carrier angled deck in the 1950s, p. 197

Saratoga, USS (CV-3)

Aircraft carrier commissioned in 1927 for fleet service, pp. 31, 36, 44-45, 57-60, 63-64, 66, 68-71; operations in 1941 and 1942, pp. 71-72, 120-124

Seaplanes

See: Flying Boats

Secretary of Defense

Now makes decisions which used to be settled at a much lower level in the military services, p. 188

Secretary of the Navy

Relationship with the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics in the 1940s and 1950s, pp. 171, 178-180

Seventh Fleet, U.S.

Operations in the Western Pacific between 1953 and 1955, pp. 144, 159, 215-216, 221-229; size of the staff cut in half when the fleet commander moved to a cruiser as flagship in 1954, pp. 222-223

Ship Design

Decisions concerning the tonnage of the aircraft carriers Lexington (CV-2) and Saratoga (CV-3) in the 1920s, pp. 69-71; carrier deck lighting experiments in the late 1920s, pp. 79-80

See Also: Arresting Gear

Shiphandling

Pride's experiences as commanding officer of the carrier Belleau Wood (CVL-24) in 1943-1944, pp. 122, 130, 132; comparison of characteristics of various carrier classes, pp. 151-152; Pride's experiences in battleships circa 1920, p. 164

Sikorsky, Igor

Helicopter developer who supplied a number of aircraft to the Navy over the years, pp. 199, 202

Sixth Fleet

Deployment to the Mediterranean of Carrier Divisions Six and Four in 1946-1947, pp. 147-149, 151-161; deployment to of Carrier Division Two in 1951-1952, pp. 206-210, 213-215, 217

Soviet Union

Trustworthiness of Soviets doubted by some U.S. officials towards the end of World War II, p. 147; U.S. concern over possible Soviet actions in Asia in the mid-1950s, pp. 214, 228-229

Specifications

Standardized in the 1930s for aircraft and aviation equipment by the U.S. Aeronautical Board, pp. 93-96; drawn up for Navy planes in the 1930s by the Bureau of Aeronautics, pp. 103-104, 108-110

Spotting of Naval Gunfire

See: Atlantic Fleet Ship Plane Division

State Department

Role in licensing aviation equipment for foreign sales in the 1930s, p. 95; concern with Seventh Fleet operations in the mid-1950s, p. 230

Stevens, Leslie C., Lieutenant Commander, CC, USN (USNA, 1919)

Naval constructor who suggested elimination of fore-and-aft arresting wires on aircraft carrier decks in the late 1920s, pp. 31, 73

Stump, Felix B., Admiral, USN (USNA, 1917)

As Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in the mid 1950s, he supported the work of Pride as Commander Seventh Fleet, p. 224

Surgery

Commander Morton D. Willcutts, MC, used a new surgical procedure in 1934 to save Pride's damaged leg rather than amputating it, pp. 167-168

Tachen Islands

Islands off the mainland of China which were evacuated in the mid-1950s because of Chinese Communist actions, pp. 224-226

Taiwan

Relationship of the people and government with the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the mid-1950s, pp. 215, 224-228, 230-231

Tate, Jackson R., Ensign, USN

A naval officer who became an aviator in the 1920s and had a peculiar faculty for telling the truth and making it sound like a lie, pp. 211-212

Testing of Aircraft

See: Experimental Division; Flight Test Section; Naval Air Test Center

Test Pilots

See: Flight Test Section

Texas, USS (BB-35)

Used in 1919 to test program of flying spotting planes from battleship turrets, pp. 19-20

Torpedoes

Damaged the USS Saratoga (CV-3) in an early 1942 attack, pp. 123-124; sank the British cruiser York at Suda Bay, Crete, in 1941, p. 157

Training

Pride's initial indoctrination in the Navy in 1917, followed by aviation training in Massachusetts and Florida, pp. 7-8, 11-15; Navy pilots trained with the Army Air Corps in 1919 to fly and land planes, pp. 17-18

Treaties

See: Disarmament Treaties-Naval

Turkey

Visits to by U.S. Sixth Fleet ships in the late 1940s, pp. 155-156.

Wright, USS (AV-1)

Seaplane tender which served the flying boats of Patrol Wing One in the late 1930s, pp. 112-116, 233-235

XO3U-6

See: O3U-6 (Corsair)

York, HMS

British cruiser sunk by Italian torpedoes at Suda Bay, Crete, in 1941, p. 157

