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The Reminiscences of  
Vice Admiral Thomas R. Weschler  
U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Volume I

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### **Halpine, Lieutenant commander Charles G., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1916)**

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A Saturday personnel inspection on board the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in 1942 led to the disappearance of a pair of Douglas Fairbanks's trousers, 73-74; the Atlantic Fleet Cruiser Force staff conducted inspections of various ships in the type command in the late 1940s-early 1950s, 181-183; the USS *Albany* (CA-123), slated to become flagship for the Atlantic Fleet Cruiser Force, received a tour de force inspection by Rear Admiral James L. Holloway in 1950, 189-190; conducted by Commander B. J. Semmes as Commander Destroyer Division 302 in the mid-1950s, 231-232

### **Intelligence**

Use of U.S. merchant ships in an intelligence-reporting network in the 1950s, 386-387

### **Iowa, USS (BB-61)**

Personality of Captain James L. Holloway when commanding the ship in World War II, 191

## **Italy**

Crew members from the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) visited the Italian Naval Academy at Livorno in 1948, 145-146

## **Italian Navy**

Crew members from the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) visited the Italian Naval Academy at Livorno in 1948, 145-146; in the late 1950s and early 1960s the cruiser *Giuseppe Garibaldi* was modernized to take missiles, 423

## **Japan**

Outlook of the local people when the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) operated out of Sasebo in late 1953, 219-220; visit to Tokyo by CNO Arleigh Burke in the late 1950s, 282-284

## **Japanese Army**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) ship served as bait to draw the fire of Japanese shore batteries during the U.S. invasion of Kwajalein in February 1944, 108-111

## **Japanese Navy**

Inflicted a serious defeat in the Battle of Savo Island in August 1942, sinking four Allied cruisers, 87-89; the submarine *I-19* torpedoed the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) on 15 September 1942, disabling her so badly she had to be sunk, 94-100; the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) was damaged by a Japanese kamikaze at Okinawa in April 1945, 115-116; Japanese naval officers had a high regard for U.S. CNO Arleigh Burke, 337

## **Joslin, Captain Royal K., USN (USNA, 1940)**

Had a fine career after taking postgraduate education in ordnance engineering right after World War II, 139

## **Juan Carlos, Prince**

Spanish prince who visited the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) when she was in Vigo, Spain, during a midshipman training cruise in the summer of 1958, 371-372

## **Juan Sebastian de Elcano**

Spanish yacht that was moored near the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) at Vigo, Spain, in the summer of 1958, 371-372

## **Kamikazes**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) was damaged by a Japanese kamikaze at Okinawa in April 1945, 115-116

## **Kelly, Richmond K. (USNA, 1921)**

Former naval officer who ran the marine department of the Tidewater Associated Oil Company in the 1930s, 36-37, 39-40

## **Kernodle, Commander Michael H., USN (USNA, 1921)**

Served as air officer of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) at the beginning of World War II, 50, 54

## **Kinney, Commander Sheldon H., USN (USNA, 1941)**

Visited the Long Island estate of businessman Bernard Baruch

in the late 1950s, 387-388

### **Korean War**

Role of the Atlantic Fleet Cruiser Force in supporting the war effort in the early 1950s, 198-200; the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) patrolled off Korea during the distribution of released prisoners of war following the armistice in July 1953, 217-218; some ship crew members seemed poorly motivated as the war wound down, 220-222; some of the destroyers that served off Korea came from the Atlantic Fleet, 224-225; the guided missile cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) participated in a May 1958 ceremony to select the unknown soldier of the war, 359-362, 379

### **Kwajalein, Marshall Islands**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) served as bait to draw the fire of Japanese shore batteries during the U.S. invasion of Kwajalein in February 1944, 108-111

### **Landing Signal Officers**

Lieutenant David McCampbell was a top-notch officer who served as LSO in the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) early in World War II, 53-54

### **Leave and Liberty**

Conditions for the crews of the ships in Destroyer Division 302 in Greece in December 1953, 232; opportunities limited in the Persian Gulf region in late 1953, 233; vacation trip in 1955 that Weschler and his family took to Erie, Pennsylvania, on leave, 300-301

### **Lee, Rear Admiral Fitzhugh, USN (USNA, 1926)**

Sent a friendly greeting when Arleigh Burke was chosen as CNO in 1955, 267; helped develop a tobacco humidor for Burke to give away as a memento, 307-308

### **Lehman, John F., Jr.**

As Secretary of the Navy in the 1980s, sought to have too much control over personnel assignments, 351

### **Leonard, Captain Robert C., USN (USNA, 1932)**

Did a poor job of communicating with subordinates while serving as executive officer of the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) in the late 1940s, 154-155

### **Lewis, Lieutenant William E., USN (USNA, 1936)**

Had a fire-control radar watch on board the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) when she collided with the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) in March 1942, 65, 69-70

### **Libby, Vice Admiral Ruthven E., USN (USNA, 1922)**

Sharp individual who served as OP-06 in the late 1950s, 301

### **Logistics**

Studied at the Naval War College in the early 1950s, 206-207



**Long Beach, USS (CG-9)**

Cruiser that was fitted to accommodate Polaris missiles in the early 1960s but received none on board, 423

**Macon, USS (CA-132)**

Visit to New Orleans in early 1947, 142; role as a test platform for the Operational Development Force in the late 1940s, 144-150; installation of a helicopter landing platform on the stern in 1947, 144-145, 197; midshipman cruise to the Mediterranean in 1948, 144-147; Captain Olin Scoggins as commanding officer, 1948-49, 147-148, 165; switched crews between 8-inch and 5-inch guns to have enough men to hold competitive drills in the late 1940s, 150-152; crew morale, 153; administrative side of the gunnery department was run smoothly, 164-165

**Maintenance**

Thorough testing of Polaris guidance systems in the late 1950s by General Electric to minimize the need for shipboard maintenance and repair, 413-415

**Malta**

Mediterranean island to which the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) delivered British planes in 1942, 80-81

**Marine Corps, U.S.**

The aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) supported the Marine landing in Iceland in 1941, 45-47; the men of the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) had it much easier than their Marine Corps counterparts ashore during the invasion of Tarawa in November 1943, 107-108; invasion of Kwajalein in February 1944, 109; role of naval shore bombardment in support of amphibious operations in the early 1950s, 195-198; Admiral Arleigh Burke, CNO in the late 1950s, knew a lot of Marines, 260-261; made a point of sending a representative to greet high-ranking Marines on tour, 263; Marine detachment on board the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the late 1950s, 379, 381

**Mark 4 Fire Control Radar**

Replacement of the Mark 4 fire control radar with the Mark 12 when the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) underwent a brief repair period at Pearl Harbor in the middle of World War II, 106-107

**Mark 12 Fire Control Radar**

Replacement of the Mark 4 fire control radar with the Mark 12 when the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) underwent a brief repair period at Pearl Harbor in the middle of World War II, 106-107

**Mark 37 Director**

Replacement of the director's Mark 4 fire control radar with the Mark 12 when the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) underwent a brief repair period at Pearl Harbor in the middle of World War II, 106-107

**Mark 63 Director**

Tested on board the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) in the late

1940s, 149-150

### **Marshall Islands**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) ship served as bait to draw the fire of Japanese shore batteries during the U.S. invasion of Kwajalein in February 1944, 108-111

### **Martinique**

The aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) kept the French carrier *Bearn* bottled up in Martinique when the United States entered war in 1941, 47

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Provided postgraduate course in ordnance engineering to a small group of naval officers in 1945-46, 128-140; Dr. C. Stark Draper was an outstanding professor on the faculty in the mid-1940s, 130, 135-137; early use of computers, 131; contribution to the development of the Polaris guidance system in the late 1950s, 392, 394, 399-400

### **McCain, Captain John S., Jr., USN (USNA, 1931)**

While working in OpNav in the mid-1950s received a facetious award for exceeding his authority, 273-275; vision of U.S. role in the Indian Ocean, 311

### **McCampbell, Lieutenant David, USN (USNA, 1933)**

Top-notch naval aviator who served as landing signal officer in the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) early in World War II, 53-54

### **McDaniel, Captain Eugene F., USN (USNA, 1927)**

Did an excellent job running the command and staff course at the Naval War College in the early 1950s, 201-202

### **McMullen, Ensign John J., USN (USNA, 1940)**

Served as officer of the deck of the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) when she collided with the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in March 1942, 70; post-Navy career, 72

### **Media**

See News Media

### **Medical Problems**

A number of men in the Naval Academy class of 1939 graduated but were not commissioned because they did not meet vision standards, 24-25, 30-32; Weschler's vision had improved considerably when he was retested in 1941, 41; as CNO in the mid-1950s, Admiral Arleigh Burke showed little concern for his health, 338-340

### **Mediterranean Sea**

The heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) made a midshipman training cruise to the Mediterranean in 1948, 144-147; some Royal Navy ships were operating in the area in 1948, 146; fewer British ships by the mid-1950s, 235

See also Sixth Fleet, U.S.

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

Served as chief of staff to Commander Cruisers Atlantic Fleet in the late 1940s, 165-166, 177-178

**Merchant Marine**

Several members of the Naval Academy class of 1939 went into the commercial maritime industry because they were unable to pass the physical exam at the time of graduation, 24-25, 32-33; hostility toward the Navy in the 1930s and 1940s, 32-33; operations of the Tidewater Associated Oil Company in the late 1930s and early 1940s, 33-38; comparison of watch standing with that in Navy ships, 37-38; recruiting of new employees in 1939, 39-40; use of U.S. merchant ships in an intelligence-reporting network, 386-387

**Middle East Force, U.S.**

Received a visit from the transiting ships of Destroyer Division 302 in late 1953, 227-229

**Midway, USS (CVB-41)-Class Aircraft Carriers**

Made most of their deployments in the 1940s and 1950s to the Mediterranean, 161-162

**Miller, Captain George H., USN (USNA, 1933)**

Gave Weschler advice upon reporting to the staff of Rear Admiral Arleigh Burke in 1955, 251-252

**Mine Warfare**

See Paravanes

**Mississippi, USS (AG-128)**

Test ship that was involved in the late 1940s with gunnery and missile experiments, 183-184

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

Salvage of the battleship after she ran aground at Thimble Shoal near Norfolk, Virginia, in January 1950, 167-173; operated in support of the Korean War after being refloated, 199-200

**Mountbatten, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Louis, RN**

Relationship with U.S. CNO Arleigh Burke in the 1950s, 310-312, 320

**Movies**

Weschler worked as an usher in a theater in Erie, Pennsylvania, in the 1930s, 11

**Mumma, Rear Admiral Alfred G., USN (USNA, 1926)**

As Chief of the Bureau of Ships in the late 1950s, made frequent visits to see CNO Arleigh Burke, 334

### **Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland**

Competition for appointments in the 1920s and 1930s, 4, 14-16; in the early years of the century, books for youngsters served as an inspiration for potential midshipmen, 12; experiences of the plebes in the 1935-36 school year, 13, 16-18; academic routine in the late 1930s, 18-21; summer training cruises, 21-23; some members of the class of 1939 weren't commissioned on graduation because of vision deficiencies, 24-25, 30-32; top students in the class of 1939, 25-26; competition for honors by midshipmen and companies, 26-27; athletics, 27; extracurricular activities, which included sailing, 28-29; Weschler taught engineering at the academy in 1941, 41-42; midshipman training cruise on board the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the summer of 1958, 369-376

### **Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant, Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

Role in the development of guidance systems for the Polaris missile in the late 1950s, 391-393, 404-418; highly capable civil servant named Dave Gold, 416

### **Naval Material Command**

Added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy when it went into existence in the mid-1960s, 335-336

### **Naval Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland**

Course in ordnance engineering in 1945-46, 127-130

### **Naval Reserve**

Weschler went through a cumbersome procedure in getting into the Naval Reserve in 1940-41, 40-41; relatively few reservists were in the crew of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) when the United States entered war in 1941, 55-56; talented group of reservists in the first batch on board the *Wasp*, 59, 61; potential value of reservists in civilian life, 59-60; in 1945 nearly all the officers in the destroyer *Young* (DD-685) were reservists, 124-125; reservists eagerly sought CNO Arleigh Burke as a speaker in the late 1950s, 386

### **Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island**

Inauguration of a new command and staff course in 1950, 201-202; excellent leadership from Vice Admiral Richard Conolly as president, 202-203; curriculum, 203-207; detailed analysis of World War II battles by Rear Admiral Richard Bates, 207-208; top instructors, 209; sent a speaking team to the Air War College in the early 1950s, 209-210; conflict of war college work and graduate studies, 210-211; value of war college study, 211-212

### **Navigation**

Taught at the Naval Academy in the late 1930s, 21; one of the officers of the merchant ship *Stanley Matthews* in 1939 was conversant with a variety of navigation methods, 35

### **Neutrality Patrol**

Operations in the Atlantic on the part of the aircraft carrier

*Wasp* (CV-7) in 1941, 43

### **New Caledonia**

Survivors of the torpedoed *Wasp* were kept at Noumea for several weeks in late 1942, 101-102

### **News Media**

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### **Norfolk, Virginia**

Housing situation for Navy families in the late 1940s, 166-167; salvage of the battleship after she ran aground at Thimble Shoal near Norfolk in January 1950, 167-173

### **North Carolina, USS (BB-55)**

Fast battleship that was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine *I-19* on 15 September 1942, 97-99

### **Noyes, Rear Admiral Leigh, USN (USNA, 1906)**

Flag officer who was ineffectual while embarked in the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in the summer of 1942, 81-82, 86-89, 91-92

### **Nuclear Weapons**

In the late 1950s the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) was capable of carrying nuclear weapons but didn't have any on board, 272

### **Observation Island, USS (EAG-154)**

Test ship involved in Polaris missile development work in the late 1950s, 389, 398

### **Oil**

Operation of a fleet of tankers by the Tidewater Associated Oil Company in the late 1930s and early 1940s, 35-37

### **Okinawa**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) was damaged by a Japanese kamikaze at Okinawa in April 1945, 115-116

### **Olongapo, Philippines**

See Subic Bay, Philippines

### **Operational Development Force**

In the late 1940s tested GUNAR, an experimental program to mount fire control radar on a shipboard gun platform, 134; role of the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) as a test platform in the late 1940s, 144-150

### **P6M Seamaster**

This jet-powered seaplane was developed in the 1950s but did not join the fleet, 310-311; possible strategic value, 311

### **Paravanes**

Boatswain's Mate First Class Chester N. Spiewak saved Weschler's life in September 1942 by alerting him when it was time to rig paravanes on board the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-

7), 92-94

**Paria, Gulf of**

Landlocked body of water off Venezuela that was the site of shakedown training for the crew of the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) in 1943, 105-106

**Pate, Lieutenant General Randolph McC., USMC**

In 1955, while preparing to take over as Commandant of the Marine Corps, made an orientation tour with Admiral Arleigh Burke, 260-263

**Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Hawaii**

Replacement of the Mark 4 fire control radar with the Mark 12 when the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) underwent a brief repair period at Pearl Harbor in the middle of World War II, 106-107

**PERT**

Program Evaluation Review Technique used to monitor progress in the Polaris program in the late 1950s, 401

**Pickett, Captain Ben B., USN (USNA, 1938)**

Went through postgraduate education in ordnance engineering right after World War II, 139; detailed Weschler to a Polaris missile development billet in 1959, 390-391

**Philippine Islands**

Operations in and around the country in 1945 by the destroyer *Young* (DD-685), 117-120; Lieutenant Charles Weschler's experiences as a prisoner of war in World War II, 120-122; the Navy's Dewey dry dock was operated at Olongapo and Cavite prior to World War II, 120

**Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

See Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

**Point Cruz, USS (CVE-119)**

Had a slight collision with the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) during refueling in 1953, 215-216

**Polaris Missiles**

Development of the guidance system for Polaris in the late 1950s, 138, 391-399, 403-418, 432-433; interest on the part of CNO Arleigh Burke in the Polaris program, 304-306; advent of Polaris cost the Navy the Regulus missiles, 308-309; confined to submarines rather than also being in surface ships, 317-318, 423; in the mid-1950s Rear Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr., received a "CNO hunting license" from Admiral Arleigh Burke for development of the Polaris project, 353-354; Rear Admiral Hyman Rickover had a role in the Polaris because he was providing the nuclear submarines, 355; role of the test ship *Observation Island* (EAG-154) during Polaris development, 389, 398; compressed time schedule for the program, 399-400; technical and management contributions by Captain Levering Smith, 400-401, 424-426, 431-432; use of various methods to monitor

development progress, 401-403; reliability of people working in the program in the late 1950s, 410-411; dual sourcing of equipment components supplied by private industry, 411-413; General Electric provided training on equipment to crew members of the early Polaris submarines, 413; thorough testing of guidance systems by General Electric to minimize the need for shipboard maintenance and repair, 413-415; broad, overall role of the Special Projects Office in introducing Polaris to the fleet, 418-419; updates in the early 1960s to produce improved versions of the Polaris guidance systems, 420; role of Commander Paul Backus, 423-424; concern about people getting too compartmented on Polaris, 427-428

**Price, Captain Frank H., USN (USNA, 1941)**

Top-notch gunnery department officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the late 1940s, 185-186

**Prince Juan Carlos**

See Juan Carlos, Prince

**Prisoners of War**

Lieutenant Charles Weschler's experiences as a prisoner of war in World War II, 30, 120-124; General Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff in the mid-1960s, was a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II, 123-124; the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) patrolled off Korea during the distribution of released prisoners of war following the armistice in July 1953, 217-218

**Promotion of Officers**

In the late 1940s Captain Roland Smoot gave a briefing to the staff of ComCruLant on how to write fitness reports that would get officers promoted, 174-176; in 1955 Rear Admiral Arleigh Burke was promoted over many more senior officers to become Chief of Naval Operations, 248-250, 258-260

**Protocol**

Appreciation of by CNO Arleigh Burke in the late 1950s, 284-286, 288-289

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

In the mid-1950s received a "CNO hunting license" from Admiral Arleigh Burke for resources to use in development of the Polaris project, 353-354; decision-making power, 355, 409; monitoring of progress, 401-402, 426; dealings with personnel, 426, 428; was commanding officer of the carrier *Bennington* (CVS-20) when she had a fire in 1954, 430; leadership qualities, 430-431; did not do well as director of the Central Intelligence Agency in the mid-1960s, 431

**Radar**

The fire control radar of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) had only limited usefulness when the ship collided with the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) in March 1942, 65-70; as air group commander in the *Wasp* in 1942, Lieutenant Commander Wallace

Beakley jealously guarded the information available from radar, 82-85; replacement of the Mark 4 fire control radar with the Mark 12 when the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) underwent a brief repair period at Pearl Harbor in the middle of World War II, 106-107; use of on board the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the late 1950s while developing doctrine for guided missiles, 365-368; slowness of radar operations in the first guided-missile cruisers, 368-369; beam-riding fire control system for the Terrier missiles on board the *Canberra*, 376-377

**Radford, Admiral Arthur W., USN (USNA, 1916)**

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs in the mid-1950s, seemed to be too evenhanded to suit CNO Arleigh Burke, 302

**Radio**

Operation of early commercial stations in the 1920s, 10-11

**Ramage, Rear Admiral Lawson P., USN (USNA, 1931)**

As a cruiser division commander in the late 1950s, had an important role in the use of guided missiles in anti-air warfare, 364-369

**Reeves, Captain John W., Jr., USN (USNA, 1911)**

Strict and demanding while serving as commanding officer of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) at the beginning of World War II, 48-51; the crew of the carrier had great confidence in Reeves in leading them into war, 51-52; qualified only a few officers of the deck, 61-64; reaction when the *Wasp* collided with the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) in March 1942, 67-68, 71; played tennis with actor Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., 75; departure from the *Wasp* in May 1942, 77; used senior officers as command duty officers in the *Wasp*, 78; role when the ship was operating in the Atlantic, 79-80

**Refueling**

The destroyer *Young* (DD-685) took on fuel at Subic Bay in the Philippines in 1945, 118-120; the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) had a slight collision with the escort carrier *Point Cruz* (CVE-119) during refueling in 1953, 215-216

**Regulus Missile**

Surface-to-surface weapon that was dropped from the Navy program in the late 1950s to help pay for Polaris, 308-309

**Rescue at Sea**

The destroyer *Duncan* (DD-485) picked up survivors from the torpedoed aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in September 1942, 99-100; process of accounting for the *Wasp* survivors, 100-102

**Research and Development**

Development of the guidance system for Polaris in the late 1950s, 138, 391-399, 403-418, 432-433; compressed time schedule for the Polaris program, 399-400; technical and management contributions by Captain Levering Smith, 400-401, 424-426, 431-432; use of various methods to monitor development progress,



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

Had an important role in the late 1950s in the development of doctrine for use of guided missiles in anti-air warfare, 364-369

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

Arranged for CNO Arleigh Burke to visit a nuclear power plant in the fall of 1955, 313-314; concern about safety in nuclear operations, 314-315; disdain for excess gadgets in nuclear submarines, 315-316; had a role in the Polaris missile program in the late 1950s because he was providing the nuclear submarines, 355

**Rider, Commander Eugene C., USN (USNA, 1934)**

Served as operations officer of the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) in the late 1940s, 154-155

**Robins, Commodore L. J. J., Belgian Navy**

As Chief of Naval Staff in the mid-1950s arranged for CNO Arleigh Burke to tour the Belgian Congo, 281-282

**Royal Navy**

Benefited from information provided by U.S. ships on neutrality patrol in the Atlantic in 1941, 43; some British ships were operating in the Mediterranean in 1948, 146; fewer British ships in the Med in the mid-1950s, 235

**Rudden, Captain Thomas J., Jr., USN (USNA, 1939)**

Went through postgraduate education in ordnance engineering right after World War II, 139; while in the Polaris missile program in the late 1950s gave advice on how to write fitness reports, 176-177

**Russell, Commander Benjamin Van Meter, USN (USNA, 1926)**

Was a fussy officer while in command of the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) during World War II, 113-115

**Russell, Vice Admiral George L., USN (USNA, 1921)**

As DCNO for Administration in the late 1950s checked into the operations of the living quarters of CNO Arleigh Burke, 325-326

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

Designated by CNO Arleigh Burke in the mid-1950s as a possible successor in the event something happened to Burke, 326-327

**Safety**

Insistence by Rear Admiral Hyman Rickover in the 1950s about the safe operation of nuclear power plants, 314-315

**Sailing**

Offered a pleasant break from the usual routine for Naval

Academy midshipmen in the late 1930s, 28-29

**Salem, (CA-139)-Class Cruisers**

Advent the rapid-firing ships in the late 1940s gave a boost to the U.S. Navy's surface forces, 158-159; role as Sixth Fleet flagships in the 1940s and 1950s, 159-161; development of doctrine for the guns, 194

**Salvage**

The battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) had to be refloated after she ran aground at Thimble Shoal near Norfolk, Virginia, in January 1950, 167-173

**Sasebo, Japan**

Outlook of the local people when the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) operated out of Sasebo in late 1953, 219-220

**Savo Island-Battle of**

The aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) was kept on the sidelines and not allowed to take part in this battle in August 1942, 86-91; postwar analysis of the action by Rear Admiral Richard Bates of the Naval War College, 207-208

**Scoggins, Captain Olin, USN (USNA, 1923)**

As commanding officer of the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) in the late 1940s, recruited the ship's junior officers into submarine service, 147, 165

**Security**

As air group commander in the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in 1942, Lieutenant Commander Wallace Beakley jealously guarded the information available from radar, 82-85; survivors of the torpedoed *Wasp* were kept at Noumea, New Caledonia, for several weeks in late 1942 because the Navy did not want to divulge the loss of the ship, 101-102; protection of Terrier missiles on board the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the late 1950s, 375-376; reliability of employees working in the Polaris missile program in the late 1960s, 410-411

**Semmes, Vice Admiral Benedict J., Jr., USN (USNA, 1934)**

As a crew member of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), helped evacuate shipmates after she was torpedoed on 15 September 1942, 94-95; recruited junior officers to serve in the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) when she was commissioned in 1943, 104; during World War II demonstrated his qualities as an energetic, knowledgeable officer, 112-115; as Commander Destroyer Division 302 in the mid-1950s, 214-215, 228-232; style of leadership, 229-232; on DesLant staff in the mid-1950s, 250

**Shea, Lieutenant Commander John J., USN**

Killed in September 1942 during the sinking of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), 54

**Sherman, Captain Forrest P., USN (USNA, 1918)**

Took command of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in May 1942

as she was preparing to support the invasion of Guadalcanal, 77-78; personality, 78-79; emphasis in preparing the ship for combat, 78-79, 81-82, 92, 96; intelligence, 81-82; during the disastrous battle of Savo Island in August 1942, urged Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes that the *Wasp* should provide support, 88

#### **Ship Design**

In the mid-1950s Commander Destroyer Division 302 submitted ideas on improving destroyers, 230; the program for the design and procurement of the *Spruance* (DD-963)-class destroyers in the late 1960s was modeled on the successful Polaris submarine program, 419

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

Played a major part in the Navy's guided missile program in the 1950s, 307-309; commanded the first cruiser division in the U.S. Navy to have guided-missile ships, 357-358

#### **Sigsbee, USS (DD-502)**

Destroyer that went into commission in early 1943 with several officers from the recently sunk aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), 104; shakedown in the Atlantic in 1943, 104-106; men of the destroyer had it much easier than their Marine Corps counterparts ashore during the invasion of Tarawa in November 1943, 107-108; the ship served as bait to draw the fire of Japanese shore batteries during the U.S. invasion of Kwajalein in February 1944, 108-111; operations later in 1944, 111; B. J. Semmes as executive officer, 113-115; damaged by a Japanese kamikaze at Okinawa in 1945, 115-116

#### **Singleton, Captain Charles T., Jr., USN (USNA, 1926)**

As head of the ordnance program at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1946, helped Weschler augment into the regular Navy, 128

#### **Singleton, Midshipman Henry E., USN**

Entered the Naval Academy with the class of 1939 but left prior to graduation to enter the civilian business world, 16-17

#### **Sixth Fleet, U.S.**

*Salem* (CA-139)-class cruisers served as fleet flagships in the 1940s and 1950s, 159-161; *Midway* (CVB-41)-class carriers made most of their deployments in the 1940s and 1950s to the Mediterranean, 161-162; liberty for American sailors in the Med in late 1953, 232-234

#### **Slack, Captain Leslie M., USN (USNA, 1934)**

Served as commanding officer of the test ship *Observation Island* (EAG-154) during Polaris development work in the late 1950s, 389

#### **Smedberg, Lieutenant Commander William R. III, USN (USNA, 1926)**

As commanding officer of the destroyer *Lansdowne* (DD-486), had the job of sinking the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in September 1942, 95-96

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

As Commander Cruiser Force Atlantic Fleet in 1949-50, tried to imbue the force with a feeling of distinction, 158, 167, 188; supervised the salvage of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) after she ran aground at Norfolk in 1950, 169-173; lacking in the ability to inspire, 192; got Weschler into the Naval War College in 1950, 192

**Smith, Captain Charles H., USN (USNA, 1932)**

As commanding officer of the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the late 1950s, 363, 371, 380, 387

**Smith, Commander Donald F., USN (USNA, 1921)**

Dubious performance as navigator of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) when she collided with the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) in March 1942, 66-67, 71-72

**Smith, Captain Harold Page, USN (USNA, 1924)**

Took command of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) after she was refloated in 1950, 199-200

**Smith, Lieutenant (junior grade) John C. H., USN (USNA, 1938)**

Recruited Weschler for the personnel office of the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in 1941, 45

**Smith, Captain Levering, USN (USNA, 1932)**

Technical and management contributions in the late 1950s to the Polaris missile development program, 400-401, 424-426, 431-432

**Smoot, Captain Roland N., USN (USNA, 1923)**

Served as chief of staff to Commander Cruisers Atlantic Fleet in the late 1940s, 166, 177, 198; advice to staff on writing fitness reports, 174-176, 178; had a role in getting Weschler into the Naval War College in 1950, 192

**Snyder, Rear Admiral J. Edward, Jr., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1945)**

Demonstrated capability as a junior officer in the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) in the late 1940s, 147-148, 162-163

**Sonar**

Training for prospective ship captains in the mid-1950s, 214

**Spain**

Prince Juan Carlos visited the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) when she was in Vigo during a midshipman training cruise in the summer of 1958, 371-372

**Special Projects Office**

Technical contributions in the late 1950s to the Polaris missile development program by Captain Levering Smith, 400-401, 424-425, 431-432; broad, overall role of SP in introducing the Polaris system to the fleet in the late 1950s and early 1960s, 418-419; SP has proved to have enduring value, even after the completion of the initial Polaris development, 421-422;

concern about people getting too compartmented on Polaris, 427-428

**Spiewak, Boatswain's Mate First Class Chester N., USN**

Saved Weschler's life in September 1942 by alerting him when it was time to rig paravanes on board the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), 92-94, 96

**Spitfire**

British fighter plane delivered to Malta by the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in 1942, 80-81

**Spruance, (DD-963)-Class Destroyers**

The program for the design and procurement of the class in the late 1960s was modeled on the successful Polaris submarine program, 419

**Sputnik I**

Artificial earth satellite that caused much consternation in the United States after it was launched by the Soviets in October 1957, 352-353

**Stack, USS (DD-406)**

Collided with the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in fog in the Atlantic in March 1942, 64-72

**Stanley Matthews, SS**

World War I-era oil tanker operated by the Tidewater Associated Oil Company in the late 1930s, 33-35

**Strategy**

Studied in the senior course at the Naval War College in the early 1950s, 206

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

While serving as Commander in Chief Pacific in 1955, went out of his way to make CNO-designate Arleigh Burke feel welcome during a visit to Hawaii, 257-258, 266

**Subic Bay, Philippines**

Operations in the port in 1945 by the destroyer *Young* (DD-685), 118-120; the Navy's Dewey dry dock was operated at Olongapo and Cavite prior to World War II, 120; Lieutenant Charles Weschler was a prisoner of war in the Olongapo area in World War II, 121-122

**Submarines - Nuclear**

Rear Admiral Hyman Rickover had a role in the Polaris missile program in the late 1950s because he was providing the ships, 355

**Suez Canal**

Americans felt relief when the Suez crisis of late 1956 was resolved peaceably, 320-321

## **Sweden**

The cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) got a positive response when her Terrier missiles were painted blue and yellow during a visit to Goteborg in 1958, 369-370

## **Tactics**

Role of the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the development of doctrine and tactics for the use of guided missiles for anti-air warfare in the late 1950s, 364-365

## **Tarawa**

The men of the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) had it much easier than their Marine Corps counterparts ashore during the invasion of Tarawa in November 1943, 107-108

## **Terrier Missiles**

Development of doctrine and tactics for use of the missiles in anti-air warfare in the late 1950s, 364-368; shortage of missiles on board the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2), 368; slowness of radar operations in the first guided-missile cruisers, 368-369; the *Canberra* got a positive response when the missiles were painted blue and yellow during a visit to Sweden in 1958, 369-370; damage control procedures for missile magazine fires on board the *Canberra*, 373; missile-handling procedures in the *Canberra*, 374-376; beam-riding fire control system on board the *Canberra*, 376-377

## **Thomas, Charles S.**

As Secretary of the Navy in 1955, selected junior Rear Admiral Arleigh Burke as Secretary of the Navy, 254, 258-259, 286-287; desire to be a strong man posed a problem for uniformed officers, 261-262; working relationship with CNO Burke, 287-288, 290

## **Tidewater Associated Oil**

Company that ran a fleet of commercial oil tankers in the late 1930s and early 1940s, 24-25, 33-40

## **Torpedoes**

The Japanese submarine *I-19* torpedoed the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) on 15 September 1942, disabling her so badly she had to be sunk, 94-100

## **Training**

Summer cruises for Naval Academy midshipmen in the late 1930s, 21-23; routine for new deck officers serving in tankers of the Tidewater Associated Oil Company in the late 1930s, 36-38; shakedown cruise for the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) in the Atlantic in 1943, 104-106; inadequate training for the crew when the *Sigsbee* received a new fire control radar in the middle of the war, 107; gunnery officers' ordnance school in Washington, D.C., in late 1946, 143; the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) made a midshipman training cruise to the Mediterranean in 1948, 144-147; the undermanned heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132) switched men between various gun mounts during training

exercises in the late 1940s, 150-152; Weschler received some preparatory training en route to command of the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) in 1953, 213-214; various exercises conducted by the ships of Destroyer Division 302 as they returned to their home port following the end of the Korean War in 1953, 226; refresher training around Guantanamo for Atlantic Fleet destroyer types in 1954-55, 238-248; midshipman training cruise by the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) in the summer of 1958, 369-376; General Electric provided training on equipment to crew members of the early Polaris submarines, 413

### **Trinidad**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) conducted shakedown training in the nearby Gulf of Paria in 1943, 105-106

### **Triton Missile**

The Navy developed this weapon in the 1950s, but it essentially priced itself out of existence, 308-309

### **Typhon**

Air defense system that was canceled in the 1960s because it got too big for the ships intended for it, 315-316

### **Uniforms-Naval**

Survivors from the torpedoed aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) were reimbursed afterward for the uniforms they lost when the ship sank in September 1942, 103; problems with uniform items when CNO Arleigh Burke was on overseas tours in the late 1950s, 281-284

### **Unknown Soldiers**

The guided missile cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) participated in a May 1958 ceremony to select the unknown soldier of the Korean War, 359-362, 379

### **Vietnam War**

U.S. use of amphibious raids in the mid-1960s, 204-205

### **Vigo, Spain**

Prince Juan Carlos visited the cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2) when she was in port during a midshipman training cruise in the summer of 1958, 371-372

### **Wake Island**

The destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502) accompanied carrier forces for raids on the island in late 1943, 105-106

### **Wallin, Rear Admiral Homer N., USN (USNA, 1917)**

As commander of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in 1950, was the technical director of the salvage of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63), 169, 172-173

### **Walker, Commander Thomas J. III, USN (USNA, 1939)**

Had an early liaison role in the Polaris missile development program in the mid-1950s, 354

**Wasp, USS (CV-7)**

Size of the crew in 1941, 14; sinking in September 1942, 31; neutrality patrol operations in 1941, 43, 45; personnel office, 45; support of U.S. Marine landing in Iceland in 1941, 45-47; brief foray to Martinique, 47; Captain John W. Reeves, Jr., as commanding officer at the beginning of World War II, 48-51; disciplinary cases in the early 1940s, 52-53; Lieutenant David McCampbell as LSO, 53-54; relatively few reservists were in the ship's crew when the United States entered war in 1941, 55-56, 59-61; talented enlisted men in the crew later became officers, 56-58; officers of the deck, 61-64; collision in fog with the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) in the Atlantic in March 1942, 64-72; actor Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., was on board as a reserve officer in 1942, 72-75; transition from the Atlantic to Pacific in mid-1942, 76-77; Captain Forrest P. Sherman as commanding officer in 1942, 77-82, 92, 96; senior officers as command duty officers, 78; operations with the British Home Fleet in 1942, 79-81; Rear Admiral Leigh Noyes was ineffectual as embarked flag officer in the ship during the Guadalcanal operation, 81-82, 86-89, 91-92; as air group commander in 1942, Lieutenant Commander Wallace Beakley jealously guarded the information available from radar, 82-85; the ship was on the sidelines during the disastrous Battle of Savo Island in August 1942, 86-91; sinking of after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in September 1942, 92-101; process of accounting for the *Wasp* survivors after the sinking, 100-102; reimbursement of the crew for lost uniforms, 103

**Weather**

The aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) collided in fog with the destroyer *Stack* (DD-406) in the Atlantic in March 1942, 64-72; blizzard that the Weschler family went through in 1955 during a vacation trip to Erie, Pennsylvania, 300-301

**Weisner, Ensign Maurice F., USN (USNA, 1941)**

Got married in 1941 while serving in the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7), 43-44, 156

**Wertheim, Rear Admiral Robert H., USN (USNA, 1946)**

Engineering duty officer who spent many years with the Special Projects Office in strategic missile systems, 429-430

**Wesche, Commander Otis A., USN (USNA, 1938)**

Top-notch gunnery officer of the battleship *Missouri* (BB-63) in the late 1940s, 185-186

**Weschler, Lieutenant Charles J., USN (USNA, 1932)**

Older brother of Thomas Weschler, graduated from Naval Academy in 1932, 1-5, 10, 12-14, 128, 154; did postgraduate work and became an engineering duty officer, 13; as prisoner of war in World War II, 30, 120-124

**Weschler, Vice Admiral Thomas R., USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1939)**

Relatives in military service, 1-5, 12-13; parents of, 1-2, 4, 10-11, 15-16, 300; other ancestors, 1; siblings not in military



service, 2-3, 11, 42; boyhood in Erie, Pennsylvania, 4, 7-11; education of in Pennsylvania, 4-10; appointment to the Naval Academy in 1935, 4, 14-16; brief period in Boy Scouts, 7; as a Naval Academy midshipman, 1935-39, 13-28; vision problems as a midshipman, 24-25, 30-32; merchant marine service from 1939 to 1941, 32-40; wife of, 39, 136-137, 140-143, 249, 253-254, 268, 300, 388-389, 393; process of getting a Naval Reserve commission in 1940-41, 40-41; duty as a Naval Academy instructor in 1941, 41-42; service in the aircraft carrier *Wasp* (CV-7) in 1941-42, 43-104, 113; served in the destroyer *Sigsbee* (DD-502), 1943-45, 104-115; duty as executive officer of the destroyer *Young* (DD-685) in 1945, 117-126; postgraduate study in ordnance engineering in Annapolis and at MIT in 1945-46, 127-140; augmentation into the regular Navy in 1946, 128; served in the heavy cruiser *Macon* (CA-132), 1947-49, 141-156, 163-164; duty on the staff of Commander Cruisers Atlantic, 1949-50, 164-201; as a student and faculty member at the Naval War College, 1950-53, 201-212; command of the destroyer *Clarence K. Bronson* (DD-668) from 1953 to 1955, 213-248; as personal aide to Admiral Arleigh Burke from 1955 to 1958, 248-356; children of, 249, 254, 300, 381; service as executive officer of the guided missile cruiser *Canberra* (CAG-2), 1958-59, 356-388; duty in 1959-62 in the Polaris program at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C., 388-434

**West, Midshipman Joseph M., USN (USNA, 1939)**

Entered the Naval Academy in 1935 after initial medical difficulties, 15, 17-18, 24

**Wilson, Charles E.**

As Secretary of Defense in 1955, directed the promotion of Rear Admiral Arleigh Burke to four stars, 260

**Wilson, Vice Admiral Ralph E., USN (USNA, 1924)**

While making a tour to Japan with CNO Arleigh Burke in the late 1950s, provided an extra cap when Burke was missing his, 282-284

**Worcester, (CL-144)-Class Cruisers**

These light cruisers were disappointing when they joined the fleet in the late 1940s, 186-188

**Wright, Admiral Jerauld, USN (USNA, 1918)**

As Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet in 1955, was a candidate for CNO, but Arleigh Burke was selected instead, 251, 254-255, 287; relationship with CNO Burke, 347-348

**Young, USS (DD-685)**

Operations around the Philippines in the middle of 1945, 117-120; Commander Donald Dockum as commanding officer, 117-119; relationship among officers, 117-118; nearly all the officers in 1945 were reservists, 124-125