

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

CAPTAIN JOHN ANDREWS, JR., U. S. NAVY

John Andrews, Jr., was born in Lidgerwood, North Dakota, on November 21, 1905, son of John and Mary Fritz Andrews. He attended Fargo, North Dakota, High School, and entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on September 1, 1925, on appointment of Senator Edwin Ladd of North Dakota. Graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science and commissioned Ensign, USN, on June 6, 1929, he subsequently advanced in rank to that of Captain, to date from March 30, 1945.

After graduation in June 1929 he was assigned to the USS NEW MEXICO, and served as a Junior Officer in that battleship until May 1930, after which he was a student (pre-flight) at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for two months. In July 1930 he joined the USS HULBERT, operating with Destroyer Division 11, Battle Force, as a Division Officer, and had duty in the same capacity on board the USS SACRAMENTO, a cruiser of the Special Service Squadron, from December 1931 until November 1934.

He served as a Division Officer in the USS NEVADA, a unit of Battleship Division 2, during the period following, until June 1936, then returned to the Naval Academy for a tour of duty as Instructor in the Department of Physics. Detached in June 1939, he served for two years as Executive Officer of the USS BOGGS, a minesweeper, and in May 1941 was transferred to similar duty on board the USS MUGFORD, a destroyer based at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack on the Fleet there on December 7, 1941. As Executive Officer of the MUGFORD during the early period of World War II, he participated in Operations of Task Force 14, attempting to reinforce Wake Island and subsequently in convoy operations between Pearl Harbor, T. H., and Australia.

In May 1942 he assumed command of the USS MONTGOMERY, minelayer which under his command, participated in the capture and defense of Guadalcanal from January 31 to February 1, 1943. In April 1943 he reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for duty in the Bureau of Ships, and in December 1944 he was detached for instruction at the Army-Navy Staff College. On graduation in June 1945, he reported to the Staff of Commander SEVENTH Fleet, in the Pacific, and served the remaining months of the war period in the Plans Division.

For service during the war he was awarded a Letter of Commendation with Ribbon from the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, as follows: "For meritorious conduct in the performance of his duties as Commanding Officer of the USS MONTGOMERY, engaged in laying mine fields in waters controlling the passage surrounding Adak, Aleutian Islands, during October and November 1942. Despite adverse weather conditions and the hazardous nature of these operations, he handled his ship expertly in laying of mines in the narrow and poorly charted waters. His outstanding performance of duty in the presence of enemy submarines and in the proximity of the enemy garrison at Kiska, he contributed materially to the successful completion of the mining campaign..."

Remaining in the Far East, he served from October 1945 until March 1947 as Commanding Officer of the Navy Port Facility at Shanghai, China, and for four months thereafter served as Division Commander, Destroyer Division 212. From August 1947 to October 1948 he commanded the USS TITANIA (AKA-13), after which, until August 1950 he served as Material Officer on the Staff of the Commander San Francisco Group, Pacific Reserve Fleet. He next commanded the USS TELFAIR (APA-210) for a year, and in August 1951 reported to Headquarters, Eighth Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, as Reserve Coordinator and Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Under orders of September 28, 1953, he was detached to be Captain of the Port, Cristobal, Canal Zone, and on May 11, 1956, he was ordered to return to Headquarters, Eighth Naval District, for further duty.

In addition to the Commendation Ribbon, Captain Andrews has the Yangtze Service Medal; American Defense Service Medal, with star; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two operation stars; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; China Service Medal (extended); National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal with two stars; United Nations Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

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Biographies Branch
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