

Special Report

REAR ADMIRAL NORMAN SCOTT, U. S. NAVY (DECEASED)

Rear Admiral Scott was born at Indianapolis, Indiana, August 10, 1889. He attended Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, before being appointed to the Naval Academy by Senator Beveridge of Indiana in 1907.

After graduation in 1911, he was assigned to duty in the U.S.S. IDAHO. He was detached from that battleship in July, 1913, and had successive tours of duty in the U.S.S. JENKINS, U.S.S. DIXIE and U.S.S. AMMEN until July 15, 1916, when he joined the U.S.S. JACOB JONES, and was Executive Officer of that destroyer when she was sunk by an enemy submarine between Brest, France, and Queenstown, Ireland, on December 6, 1917. For that duty he was awarded a Special Letter of Commendation as follows:

"As Executive Officer of the U.S.S. JACOB JONES on the occasion of the torpedoing of that vessel on December 6th, 1917, he showed marked energy, zeal and coolness and displayed excellent seamanship in getting life belts and splinter nets from the bridge into the water, encouraging and helping the men in general, doing everything possible demanded by the emergency in the short time available."

After the sinking of the U.S.S. JACOB JONES, Rear Admiral Scott was assigned to the U.S.S. MELVILLE. He returned to the United States in January, 1918, and served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, until March, 1919. On September 26, 1918, he was given additional duty as Naval Aide to the President.

His next duty was in command of an Eagle Division outfitting for distant service. He served first in Eagle #3, later in Eagle #2, until December 26, 1919, when he joined the U.S.S. DUPONT for passage to Constantinople. Upon arrival there he took command of Eagle #1, and resumed his former duties.

He returned to the United States in February, 1920, and was on duty in the Navy Department, Washington, D.C., until June of that year, serving first in Naval Communications, later in the Bureau of Navigation.

Rear Admiral Scott had duty in connection with fitting out the U.S.S. STODDERT at the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation plant, San Francisco, California, in 1920, and went aboard that vessel as Executive Officer when she was commissioned June 30, 1920. He served as Assistant Fire Control Officer in the U.S.S. NEW YORK from August, 1920, to May, 1921. After a year's service in the U.S.S. BURNS he reported to the Fourteenth Naval District for duty in July, 1922. From August, 1923, to July, 1924, he served as Aide to the Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District. He joined the U.S.S. IDAHO in July, 1924, and in September of that year he was appointed Aide on Staff of Commander, Battle Fleet, U.S.S. CALIFORNIA, Flagship with additional duty as Fleet Personnel Officer.

Rear Admiral Scott had a tour of duty as instructor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics at the Naval Academy from September, 1927, until June, 1930. His next duty was in the Asiatic Fleet

where he served in the U.S.S. JASON and later had command of the U.S.S. MAC LEISH and of the U.S.S. PAUL JONES. He had a tour of duty in the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, from August, 1932, until June, 1934, when he reported to the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, for the senior course. He returned to sea in the U.S.S. CINCINNATI in June, 1934, with duty as Executive Officer.

Rear Admiral Scott was a member of the United States Naval Mission to Brazil from February, 1937, to November, 1939. Upon his return to the United States, he assumed command of the U.S.S. PENSACOLA. After a tour of duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., he was ordered to sea in June, 1942.

Rear Admiral Scott was killed in action during the Battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942, while in command of a Task Force

On December 9, 1942, the President presented the Medal of Honor to Rear Admiral Scott's family. Midshipman Norman Scott, Jr., accepted the award in his father's behalf. The citation was as follows:

MEDAL OF HONOR:

"For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty during action against enemy Japanese forces during the Battle of Cape Esperance on the night of October 11-12, and again during the Battle of Guadalcanal on the night of November 12-13, 1942. In the earlier action, intercepting a Japanese task force intent upon storming our island positions and landing reinforcements at Guadalcanal, Rear Admiral Scott, with courageous skill and superb coordination of the units under his command, destroyed eight hostile vessels and put the others to flight. Again challenged, a month later, by the return of a stubborn and persistent foe, he led his force into a desperate battle against tremendous odds, directing close-range operations against the invading enemy until he himself was killed in the furious bombardment by their superior fire-power. On each of these occasions his dauntless initiative, inspiring leadership and judicious foresight in a crisis of grave responsibility contributed decisively to the rout of a powerful invasion fleet and to the consequent frustration of a formidable Japanese offensive. He gallantly gave up his life in the service of his country."

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Rear Admiral Scott was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal, and was entitled to the ribbon for, and a facsimile of, the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the U.S.S. ATLANTA with the following citation:

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, U.S.S. ATLANTA:

"For outstanding performance during action against enemy Japanese forces off Guadalcanal Island, November

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, U.S.S. ATLANTA (Cont'd):

12-13, 1942. Struck by one torpedo and no less than 49 shells, the ATLANTA, after sinking an enemy destroyer and repeatedly hitting a cruiser which later went down, gallantly remained in battle under auxiliary power with one-third of her crew killed or missing, her engine room flooded and her topside a shambles. Eventually succumbing to her wounds after the enemy had fled in defeat, she left behind her a heroic example of invincible fighting spirit."

Rear Admiral Scott had the Mexican Service Medal and the Victory Medal, Destroyer Clasp. He was eligible for the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

The Destroyer U.S.S. NORMAN SCOTT, DD-690, is named in honor of Rear Admiral Scott. His widow, Mrs. Marjorie Scott of, 1230-30th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., sponsored this ship when she was launched on August 28, 1943, at the plant of the Bath Iron Works Corporation, Bath, Maine,

January 25, 1946
