

CAPTAIN DONALD CHARLES BEARD, UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Beard was born on July 15, 1904, at Port Huron, Michigan, the son of Mrs. Eloda Ferguson Beard and the late Charles David Beard. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from the Seventh District of Michigan on June 23, 1921. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 4, 1925, he advanced progressively through the various grades to the rank of Captain, to date from July 20, 1943.

Following graduation from the Academy in 1925, Captain Beard had consecutive duty in the USS WEST VIRGINIA and EAGLE #35. Detached from the latter in July 1929, he proceeded to the New York Shipbuilding Company, Camden, New Jersey, in connection with fitting out the USS SALT LAKE CITY and assumed duty aboard upon her commissioning on December 11, 1929. In June 1931, he reported to the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland for instruction in Communication Engineering and upon completion of the course there, he had additional instruction, under the supervision of the Postgraduate School, at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts until June 1933.

Prior to reporting for duty on the staff of Commander Destroyers Battle Force in March 1934, Captain Beard had three months' instruction in the Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. Between March and September 1934, he served as Radio Communications Officer on the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO, after which he reported for duty with Destroyers, Battle Force. In June 1936, he had duty in the Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department and at the Naval Research Laboratory, Bellevue, D.C., and while serving in this dual assignment, he had additional duty as a Naval Aide to the White House from April to September 1937.

Captain Beard had service at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Virginia, in connection with fitting out the USS BOISE, and joined her as Communication Officer upon her commissioning on August 12, 1938. He served as Damage Control Officer and First Lieutenant in the USS CINCINNATI from July 1940 until January 1941, after which he had duty as Radio Officer on the staff of Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Between February 1943 and January 1947, he was attached to Headquarters, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet, Navy Department, Washington D.C. For services in this duty he was awarded a Legion of Merit and cited as follows:

LEGION OF MERIT:


"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States while serving in the Readiness Division of the Headquarters of Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, from March 1943, to August 1945. Displaying exceptional

LEGION OF MERIT: (Cont'd)

foresight, judgment and professional ability, Captain Beard rendered invaluable assistance in the formulation of policies, means and methods for procurement and training of electronics personnel and was in large measure responsible for initiating plans and policies for maintaining Fleet radar equipment in a high state of readiness for battle. His initiative, tireless efforts and conscientious devotion to duty throughout were essential factors in the successful prosecution of the war and reflect the highest credit upon Captain Beard and the United States Naval Service."

On January 31, 1947, he assumed command of the USS CAMBRIA. He is now under orders to report to the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, for instruction in logistics.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, Captain Beard is entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal; the American Area Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.



29 June 1948.