

CAPTAIN GEORGE DeMETROPOLIS
UNITED STATES NAVY

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

George DeMetropolis was born in New York, N. Y., on April 5, 1909, son of John and Helen (Gavaris) DeMetropolis. After attending high school in New York City, he entered the U. S. Naval Academy and was graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 4, 1931. His first years at sea were spent in the battleship TEXAS, as a junior Officer in gunnery and engineering. He then served in the submarine tender FULTON and the destroyers J. D. EDWARDS and DENT, his duties primarily as Gunnery Officer and First Lieutenant. In July 1938 he was transferred to the Third Naval District and Navy Yard, New York, as Aide to the Commandant and Assistant Shop Superintendent.

Returning to sea in March 1941 he was Assistant Damage Control Officer and Assistant First Lieutenant on board the USS NORTH CAROLINA. Transferred to the USS PRINGLE in April 1943, he was first Navigator, then Commanding Officer of that vessel until June 1944. He was twice awarded the Bronze Star Medal, with Combat "V," while in that assignment. He next served for two years as Commanding Officer of the USS WALLACE L. LIND and was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a Third Bronze Star Medal, with Combat "V," for meritorious service in the Western Pacific War Area. He was on board the LIND when she was present during the ceremonies in Tokyo Bay marking the Japanese surrender.

In August 1946 he reported for duty at Columbia University in New York, where he was Executive Officer of the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Unit. From July 1947 until June 1950 he was Fuel and Cargo Officer with the U. S. Naval Mission to Greece. For his services to that country he was decorated with the King George I Order of Commander.

He returned to the Third Naval District where he was Director of Distribution for a year, and Director of Naval Personnel until December 1952, at which time he was assigned duty afloat as Commanding Officer of the USS WRANGELL. Relieved of command of that ammunition ship in March 1954, he was assigned as Administrative Officer at the New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York. Following several months instruction at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, he returned to Greece to serve at the Royal Hellenic War College as Advisor of the Naval Section, Joint U. S. Military Aid Group, with headquarters in Athens.

NAVY Biographies Branch, OI-450
Tel: LI-56700, Ext. 64646
5 June 1957

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UNITED STATES NAVY

PERSONAL DATA:

Education: DeWitt Clinton High School, New York City; U. S.
Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland (BS, 1931);
Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island (1956)

PROMOTIONS:

Commissioned Ensign, June 4, 1931
Lieutenant (jg), June 4, 1934
Lieutenant, July 1, 1939
Lieutenant Commander, June 15, 1942
Commander, November 1, 1942
Captain, February 1, 1953

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Bronze Star Medal with two Gold Stars, all with Combat "V"
American Defense Service Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Silver Stars (ten
engagements)
World War II Victory Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe and Asia Clasps
National Defense Service Medal
Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one star
Royal Order of George I, rank of Commander, from the government
of Greece

Bronze Star Medal: "For meritorious service as Commanding Of-
ficer of the U.S.S. PRINGLE, during operations against enemy Japan-
ese forces in the Solomons Islands and Bismarck Archipelago from
October 1943, to March 1944...(He) efficiently commanded his ship
in the initial landings on Treasury, Green and Emirau Islands, as-
sisted in screening eight echelons to Bougainville and carried out
many barge sweeps which resulted in the destruction of several hos-
tile barges loaded with supplies and personnel..."

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Gold Star in lieu of the Second Bronze Star Medal: "For meritorious achievement as Navigator of the U.S.S. PRINGLE, serving as Flagship for a Mining Detachment, during minelaying and bombardment operations against enemy Japanese forces on Kolombangara, Shortland and Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, on the night of June 29, 1943. Operating in poorly charted waters near reefs surrounding enemy-held shores, (he) skillfully navigated his ship, leading the minelayers throughout the hazardous mission. His seamanship, courage and devotion to duty were important factors in the successful mining of waters used extensively by enemy vessels..."

Gold Star in lieu of the Third Bronze Star Medal: "For meritorious service as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. WALLACE L. LIND during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Western Pacific War Area from January 5 to May 15, 1945...(He) led his command in widespread actions against the enemy from Luzon, the Indo China Coast and Formosa to Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Japanese Home Islands. Repeatedly subjected to fierce hostile air attacks while operating with a Fast Carrier Task Force, the WALLACE L. LIND individually destroyed two enemy aircraft and aided in the destruction of many other Japanese planes attacking the formation..."

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

Jun 1931	Aug 1933	USS TEXAS (Engineering and Gunnery)
Aug 1933	Jun 1934	USS FULTON (First Lieutenant)
Jul 1934	Aug 1936	USS J. D. EDWARDS (Gunnery Officer, First Lieutenant)
Dec 1936	Jun 1938	USS DENT (Gunnery Officer, First Lieutenant)
Jul 1938	Mar 1941	Third Naval District and Navy Yard (Aide to Commandant and Assistant Shop Superintendent)
Mar 1941	Apr 1943	USS NORTH CAROLINA (Assistant Damage Control Officer, Assistant First Lieutenant)
Apr 1943	Jun 1944	USS PRINGLE (Commanding Officer)
Aug 1944	Aug 1946	USS WALLACE L. LIND (CO)
Aug 1946	Jun 1947	Naval Reserve Officer' Training Corps Unit, Columbia University, New York (Executive Officer)
Jul 1947	Jun 1950	U. S. Naval Mission to Greece (Fuel and Cargo Officer)
Jun 1950	Dec 1952	Third Naval District (Director of Distribution, later Director of Naval Personnel)
Dec 1952	Jul 1954	USS WRANGELL (CO)

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Jul 1954	New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York (Administrative Officer)
31 May 1956 (ord)	Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island (temporary duty)
9 Oct 1956 (ord)	Royal Hellenic Naval War College, Advisor of Naval Section, Joint U. S. Military Aid Group to Greece, headquarters in Athens

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