

RADM

CAPTAIN BRUCE BYRON ADELL, U. S. NAVY

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Deceased 7 March 1974

Baldwin,

Captain Adell, born December 15, 1898, in ~~the State of~~ Kansas, attended the Grammar Schools of Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, and Broadway High School and Lincoln High School of Seattle. During the summers of 1914 and 1915 he worked aboard the US Army Transport BURNSIDE, engaged in laying cable in Puget Sound and Alaskan waters. He enlisted in the United States Navy on April 7, 1917, and served in the USS NEW ORLEANS, engaged in escort duties in the Atlantic, until June, 1918, when he was appointed to the United States Naval Academy from the Navy at large.

At Annapolis he was a member of the wrestling team for four years, and won his "N" in wrestling. During his first class year he was Battalion Commander of the First Battalion, and he also played class football. Graduated from the Academy and commissioned Ensign on June 2, 1922, he subsequently advanced through the various grades, attaining his present rank on June 21, 1942.

Captain Adell's service between World War I and World War II included duty in the fire control division of the battleship MARYLAND; in the plotting room and gunnery division of the USS WEST VIRGINIA; and as gunnery officer of the destroyer WILLIAM JONES in 1927-28. He received letters of commendation when the WEST VIRGINIA won the Battle Efficiency Pennant in 1925 and 1927, and for gunnery performance while serving as gunnery officer of the WILLIAM JONES in 1928.

Completing the course in general line duties at the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland, he attended the Submarine School, New London, Connecticut, in 1930, completing the course in submarines and qualifying for command of submarines. In 1931-34 he served in the submarines S-30 and S-39, operating with Submarine Divisions 9 and 10 participating in the Yangtze River valley operations in 1931 aboard the USS S-39. He returned to the United States in the Spring of 1934 and served for three years as an instructor in mathematics at the U. S. Naval Academy, with additional duty in 1935 as assistant wrestling coach and in 1936 as officer representative for wrestling.

Captain Adell joined the USS ASTORIA on June 7, 1937, and served in that cruiser, operating with Cruiser Division 6, Scouting Force, before assuming command of the destroyer TRUXTON, a unit of Destroyers, Battle Force. On July 15, 1940 he reported for duty at the Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D. C., where he remained after war was declared on Japan, Germany, and Italy, on December 8, 1941, and until detached on November 1, 1943. Following temporary duty under instruction with the Fleet Operational Training Command,

Atlantic Fleet, at Norfolk, Virginia, he reported for duty in charge of fitting out the USS LEON (APA 48), and assumed command of that transport attack ship at her commissioning December 11, 1943.

Relieved of command of the LEON on November 16, 1944, Captain Adell served as control officer on the staff of Commander, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet, until July 20, 1945. For his services during the period November 19, 1944, until July 6, 1945, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal with the following citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL:

"For distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement as the Commander of the Control Group from February 19 to February 24, 1945, during the assault and capture of Iwo Jima Islands. Showing outstanding skill and thorough knowledge of his profession, he directed the assault waves to the beach according to schedule. With professional skill and courage, he contributed in a large measure to the success of the assault operation. His conduct throughout distinguished him among those performing duties of the same character."

GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF SECOND BRONZE STAR MEDAL:

"For distinguishing himself by meritorious service as Force Control Officer while attached to the Staff, Commander Amphibious Forces, United States Pacific Fleet, from 19 November 1944 to 6 July 1945. During this period he assisted in the preparation of plans, and participated in the amphibious operations for the capture of Japanese-held Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands and Okinawa Gunto, Nansei Shoto. As Central Control Officer during the initial assault against those islands he controlled and dispatched the assault waves and support gunboats while under enemy mortar and artillery fire. After the initial assault he organized and directed the salvage of disabled landing craft. By his exceptional ability in organizing, training and operating his force, he contributed materially to the success of these two major operations. His leadership, outstanding service, and conduct throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Captain Adell served as Chief Staff Officer, Transport Squadron 16, on "Magic Carpet" duty returning veterans from the Pacific

areas from July 25 until November 9, 1945, and reporting to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., was assigned, after brief temporary duty in that bureau, to the USS COLUMBIA. In July, 1946, he was ordered to duty as Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander, First Task Fleet, and he is now under orders to the National War College, Washington, D. C., to report on August 28, 1947, for the course arranged for selected officers of the Department of State Foreign Service and officers of the armed forces. The ten month course begins on September 2, 1947.

In addition to the Bronze Star Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award, Captain Adell has the Victory Medal, Escort Clas (USS NEW ORLEANS) and the Yangtze Service Medal (USS S-39), and is entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp (USS TRUXTUN); the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal with 3 stars; the American Area Campaign Medal; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 stars; and the World War II Victory Medal. He also has the Order of Merit "Juan Pablo Duarte" rank of Knight Commander, awarded by the Government of the Dominican Republic.

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June 30, 1947