

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

REAR ADMIRAL AUGUSTIN T. BEAUREGARD, U. S. NAVY, DECEASED

Augustin Toutant Beauregard was born in San Antonio, Texas, on December 1, 1885, son of Richard T. and Aglae Josephine (Phillips) Beauregard. He attended San Antonio High School prior to his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from his native state in 1903. While attending the Academy, he was selected as one of four Midshipmen to serve as Aides to the Grand Marshall during the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt as President of the United States, and Charles W. Fairbanks, as Vice President in March 1905. Graduated on September 12, 1906, with the Class of 1907, he served the two years at sea, as then required by law, before he was commissioned Ensign on September 13, 1908. He subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Rear Admiral to date from April 1, 1941 and on November 1, 1942 was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1906, he served for four years in the battleship TENNESSEE, and in 1910 joined the staff of the Commander Second Division, Pacific Fleet, USS CALIFORNIA flagship. The next year he transferred in a similar capacity, to the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Between 1912 and 1914, he was an Instructor in the Department of Modern Languages at the Naval Academy, after which he returned to duty afloat as Aide to the Commander Special Service Squadron, USS NEW YORK, flagship. Later in 1914 he became Aide to Commander Fourth Division, Atlantic Fleet, and in 1916 was again assigned to the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, to serve as Aide and Flag Lieutenant.

In 1918 he was assigned to the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and while in that assignment had temporary duty as Aide to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay. Ordered in 1920 to the Navy Yard, New York, New York, he assisted in the fitting out of the USS TENNESSEE, and joined that battleship as Navigator upon her commissioning on June 3, 1920. He served in the TENNESSEE for two years, and between December 1922 and 1927 was a member of the United States Naval Mission to Brazil.

He joined the USS TEXAS in May 1927, and while attached to that battleship had temporary duty as Aide to President Elect Herbert Hoover on a cruise to South American and West Indian ports. When the party returned to the United States in December 1928, he resumed his duties in the TEXAS. Detached from that battleship in July 1929, he again served in the Department of Modern Languages at the Naval Academy, and while in that assignment, was Naval Aide to Dr. Julio Prates, President Elect of Brazil, on his visit to the United States in 1930.

In June 1932 he reported as Operations Officer on the staff of Commander Battle Force, U. S. Fleet, and the next year, transferred in a similar capacity, to the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet. Later in 1933, he assumed command of the USS ALTAIR, and in June 1934 was ordered to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, for brief duty prior to reporting in September of that year as U. S. Naval Attache at the American Embassy, Paris, France, with additional duty as Naval Attache at the American Embassy, Madrid, Spain.

From June 1936 to July 1937 he had instruction at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, after which he commanded the USS NEW ORLEANS, operating with Cruiser Division SIX, Scouting Force. Detached from command of that cruiser in February 1939, he then reported as Chief of the U. S. Naval Mission to Brazil. Returning to the United States in May 1941, he was designated Special Representative of the Chief of Naval Operations, to Naval Officials of the South American Republics in connection with their tour of the United States. Two months later, July 1941, he became U. S. Naval Attache at the American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy on November 1, 1942, but continued to serve in the latter assignment until August 13, 1943, when he was relieved of all active duty.

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Chief of our Naval Mission to Brazil and Commandant of the Naval Operating Base, Rio de Janeiro, from December 1, 1942 to May 8, 1943..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. The citation continues: "By his thorough understanding of the people and language of Brazil, his brilliant initiative and sound diplomatic ability, Rear Admiral Beauregard achieved a closer and more effective relationship between the two countries. Working directly with the Brazilian President and his Ministers as representative of the Commander South Atlantic Force, he rendered invaluable assistance in obtaining maximum cooperation for the successful execution of our mutual war effort in that area."

He died on April 8, 1951, in Jacksonville, Florida. He was survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Munford of Clarksville, Tennessee.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, Rear Admiral Beauregard had the Mexican Campaign Medal; the Victory Medal, Pacific Fleet Clasp (World War I); the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal. He also had the following foreign decorations: Legion of Merit, with rank of Officer, from the Government of France, and the Order of Abdon Calderon, First Class, from the Equadorian Government. He had also been awarded from Brazil, the Medal Commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of Brazil; the Order of Naval Merit with rank of Commendador and the Order of the Southern Cross.