

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM M. CALLAGHAN  
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED

Born in Oakland, California, William McCombe Callaghan entered the Naval Academy on appointment from that state in 1916. Graduated on June 6, 1918, he served in the USS WISCONSIN, based on Queenstown, Ireland, during the last months of World War I, followed by duty in destroyers until the summer of 1923. He then returned to Annapolis, for postgraduate instruction in electrical engineering and completed the course at Columbia University, New York City, receiving the degree of Master of Science in 1925.

Duty afloat in the cruiser CONCORD and the aircraft carrier SARATOGA was interspersed with an assignment in the Repairs Division, Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department. He next served for three years as an Instructor in the Department of Marine Engineering at the Naval Academy and from June 1936 until May 1939 had successive service as Commanding Officer of the USS REUREN JAMES and Executive Officer of the USS HENDERSON.

The entry of the United States into World War II, late in 1941, found him in the Ships' Movements Section, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, where he remained until the summer of 1942. In that assignment he had a month's duty as U. S. Naval Observer in London, England. He next served on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and was awarded the Legion of Merit for his outstanding service in the field of logistic planning.

He fitted out, then commanded the USS MISSOURI, which arrived in the forward area of the Pacific early in February 1945 and, that month, participated (as part of the famous Task Force 58), in the first mass air strike against the Japanese homeland and the carrier strikes against Tokyo. In March the MISSOURI took part in strikes against Iwo Jima, in a two day sweep down the Japanese coast line and in the initial bombardment of Okinawa. During the latter operation a Kamikaze plane crashed on her deck but the MISSOURI suffered little damage.

Between September 1945 and August 1948 he was Chief of the Naval Transportation Service, after which he had duty as Commander Training Command, Atlantic Fleet. On September 15, 1949 he became Commander Military Sea Transportation Service and served as such, in the rank of Vice Admiral, until January 1953. Following duty as Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, he reported on April 2, 1954 as Commander Naval Forces, Far East. He was Commander Western Sea Frontier from November 1956 until March 1, 1957 when he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy after thirty-eight years of active duty.

Vice Admiral Callaghan's brother, the late Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan, USN, was killed in action on board the USS SAN FRANCISCO during the Battle of the Solomons in November 1942.

18 March 1957

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM M. CALLAGHAN  
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED

PERSONAL DATA:

Born: Oakland, California; August 8, 1897

Education: St. Mary's College of California; University of San Francisco; Drew's Preparatory School; U. S. Naval Academy (BS, 1918); Postgraduate School (Electrical Engineering, 1923-1924); Columbia University (MS, 1925)

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Legion of Merit  
Army Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pennant  
World War I Victory Medal with Destroyer Clasp  
American Defense Service Medal, Base Clasp  
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal  
American Campaign Medal  
World War II Victory Medal  
China Service Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Korean Service Medal  
United Nations Service Medal  
Foreign: Order of Boyaca (Grand Officer) Republic of Columbia  
Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, Thailand

CITATIONS:

Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Assistant War Plans Officer for Logistics and Assistant Logistics Officer, Pacific Fleet, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area from July 10, 1942 to May 1, 1944. During this period, Rear Admiral (then Captain) Callaghan skillfully assisted in the planning for logistical support of the Navy and shore-based establishment engaged in the campaigns for the capture of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands and their subsequent maintenance. Assisting in organizing the Logistics Division of the Joint Staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, he was instrumental in developing its operational methods and procedure..."

Army Commendation Ribbon: "For commendable service as Chief of the Naval Transportation Service from November 30, 1945 to May 15, 1946, during which time he performed with distinction in the solution of the problems connected with the operations of Navy vessels employed in the return of troops to the United States."

V. Adm. W. M. Callaghan, USN, Ret.

PROMOTIONS:

Commissioned Ensign, June 7, 1918  
Lieutenant (jg) (T), November 24, 1918  
Lieutenant (jg), July 1, 1920  
Lieutenant, June 3, 1922  
Lieutenant Commander, July 1, 1932  
Commander, June 23, 1938  
Captain (T), September 8, 1942  
Rear Admiral, May 24, 1945, to rank from August 11, 1943  
Vice Admiral, April 11, 1951  
Retired in permanent rank of Rear Admiral and advanced to Vice  
Admiral by Act of Congress, March 1, 1957

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

Jun 1918	Aug 1918	USS WISCONSIN
Aug 1918	Dec 1918	USS STEVENS
Dec 1918	Jul 1919	USS ALLEN
Jul 1919	Aug 1919	USS CHAMPLAIN
Aug 1919	Oct 1920	USS HAMILTON (cfo; Engineer Officer)
Oct 1920	Jan 1921	USS NICHOLAS (cfo; Engineer Officer)
Jan 1921	Jun 1921	USS DENT
Jun 1921	Aug 1921	USS FARQUHAR
Aug 1921	Nov 1921	USS TWIGGS (Engineering Duty)
Nov 1921	Jun 1923	USS SLOAT
Jun 1923	Jul 1924	USNA Postgraduate School (Instruction)
Jul 1924	Sep 1925	Instruction at various places under super- vision of Postgraduate School
Sep 1925	Oct 1928	USS CONCORD
Oct 1928	May 1930	Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department (Repairs Division)
May 1930	May 1933	USS SARATOGA (Asst. Engineer Officer)
May 1933	May 1936	USNA (Instructor, Marine Engineering)
May 1936	Mar 1938	USS REUREN James (Commanding Officer)
Mar 1938	May 1939	USS HENDERSON (Executive Officer)
May 1939	Aug 1941	Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department (Ships' Movements Section)
Aug 1941	Sep 1941	American Embassy, London (Naval Observer)
Sep 1941	Jul 1942	Office of CNO, Navy Department
Jul 1942	May 1944	Staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet
May 1944	May 1945	USS MISSOURI (cfo; Commanding Officer)
May 1945	Jul 1945	Staff of Commander U. S. Pacific Fleet
Jul 1945	Aug 1948	Office of CNO (Asst. Chief of Naval Operations for Transportation)
Aug 1948	Aug 1949	Commander Training Command, Atlantic Fleet
Aug 1949	Dec 1952	Commander Military Sea Transportation Service
Dec 1952	Mar 1954	Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet

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Mar 1954	Nov 1956	Commander Naval Forces, Far East
Nov 1956	Mar 1957	Commander Western Sea Frontier
1 Mar 1957		Transferred to Retired List

Navy Office of Information  
Internal Relations Division (OI-430)  
18 March 1957