

CAPTAIN JAMES ALVIN ADKINS, U.S. NAVY

A NATIVE OF Washington, D.C., Captain Adkins attended St. Albans School before his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1926. After graduation in 1930, he served as a junior officer in the battleship MISSISSIPPI, and the cruisers CHICAGO and INDIANAPOLIS. In 1933 he was attached to the destroyer WILLIAMSON as Engineer Officer, and after instruction at the Submarine School, New London, served from 1934 to 1937 on board the submarine S-37 on Asiatic Station, operating in the Philippines and China.

In 1937 he completed a short courser in the French language at Tours, France, then for two years was an instructor in the Department of Languages at the Naval Academy. Four months on board the submarine S-22 preceded duty as Executive Officer of the USS SEAWOLF, which he joined at her commissioning at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in February 1940, and left at Manila, R.I., just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. From January to June 1942 he served on the Staff of Commander Submarine Squadron 5, and as Commanding Officer of the Detail Office in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department.

From December 1942 until December 1943 he was Navigator of the cruiser SAN DIEGO, which participated in action at Guadalcanal and in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands Campaigns. Later, while serving on the Staff of Commander Submarines, Southwest Pacific (Perth), he made a PCO cruise in the USS HAKE. He commanded the USS COD during her Fourth, Fifth and Sixth War Patrols in 1944-1945, and was awarded the Navy Cross for the first successful War Patrol and the Silver Star (two awards) for the other two. During the last three months of hostilities he served as Air-Submarine Liaison Officer to Commander Submarines, Pacific, and received a Letter of Commendation from the Commanding General, 20th Air Force, for meritorious achievement in helping submarines to find Air Force pilots who had been forced down.

After the Japanese surrender, he returned to the Submarine Base, New London, to serve as Instructor, later Acting Head of the Submarine School, then as Operations Officer for forces operating out of New London. Duty as Assistant Naval Attache at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 1947 to June 1949 was followed by instruction at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. In June 1950(?) he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations for duty on the Staff and after a year there served for two years as Chief of the Navy Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Portugal.

In June 1953 he was ordered to the USS SANDOVAL, which, under his command, participated in action in Korea in 1953. After his return to the United States in September 1954, he again served in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and under orders of June 21, 1956, was transferred to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

PERSONAL DATA:

Born: Washington, D.C., June 16, 1909

Parents: James C. and Virginia R. (Brown) Adkins

Education: St. Albans School, Washington, D.C. ; U.S. Naval Academy (BS, 1930) ; Submarine School (1934) ; Tours, France (French language, 1937) ; Naval War College (1950)

PROMOTIONS:

Commissioned Ensign June 5, 1930

Lieutenant (jg), June 5, 1933

Lieutenant, June 30, 1937

Lieutenant Commander (T), January 2, 1942
Lieutenant Commander, April 8, 1943
Commander (T), September 7, 1944
Commander, August 7, 1947 (to rank from December 30, 1941)
Captain (T), May 3, 1947 until December 1, 1947
Captain, July 1, 1949

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Navy Cross
Silver Star Medal
Gold Star in lieu of second Silver Star Medal
American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, one silver star and two bronze stars
World War II Victory Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Korean Service Medal
United Nations Service Medal
Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one bronze star

Navy Cross: "For extraordinary heroism as Commanding Officer of the USS COD, during the Fourth War Patrol of that vessel against enemy Japanese forces in the area of Manila and in the Flores and Molucca Seas, from July 3 to August 25, 1944... (He) launched and executed numerous well planned and daring attacks...which resulted in the destruction of four hostile cargo ships and the damaging of a fifth. Constantly vigilant and aggressive, he resolutely retained the initiative and boldly pursued and pressed home the attacks, skillfully evading the enemy's depth bomb charges and insuring his ship's safe return to port."

Silver Star Medal: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the USS COD during the Fifth War Patrol of that vessel in enemy Japanese-controlled waters of the Pacific, from September 18 to November 20, 1944... (He) directed his ship in carrying out bold and aggressive attacks against the enemy to sink an enemy tanker of 10,000 tons and by his bold tactics, avoided severe enemy countermeasures. With all torpedoes expended following a furious engagement, he pursued an important enemy convey and relayed accurate reports of its movements for a period of thirty hours."

Gold Star in lieu of second Silver Star Medal: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the USS COD...during the Sixth War Patrol of that vessel in the enemy controlled waters of the East China Sea off the northwest coast of Formosa from March 24 to May 29, 1945. Fighting back against great odds, Commander Adkins delivered smashing gun and torpedo attacks which resulted in the destruction of 5,000 tons of enemy shipping. Despite damage to his ship, he skillfully evaded severe enemy countermeasures and brought his vessel safe to port."

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

Aug 1930 Apr 1931 USS MISSISSIPPI (Junior Officer)
May 1931 Aug 1931 Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida (instruction)
Sep 1931 Jun 1932 USS CHICAGO (JO)
Jun 1932 Nov 1932 USS INDIANAPOLIS (cfo)
Nov 1932 Jun 1933 USS INDIANAPOLIS (JO)
Jun 1933 Nov 1933 USS WILLIAMSON (Engineer Officer)
Jan 1934 Jun 1934 Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut (instruction)
Sep 1934 Mar 1937 Submarine Squadron FIVE (S-37, Executive Officer)

Aug 1937 May 1939 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland (Instructor, Department of Languages)
May 1939 Oct 1939 USS S-22
Oct 1939 Dec 1939 USS SEAWOLF (cfo)
Dec 1939 Nov 1941 USS SEAWOLF (XO)
Jan 1942 Mar 1942 Submarine Squadron FIVE
Mar 1942 May 1942 USS S-21 (Commanding Officer)
Jun 1942 Nov 1942 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department
Dec 1942 Dec 1943 USS SAN DIEGO (Navigator)
Dec 1943 Jan 1944 Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut (instruction)
Feb 1944 Jun 1944 Seventh Fleet, Submarine Squadron SIXTEEN
Jun 1944 Jun 1945 USS COD (CO)
Jul 1945 Oct 1945 Submarines, Pacific (Air Submarine Liaison Officer)
Nov 1945 Oct 1946 Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut (Instructor, Submarine School)
Oct 1946 Jun 1947 Submarine Squadron TWO (Staff)
Jul 1947 Sep 1947 Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department
Sep 1947 Sep 1949 American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Assistant Naval Attache and Assistant Naval Attache for Air)
Sep 1949 Jun 1950 Naval War College (Instruction)
Jun 1950 Jun 1953 Office of Chief of Naval Operations
Jun 1953 Jul 1954 Military Assistance Advisory Group, Portugal (Chief, Navy Section)
Aug 1954 Jun 1956 Office of CNO
Jun 1956 Office of Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C.

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