

# NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

COMMANDER EARLE BENNETT, U. S. NAVY

Earle Bennett was born in Harrison, New York, on July 2, 1912. He attended Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, and Ohio State University in Columbus, and received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from St. John's University School of Law in Brooklyn, New York. He practiced law in the State of New York prior to his enlistment as Seaman in the Naval Reserve in June 1942. He was promoted to Boatswain's Mate in 1943, and commissioned Ensign, USNR on April 3, 1943. He was transferred to the U. S. Navy from the Naval Reserve in 1947, and subsequently advanced to the rank of Commander, to date from January 1, 1951.

From June until August 1942 he served as a seaman guard at the Receiving Station, Thompkinsville, Staten Island, New York, and for seven months thereafter had convoy control duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In March 1943 he joined the USS LST-399, in the South Pacific, and served as Leading Boatswain's Mate in that vessel until October 1943. He returned to San Francisco, California, and served briefly at the Naval Base, Treasure Island, and in December 1943 reported to Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Virginia, as a Seamanship Instructor, remaining there throughout the latter period of World War II.

Released to inactive status in November 1945, he was an Attorney at Law until his transfer to the regular Navy and active duty in the Eleventh Naval District, in April 1947. For a year he served as Defense Counsel and Trial Counsel, in the General Courts Martial at Headquarters, San Diego, California, and from April 1948 to July 1950 was Trial Counsel, Defense and Claims Counsel at Headquarters, Fourteenth Naval District, Pearl Harbor, T. H. On his return to the United States in July 1950, he was assigned to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for Legislative Drafting in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, remaining there until February 1952.

He attended the Navy's School of Justice at the Naval Base, Newport, Rhode Island, from February to April 1952, after which he reported to Headquarters, Naval Air Basic Training Command, Pensacola, Florida, for duty as Staff Legal Officer. Detached in August 1954, he next served in a similar capacity at Headquarters, Fifth Naval District, Norfolk, Virginia, and under orders of July 29, 1957, currently serves at Headquarters, Tenth Naval District, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Commander Bennett has the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS LST 399, for heroic action in the Solomon Islands, May 1943-May 1944; the American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one operation star; the World War II Victory Medal; and National Defense Service Medal.

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