



Harold S. Bottomley, Jr., Captain USN

Harold Sydney Bottomley, Jr., was born in Merchantville, New Jersey, on October 13, 1915, son of Harold S. and Eleanor (Stockham) Bottomley. He was graduated cum laude from Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana, before his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy from the State of Pennsylvania in 1933. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1937, he progressed to the rank of Captain, to date from August 1, 1955.

After graduation from the Naval Academy, he joined the USS *Concord* as a junior division officer with consecutive duties in the Engineering, Gunnery, and Communications Departments. In February 1940 he reported for flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and was designated Naval Aviator on October 15, that year. In December 1940 he joined Bombing Squadron THREE., based variously on the aircraft carriers *Saratoga*, *Yorktown* (sunk at Midway) and *Enterprise*. He participated in many decisive engagements during the first half of World War II while serving as Material Officer, Gunnery Officer, Flight Officer, Executive Officer and finally in command of that squadron.

He was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942; was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement in the Solomon Islands Campaign in August 1942; and is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Enterprise* for heroic service in action in the Pacific Area.

Returning to the United States after his detachment from Bombing Squadron THREE in September 1943, he had shore duty at the Naval Air Material Center, Philadelphia., as Officer in Charge of the Carrier Suitability Unit, then engaged in conducting arrested landing and catapult trials with the latest models of Navy and Air Force aircraft. In 1944, while still at Naval Air, Material Center, he was awarded the Air Medal for successfully crash landing a burning aircraft to save a crew member who was unable to bail out.

He was detached in June 1945 with orders to refresher training at the Naval Air Station, Green Cove Springs, Florida, preparatory to assuming command of a carrier air group. However, the war ended and he reported in October 1945 as Executive Officer of the USS *Fanshaw Bay* (CVE-70), and five months later assumed command for the decommissioning process. Ordered next to the Staff of Commander Naval Forces, Europe, headquarters in London, he served as Assistant Air Operations Officer until January 1947, had instruction at the Royal Navy Staff College for six months, and from July 1947 until August 1948 served with the U. S. Naval Attache, London, in an air training liaison capacity with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

September 1948 found him at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, undergoing a course of instruction in Joint Operations. He assumed command of Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE in February 1949, and subsequently moved on to command Carrier Air Group SIX in January 1950. Under his command Carrier Air Group SIX was embarked in the USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* from October to December 1950, and from January to April 1951 was deployed in the Mediterranean. From June 1951 until July 1953, he headed the Air Intelligence Requirements Section, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. As such he was concerned with the development of intelligence requirements essential to air warfare operations.

Reporting in August 1953 to the USS *Wasp* (CVA-18), he served as Executive Officer until August 1954, while that carrier was deployed in the Mediterranean and the Western Pacific, via Suez. He had instruction in the Special Weapons Unit at San Diego, between August and October 1954 then joined the Staff of Commander Fleet Air, Hawaii, as Staff Operations Officer. There for a year, he supervised operations and training of Air Force Pacific Units under operational control of Commander Fleet Air, Hawaii.

From August 1955 until July 1956 he was a student in Naval Warfare I at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, after which he attended a course at the National War College, Washington, D. C. On August 1, 1957 he reported as Naval Aide to the Honorable Richard Jackson, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Personnel and Reserve Forces), where he remained until December 1958, then assumed command of the USS *Rainer* (AE-5). In February 1960 he transferred to command of the USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31).

In January 1961 he became Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, on the Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet, and in August 1963 was detached for duty in the Joint Staff Office, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D. C. "For exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Chief of the Strategic Nuclear Branch of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Special Studies Group, from August 1963 to September 1965..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. On March 14, 1966 he reported as Commanding Officer of the Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy.

In addition to the Navy Cross, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Star, the Air Medal with Gold Star and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Captain Bottomley has the American-Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; China Service Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal.

His official address was Merchantville, New Jersey, where he lived during his boyhood. He was married to the former Dorothy Jane Filbert of Reading, Pennsylvania, and they had two daughters, Sydney and Barbara, and two sons, Richard and Harold S. Bottomley, III.