



**Howard J. Boydston, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Howie"

Date of Designation: 5 June 1942      NA # 14059

Dates of Active Duty: 15 June 1941 - 30 June 1972

Total Flight Hours: 4,249

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 384

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,045   Prop: 1,393   VF/VA: 4,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-10, USS *Enterprise*, Nov. 1942 - May 1943 - 45 Missions.

WW II: VF-8, USS *Bunker Hill*, Mar. 1944 - Oct. 1944 - 96 Missions.

Korea: VF-52 USS *Valley Forge*, Jul. 1950 - Nov. 1950 - 38 Missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-154, May 1955 - Oct. 1956.

COMCVG-21, Dec. 1959 - Jun. 1961.

CO, NAS Lemoore, Jul. 1965 - Jul. 1967.

Combat Awards:

WW II: 9 Air Medals and  
 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Korea: 2 Air Medals.

### Duty Assignment Chronology

10/40      Apprentice Seaman on active duty without pay in the Battleship USS *New York*.  
 6/41-9/41      Midshipman (V-7), Northwestern University, Chicago, IL. Received Commission as Ensign. Resigned and enlisted as Seaman V-5 in the Aviation Cadet Program.  
 10/41-11/41      E base training, Opa Locka, FL.  
 12/41-4/42      Flight Training, Pensacola



5/42-6/42      Fighter Training, NAS Miami. (Commissioned 30 June 1942).  
 7/42-10/42      Advanced Carrier Training Group, NAS North Island, CA.  
 11/42-5/43      VF-10 (The Grim Reapers), aboard USS *Enterprise*, South Pacific.  
 7/43-12/44      VF-8, NAF Pungo, VA; USS *Intrepid*; USS *Bunker Hill*, WestPac.  
 1/45-2/45      NAS New Orleans, Primary Flight Instructor School.  
 3/45-8/45      NAS Dallas, Primary Flight Instructor.  
 9/45-3/48      Staff, Naval Air Primary Training/NavAir Reserve Training.  
 4/48-12/50      VF-52, NAS North Island; USS *Valley Forge* in Korea.  
 1/51-12/51      Navy General Line School, Monterey, CA.  
 1/52-4/54      OPNAV (OP-551), Washington, D. C.  
 5/54-6/54      Special Weapons Employment School.  
 6/54-4/55      USS *Wasp* (CVA-17).  
 5/55-10/56      CO, VF-154.  
 11/56-7/58      OPNAV (OP-551).  
 8/58-7/59      Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C. (Student).  
 8/59-11/59      Replacement Air Group Training, Pacific Fleet  
 12/59-6/61      COMCVG-21.  
 7/61-8/62      Executive Officer, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61).  
 9/62-6/65      Joint Command and Control Requirements Group, Joint Staff.  
 7/65-7/67      CO, NAS Lemoore, CA.  
 7/67-4/69      Staff, COMNAVAIRPAC (Code 50).  
 5/69-6/72      Chief of Staff, COMFAIRMED/COMASW-FORSIXTHFLT.  
 1 July 1972      Retired from active duty.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) During WW II, on 24 Sep. 1944, during a strike at Leyte Gulf, I sank, with machine gun fire only, a Japanese Destroyer Escort and shot down a Japanese "Pete" aircraft.

- Continued -

### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (2) On 10 October 1944, as flight leader of a division of four F6F aircraft, each with one 500 lb bomb, we sank four Japanese midget submarines in the harbor at Unten Ko, Okinawa.
- (3) On 12 October 1944, shot down a Japanese "Hamp" over Taipeh airfield.
- (4) On 16 October 1944, on a 300 mile radius search, made the first contact by carrier aircraft with the Japanese fleet (2BB, 1CL, 7DD) since the First Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944.
- (5) In May and June of 1948, I received Jet Transition Training in the P-80 aircraft at Williams Air Force Base, then returned to VF-52 at NAS North Island where I was involved in development and execution of the Navy's Jet Transition Training program.
- (6) I was one of eight Naval Aviators in Carrier Air Group FIVE to make the first night carrier landings in Jet aircraft aboard the USS *Valley Forge* in the Pacific Fleet. This event was later portrayed on the cover of Life Magazine.
- (7) On 3 July 1950, I made the first fighter sweep to strike Pyongyang, the Capitol of North Korea, at the beginning of the Korean conflict.