

Picture Not Available

Sherman E. Burroughs, Jr., Captain, USN

Captain Burroughs, born in Manchester, New Hampshire, February 22, 1903, attended Manchester High School. He also attended Central and Western High Schools, and the Columbian Preparatory School in Washington, D. C., before his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, by Senator H. W. Keyes of New Hampshire in 1920. While a Midshipman he participated in class soccer and swimming. Graduated and commissioned Ensign in June 1924, he subsequently progressed in grade as follows; Lieutenant (junior grade), June 5, 1927; Lieutenant, June 30, 1933; Lieutenant Commander, February 13, 1939; Commander, July 17, 1942; and Captain, June 1, 1943.

After graduation in 1924, Captain Burroughs joined the USS *Oklahoma*, in which he served until January 1925, making the cruise to Australia in that battleship. He was then ordered to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training. Designated naval aviator in January 1927, he had continuous duty with naval aviation since that time.

In February 1927, Captain Burroughs reported for duty with Fighting Squadron 6, attached to the USS *Langley* operating with Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet, and in July 1928 that squadron was redesignated Bombing Squadron 2, and transferred to the USS *Saratoga*. Detached from that squadron in September 1929, he was assigned duty with the Experimental Unit at the Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads, Virginia, where he served until June 1930. The succeeding three years he had instruction in ordnance engineering (aviation), at the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland, at the Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., and at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia.

From July 1933 until June 1935, Captain Burroughs served as senior aviator attached to Scouting Squadron 5, aviation unit of the cruiser *Memphis*. The following year, he served as gunnery officer of Fighting Squadron 6, based on the aircraft carrier *Saratoga*, during which period that Squadron stood first in gunnery among all Aircraft

Battle Force Squadrons. He received the Silver Life Saving Medal for rescuing a man from drowning off North Beach, Coronado, California, on July 21, 1935.

Captain Burroughs reported on June 30, 1936, for duty in the Aviation Section of the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., serving in that assignment the following two years. In July 1936 he joined Observation Squadron 1, aviation unit of the battleship *Arizona*, as senior aviator and later commanded that squadron. Detached from that duty In January 1940, he was transferred to command of Observation Squadron 4, aviation unit of the USS *West Virginia*. In July 1940, Captain Burroughs was assigned duty as Gunnery Officer for Aircraft on the staff of Fleet Admiral (then Vice Admiral) William F. Halsey, Jr., U.S.N., Commander, Aircraft Battle Force, USS *Yorktown*, flagship. He continued in that duty, when Vice Admiral Halsey later transferred his flag to the USS *Enterprise*, and was attached to that aircraft carrier when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, T. H., on December 7, 1941. Returning to Pearl Harbor from delivering planes at Wake Island when the news of the attack was received, squadrons from the *Enterprise* were launched in a fruitless search for the fleeing enemy.

Captain Burroughs participated in the first offensive war in the Central Pacific, as set forth in the citations that follow, and received a facsimile of, and is entitled to wear the Ribbon for, the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Enterprise*, the first carrier to be so honored. For his services on the staff of Fleet Admiral (then Vice Admiral) Halsey, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal, and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Silver Star Medal. The citations follow: Silver Star Medal "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving on the Staff of the Task Force Commander during a series of highly successful offensive missions including the attacks on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, the raids on Wake and Marcus Islands, the Battle of Midway and similar operations in the Central Pacific covering a period from December 6, 1941, to June 14, 1942. While under constant threat of attack by air and submarine, the Task Force to which Commander Burroughs was attached repeatedly steamed for

protracted periods in enemy waters and in close proximity to enemy territory and bases. Largely due to his skill and determination under fire, only minor damage was suffered from attacking heavy bombers in the Marshall Islands engagement. In addition, he contributed materially to the marked success of the other actions through which the Task Force came unscathed after inflicting extremely heavy damage on Japanese installations and shipping.”

Gold Star in lieu of second Silver Star Medal: “For extremely gallant and intrepid conduct in action while serving on the Staff of the Task Force Commander during the Battle of Stewart Island, August 24, 1942. Constantly in danger from enemy surface and submarine forces while operating in hostile waters, the Task Force to which Commander Burroughs was attached was repeatedly subjected to heavy enemy air attacks in this action. His cool determination and courage under fire were important factors contributing to the successful culmination of this battle.”

Presidential Unit Citation - USS *Enterprise*: “For consistently outstanding performance and distinguished achievement during repeated action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific war area, December 7, 1941, to November 15, 1942. Participating in nearly every major carrier engagement in the first year of the war, the *Enterprise* and her Air Group, exclusive of her far-flung destruction of hostile shore installations throughout the battle area, did sink or damage, on her own a total of 35 Japanese vessels and shoot down a total of 185 Japanese aircraft. Her aggressive spirit and superb combat efficiency are fitting tribute to the officers and men who so gallantly established her as a solid bulwark in defense of the American Nation.”

Gilbert and Marshall Islands Raid	February 1, 1942
Wake Island Raid	February 24, 1942
Marcus Island Raid	March 4, 1942
Battle of Midway	June 4-6, 1942
Occupation of Guadalcanal	August 7-8, 1942
Battle of Stewart Islands	August 24, 1942
Battle of Santa Cruz	October 26, 1942
Battle of Solomon Islands	November 14-15, 1942

In October 1942, Captain Burroughs was ordered, to duty as Commander, Air Group of the USS *Saratoga*. For his services from February to March 1943 as Commander, Air Group 3, based on the *Saratoga*, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with the following citation: Distinguished Flying Cross “For heroism and extraordinary achievement as Air Group Commander of *Saratoga* Air Group Three while participating in aerial attacks upon enemy Japanese shore installations and shipping in the Solomon Islands area from February 19 to March 8, 1943. Personally leading six coordinated attacks upon Munda Point, Kahili, Buin Harbor and Ballale Island, Commander Burroughs, by his excellent judgment and cool courage in the face of heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire, contributed greatly to the destruction of numerous anti-aircraft batteries, ammunition and supply dumps and one large cargo transport. During the action against Kahili he further proved his brilliant leadership when,

with complete disregard for his own safety, he intentionally exposed himself to hostile anti-aircraft fire while indicating to the pilots who followed him the location and identity of the target area. Despite hazardous opposition from enemy guns and fighter aircraft, Commander Burroughs gallantly led his air group to successful completion of each mission. His heroic conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

After duty in the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., Captain Burroughs served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, California, and for his services in that command from December 1943 until August 1945, he was awarded the Legion of Merit with the following citation: Legion of Merit “For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commanding Officer of the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, California, from December 1943, to August 1945. By his initiative, technical ability and aggressive spirit, Captain Burroughs was instrumental in evolving and executing a carefully planned development and test program for rocket ammunition through which new types of rocket ammunition were developed for use by small vessels, invasion craft and aircraft, thereby greatly increasing the effectiveness of these vessels and the firepower of the fleet. His brilliant professional skill and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Captain Burroughs and the United States Naval service.”

In October 1945, Captain Burroughs was ordered to duty as Commanding Officer of the USS *Cape Gloucester* (CVE-109). Detached from that duty in July 1946, he reported the following month for duty as Chief of Staff and side to the Commander, Carrier Division 5.

In addition to the Silver Star Medal with Gold Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, and the Silver Life Saving Medal, Captain Burroughs is entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp (USS *Arizona* and USS *West Virginia*); he Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal; the American Area Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.