



**Stephen A. Freeman, LTJG, USN (Ret.)
and Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve**

Date of Designation: 12 June 1918 NA # 1091

Dates of Active Duty: 8 May 1917 - 19 December 1918

Total Flight Hours: 465

Carrier/Ship Landing: All landings on water

Approximate Flight Hours: Prop: 465

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) I was born on May 9, 1898. I am now 98 years old.
- (2) On May 8, 1917 (still 18 years old), I was sworn in as Quartermaster (QM) 1st Class for Aviation at Charlestown (Boston) Navy Yard.
- (3) I was called to active duty at the Naval Air Ground School (just activated) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.
- (4) After graduation, I was sent to the Naval Air Base at Hampton Roads, Virginia. There, in September 1917, I had my first flight in a Burgess Ng - helmet, goggles, seat belt, no parachute. I never had a parachute on my back!
- (5) Chesapeake Bay froze over in December and I was sent to Pensacola (a dream come true). After 37 hours solo, I became a Qualified Naval Aviator, but Washington waited until after my 20th birthday (no teenagers!). I was commissioned June 12, 1918, as Naval Aviator Number 1091.
- (6) New planes arrived: the two-pontoon Curtis R-6; then the boat-planes - Curtis F-boat. then the Curtis HS-1 and HS-1L (with Liberty motor). I was appointed instructor.
- (7) June 12, 1919, I was sent to Rockaway Station, N.Y., located outside New York harbor to protect its shipping, and the scores of convoys headed for Europe, and patrol the Long Island and New Jersey coasts. We preferred the HS-2L aircraft, which carried two bombs.
- (8) German submarines cruised the North Atlantic coast, sank ships off Cape Cod, but I never saw one. The cruiser USS *San Diego* was sunk near Fire Island, but probably by a mine. Several freighters were sunk by German mines.
- (9) I accompanied the convoy on December 4, 1918, that took President Wilson to the Peace Conference in Paris.
- (10) After the armistice, I was released from active duty on December 18, 1918, and returned to Harvard College.
- (11) From May 1945 to January 1946, I served as "Field Grade Officer" in the U. S. Army's I and E Division, as Chief of the Liberal Arts Section in the American University in Biarritz, France.
- (12) From April 1949 to May 1956, I served as Colonel in the U. S. Army Reserve, in a S.I.R.A unit at Middlebury College.

