

Howard J. Boydstun, 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.

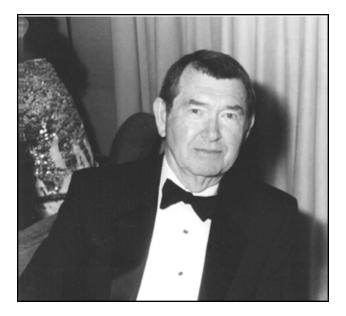
6/41-9/41 Midshipman (V-7), Northwestern University,

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.