



Wright RW-2 racing seaplane piloted by LT A. W. Gorton in 1925. Its speed averaged 173 miles per hour

Adolphus W. Gorton, Commander, USNR

Commander Gorton was born January 29, 1897. During World War I, in March 1917, Commander Gorton joined the Norton Harjes Ambulance Corps and was attached to the 42nd Division of the French Army and saw action at Verdun. In November 1917, he was invalided, at home. He enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force at Newport, Rhode Island, February 11, 1918, and was ordered to the Naval Aviation Detachment, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, for training. He had further training at the Naval Air Stations Key West and Miami, and was commissioned Ensign, October 25, 1915. Upon graduation, he received orders to report to the Northern Bombing Group at Dunkirk, which orders were cancelled because of the Armistice. He reported to the Naval Air Station, Norfolk for duty in November 1919.

His next duty Commander Gorton reported for duty on the USS *Aroostook*, the first Fleet Air Detachment with the Pacific Fleet. While in that duty he was promoted to Lieutenant (jg) and Lieutenant on February 22, 1921, and on December 1, 1921, he was transferred to the regular Navy in the grade of Lieutenant.

Commander Gorton was attached to the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C. in April, 1922, to test aircraft for a proposed around the world flight of which he was to be a member. In 1922, he also was selected as member of the Navy racing team and won the Curtiss Marine Trophy in Detroit. In 1923, Commander Gorton was a member of the Schneider Cup team at Cowes, England. In September, 1924, he joined the USS *Langley* and during 1925, Commander Gorton was one of four officers selected to make a night landing at sea on the *Langley*, and this was the first night aircraft carrier landing ever. He had duty at the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, from April, 1927, until December 6, 1929, when he resigned from the naval service.

Commander Gorton was appointed Lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve, March 1, 1930. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, July 29, 1934, and to that of Commander (T) June 13, 1942.

On March 4, 1941, he reported for active duty in the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and was transferred to the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, on April 8, 1941. On June 1, 1942, he reported as Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Banana River, Florida.

Commander Gorton has the Victory Medal, and the American Defense Service Medal. He had over 27 years naval service, both reserve and regular, with 16 years active duty.