



**Alexander S. Heyward, Jr., Vice Admiral, USN**

Alexander Salley Heyward, Jr., was born in Columbia, South Carolina on March 22, 1908, son of Alexander S. Heyward and Mrs. (Lucretia Shannon) Heyward. Receiving his early education in public schools in Columbia, Camden and Lugoff, South Carolina, and Porter Military Academy, Charleston, South Carolina, he entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland on June 15, 1926 as a Midshipman from his native state. He was graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 5, 1930 and through subsequent promotions attained the rank of Vice Admiral, to date from June 25, 1964.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1930, he completed elimination flight training at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, and in September of that year joined the USS *California*. He served as a junior division and watch officer in that battleship until February 1931, when he was ordered to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. A year later he was designated Naval Aviator and was detached in April 1932 for duty as a pilot (heavier than air) of Observation Squadron ONE-B, and Gunfire Spotter aboard the USS *Texas*. From June 1934 to June 1935 he served with Fighting Squadron THREE, based first on the USS *Langley*, later on the USS *Ranger*.

Returning to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, in June 1935, he served for two years as a heavier-than-air fighting plane instructor, and while there was a member of the stunt team. For the next three years he had duty with Patrol Squadrons NINE and TWELVE, as a pilot and structures officer, after which he again served at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, this time as Chief Flight, Instructor (patrol planes). During the early period of World War II he was

Executive Officer of Patrol Squadron EIGHTY-FOUR and Patrol Plane Commander, and in August 1942 assumed command of Patrol Squadron SEVENTY-THREE, flying PBY (Catalina) amphibians.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat for "exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron SEVENTY-THREE transferred from Iceland to French Morocco in November 1942..." The citation continues: "Immediately establishing an anti-submarine patrol, based upon Port Lyautey, (he) courageously led his squadron on numerous hazardous missions throughout the following two months, executing his duties with outstanding skill and grim determination....(and contributing) immeasurably to the security of the U. S. Naval forces and shipping during the capture and occupation of French Morocco."

From October 1943 to April 1944 he served as Commander Key West Air Group, Fleet Air Wing TWELVE. He then had five months' instruction at the Army-Navy Staff College, Washington, D. C., and in October 1944 joined the Staff of Commander Fleet Air Wing ONE. As Chief of Staff and Plans Officer, he participated in operations at Kerama Retto and Okinawa during the Okinawa Campaign. He was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit, the citation following:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct...(in that capacity) during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean Areas, from October 6, 1944 to April 15, 1945...(He) contributed materially to the successful accomplishment of complex search and reconnaissance missions for the THIRD and FIFTH Fleet... (and) aided directly in the success achieved by the wing, during the Iwo Jima and Okinawa operations..."

Detached from Fleet Air Wing ONE in October 1945, he joined the USS *Antietam* the next month, and served as Executive Officer of that aircraft carrier until March 1946. He then reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for a tour of duty in the Aviation Plans and Programs Division, as Liaison with Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization. From July 1947 to June 1949 he was at the Naval War College, first as a student (senior class, Strategy and Tactics) and later on the Staff (Strategic Area Studies).

He commanded a Drone Control Squadron (VX-2) for one year, and from June 1950 until October 1951 served on the Staff of Commander Aircraft, Pacific, as Assistant Chief of Staff (Plans). For a year thereafter he was Commanding Officer of the USS *Timbalier*, seaplane tender operating in the Norfolk, Coco Solo, Iceland, and Shetland Island areas. In October 1952 he returned to the Office of the Chief of Naval operations for duty as Head, Aviation Operations Branch, Fleet Operations Division and in July 1954 assumed duty as Assistant Director Fleet Operations.

In July 1955 he assumed command of the USS *Lexington* and in October 1956 was detached to serve as Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Carrier Division FOUR. On September 5, 1958 he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, where he served as Director of the Politico-Military Policy Division. He was Commander Carrier Division FIVE from January 25, 1960 until May 1961 and the next month became Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel and Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department. On June 25, 1964 he reported as Chief of Naval Air Training, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and “for exceptionally meritorious service...(in that capacity) from June 26, 1964 to July 31, 1968...” he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. The citation further states in part:

“...Vice Admiral Heyward directed a substantial portion of the overall training effort of Naval Aviation in response to the demands of the Vietnam conflict. This effort embraced an undergraduate pilot-training annual output that increased by over sixty percent in four years, an officer and enlisted technical training program that increased by over twenty percent; and a Ready Reserve program which increased readiness by twenty percent and evidenced a rapid and decisive reaction to the recent recall. The diligent response of his command in meeting these demands of an ever increasing magnitude was the result of the untiring endeavor of his personnel and the maximum utilization of available assets...”

On August 1, 1966 he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with Gold Star and Combat "V," Vice Admiral Heyward has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with star; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; China Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam).

He was married to the former Miss Virginia Nicholson of Camden, South Carolina and had three children: Alexandra, wife of Henry D. Boykin; Lieutenant Commander Shannon D. Heyward, USN (Naval Academy Class of 1957); and McCartney N. Heyward.