



### **Rutledge Irvine, Lieutenant, USN**

Lieutenant Irvine was born 7 July 1896 in Brooklyn, NY, and attended Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve on 9 April 1917 and was commissioned Ensign and qualified as a Naval Aviator on 13 August 1918 at Pensacola, FL. From August 1918 until October 1919, he was assigned to the NAS Hampton Roads as a patrol pilot and test pilot. He was one of the pilots that made an endurance flight of 20 hours and 10 minutes in the F5-L seaplane in April 1919. In September 1919 he was transferred to Air Squadrons, Pacific Fleet. He made a Panama flight during the winter of 1920-1921. From October 1919 to April 1922, he was assigned to Air Squadrons, USS *Aroostook*, Scouting, Combat and Spotting. From June 1922 to April 1924 he was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D.C. During this period He was a member of the team of Naval Aviators that participated in the Detroit Air Races in October 1922. He established a worlds record for altitude with single motored planes carrying 2,000 kilos at the Dayton, OH Curtiss Marine Trophy Races. Lieutenant Irvine was also a member of the Navy Team participated in the Schneider International Trophy Race at Cowes, England in 1923, finishing second in that race.

From April 1924 to August 1926 he was assigned to USS *Trenton* and USS *Richmond* VO-3 squadron. In August 1926 he was again assigned to the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C. On May 21, 1927, the National Aeronautic Association announced that Lieutenant Rutledge Irvine, flying the Navy's Vought "CORSAIR" Observation seaplane equipped with the Pratt & Whitney 500 horsepower "WASP" air-cooled engine, established a new world's speed record for seaplanes. The records were forwarded to France for confirmation. Lieutenant Irvine averaged 130.93 miles per hour for 1,000 kilometers over the enclosed triangular course at Hampton Roads, VA. Lieutenant Irvine took off from the

Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads 12:46 p.m. and flew the course of 1,000 kilometers in 4 hours, 44.65 minutes. This was the fourth world record to be broken by Naval Aviators during the past few weeks with this airplane. On November 18, 1929, Lieutenant Rutledge became Executive Officer of VJ Squadron 2-S, Aircraft Squadrons, Scouting Fleet and in November 1930, he became Commanding Officer of that squadron. In May 1932 he was assigned as a member of the Naval Examining Board, Navy Department.