



Henry L. Miller, Rear Admiral, USN

A native of Fairbanks, Alaska, our 49th state, Admiral Miller entered the U. S. Naval Academy on appointment from Alaska in July 1930. He was graduated with the Class of 1934, was designated Naval Aviator at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, in June 1938, and subsequently completed the Bombardiers' Course at Sandia Base and the All Weather Flight Course at Corpus Christi, Texas.

His early service included three years' duty at sea in the battleship *Texas* and engineering and gunnery duties in Fighting Squadron 3, based on the aircraft carrier *Saratoga*. From November 1940 until October 1942 he was a Flight Instructor and Personnel Officer at the Naval Air Station, Ellyson Field, Florida, and while there during the early period of World War II, trained General Jimmy Doolittle's "Tokyo Raiders" in carrier take-offs, then accompanied them to within 700 miles of their destination, on board the USS *Hornet* in April 1942.

From November 1942 to May 1944 he commanded Air Group 23, based on the USS *Princeton*, and during the remainder of the war had command of Air Group 6, based on the USS *Hancock*. He was "recalled" from an air strike on Tokyo when hostilities ceased in August, 1945. For World War II service he holds the Legion of Merit with Combat "V"; the Distinguished Flying Cross with four Gold Stars in lieu of additional awards; the Air Medal with five Gold Stars; the Army Commendation Ribbon; and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon (USS *Hancock*).

He had duty in the Navy Department during the period December 1945 until July 1948, first assigned to writing Air Operations Instructions, later serving as Executive Officer, Air Branch, Office of Naval Research. For two years he served as Public Information Officer on the Staff of Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, and from June 1950 to August 1952 served successively as Executive Officer of Composite Squadron 7, and of the USS *Leyte* (CV-32).

After graduation from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in July 1953, he returned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations for a tour of duty in the Strategic Plans Division. In August 1955 he assumed command of the U. S. Naval Station, Sangley Point, Luzon, P. I., and on September 1, that year, became Commander Fleet Air, Philippines, and Commander Naval Air Bases, Philippines. Relieved of this "3 hat" job in May 1957, he became Assistant Director, later Director, of the Progress Analysis Group, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In January 1959 he assumed command of the USS *Hancock*.

Selected for Rear Admiral, July 22, 1959, he reported on March 3, 1960 as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific. He commanded Carrier Division FIFTEEN, an Anti-Submarine Hunter-Killer Task Group, from May 1961 to June 1962. He served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Joint Staff, Commander in Chief, Pacific, during the time when the situation in S. E. Asia began to escalate. In September 1964 he assumed command of Carrier Division THREE, a Heavy Attack Carrier Task Group, and at the same time took command of Task Force, 77, the Carrier Striking Force of the SEVENTH Fleet.

In February 1965, as CTF-77 he launched the first of a succession of aircraft carrier strikes on North Vietnam from the decks of the USS *Ranger*, *Coral Sea* and *Hancock*. He was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit "for exceptionally meritorious conduct... as Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet (CTF-77) for the period from September 24, 1964 to March 17, 1965..." In October of 1965, he took the nuclear powered Task Group, the USS *Enterprise* and USS *Bainbridge* from Norfolk, Virginia to Subic Bay, P. I., and subsequently on December 2, 1965, he engaged the first nuclear powered Task Force in combat with the enemy in Vietnam.

On April 13, 1966 he became Chief of Information, Navy Department and "for exceptionally meritorious conduct..." in that capacity was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third

Legion of Merit. In October 1968 he reported as Commander Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, with additional duty as Commander Fleet Air, Patuxent River and Naval Air Systems Command Test and Evaluation Coordinator. Again awarded the Legion of Merit (Gold Star in lieu of the Fourth), he was cited for "...his coordination or resources among testing activities, (as a result of which) over 100 aircraft previously assigned for other purposes were returned to the fleet or retired from service..." He served as such until relieved of active duty pending his retirement, effective September 1, 1971.

PROMOTIONS:

Ensign	May 31, 1934
LT(jg)	1937
LT	1940
LCDR	1943
CDR	1944
CAPT	To date from July 1, 1953
RADM	To date from July 1, 1960

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Legion of Merit, with Combat "V" and three Gold Stars
Distinguished Flying Cross with four Gold Stars
Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"
Air Medal, with five Gold Stars
Army Commendation Ribbon
Navy Unit Commendation (USS *Hancock*)
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with nine battle stars
World War II Victory Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp
National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star
Vietnam Service Medal with three stars
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device
National Order of Vietnam Fourth Class with Rosette
Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Army Level with Bronze Palm

PERSONAL DATA:

Born: Fairbanks, Alaska; July 18, 1912
Mother: Mrs. Mary Miller
Wife: Lucille Dean of Opp, Alabama.
Children: Henry Louis Miller, Jr. and Richard Brian Miller
Education: Drews Preparatory School, San Francisco, CA;
U. S. Naval Academy (BS, 1934); Naval Air
Station, Pensacola, Florida (NA, 1938);
Bombardiers' Course, Sandia Base; All Weather
Flight Course, Corpus Christi, Texas; Industrial
College of the Armed Forces (1952-1953).

RADM Miller died of pneumonia at St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD., on January 25, 1993.