



**Alfred M. Pride, Admiral, USN**

Born in Somerville, Massachusetts, in 1897, Admiral Pride served as a Machinist's Mate, later an Ensign in the Naval Reserve Corps in England and France during World War I. He subsequently transferred to the U. S. Navy and as an aviator, was attached to various Naval Air Stations, the aircraft carriers Langley, Lexington and Wright, and for two years commanded Fighting Squadron 3 based on the Langley. Prior to World War II he served in the Navy Departments Bureau of Aeronautics, (October 1935-May 1937), and a year each as Air Officer of the carrier Wright and on the Staff of Commander Patrol Wing ONE, based at San Diego.

At the outbreak of war he was at sea as Executive Officer of the carrier Saratoga. After brief duty in 1942 in the Bureau of Aeronautics, he assumed command of the USS Belleau Wood at her commissioning March 31, 1943. Under his command that carrier participated in numerous operations in the Pacific in 1943-1944 and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for ....extraordinary heroism in action. He received a Letter of Commendation, with Combat "V," from the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

He commanded the Naval Air Center, Pearl Harbor and Naval Air Bases of the Fourteenth Naval District from March 1944 to April 1945, and for meritorious conduct as Commander Air Support Control Unit, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet from April 18 to October 15, 1945, was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V." In January 1946 he reported as Officer in Charge of the Material Control Branch, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and from October 1946 until April 1947 commanded Carrier Divisions SIX and FOUR.

Admiral Pride served as Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics

from May 1947 until May 1951, and after a year as Commander, Carrier Division TWO, assumed command of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland. Detached in November 1953 for duty in the Far East, he reported in December as Commander SEVENTH Fleet. For exceptionally meritorious service in that command until December 1955, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the citation stating that in the evacuation of the Tachen Islands in February 1955, he "personally supervised and directed the removal of (approximately 27,000) civilians and military personnel and 8,600 tons of military equipment and supplies within a period of three and one-half days...(and was) directly responsible and highly successful in implementing U. S. policy in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of China for the defense of Taiwan..."

On February 1, 1956, he assumed command of the Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. "For exceptionally meritorious conduct..." in that capacity he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Distinguished Service Medal. On October 1, 1959 he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy.

PROMOTIONS:

Enlisted service, reserve 20 March 1917 to 8 April 1917  
 Enlisted service, active 8 April 1917 to September 1918  
 Commissioned Ensign., USNRF, 17 September 1918  
 Lieutenant (jg), 1 April 1919  
 Lieutenant, 1 July 1920  
 Lieutenant USN, 29 November 1921  
 Lieutenant Commander, 1 July 1931  
 Commander, 23 June 1938  
 Captain (T), 11 September 1942  
 Rear Admiral (T), 30 March 1944  
 Rear Admiral, 7 August 1947, to rank from 5 July 1943  
 Vice Admiral, 9 October 1953  
 Transferred to Retired List, 10/1/59, advanced to Admiral on basis of combat awards

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Distinguished Service Medal  
 Gold Star in lieu 2nd Distinguished Service Medal  
 Legion of Merit with Combat "V"  
 Letter of Commendation with Ribbon and Combat "V"  
 Presidential Unit Citation with Combat "V" (USS Belleau Wood)  
 World War I Victory Medal, Aviation Clasp  
 American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp  
 Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with silver star (five engagements)  
 American Campaign Medal  
 World War II Victory Medal  
 China Service Medal (extended)  
 National Defense Service Medal  
 Korean Service Medal  
 United Nations Service Medal  
 Philippine Liberation Ribbon  
 Korean Presidential Unit Citation

Distinguished Service Medal: "For exceptionally meritorious service to the, Government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility as Commander Seventh Fleet from December 1953 to December 1955. During the latter months, of 1954 when the Seventh Fleet was repeatedly under orders to prepare to support the defenders of the Tachen Islands, he was instrumental in maintaining the Fleet in a high state of combat readiness... He personally supervised and directed the removal of more than 15,600 civilians, 11,100. military personnel and 8,600 tons of military equipment and supplies within a period of three and one-half days...(He) has been directly responsible and highly successful in implementing United States policy in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of China for the defense of Taiwan.

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Distinguished Service Medal: "For exceptionally meritorious service...as Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet from January 30, 1953 to October 1, 1959. Since receiving his Navy wings in 1916, Vice Admiral Pride has played an illustrious role in the phenomenal evolution of naval aviation...As Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, (he) has exercised operational planning and administrative ability of the highest caliber; has been eminently successful in carrying out his many and exacting assignments...(and) has made significant contributions to the readiness of his operating forces...His highly trained, combat-ready units are and have been, the potent tools which have enabled the cognizant military commands in the Far East to implement the United States national policy, deter aggressor nations, and maintain stability in this strategic area..."

Legion of Merit with Combat "V": "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commander Air Support Control Units, Amphibious Forces, United States Pacific Fleet, during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Islands, from April 18 to September 2, 1945...(He) skillfully coordinated and administered the numerous functions of his command and contributed greatly to the success of his air support units in destroying enemy gun emplacements, troop concentrations and equipment...He provided effective and important air protection for all Fleet units in the assault area (and) aided materially in successfully completing this hazardous campaign..."

**CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:**

- 3/17-9/18 Various assignments as Machinist's Mate 2/c and Chief Quartermaster.
- 9/18-1/19 Various stations in France and United States as Ensign (Naval Aviator).
- 1/19-10/19 Naval Air Station, Chatham, Massachusetts (Ordinance Officer).
- 10/19-12/19 Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, FL. (duty under training on land machines).
- 12/19-4/22 Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads, VA: Atlantic Flt. Ships Plane Division;USS *Arizona* (Various duties concerning testing and development).
- 4/22-6/24 USS *Langley* (Testing and developing flight deck gear).

- 6/24-6/25 Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, Postgraduate school (Aeronautical Engineering instruction).
- 6/25-7/26 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. (Instrn.).
- 9/26-10/26 USS *Saratoga* (cfo).
- 11/26-8/29 USS *Lexington* (first cfo., later Watch and Division Off. and Pilot).
- 8/29-6/32 NAS, Norfolk VA. (Officer in Charge, Experimental Detachment).
- 7/32-6/34 USS *Langley*, Fighter Sqd. THREE B (CO). (CO of Bombing Sqd. FIVE A, one month).
- 6/34-6/36 NAS, Anacostia, D. C. (Officer in Charge, Flight Test).
- 6/36-6/37 BuAer, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. (Fighter Desk).
- 6/37-10/38 USS *Wright* (Air Officer).
- 10/38-6/39 Patrol Wing ONE (Operations Officer on Staff)
- 6/39-4/41 BuAer (Navy Working Member on Aeronautical Board).
- 5/41-6/42 USS *Saratoga* (Executive Officer).
- 6/42-7/42 Office of Procurement and Material, Navy Department.
- 7/42-12/42 BuAer, Navy Department.
- 1/43-4/44 USS *Belleau Wood* (cfo, then CO).
- 4/44-9/44 U. S. Naval Air Center, Pearl Harbor, (CO).
- 9/44-4/45 Naval Air Bases, Forteenth Naval District (CO)
- 4/45-12/45 Air Support Control Units, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet (CO).
- 1/46-11/46 Office of Assistant SecNav, Navy Department (Officer in Charge, Material Control Branch, Material Division).
- 12/46-1/47 CARRIER Division SIX (CO).
- 1/47-3/47 Carrier Divison FOUR (CO).
- 3/47-5/51 BuAer, Navy Department (Chief of Bureau).
- 5/51-4/52 Carrier Division TWO (CO).
- 5/52-11/53 Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD. (CO).
- 12/53-12/55 Comander SEVENTH Fleet.
- 2/56-9/59 Comander Air Force., Pacific Fleet.
- 1 Oct 1959 Retired from Naval Service.

**PERSONAL DATA**

- Born: Somerville, MA., 10 September 1897
- Parents: Alfred Morine Pride and Mrs. Grace (White) Pride
- Wife's Name and Date of Marriage: Helen Burrell, 1 June 1921
- Children: Carol S. (Pride) Lemeshewsky & Lt. Cdr, Alfred M. Pride, USN
- Education: Public and High Schools, Somerville, MA; Tufts College Engineering School, Medford, MA; Postgraduate Aeronautical Engineering School, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA; Flight Training (1918)