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Philip T. Stonemetz, Captain, USNR

Phillip Thayer Stonemetz was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on April 6, 1899, son of Harry M. and Flora B. (Cooley) Stonemetz. He graduated from Newton High School in 1917 and was attending Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, when on May 9, 1918, he enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force.

Naval Aviation was in its infancy and to build up air power as rapidly as possible the Navy Department established a ground school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Enlisted men with proper qualifications were ordered to the school with the rating of Chief Quartermaster. Meeting the qualifications, he had training there until August 1918, when he reported for flight training at the Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida. He continued his instruction at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, where he was designated Naval Aviator No. 2029 and commissioned Ensign, USNRF on January 14, 1919. He advanced progressively in rank attaining that of Captain, to date from November 10, 1945. On March 1, 1954 he was transferred to the Retired List.

Released from active duty on February 15, 1919, he was subsequently employed as a Securities Broker with investment bankers in New York and Boston. When Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN (now deceased) started the first Naval Reserve Aviation Unit at Squantum, Massachusetts, in 1923, he rounded up all the Naval aviators who had returned to civil life in the vicinity and formed the nucleus of the present Naval Reserve Aviation organization. With many others, Captain Stonemetz maintained his flying efficiency through regular flight periods up to July 1935 when he returned to active duty.

He was assigned four years to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, where he trained and gave instruction to Naval aviation reserve personnel. Transferred to the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C., he served for a year there, October 1939-October 1940, after which he was attached to

the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. In April 1941, he reported as Assistant Detail Officer in the Aviation Branch, Enlisted Personnel Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department.

In May 1942 he was ordered to Peru, Indiana, for duty in connection with the establishment of the Naval Air Station, Bunker Hill, Indiana. He commanded that activity from its commissioning, July 1, 1942 until October of that year, when he became Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas. From June to November 1943 he was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Norfolk Virginia, after which he served as Chief Staff Officer to Commander Naval Air Bases, Fifth Naval District with headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia. On April 12, 1945 he became Commander Naval Air Bases, Eighth Naval District and Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Houma and New Orleans, Louisiana. He remained there until June 1946 and following duty in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, was designated in September 1941 Assistant Director of Training for Aviation Volunteer Reserves in the Third Naval District with headquarters in New York, New York. Captain Stonemetz was retired on March 1, 1954.

He has the Naval Reserve Medal with star; the Victory Medal (World War I); the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

His present address is 53 Silver Street, Dover, New Hampshire. He is married to the former Winifred Studley Moore of Newton Center, Massachusetts, and they have one daughter, Ann Stonemetz.