



### **Aaron P. Storrs, III, Rear Admiral, USN**

Aaron Putnam Storrs was born in Owego, New York, on December 3, 1901, son of Charles P. and Elsie (Smull) Storrs. He attended public schools and Marion Institute, Marion, Alabama, before entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from the Thirty-seventh New York District in 1919. Graduated with the Class of 1923, he was commissioned Ensign on June 8, 1923, and through subsequent promotions attained the rank of Rear Admiral, to date from January 1, 1951.

He was assigned to the USS *Oklahoma* when detached from the Naval Academy in June 1923, and served as a junior officer in that battleship for two years. On August 1, 1925 he reported to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training, and was designated Naval Aviator on April 24, 1926. He then served in Fighting Squadron Two, based on the USS *Langley*, until January 1927, when he was transferred to Fighting Squadron Six, also based on the USS *Langley*. He next had duty from June 1928 to July 1929 as Aide and Flag Lieutenant on the staff of Commander Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet (USS *Langley*, flagship). From August 1929 until May 1931 he was stationed at the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C.

He served for two years as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander Aircraft, Battle Force, in the USS *Saratoga*, flagship, and in July 1933, still aboard the *Saratoga*, he returned to Fighting Squadron Six for a year's service. In July 1934 he returned to the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, and

remained on duty there until October 1935. From November 1935 until July 1937 he had command of the seaplane tender *Pelican*. He flew in and commanded air units based on Pearl Harbor, T. H.; San Diego, California; Key West, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Guantanamo, Cuba; and Argentia, Newfoundland, until July 1941, when he reported as Operations Officer on the staff of Commander, Patrol Squadron Eight.

He had command of Patrol Wing Eight from May until August 1942 and was then ordered to duty on the staff of Commander, Alaska Sector, Western Sea Frontier. For this service he was awarded the Legion of Merit. In November 1943 he was ordered to duty as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland. He assumed command in January 1944, and served in that assignment until June 16, 1945.

He next joined the USS *Saidor*, commanding that escort carrier from September of that year until July 1946. Returning to the United States in August 1946, he was assigned to the National War College Washington, D. C., for the course then in progress. In July 1947 he was ordered to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Virginia, in connection with the fitting out of the USS *Coral Sea*, and assumed command of that carrier upon her commissioning on October 1, 1947.

Relieved of command of the *Coral Sea* in August 1948, he became Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander, Naval Air Training, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. In June 1949 he was designated Chief of Naval Air Basic Training, and remained in Pensacola until January 1951, when he reported as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander Air Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. On November 1, 1952 he assumed command of Carrier Division SIXTEEN, and in May 1953 was assigned as Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet. He continued to serve on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet until February 1956, when he became Commander Carrier Division FIVE. On April 30, 1957 he assumed duty as Commander, Fleet Air Hawaii and continued to serve in that capacity until relieved of all active duty pending his retirement, effective August 1, 1957.

In addition to the Legion of Merit and the Commendation Ribbon, Rear Admiral Storrs has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Diploma of the Military Order of Avis (Grand Officer), by the Republic of Portugal.