

Daniel W. Tomlinson, CAPT, USNR (Ret) "Tommy"

Date of Designation: August 1921 NA # 2923

<u>Dates of Active Duty</u>: 1914 - 1929, 1941 - 1946,

1947 - 1949

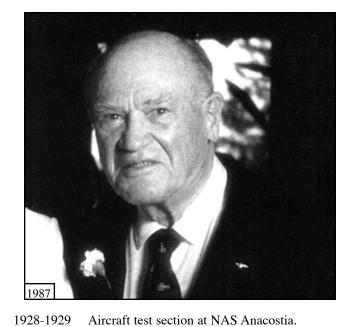
Total Flight Hours: 15,000 plus

## **Duty Assignment Chronology**

1914-1917	U. S. Naval Academy.	
1917-1918	Assigned to USS Dubuque and USS Georgia.	
1918-1919	Assigned to Naval Air Station, Norfolk, VA.	
1920	Aviation Maintenance Instructor, Norfolk, VA.	
1920	Assigned to Aviation Flight Training,	
	Pensacola, FL.	
1921	Designated Naval Aviator.	
1922	Assigned to USS Oklahoma.	
1922-1923	Pensacola flight instructor and test pilot.	
1923	Assigned VF-2B, San Diego Naval Air Station	
1924-1925	Steam Engineering and Naval Construction	
	Department and Instructor, Naval Academy	
1925	Assigned to Fighting Two, North Island, San	
	Diego, CA.	
1926-1927	Cruise on USS Langley	
1928	USS Langley cruise to Hawaii, return to San	
	Diego on USS Lexington. Air races and for-	
	mation of the Navy Three Seahawks flight	
	team. Flew in air races and air shows.	
A I N		



The Three Seahawks: Lieutenant W. V. Davis, Lieutenant D. W. Tomlinson, and Lieutenant A. P. Storrs. - 1928



1929	Resigned from U. S. Navy. and joined
	Maddux Airlines.
1929	Maddux Airlines merged with TAT, which
	became TWA Airlines. Was the Operations
	Manager, Western Region.
1930	Reserve Captain and technical assistant to the
	TWA President.
1934	Set up night flying of U. S. Air Mail with var-
	ious single engine aircraft.
1935	Assistant to the President of TWA and flew
	high altitude tests for TWA and aircraft manu-
	facturers.
1936-1937	Assigned to North American Aviation as
	test pilot for various aircraft including Navy
	SNJ.
1937-1938	TWA advisor and test pilot to Boeing Air-
	craft for development of the Boeing 307 air-
	liner.
1939	TWA advisor and test pilot to Lockheed
	Aircraft with Howard Hughes for the develop-
	ment of the Lockheed Constellation.
1939-1941	Captain TWA and set up Naval Air Reserve
	Squadron at Kansas City, Missouri.
1941	Returned to active duty as CO, Naval Reserve
	Base at Fairfax, Missouri and Olathe, Kansas.
	Chief of Staff at NAPTC.
1942	Commander, Naval Air Transport Squadrons,
	Pacific (COMNATSPAC).
1946	Released from active duty, U.S. Navy in June.
1947	Recalled to active duty, U. S. Navy. Assigned
	to MATS as deputy Commander, Continental

## Type aircraft flown and/or tested include:

Retired from US Navy

July 1949

JN, HS-2L, F-5L, Seagull, Fokker D-7, VE-2, H-12, VE-7, FB-2, Curtiss Hawk, FB-5, Vought Corsair PN-11, Wasp Ford, F-32, DC-1, DC-2, DC-3, Boeing 247, Tri-Ford,

Division (Former NATS). Pacific squadrons VR-6 and VR-8 flew in the Berlin Airlift.

- Continued -

Aircraft flown and/or tested (continued)

Condor, Patrician, Bernetti flying wing, Northrop Delta, Gamma & Alpha, Consolidated Fleetster, BC-1, NA-21, P-37, P-40, B-17, Boeing 307, DC-4, JRB, Curtiss Helldiver, N2S, N3N, Mariner, RY, PB2Y, R5D, R4D, and MARS.

## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) First Naval Aviator to fly coast to coast, Annapolis to San Diego.
- (2) Flew more high altitude flights for the Navy, TWA and aircraft manufacturers than any pilot prior to World War II.
- (3) Member and leader of the Navy Three Seahawks that flew in air races and air shows. Preliminary to the Navy Blue Angels.
- (4) Began initial instrument flying investigation and development immediately after becoming a Naval Aviator.
- (5) Developed procedures and instruction for Air Force pilots flying Berlin Airlift in short field landing at Temperhof. Developed operational procedures for airlift communications and navigation.
- (6) Wrote numerous books and papers on high altitude and instrument flying.
- (7) Awards:
  - Air Force Legion of Merit.
  - James B. Taylor Memorial Carrier Aviation Test Pilots Hall of Fame. Enshrined 1995 for Meritorious Achievement in Aviation.
  - Society of Experimental Test Pilots Award.
  - Award of Recognition and Appreciation from Douglas Aircraft Company, 1983, for contribution to the success of the Douglas DC-1.
  - Honored at Frankfort, Germany at the 40th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift.
  - Named for the annual Golden Eagle Captain
    "Tommy Tomlinson Award" presented to the outstanding Navy Test Pilot School graduate.