



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

Date of Designation: August 1921 NA # 2923

Dates of Active Duty: 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 formation of the Navy Three Seahawks flight team. Flew in air races and air shows.



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



- 1928-1929 Aircraft test section at NAS Anacostia.
- 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 various single engine aircraft.
- 1935 Assistant to the President of TWA and flew high altitude tests for TWA and aircraft manufacturers.
- 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 Aircraft for development of the Boeing 307 airliner.
- 1939 TWA advisor and test pilot to Lockheed Aircraft with Howard Hughes for the development 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 Division (Former NATS). Pacific squadrons VR-6 and VR-8 flew in the Berlin Airlift.
- July 1949 Retired from US Navy

Type aircraft flown and/or tested include:
 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,
 - 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 Frankfurt, 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.