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**R. W. Arthur, Lieutenant Commander, USNR**

(Naval Aviator Number 1501)

R. W. Arthur, 71, an aviation pioneer and retired Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander was born in Union Bridge, MD., was a member of the University of Maryland's class of 1918. He flew the first St. Louis-to-Chicago air mail run in June 1919, and in 1922 set up operation of the first U. S. Treasury seaplane used for intercepting rum-running craft from the Bahamas.

He enlisted in the Navy as a seaman second class here in March 1918 and was stationed at Key West, FL., that September as a flight instructor. He served at Norfolk, VA., and Pensacola, FL., before he was discharged in 1922 as a Lieutenant Junior Grade.

He then became one of the pioneer barnstorming pilots, and also managed airports in Atlantic City and Altoona, PA. He later graduated from Curtis-Wright Flight Instructors School at Port Washington, NY, and at Miami.

During the early part of World War II he was a civilian pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He rejoined the U.S. Navy in 1941 as a Lieutenant. He was stationed at Jacksonville Naval Air Station and then Corpus Christi, TX., before becoming Commanding Officer of the first Navy air sea rescue squadron, and then of an instrument flight squadron.

He later served as Executive Officer of the naval air base at Guadalcanal, in 1945, and served in New Caledonia before being released from active duty in 1946. He retired as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve in 1957.

In 1967 his book "Contact," was published. The 600-page work, which lists Navy aviators with serial numbers 1 to 2,000, is a reference book for students of naval aviation history.

He leaves a son, Navy Lt.Cmdr. John R. Arthur, an aviator, a brother W. John, and a sister, Mrs. Dorothy Epley, both of York, PA., and two other sisters, Mrs. Miriam Eliason of Cumberland, Md., and Mrs. Ethelwyn Snyder of Tom's River, NJ.