



Frederick A. Bardshar, VADM, USN

(Naval Aviator Number P-2059)

Frederick Abshire Bardshar was born in Seattle, Washington, on October 20, 1915, the son of Deyo Edward Bardshar and the late Mrs. Sybil Abshire Bardshar. He attended Broadway High School in Seattle and entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on appointment of Senator H. T. Bone of Washington in 1934. Graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science and commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Navy on June 2, 1938, he subsequently advanced in rank to that of Vice Admiral, to date from February 18, 1970.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1938, he was assigned to the USS *Pennsylvania*, and served as a junior officer on board that battleship until July 1942, after the United States entered World War II. He then reported to the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, New Orleans, Louisiana, for pre-flight training, and had flight training at NAS Pensacola, Florida, from October 1942 until April 1943, being designated a Naval Aviator there. He then served as an instructor (VS-3) at NAS Daytona Beach, Florida, and in October of the same year joined Fighting Squadron 27, then attached to the USS *Princeton*.

For outstanding service while Executive Officer, later Commanding Officer of Fighting Squadron 27 and Commander Air Group 27 during the period October 1943 to October 1945, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit with Combat "V," Distinguished Flying Cross and Gold Stars in lieu of the second and third DFC, and the Air Medal and Silver Star in lieu of five additional Air Medals. Citations follow, in part:

Silver Star Medal: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Air Group Commander and Commanding Officer of Fighting Squadron 27 attached to the USS *Princeton*, during the first air raid on Manila, September 21, 1944. While leading his squadron through intense fighter and anti-aircraft opposition, Lieutenant Commander Bardshar effected the

destruction of two enemy craft in the air and two on the ground..."

Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commanding Officer of Air Group 27, attached to the USS *Independence*, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area, from June 19, 1944, to August 21, 1945...(when) Lieutenant Commander Bardshar contributed materially to the success of his group in achieving an outstanding record of damage inflicted on enemy shipping, air power and ground installations..."

Distinguished Flying Cross: -"For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as a Fighter Pilot in Fighting Squadron 27, attached to the USS *Princeton*, in action against enemy Japanese forces west of the Marianas Islands during the First Battle of the Philippine Sea on June 19, 1944...(when he) succeeded in shooting down two enemy planes, aiding in the destruction of another and assisted in turning the attack into defeat for the enemy..

"Gold Star in lieu of Second DFC: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight a Commander of a Fighter Squadron, attached to the USS *Princeton*, in action against enemy Japanese forces on October 4, 1944. Leading two divisions of fighter planes, Lieutenant Commander Bardshar boldly intercepted a group of sixteen enemy torpedo planes attempting to join an aerial attack against a United States Task Force near Formosa. Launching a fierce coordinated attack upon the hostile craft, he personally accounted for three of the thirteen enemy planes destroyed while the remaining hostile aircraft jettisoned their torpedoes and fled..."

"Gold Star in lieu of Third DFC: For heroism...as Pilot of a Fighter Plane in Fighting Squadron 27, attached to the USS *Princeton*, during operations in the vicinity of the Marianas, Palau, Ryukyu and Philippine Islands, from June 1 to October 24, 1944. Completing his twentieth mission during this period, Lieutenant Commander Bardshar carried out bombing and strafing attacks against Japanese installations, airfields, parked aircraft, shipping and personnel, inflicting extensive damage..."

Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as Pilot of a Navy Fighter Plane in Fighting Squadron 27 attached to the USS *Princeton*, during a strike against enemy Japanese shipping in the Calamian Islands in the Philippine Group on September 24, 1944. While leading a formation of fighter planes, (he) contributed materially to the total destruction of one enemy tanker and to the severe damaging and probable sinking of another tanker and a cargo ship..."

The Gold Stars awarded in lieu of the Second, Third, and Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Air Medals were for five missions each, while Fighting Squadron 27 was attached variously to the *Princeton* and *Independence* during the period June 11, 1944 to August 21, 1945, when he carried out bombing and

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strafing attacks against Japanese installations, airfields, parked aircraft, shipping and personnel and inflicted extensive damage on the enemy. After his return to the United States in November 1945, he reported to NAS Alameda, California, where he served as Inspection Officer until June 1947. He was a student at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, during the next nine months, then from June 1948 until January 1951 was Executive Officer, later Commanding Officer of Air Transport Squadron 32. When detached he reported to the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland. He is a graduate of the Test Pilot School at Patuxent and served for two years as Director of the Service Test Division of the Naval Air Test Center.

In August 1953 he joined the USS *Leyte* as Operations Officer and, remaining at sea, served from December 1954 until January 1956 as Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division SIX. He then reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for a tour of duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, as Assistant Chief, Special Weapons Plans. Designated Assistant for Naval Matters to the Assistant Chief of Staff, Air, and Special Operations Division, at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe, he served in that capacity from April 1958 until September 1960. From October of that year until January 1961 he was again assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, this time as Assistant Chief, Plans Branch, Air Operations Division (Strategic Targeting).

In January 1961 he assumed command of the USS *Pawcatuck* (AO-108), and in September of that year reported as Plans and Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Sixth Fleet. On November 9, 1963 he assumed command of the USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) and was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for exceptionally effective airborne support of Seventh Fleet operations in the South China Sea, for immediate offensive action in support of destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin, and for aircraft retaliatory strikes against North Vietnam PT boats, their bases, and fuel storage facilities.

Ordered detached from the *Constellation*, he reported in January 1965 as Chief of the Requirements and Development Division, J-5, The Joint Staff Office, Joint Chiefs of Staff Washington, D. C. where he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit for outstanding professional competence in the evaluation of qualitative material requirements of the unified and specified commands and the development programs of the military services, all of which involved great demands on national resources and had major impact on national security. In furthering the mission of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide advice to the Secretary of Defense on research and development matters, he conceived of the Joint Research and Development Objectives Document to provide a more meaningful statement of R&D objective in support of U. S. strategy. As representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Military Liaison Committee with the Atomic Energy Commission, and on the national-level committee for the review of all nuclear testing, Rear Admiral Bardshar distinguished himself in carrying out his Joint Staff responsibilities related to nuclear weapons development and

testing. He rendered outstanding service as director, or in executive positions, on two, successive joint study groups which examined critical aspects of the air battle situation over North Vietnam.

In April 1967 he assumed command of Carrier Division 7 and "for exceptionally meritorious service...(in that capacity) and Commander Task Group 77.6 from April 22 to July 26, 1968 and subsequently as Commander Task Group 77.8 until September 14, 1968,..." he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Legion of Merit, The citation continues in part: "Responsible for planning, coordinating and executing combat air strike operations against the enemy in Southeast Asia, Rear Admiral Bardshar also served as Yankee Station Commander and, in this capacity, provided daily strike planning guidance to and direct tactical supervision over all air and surface units of Task Force 77 assigned to special operations at Yankee Station...The splendid combat performance of the units of Task Force 77 under his command as Yankee Station Commander was related directly to Rear Admiral Bardshar's keen analysis of the constantly changing tactical situation and to his imaginative planning and dynamic leadership..."

In June 1969 he reported as Vice Director, J-3 (Operations), The Joint Staff Office, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D. C., and was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Fourth Legion of Merit for forceful leadership, sound judgment, and outstanding professional competence in guiding the Operations Directorate, including the National Military Command System, as a viable instrument fully responsive to the most urgent and pressing requirements of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Command Authorities.

In February 1970 he became Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force, SEVENTH Fleet/Commander Carrier Division FIVE and in January 1971 was ordered detached for duty as Director of the Tactical Electromagnetic Programs, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department.

In addition to the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit with three Gold Stars and Combat "V," Distinguished Flying Cross with two Gold Stars, the Air Medal with Silver Star, Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with Star, Vice Admiral Bardshar has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star (five operations); World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe Clasp; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam); and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

He was married to the former Betty Plant of Vancouver, British Columbia, and they had two daughters, Mrs. M. C. Dillon of MacDonough, New York and Mrs. H. Scott Beighley of Washington, D. C.