



Walter F. Boone, Admiral, USN

Born in Berkeley, California, on February 14, 1898, Admiral Boone received his early education in his native state, including half a year at Stanford University. He was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1917, and was graduated with the Class of 1922-A on June 5, 1920, and commissioned Ensign from that date. Thirty-six years later he attained the rank of Admiral as Commander in Chief, Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean,

Early in his naval career he had seas duty in the battleships *Texas* and *California*, and the light minelayer *Burns*. Standing first in his class, he was designated Naval Aviator at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, in April 1926, and subsequently had an unbroken succession of aviation assignments until December 1945. He served with scouting, bombing, and fighting squadrons of the cruisers *Cincinnati* and *Raleigh*, and the carrier *Saratoga*; twice had staff duty with Commander Aircraft Battle Force; completed graduate instruction in Aviation Ordnance; participated in flight testing at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren; and commanded patrol squadrons operating from Pearl harbor.

In 1939-1942 he was Officer in Charge, Armament Section, of the Bureau of Aeronautics; and while on special duty at the American Embassy, London, inspecting armament of British aircraft, witnessed the latter stages of the Air Blitz. During the early period of the war he served as Executive Officer of the carrier *Enterprise* through several major engagements, reporting on board in May 1942, just in time for the Battle of Midway. Later in his tour, *Enterprise* was the only operational carrier left in the Pacific, and won the Presidential Unit Citation. For his personal valor in the Battle of Santa Cruz, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

From December 1942 until April 1944, he was Chief

of Staff to Commander Task Force 22, a carrier task group operating in the North Atlantic and later with the British Home Fleet. For ten months thereafter he commanded all Naval Air Bases in the Twelfth Naval District, with additional duty as Commander, Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. From April 1945 until the end of hostilities, he commanded the *Yorktown*, also a PUC winner, through the final actions against the Japanese home islands. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," for exceptionally meritorious service in the Western Pacific Area.

During the postwar period until May 1947, he served as Chief of Staff to Commander SEVENTH Fleet (later Naval Forces, Western Pacific), operating in Chinese waters. After a brief duty as a member of the General Board, he was designated Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Strategic Plans). In October 1949 he assumed command of Carrier Division 5, and later on served for two months as Acting Commander, SEVENTH Fleet. From August 1951 to April 1952 he commanded U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic, and for two years thereafter was a member of the Joint Strategic Survey Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On August 12, 1954, he became Superintendent of the Naval Academy and Commandant, Severn River Naval Command, and from May 1, 1956 to February 23, 1958 was Commander in Chief, Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. On April 18, 1958, he became U. S. Representative to the Military Committee and Standing Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "For exceptionally meritorious service..." from March 1956 to February 1960 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Admiral Boone was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy on March 1, 1960

In November 1962 he was named Deputy Associate Administrator for Defense Affairs in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

PERSONAL DATA:

Born: Berkeley, California, February 14, 1898
 Parents: Thomas Lee and Lily H. (Reid) Boone
 Wife: Pauline Heller Currey of Shreveport, Louisiana
 Children: None
 Education: Palo Alto (California) High School; Stanford University (1/2 year); U. S. Naval Academy (BS, 1920); Flight School, Naval Air Station, Pensacola. (NA: 1926); Naval Postgraduate School (Aviation Ordnance, 1930)

PROMOTIONS:

Commissioned Ensign, June 5, 1920
 Lieutenant (jg), June 5, 1926
 Lieutenant Commander, June 30, 1936
 Commander, September 1, 1940
 Captain, December 18, 1942
 Commodore, October 20, 1944
 Rear Admiral, November 19, 1945
 Admiral, to date from May 1, 1956
 Transferred to the Retired List of the USN, March 1, 1960

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS-

Distinguished Service Medal
Silver Star Medal
Legion of Merit with Combat "V"
Commendation Ribbon
Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with two stars
Victory Medal, Atlantic Fleet Clasp
Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal
American Defense Service Medal, Base Clasp
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star and two bronze stars (seven engagements)
American Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp
China Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Philippine Liberation Ribbon
Order of the British Empire (Honorary Officer) by Great Britain
Order of Yun-Hui (Special Collar) by the Chinese Gov.

CITATIONS:

Distinguished Service Medal: "For exceptionally meritorious service...while serving as United States Military Representative on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee and Standing Group from April 1958 to February 1960, and previously, as Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, from March 1956 to February 1958. An excellent leader and a skilled diplomat, Admiral Boone, in his role as the Representative of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, exercised unusual professional acumen in upholding and advancing the interests of the United States in the NATO forum. Possessing an extensive background of politico-military knowledge, and utilizing his keen analytical ability, he earned the highest respect and trust of his colleagues and promoted confidence and stability within the military trust of his colleagues and promoted confidence and stability within the military bodies of NATO, making a significant and lasting contribution to this vital organization. In his capacity as a Specified Commander, Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, Admiral Boone displayed dynamic leadership and a comprehensive grasp of the vast number of complex and delicate problems confronting him,, thereby contributing essentially to the stability of that area and to the continuing prestige of the United States..."

Silver Star Medal "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Executive Officer of the USS *Enterprise* during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Santa Cruz on October 26, 1942... With his ship under vicious attack by an overwhelming force of Japanese aircraft, (he) expertly maintained control of every department on board ship) rendering invaluable service to his commanding officer throughout the fierce action and contributing materially to the infliction of extensive and destruction on the enemy with minimum damage to the *Enterprise*..."

Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct ...as

Commanding Officer of the USS *Yorktown* during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Western Pacific War Area from April 23, 1945, to the close of hostilities against the Japanese Empire on August 15, 1945. Participating in fast carrier air strikes, during this period, (he) maintained his ship and air group at a high state of combat readiness and fighting efficiency....coolly directed the maneuvering and defense of his ship from the exposed navigating bridge..."

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

6/20-4/21 USS *Texas* (Engineering).
4/21-6/24 USS *California* (Deck Division Officer).
6/24-6/25 USS *Burns* (DM) (Gunnery officer).
6/25-7/26 Naval Air Station, Pensacola (Flight Training).
7/26-6/27 USS *Cincinnati* and USS *Raleigh* (Aircraft Squadrons).
6/27-6/30 Postgraduate School (Aviation Ordnance course).
6/30-6/32 VF-6 (Gunnery Officer, Executive Officer).
6/32-6/33 Staff, Command Aircraft, Battle Force (Gunnery and Assistant Operations Officer).
6/33-6/35 Naval Proving Ground Dahlgren, Va. (Officer in Charge, Air Detail).
6/35-5/37 VP-6; VP-4 (Commanding Officer).
5/37-6/38 VF-3 (Commanding Officer).
6/38-6/39 Staff, Commander Aircraft, Battle Force (Gun & Tactics Officer (Adm. E. J. King).
6/39-4/42 BuAer, Navy Department (Officer in Charge, Armament Section).
5/42-1/43 USS *Enterprise* (Executive Officer).
1/43-3/44 Commander Task Force 22 (Chief of Staff).
4/44-2/45 12th Naval District (Commander of Naval Air Bases; CO, NAS Alameda, California).
2/45-3/45 Cdr. Aircraft, Pacific (Adm. Mitscher's Task Force 58).
4/45-12/45 USS *Yorktown* (CO).
1/46-5/47 Commander Seventh Fleet (Chief of Staff).
6/47-10/47 Navy Department (General Board).
10/47-9/49 Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Strategic Plans).
10/49-7/50 Cdr. Carrier Division 5 (Division Cdr.) (Acting Cdr, 7th Fleet, two months).
7/50-7/51 U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic & Mediterranean (Deputy and Chief of Staff).
8/51-4/52 Commander Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic
5/52-8/54 Joint Chiefs of Staff (Navy Member, Joint Strategic Survey Committee).
8/54-4/56 Commandant, Severn River Naval Command and Superintendent, U. S. Naval Academy.
5/56-2/58 Commander in Chief, Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.
4/58 -2/60 U. S. Representative to the Military Committee and to the Standing Group, NATO, Washington, D. C.
March 1, 1960 Retired from Active Duty.

Following retirement from the Navy he worked for McDonnell Douglas Corporation, and later as assistant to the administrator of NASA.