



Samuel R. Brown Jr., Rear Admiral, USN

Samuel Robbins Brown was born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 6, 1913, son of Samuel R. and Rebecca Atkinson Brown. He attended Shanghai American School from 1925 to 1928, and had a year at the Severn School, Severna, Park, Maryland, before his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, which he entered in August 1930. Graduated and commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Navy on June 1, 1934, he subsequently advanced in rank to that of Rear Admiral, to date from July 1, 1962.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, he was assigned to the USS *Marblehead* (CL-12), in which he had gunnery, engineering, communications and navigation duties of a junior officer from July 1, 1934, until December 30, 1936. On February 1, 1937, he reported to the Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, where he completed flight training and was designated Naval Aviator on January 1, 1938. In February he was assigned to Torpedo Squadron FIVE as Gunnery Officer, and served with that squadron, based on the USS *Yorktown*, for more than two years.

From July 1940 until November 1942 he served as Senior Naval Aviator on board the USS *New Orleans*, attached to Scouting Squadron SIX, aviation unit of that cruiser during the early period of World War II. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medals with citations, in part, to follow:

Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as Pilot of a Scouting Plane, attached to the USS *New Orleans*, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway on June 6, 1942. When his plane was launched on the morning of June 6 to search singly for an enemy force reportedly consisting of

two aircraft carriers and supporting ships, Lieutenant Brown located the enemy over 150 miles away by his skillful piloting and navigation and, reporting its composition and location, remained in close contact with the enemy until recalled five and one-half hours later. Although subjected to continual antiaircraft fire for two hours, he directed the carrier based bombers to their targets by radio reports and kept a running account of the ensuing actions which resulted in the sinking of one enemy heavy cruiser and one destroyer..."

Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as Pilot of a Plane attached to the USS *New Orleans*, in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area from December 8, 1941, to July 27, 1942. Completing his fifth mission during this period, Lieutenant Brown contributed materially to the success of his squadron..."

Having participated in action at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, in the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, and in the Solomons Invasion and action in the Eastern Solomons and at Santa Cruz in 1942, he returned to the United States to serve from December of that year until March 1944 as Superintendent of Aviation Training at the Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida.

He next assumed command of Bombing Squadron EIGHTY-TWO, and in January 1945 was transferred to command of Carrier Air Group FOURTEEN, which he commanded until January 1946. From February to December 1946 he served as Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division THREE. This was followed by duty as Training Officer on the Staff of the Chief, Naval Air Basic Training and his assignment as Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division SIX, during the periods December 1946 to April 1948 and April 1948 to June 1950, respectively.

The next two years he spent as Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station, Whidby Island, Oak Harbor, Washington, and in June 1952 he became Commanding Officer of Composite Squadron ELEVEN, which saw service during the Korean incident. After a year with that squadron, he had a tour of duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

He was a student at the National War College, Washington, D. C. in the 1956-1957 year, and upon graduation in June 1957 reported as Commanding Officer of the USS *Orca* (AVP-49). A year later he became Assistant Chief of Staff for Readiness, to Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic Fleet and under orders of February 16, 1959, assumed command of the USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59) on May 9, that year. From June 1960 until September 1963 he was Deputy Director of the Net Evaluation Sub Committee, National Security Council, Washington, D. C., after which he commanded Carrier Division FOUR.

Assigned in January 1965 to the Office of the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, he had duty

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as Naval Command and Control Systems Executive (title changed to Director of the Command Control and Electronics Division), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, from October 1965 to September 1967, when he reported as Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness). "For exceptionally meritorious service from October 1965 through June 1968 as the Director of the Command, Control and Electronics Division, and the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness) of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. The citation further states in part:

"During a period when the resources of the Navy were severely taxed by the conflict in Southeast Asia, Rear Admiral Brown was instrumental in the promotion of concepts and methods for improving the Navy's role in the critical area of electronic warfare. He skillfully directed the orderly development of numerous sensitive and highly urgent electronic warfare programs. His unique ability to relate technology to operational requirements resulted in a major increase in the electronic warfare capability of ships and aircraft. In addition to contributing significantly to decisions regarding electronic countermeasures (ECM) equipment, passive detection devices, and defensive tactics against enemy surface-to-air missiles, Rear Admiral Brown initiated electronic warfare training for various key officers and ECM operators in a simulated task force environment. He tactfully and aggressively represented the Navy in electronic warfare matters to the President's Scientific Advisory Council, the Defense Science Board, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. While serving as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness), (he) has been responsible for significantly increasing the capability, flexibility, and readiness of the Navy's operating forces..."

In July 1968 he became Commander Fleet Air, Alameda, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California and "for exceptionally meritorious service from August 1968 through June 1969... he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit. The citation continues in part:

"Rear Admiral Brown consistently carried out his duties with outstanding leadership, skill, and resourcefulness, contributing directly to the combat effectiveness of Attack Carrier Air Wings of the United States Pacific Fleet. As a result of his exceptional background in electronics/electronic warfare, his keen foresight, and his forceful supervision, the air wings were ensured of receiving proper training in order to effectively carry out their assigned missions. Through Rear Admiral Brown's personal efforts, the electronic warfare range at Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Fallon, Nevada, was developed into a most important facility to aid the training of air wings in the art of electronic warfare. Additionally, through his efforts, Electronic Warfare Wing THIRTEEN was established to provide training, and electronic-warfare squadrons were formed to support United States efforts in Southeast Asia..."

On July 1, 1969 he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy. He continued to serve on active duty as Senior Member of the Board of Decorations and Medals, Navy Department.

In addition to the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, Rear Admiral Brown has the American Defense Service Medal with Star; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver and one bronze star (six operations); American Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Korean Service Medal; and the United Nations Service Medal. He also holds the Expert Pistol Shot Medal,

Rear Admiral Brown and his wife, the former Anne Banning Macfarland of Pasadena, California, had four daughters, Eleanor B., Marion T., Robin A. and Elizabeth M. Brown. Married in June 1940, Mrs. Brown was in Honolulu, Hawaii, during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, and remained there for the first four months of World War II.