



Charles M. Brower, Captain, USN (Ret.)
"Charlie"

Date of Designation: 28 September 1937 NA # 5396

Dates of Active Duty: September 1936 - 1 July 1968.

Total Flight Hours: 5,344

Carrier/Ship Landings: Rotary wing: 96

Approximate Flight Hours:

Prop: 5,000 Helo: 96 VP: 5,000

Other: SNB-100 Misc: 150

Combat Tours:

WW II: VP-207 (PBMs), Jun. 1943 - Dec. 1943. Salinas, Ecuador.

WW II: VP-18 (PBMs), Jul. 1944 - Mar. 1945. Invasion of Saipan. Tender based. Twenty-eight (28) combat missions, day and night.

WW II: VP-18 (PBMs), Mar. 1945 - May. 1945. Kerama Retto, Okinawa. Tender based.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VP-207, Temporary Command, Sep. 1943 - Dec. 1943.

CO, VP-18 (PBMs). Charleston, Pearl Harbor, Saipan, and Okinawa, Jan. 1944 - May 1945.

CO, HEDRON TWO, Kaneohe, HI., Jun. 1945 - Jun. 1947.

OinC, ATU-10, PMB Training Unit, NAS Corpus Christi, TX., Aug. 1948 - Jun. 1950.

CO, USS *Shasta* (AE-6), May 1959 - Apr. 1960.

CO, USS *Princeton* (LPH-5), Jul 1960 - Jun. 1961.

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit, Combat "V"

Bronze Star, Combat "V"

Unit Citation, Combat "V"



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 9/36-9/37 Flight Training, Pensacola, Florida.
- 10/37-9/40 VP-1 (PBYS) - Pearl Harbor and Philippines.
- 10/40-10/42 Flight Instructor, PBYS, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 11/42-12/43 VP-207 (PBMs), Ops/XO/CO.
- 1/44-5/45 CO, VP-18 (PBMs) training in Charleston; operations and training at Pearl Harbor; operations at Saipan and Okinawa.
- 6/45-6/47 CO HEDRON TWO, FAW-2, Kaneohe, HI.
- 7/47-6/48 General Line School, Newport R.I.
- 8/48-6/50 OinC, ATU-10, (PBM Training Unit) Corpus Christi, TX.
- 7/50-9/51 Assistant Operations, FAW-4, Whidbey Island, Washington.
- 6/52-6/53 Operations Officer, USS *Princeton* (CV-37), Pacific.
- 7/53-6/55 XO, NAS Corpus Christi, TX.
- 8/55-6/56 Naval War College, Newport, R.I. , Student.
- 6/56-3/59 Operations Officer, COMFAIRELM, Naples, Italy. Selected for Captain.
- 5/59-4/60 CO, USS *Shasta* (AK-6), Norfolk, VA.
- 5/60-6/60 Helicopter training, Pensacola, FL.
- 7/60-6/61 CO, USS *Princeton* (LPH-5), Long Beach, CA.
- 7/61-7/64 Joint Staff, Pentagon - SACSA Navy representative.
- 6/64-6/66 Chief of Staff, Operational Test and Development Force, Norfolk, VA.
- 1/66-6/68 Chief of Staff, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.
- 6/30/68 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) As a fresh caught Ensign, flight instructor and engineering officer, PBY training squadron, Corpus Christi, TX.

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (2) Co-pilot, VP-1 (PBYs). Squadron of 15 planes flew from San Diego to Pearl Harbor - conducted training, then flew from Pearl to Sangley Point, (Cavite) Philippines via Midway, Wake and Guam. Tender based aboard the old USS *Langley*! Conducted patrols and submarine search.
- (3) Assistant Operations, FAW-9, Whidbey Island, WA. Formed and supervised Transitional Training Unit, training PB4Y reserve crews in P2Vs.
- (4) Operations Officer, USS *Princeton* (CV-37). Two cruises during Korean war. Qualified underway. (Quite a challenge, going from PBM pilot to ops of a strike carrier with no carrier landing experience).
- (5) Operations Officer, COMFAIRELM, Naples, Italy. Logistic support for SIXTH Fleet. Active in development of the airfield at Suda Bay on island of Crete. Also active in planning and development of NAF Sigonella, Sicily.
- (6) CO, USS *Shasta* (AE-6). Underway Training, Guantanamo; fleet support; delivery of special weapons; tested anti-torpedo equipment out of Key West with civilian technicians aboard.
- (7) CO, USS *Princeton* (LPH-5). Marine helicopter squadrons aboard; conducted amphibious exercises, day/night in Korea area with amphibious staff aboard; supported President Eisenhower's visit to the Pacific area; had all kinds of communications equipment aboard to test; last six months, FRAM II overhaul in Long Beach Shipyard.
- (8) Three years on Joint Staff in SACSA - counter intelligence, (had FBI civilian assigned - worked with CIA).
- (9) Chief of Staff, Operational Development and Evaluation Force, Norfolk. Tested the early Air Cushion Vehicles; units assigned under OPTEVFOR were: AirDevRon ONE; Norfolk Test and Development; VX-4-Air to Air missiles; Air Development Squadron 5; Key West development Detachment; New London Test & Evaluation.
- (10) Chief of Staff, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk.
- (11) Retired, 1 July, 1968.