



James L. Abbot, Jr., Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
 “Doc”

Date of Designation: 29 August 1941 NA # 8529

Dates of Active Duty: June 1935 - April 1974

Total Flight Hours: 4,404

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 146

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 10 Prop: 4,394 VF/VA: 1,000
 VR/VP: 500 VS: 1,000 VU/VFP: 500 VT 1,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: VS Squadron in South Pacific - not considered combat.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VS-66, Mar. 1943 - Mar. 1944 (LT)
 CO, VF-42, Oct. 1946 - Dec. 1948 (LCDR)
 CO, VU-4, Jan. 1951 - Jul. 1952 (CDR)
 CO, USS *Valcour* (AVP-55), Sep. 1960 - Mar. 1961 (CAPT)
 CO, USS *Intrepid* (CVA-11), Mar. 1961 - Jun. 1962 (CAPT)
 Director of Naval Warfare Analyses (OP-91), Jul. 1966 - Feb. 1967 (RADM)
 Commander U. S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica, Feb. 1967 - Jun. 1969 (RADM)
 Commander Carrier Division SIXTEEN, Jun. 1969 - Oct. 1970 (RADM)
 Inspector General, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Oct. 1970 - Jul. 1972 (RADM)
 Director of Naval Educational Development, Nov. 1972 - Apr. 1974 (RADM)

Decorations:

2 Legions of Merit
 Air Medal
 Navy Commendation Medal, and various Service, Area, and Victory medals.



Duty Assignment Chronology

Midshipman/Ensign/LT(jg) and Lieutenant Assignments:

6/35-6/39 U.S. Naval Academy, Midshipman.
 6/39-9/39 USS *Enterprise* (CV-6), Assistant Navigator.
 9/39-3/41 USS *Gilmer* (DD-233), all billets except CO and XO.
 4/41-12/41 Flight Training, (Pensacola and Miami).
 12/41-11/42 Advanced Carrier Training Group, Pacific.
 12/42-3/43 Operations Officer, Scouting Squadron 1-D14 (VS 1-D-14).
 3/43-3/44 CO, Scouting Squadron SIXTY SIX (VS-66).

Lieutenant Commander and Commander Assignments:

3/44-7/46 Staff, Chief of Naval Air Training.
 7/46-10/46 Fighter Refresher Training (Miami).
 10/46-12/48 CO, Fighter Squadron FORTY TWO (VBF 75/VF 4B/VF-42).
 1/49-1/51 OPNAV (OP-542, Aviation Training Division).
 1/51-7/52 CO, Utility Squadron FOUR (VU-4).
 7/52-1/53 Student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk.
 1/53-7/55 Plans and Operations Officer, CNABATRA, Pensacola, FL.
 7/55-7/56 Operations Officer, then XO, USS *Lake Champlain* (CVA-39).
 7/56-8/57 Operations Officer, Carrier Division TWO.

Captain Assignments:

8/57-8/60 Ass't. Commandant then Executive Officer, Bancroft Hall, U. S. Naval Academy.
 9/60-3/61 CO, USS *Valcour* (AVP-55).
 3/61-6/62 CO, USS *Intrepid* (CVA-11).
 7/62-7/63 Chief of Staff, Carrier Division FIVE.
 8/63-8/64 Student, National War College (Night School at George Washington University).
 8/64-7/66 Director Mid-Range Studies, OPNAV, OP-912

Flag Officer Assignments:

7/66-2/67 Director of Naval Warfare Analyses (OPNAV, OP-91).

- Continued -

Flag Officer Assignments continued:

2/67-6/69 Commander, U. S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica.
6/69-10/70 Commander Carrier Division SIXTEEN.
10/70-6/72 Inspector General, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.
11/72-4/74 Director of Naval Educational Development (CNET staff).

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) **Airplanes flown include:**
N3N-1/3, O3U-1, SU-2/3/4, SBU-1, NJ-1, SNJ-1/2/3/4, SBC-3/4, SBD-4/5, F3F-2, BT-1, SNV-1, F4F-3A/4, XF4F-4, OS2U-3, OS2N-1, J2F-5, PV-1, F4U-1/4/4B/ and 5, F6F-3/5/5K, GB-2, JD-1, SNB-2/2C/4/5, R4D/R4D-5R/6R/8, JRB-3/4/5/6, TF-1, TBM-3U, F7F-2D, PBM-5A, F8F-1B, TV-2/2D, C-1A, T-28B, T-34A, F9F-2, AD-1/3Q/5N, UF-1/1T/2 and LC130-F/130-R
- (2) **First Schedule Winter Flight to Antarctica.**
It happened in June, 1967, out of Christchurch, NZ., and had been schedule several months ahead. We took in mail, replacement personnel, and fresh provisions, and brought back mail and relieved personnel. It was dark black and hairy, but went off like clockwork.
- (3) **Personal and Family.**
Born 26 June 26 1918, in Mobile. Son of Helen (Taylor) Abbot and Captain J. Lloyd Abbot, USNR (USNA '12). Married 21 June 1941 to Marjorie Grubbs of Norfolk, VA., who passed away on 26 Aug 1974. Three children: Captain (Ret.) J. Lloyd Abbot III, USN, (USNA '65); Vice Admiral Charles S. Abbot, USN, (USNA '66); and Mary Neville Abbot , Dickinson College (1971).

This is an all-navy family. Like their father, Admiral Abbot's sons are Naval Aviators and "Tail Hookers". Admiral Abbot's brother is the Rev. R. Taylor Abbot, CDR (Ret.) USNR, and his sister is LCDR(W) (Ret.) Helen T. Abbot USNR. His nephew, (USNA '84), is LCDR John F. Abbot, USNR. His grandson, Spencer Abbot, graduated from the Naval Academy as the Brigade Commander ("six striper") in '95; is currently pursuing a Doctorate at Tufts University; and expects to enter flight training at Pensacola in October, 1997. His grandson Matthew Abbot is just finishing his plebe year as a member of the Naval Academy class of 2000.

On 27 Sep. 1975, Admiral Abbot married a widow, his high school classmate, Margaret (Pratt) White. This marriage increased the number of children from three to five. Grandchild count is presently thirteen; ten boys and three girls.

(4) **Post Active Duty:**

- **Boards of Directors completed hitches:**
Mobile Chapter, American Red Cross; Mobile Kiwanis Club; Mobile Chapter, Freedoms Foundation; Friends of the Library; SecNav Advisory Committee for Retired Personnel; The Retired Officers' Association (TROA, First Vice Chairman of the Board); Board of Control, U.S. Naval Institute; Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce (Vice Chairman for Military Affairs); Naval Academy Alumni Association; USS *Alabama* Battleship Commission (Chairman '95-'96)
- **Boards of Directors. current:**
Mobile Council, Navy League (Past President); Naval Aviation Museum Foundation (Southeast Regional Director); Mobile Bay Area Veterans' Day Commission (President, from 7/91); USS *Alabama* Battleship Foundation (Chairman from 10/96); Mobile Maritime Museum Foundation.
- **Sports/hobbies:**
Tennis, golf, boating, swimming, photography, fishing.
- **Special qualifications:**
Commercial Pilot's license; Ocean Operator's ("Hundred Ton") license. Has made 57 boat deliveries since 1975, most of them being new BERTRAM's brought from the factory, in Miami, to Mobile. Two power boats were delivered from Florida to Tulsa, Oklahoma; one from Cape May to Ft. Lauderdale; A 60' ketch was sailed from North Haven Maine to Corner Brook, Newfoundland; from San Juan to Camden, Maine; from Greenwich, Ct. to Oxford, Md; and from Antigua to Newport, RI. More recently, a 75' sloop was sailed from Oxford, Md to Savannah, GA, in Nov. '91; from Miami to Newport in May '92; from Guatemala to Newport in April '93; and from Greenwich to Annapolis in October '93. (Data current 4 March 1997).
- **Recent Event:**
On August 14th, 1997, Admiral Abbot was summoned to appear before the Assembled Mayor and City Council of the City of Mobile. The Mayor then read a Proclamation naming Admiral Abbot as Mobile's FIRST SEA LORD.