



Ernest M. Beauchamp, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 "Ernie"

Date of Designation: 14 February 1941 NA # 71xx

Dates of Active Duty: July 1940 - 31 July 1966

Total Flight Hours: 5,250

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 433 (172 jet /261 prop)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,100 Prop: 4,150 VF: 2,450 VT: 2,800

Combat Tours:

WW II: Operations Officer VF-8 (F6F), USS *Bunker Hill*, Mar. 1944 - Dec. 1944. Palua, Woleai, Hollandia, Truk, Saipan, Tinian, Strike on Jap Carrier force (Philippine Sea), Guam, Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima, Mindanao, Leyte, Cebu, Luzon, Formosa and Okinawa.

Korea: CO, VF-51 (F9F), USS *Essex*, Sea of Japan, Aug. 1951 - Mar. 1952. Armed recco., rail and bridge strikes, CAP, Escort VB/VBF, and flak suppression for VB bridge strikes.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VBF-74B (F4U) Apr. 1945 - Jul. 1945.

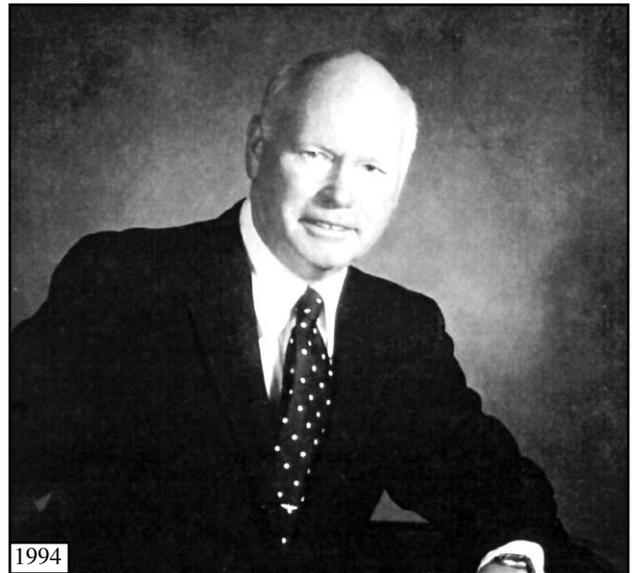
CO, VF-74 (VF-1B)(F4U) Aug. 1945 - Jul. 1947, USS *Midway* (CVB-41).

CO, VF-51 (F9F) Dec. 1950-Jul. 1952, USS *Essex* (CVA-9)
 CAG-21 (FJ-3, F7U-3M, F2H-3, AD-6) Jun. 1955 - Feb 1957, USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31).

Combat Awards:

6 Distinguished Flying Crosses (5 WW II, 1 Korea)

13 Air Medal



Duty Assignment Chronology

7/40-1/41 Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, FL.
 2/41-4/41 Flight Instructor, NAS Corry Field, FL.
 4/41-6/42 Flight Instructor, NAS Corpus Christi, TX.
 7/42-5/43 Chief Flight Instructor, NAS Dallas, TX.
 6/43-12/44 Operations Officer, VF-8 (F6F) USS *Bunker Hill* (CV-17).
 1/45-4/45 XO, VF-95 (F6F).
 4/45-7/45 CO, VBF-74B (F4U).
 8/45-7/47 CO, VF-74 (VF-1B) (F4U) USS *Midway* (CVB-41).
 8/47-6/48 General Line School, Newport, RI.
 7/48-6/50 Navy Department (OP-54).
 7/50-11/50 Staff, ComAirPac TAD (O-in-C Jet Transition Course).
 12/50-7/52 CO, VF-51 (F9F) USS *Essex* (CVA-9).
 8/52-6/53 Naval War College, Newport, RI.
 7/53-6/55 Plans Officer, CNAVANTRA Staff, Corpus Christi, TX.
 6/55-2/57 Commander, Air Group 21, (FJ-3) USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31).
 3/57-6/58 Operations Officer, Staff CARDIV ONE, USS *Lexington* (CVA-16).
 7/58-6/60 Navy Department (OP-05W2)
 8/60-12/60 Student, NATO Defense College, Paris, Fr.
 1/61-6/63 Faculty, NATO Defense College, plus Liaison NATO Council and SHAPE Headquarters.
 8/63-7/66 Faculty, National War College, Washington, D. C.
 7/31/66 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) Flight leader of fighter escort for Air Group 8 strike against Japanese Carrier Force during First Battle of the Philippine Sea, 20 June 1944. Fighter division strafed and set screening destroyer on fire. Listed as probably sunk. Incidentally, the bomber and torpedo flights hit a Japanese carrier, a battleship and two cruisers.

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(2) Participated in fighter sweep over Formosa on 12 October 1944. Fighting 8 was credited with 32 confirmed kills that flight - 51 for the day. My 4 plane division with 10 on the sweep. I was credited with 3 confirmed and 3 probable.

(3) During tour in Korean waters, in cooperation with Paul Gray, CO of the AD squadron, we developed flak suppression tactics utilizing fragmentation bombs with influenced fuzing to generate air bursts with extended ground coverage. On heavily defended bridges the Jets would immediately precede the AD's & F4U's with the gun emplacements as points of aim. The Props kept the transpeninsula bridges down for weeks and months at a time. Michener called them Bridges at Toko-Ri.

(4) For a planned B-29 (B-50) strike on the rail yards at Rashin in the extreme northeast corner of North Korea, out of range of land based fighters, the Air Force requested carrier-based fighter escort. CAG-5 designated me to design the tactics and lead the escorting flight. With a running rendezvous over a predetermined fix we picked them up, took them in and out. MIGs were sighted, but they never challenged. The rail yards were demolished. I think that was a unique event and probably the last daylight raid for the B-29s.