



Elvin L. Lindsay, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
 "Lin"

Date of Designation: January 1941

Dates of Active Duty: 1941-1947

Total Flight Hours: 3,224

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 71

Combat Tours:

WW II: Pilot in VF-19, 1943 in Pacific. Shot down 8 Japanese planes. Led flight attacking Japanese carrier fleet in second battle of the Philippine Sea.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-19 Nov 1944 - Jan 1945
 CO, VBF-19 Jan 1945 - Aug 1945
 O-in-C, Printers School NATTC, Memphis, Tenn.

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross
 2 Silver Stars
 Distinguished Flying Cross
 Navy Commendation Medal (USS *Lexington*)

Duty Assignment Chronology

1940 Student at the University of Idaho. Learned to fly primary and advanced under the Civilian Pilot Training program.
 1941 Designated an Aviation Cadet and went to Pensacola, FL for training.
 1941 Designated an Ensign Naval Aviator and went to instructor school, then to Chevalier Field



NAS Pensacola, FL. as an instrument flight instructor for 2 years.

8/15/43 Sent to newly commissioned Air Group 19 as a fighter pilot. We trained in gunnery, bombing and carrier qualification before going aboard the USS *Lexington* CV-16.

7/5/44 The next several months were spent strafing enemy positions on Guam, Saipan and Iwo Jima.

8/5/44 As flight leader, I tried to bring a rescue vessel in to rescue my downed wingman in an enemy harbor. I landed beside the sub after receiving damage and spent 25 days aboard the USS *Gato* before landing at Midway and returning to the carrier.

9/18/44-11/23/44 Delivered strafing and bombing attacks on Formosa, the Philippines and Okinawa. My four plane division was the first allied planes to attack Lipa Airfield which was loaded with over 50 Betty bombers and many single-engine planes in the revetments. How do I know I was the first to attack ? - because the parked twin engine Betty bombers were undamaged. We four strafed and burned at least 30 before we ran out of ammo. When I returned to the carrier, Adm. Mitscher wanted to know all about Lipa Airfield which was a threat to the Leyte Island landing.

10/24/44 Shot down 2 bomb-carrying Zekes near the Philippines.

10/25/55 Led fighter bomber attack on enemy carrier force off Northern Philippines. Our Air Group was credited with sinking the *Zuikako* which had taken part on the attack on Pearl Harbor. This sea action was later called the 2nd Battle of Philippine Sea. Fifteen (15) Navy crosses went to fighter pilots in VF-19.

11/6/44 Led a fighter sweep of 6 F6F Hellcats in the Manila area, where we caught 15 enemy

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

planes unaware. We shot down 13 of the 15 15 without loss to U.S. A kamikaze hit our ship, the *Lexington*, this date causing loss of life and great damage to radar and radio. We operated one more day and then headed for Ulithe Atoll.

11/23/44 Relieved to go home for Christmas.



1/26/45- Designated CO of VBF-19 as Lieutenant Commander, USNR.
10/26/45 flying F4U-1s and then F4U-4s and later F8Fs. At age 25, I was told I was the youngest squadron CO in the Navy.
8/45 End of war, we were in Hawaii on our second trip. I requested inactive duty to collect a war bonus.
8/2/46 Requested a return to active duty. Was immediately recalled to LT CMDR USN, and designated CO of the Printers' School NATTC, Memphis, Tenn.
11/5/46 An offer by a private businessman was too good to pass up so I resigned my commission.
1946 Became operator of a large wheat ranch.
1946 Renewed Commercial pilot rating.
1950-1953 Elected to two terms as member of the board of directors of Palouse Grange Supply, a large petroleum and fertilizer supplier.
1960-1972 Became partner in an agricultural spray business flying Stearmans, Grumman AgCats, Piper Cubs and Call Air. Flew a Cessna 206 as an air taxi.
1962 Developed an allergy to weeds. Qualified for a job as office manager for the ASCS, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.
1975 Elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Land Bank, Spokane, Washington.
1981 Elected to two terms as member of the Board of Directors of Palouse Producers, a large petroleum and fertilizer supplier.
1985 Retired from the agricultural business and sold the ranch.

1985 Became active in the American Fighter Aces Association and elected to its, Board of Directors.
1991 Served two years as Chairman of the American Fighter Aces Museum Foundation located at Falcon Field, Mesa, Arizona.
1991 Joined the Legion of Valor.
2001 Elected Commander of the Arizona Chapter, Legion of Valor.

Was widowed in 1973 and later married a widow lady. In our combined families, we have five children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.