



John J. Lynch, Rear Admiral, USN

John Joseph Lynch was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 21, 1911, son of the late Patrick and Nora Scanlon Lynch. He attended Boston College High School, 1925-1929; Boston College, 1929-1933; and Boston College Law School in 1933. While in college, from 1930, he was a correspondent for the Boston Globe, and later, 1939-1940 was a Civil Aeronautics Authority Inspector in the St. Louis, Missouri, Office.

Appointed Aviation Cadet on July 12, 1935, after Elimination Flight training at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Squantum, Massachusetts, he had flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, from July 1935 until September 1936, when he was designated Naval Aviator and commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Naval Reserve, to date from September 1, that year. Through subsequent advancement and his transfer from the Naval Reserve to the U. S. Navy, he attained the rank of Rear Admiral, USN, to date from October 1, 1964.

As a Naval Aviator he was first assigned to Bombing Squadron TWO, and served with that squadron, based at the Naval Air Station, San Diego, later embarked on the USS *Saratoga*, USS *Lexington* and USS *Ranger*, from October 1936 until July 1939, during which period his squadron was redesignated VB-3, later VB-4. From August 1939 until November 1940 he served with Reserve Squadrons based at the Naval Air Stations, Anacostia, D. C., and St. Louis, Missouri, and during the next eight months was Chief Flight Instructor at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, St. Louis.

In August 1941 he joined Bombing Squadron EIGHT, based on the USS *Hornet*, and during the early period of

World War II he served as Material Officer, Flight Officer and Executive Officer of that squadron. For heroism and outstanding achievement while attached to Bombing Squadron EIGHT, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal and Gold Star in lieu of a second Air Medal. Citations follow, in part:

Navy Cross, "For extraordinary heroism and outstanding devotion to duty as a pilot in Bombing Squadron EIGHT in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway on June 6, 1942. With utter disregard for his own personal safety and in the face of intense antiaircraft fire. Lieutenant Lynch participated in determined and effective bombing and strafing attacks on fleeing enemy Japanese forces, obtaining a successful hit on one of the enemy ships. His courageous action on this occasion contributed materially to the victory achieved by our forces..."

Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement as Pilot of a Bombing Plane during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands on September 6, 1942. Sighting an enemy submarine on the surface, Lieutenant Lynch, with cool courage and utter disregard for his own personal safety, launched an immediate attack and, as a result of his quick thinking, prompt action, and accurate bombing, contributed to the destruction of the vessel..."

Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as leader of a flight of scout bombers of the USS *Hornet* Air Group during action against enemy Japanese forces near Santa Cruz Islands, October 26, 1942. In a bold flight, opposed by enemy anti-aircraft fire, Lieutenant Lynch pressed home a determined attack, scoring a direct hit on an enemy heavy cruiser. His skillful and courageous conduct reflects great credit upon the U. S. Naval Service."

Gold Star in lieu of Second Air Medal: "For meritorious, achievement...as leader of a division and pilot of a scout-bomber airplane during a raid on enemy Japanese forces in the Guadalcanal and Rekata, Bay Area on October 16, 1942. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire, (he) led his division in a bold and determined attack which resulted in the destruction of twelve Japanese float seaplanes and enemy shore installations consisting of gasoline dumps..."

He next served as Commanding Officer of Composite Squadron THIRTY-THREE, based on the USS *Coral Sea*, January 1943 to February 1944, and during the remainder of 1944 was operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division TWO attached to the flagships USS *Yorktown*, USS *Wasp*, USS *Franklin* and USS *Enterprise*. He is entitled to the Ribbon for the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS *Enterprise*, for heroic service in the Pacific Area, and was personally awarded the Legion of Merit, with citation, in part, to follow:

Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct...while serving as Operations Officer on the Staff of a Carrier Task Group Commander against enemy Japanese

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forces in the Western Pacific Area from May 20, 1944 to December 7, 1944. Drawing from a wealth of experience and sound tactical knowledge. Commander Lynch planned the Task Group combat aircraft operations against the enemy ... (and) contributed materially to, the success of carrier air attacks on the enemy..."

During the latter months of hostilities and until May 1946 he served as Plans Officer on the Staff of Commander Fleet Air, West Coast, and the next year was a student at the General Line School, Newport, Rhode Island. He served from June 1947 to September 1948 as Commander Air Group THIRTEEN, then had a tour of duty as Air Member, Air Defense Board, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

After eighteen months' service as Assistant for General Plans on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, he joined the USS *Lake Champlain* in July 1952. He received a Letter of Commendation, with Ribbon and Combat "V," from the Commander SEVENTH Fleet, "For meritorious service as Executive Officer and Operations Officer of the USS *Lake Champlain* during combat operations against enemy North Korean and Chinese Communist forces in the Korean Theater from June 13, 1953 to July 27, 1953..."

Detached from the *Lake Champlain* in May 1954, he was a student at the Naval War College the next year, and in July 1955 assumed command of the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Whiting Field, Milton, Florida. He continued in that command until April 1957 and, after briefing in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, reported as U. S. Naval Attaché and U. S. Naval Attaché for Air, Moscow, USSR. Continuing in that assignment until December 1958, he commanded the USS *Manatee* (AO-58) from January through October 1959, then served on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

In December 1960 he assumed command of the USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), and in November became Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Carrier Division SEVEN. Assigned from January 1963 until July 1964 to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, he served as Assistant Director of the Politico-Military Policy Division, after which he commanded Carrier Division EIGHTEEN. In June 1965 he reported as Chief of Naval Air Basic Training, with headquarters in the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and for "exceptionally meritorious service from September 1965 to March 1967..." in that capacity, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit. The citation further states in part:

"Exercising outstanding leadership and professional competence in the fields of military management and community relations, (he) markedly improved the operational readiness and training efficiency of his command, and enhanced the prestige and objectives of the United States Navy within the local community..."

In April 1967 he became Deputy Commander of the Naval Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe and in December 1968 reported as Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief, United States Strike Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. "For exceptionally meritorious service...(in that capacity) from December 1968 through June 1970..." he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, The citation further states in part:

"...Rear Admiral Lynch has been responsible for the development and refinement of diverse staff activities and procedures which greatly enhanced the operational readiness of the command. His professional skill and sound judgment were highly instrumental in establishing an administrative level of excellence in the accomplishment of personnel, intelligence, operations, plans, logistics, communications, and military assistance program responsibilities. He skillfully implemented, controlled and coordinated vitally significant functions relative to the joint training of combatant teams of land, sea and air forces, demonstrating unique competence for handling unusual and complex problems. In addition to his expertise in naval affairs, (he) constantly displayed an acute awareness of the joint concept in handling multilateral problems and became a wise and respected counsel in Army, Air Force and Marine Corps matters..."

On July 1, 1970 he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy.

In addition to the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Gold Star and Combat "V," the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Gold Star, the Commendation Ribbon and Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Rear Admiral Lynch has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two silver stars and one bronze star (eleven engagements); World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe Clasp; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Korean Service Medal with one star; United Nations Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars. He also has the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

He was married to the former Virginia Boutelle of LaJolla California, Rear Admiral Lynch had a stepson, Lieutenant Commander Byron Charles Gwinn, II, MC, USNR.