



Irving M. McQuiston, Rear Admiral, USNR

Irving Matthew McQuiston was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, on June 27, 1895, was graduated from Waltham High School in June 1914, the Allen School for Boys, West Newton, Massachusetts, in 1915, and entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in September 1916. Enrolling in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force as Machinist's Mate, Second Class, at the Boston Navy Yard on May 11, 1917, shortly after the United States entered the World War, he reported for active duty on September 7, 1917 at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. On January 31, 1918 he was transferred to Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the ground course in naval aviation. His rating was changed to Chief Quartermaster on March 1, 1918, and on April 13 he was ordered to the Naval Air Station, Bay Shore, Long Island, New York, for preliminary flight training. Completing his flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, he was designated Naval Aviator number 905 on June 12, 1918.

Commissioned Ensign in the Naval Reserve Force in July 1918, he was promoted to Lieutenant (jg) April 5, 1919. Relieved of active duty at his own request and honorably discharged from the Naval Reserve in May 1921, he was reappointed Lieutenant (jg) in the U. S. Naval Reserve in August 1923, and was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant, October 22, 1928; Lieutenant Commander, July 1, 1936; Commander, April 26, 1940; and Captain, January 25, 1941. On November 2, 1945 he was appointed Rear Admiral to rank from July 8, 1942.

Following his commissioning in the Naval Reserve

Force in 1918, he was ordered to duty at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and early in 1919 was placed in command of Squadron 3. After his reappointment as Lieutenant (jg) in the Naval Reserve in August 1923, he assisted in establishing the first Naval Reserve Aviation Base at Squantum, Massachusetts, and continued his association with, and interest in, rebuilding Naval Reserve aviation activities. In 1929-1930 he performed six months' active duty, without pay, with the Aircraft Squadrons of the U. S. Fleet, in order to gain experience and training.

On May 31, 1930, he, at the request of the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, reported for active duty in that Bureau, where he served continuously until 1941 in connection with the instruction, training and drilling of the Naval Air Reserve. In this assignment he was given the responsibility for developing the legislation for the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and after its passage the responsibility for its organization and implementation.

At the beginning of the National Emergency in 1941, he was made Director of the Progress Division, Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., continuing that duty in addition to his later assigned primary duty in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), Navy Department, as Director of Aviation Progress. In that dual assignment, he was charged with keeping DCNO (Air) and the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics informed of the over-all status of aeronautical activities, and making special surveys in connection with activation of aviation planning.

During the war he served as Senior Member of the Continuing Board to inspect and Review the adequacy of Aviation Shore Facilities to Support Fleet and Sea Frontier Air Forces; as Senior Member of the Study Group which reviewed the adequacy of aviation facilities on the Hawaiian, Marshall and Gilbert Island Areas; and as Senior member of the informal Working Board to Submit Studies as the Basis for an Integrated Naval Aviation Personnel Program. He also served as Senior Member of the Board charged with the selection of sites for new Naval Air Facilities and the development of such facilities, for the support of the expanded training program for naval aviators and technical personnel.

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Director of the Progress Division in the Bureau of Aeronautics, from April 1, 1941 to February 1, 1946; and as Chief of Aviation Progress in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), from September 10, 1943 until May 28, 1945...." he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

On December 15, 1943, he reported to duty in the Office of Naval Operations (Air) as Advisor and Coordinator for the Naval Air Reserve Program. In addition, he was appointed as an original member of the Civilian Components Policy Board, now the Reserve Forces Policy Board, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, established by law as the principal policy adviser to the Secretary of Defense on matters

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matters pertaining to the reserve components of the, several Services. He became Military Executive Officer of that Board, the second to serve as such, on May 22, 1950. He served in this assignment until June 30, 1959 and while in this capacity was largely responsible for the studies and guidance which led to the passage of the "Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952" and "The Reserve Officer's Personnel Act." He was transferred to the Retired List, effective July 1, 1959

"For outstanding performance of duty as Military Executive, Reserve Forces Policy Board from July 1952 to July 1, 1959..." he received a Letter of Commendation, with authorization to wear the Commendation Ribbon, from the Secretary of Navy. The citation, further states in part: "One of the foremost authorities on Reserve Forces matters, Rear Admiral McQuiston has brought to the Reserve Forces program a wealth of knowledge and wisdom gained through long experience with, and understanding of the complex problems of the civilian components of our armed forces. Under his perceptive administrative direction, the Reserve Forces Policy Board adopted the twenty principles of Reserve policy which have furnished a basis for the development of the present strong Reserve Forces program. Admiral McQuiston has been directly responsible for a major portion of the achievements in recent Reserve legislation, and his valuable contributions are reflected in the provisions of the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952..."

In addition to the Legion of Merit and the Secretary of the Navy's Commendation with pendant, Rear Admiral McQuiston has the Victory Medal; the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal. He also has the Naval Reserve Medal with Bronze Star (twenty years' honorable service), having been a member of the Naval Reserve for forty years, of which close to thirty-two have been on active duty.

In civil life, Rear Admiral McQuiston was engaged by the Alfred Hale Rubber Company of Atlantic, Massachusetts, in 1921, and later became Vice President and General Manager of that company. In 1924 he accepted a position as General Superintendent of the Boston Manufacturing Company of Boston, Massachusetts, a textile finishing plant. He was also a Vice-President and Director of the Armed Forces Relief and Benefit Association.