

Corrected by Adm. Morison = 11 Feb '63

REAR ADMIRAL SAMUEL E. MORISON
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE, RETIRED

Samuel Eliot Morison, son of John H. and Emily Marshall (Eliot) Morison, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on July 9, 1887. He attended Noble's School at Boston, and St. Paul's at Concord, New Hampshire, before entering Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, from which he was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1908. He studied at the Ecole des Science Politiques, Paris, France, in 1908-1909, and returned to Harvard for post-graduate work, receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1912. Thereafter he became Instructor first at the University of California in Berkeley, and in 1915 at Harvard he became Instructor, Lecturer and Professor of History. Except for three years (1922-1925) when he was Harmsworth Professor of American History at the University of Oxford, England, and his period of active duty during World War II, he has remained continuously at Harvard University, ~~now being Professor Emeritus.~~ *until his retirement in 1955*

He had World War I service as a private in the U. S. Army, but not overseas. As he had done some preliminary studies on Finland for Colonel House's Inquiry, he was detailed from the Army in January 1919 and attached to the Russian Division of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, at Paris, his specialty being Finland and the Baltic States. He served as the American Delegate on the Baltic Commission of the Peace Conference until June 17, 1919, and shortly after returned to the United States. He became a full Professor at Harvard in 1925, and was appointed to the Jonathan Trumbull Chair in 1940. He also taught American History at Johns Hopkins University in 1941-1942.

Living up to his seagoing background - he has sailed in small boats and coastal craft all his life - in 1939-1940 he organized and, as Commodore, commanded the Harvard Columbus Expedition which retraced the ~~first~~ voyage of Columbus in the sailing ships, barkentine CAPITANA and ketch MARY OTIS. After crossing the Atlantic under sail to Spain and back, and examining all the shores visited by Columbus in the Caribbean, he wrote Admiral of the Ocean Sea, an outstanding biography of Columbus, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1942. *He has also written a shorter biography, Christopher Columbus, Mariner, which is on page...*

Shortly after the United States entered World War II, Dr. Morison proposed to his friend, President Roosevelt, to write the operational history of the U. S. Navy from the inside, by taking part in operations and writing them up afterwards. The idea appealed to the President and to Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, and on May 5, 1942, Dr. Morison was commissioned Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Naval Reserve, and was called at once to active duty. He subsequently advanced to the rank of Captain on December 15, 1945. His transfer to the Honorary Retired List of the Naval Reserve became effective on August 1, 1951, when he was promoted to Rear Admiral on the basis of combat awards. *back.*

In July-August 1942 he sailed with Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTEEN (Captain John B. Heffernan, USN), in the USS BUCK, flagship, on convoy duty in the Atlantic. In October of that year in the USS BROOKLYN, with Captain Francis C. Denebrink, he participated in Operation TORCH (Allied landings in North and Northwestern Africa-November 8, 1942). In March 1943, while attached

to Pacific Fleet Forces, he visited Noumea, Guadalcanal, Australia, and in the WASHINGTON made a cruise with the late Vice Admiral W. A. Lee, Jr. He also cruised around Papua in Motor Torpedo Boats, made three trips up "the Slot" in the HONOLULU, flagship of Commander Cruisers, Pacific Fleet (Rear Admiral W. L. Ainsworth, USN), and took part in the Battle of Kolombangara before returning to the mainland. Again in the Pacific War Area in September 1943, he participated in the Gilbert Islands operation on board the USS BALTIMORE under command of Captain Walter C. Calhoun, USN. For the remainder of the winter he worked at Pearl Harbor, T.H., and in the spring of 1944, again on board the USS HONOLULU, he participated in the Marianas operations before returning to the United States to write.

In November 1944 he sailed for Europe in the cutter CAMPBELL with Captain W. A. P. Martin, USN, Commander of a convoy escort group. He left the CAMPBELL at Gibraltar to visit scenes of recent action in Italy and France, and flew back to the United States in January 1945. In February he joined the USS TENNESSEE, commanded by Captain Heffernan, and flagship of Commander of the Gunfire and Covering Force (Rear Admiral Morton L. Deyo, USN). During the amphibious assault upon and subsequent conquest of Okinawa he witnessed ~~the~~ *many* action ~~exposed to the enemy~~ attack. He later visited Iwo Jima and the Philippines and spent some time working on files in Guam.

Under In July 1945 he returned again to the United States to work. Released to inactive duty in September 1946, he returned to duty at Harvard, maintaining an office in the Navy Department under the Director of Naval Records and History, to continue his work on the History of the United States Naval Operations in World War II, ~~planned to be a series of fourteen volumes, for completion about 1955.~~ *ain*

The introduction to the history was written by Commodore Dudley W. Knox, USN, Retired, and in a preface to the first volume, the Secretary of the Navy has made it clear that the author, not the Navy, is responsible for the work. He was assisted from time to time by various Naval Reserve officers and other personnel who had active duty during the war period.

On March 1, 1963 the International Bialan Foundation announced that Adm. Morison was winner of its Cultural Prize (\$51,750) for his 15-volume history and other maritime research.

The volumes with actual dates of publication (by Little, Brown & Co., Boston) are as follows:

- I The Battle of the Atlantic, September 1939-May 1943 1947
- II Operations in North African Waters, October 1942-June 1943 1946
- III The Rising Sun in the Pacific, 1931-April 1942 (Bancroft Prize) 1948
- IV Coral Sea, Midway and Submarine Actions, May 1942-Aug 1942 1949
- V The Struggle for Guadalcanal, August 1942-February 1943 1949
- VI Breaking the Bismarcks Barrier, March 1943-June 1944 1950
- VII The Conquest of Micronesia, 1943-1944 1951
- VIII New Guinea and the Marianas, 1944 1953
- IX Sicily--Salerno--Anzio, June 1943-June 1944 1954
- X The Atlantic Battle Won, June 1943-May 1945 1954
- XI The Invasion of France and Germany, 1944-1945 1955
- XII Leyte, 1944-1945 1956
- XIII The Liberation of the Philippines, 1944-1945 1959
- XIV Victory in the Pacific, 1945 1960
- XV Supplement and General Index 1962
- Also Strategy and Compromise, 1958 1958

A Little, Brown have also published Morison's and in May 1963 will bring out this The Great Ocean War, a one-volume history of the U.S. Navy in World War II

Rear Admiral Morison was awarded the Legion of Merit, with Combat Distinguishing Device "V." In addition, he has the Victory Medal (World War I); the American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He has seven engagement stars on his area ribbons. He also has the Vuelo Panamericano Medal awarded by the Republic of Cuba in 1943, ~~and~~ ^{in 1961} ~~has been recently~~ created Cavaliere Ufficiale of the Italian order, "Al Merito della Republica."

He married Miss Elizabeth S. Greene of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1910, who died on August 20, 1945. Their children are: Elizabeth (wife of Edward Spingarn, former Captain, USA); Emily (wife of Brooks Beck, former Lieutenant Commander, USNR); Peter Greene Morison (former Lieutenant, RNVR, later ~~Major~~ ^{Captain} USA); and Catharine Morison. On December 29, 1949, he married Mrs. Priscilla Barton Shackelford of Baltimore, Maryland. They reside at 44 Brimmer Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts.

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Dr. Morison is author of a number of other works and textbooks, including: Life of Harrison Gray Otis (1913); Maritime History of Massachusetts (1921); ^{x /} Oxford History of the United States (1927); Builders of the Bay Colony (1930); Tercentennial History of Harvard University (awarded Jusserand Medal and Loubat prize, 1930-36); Growth of the American Republic (with Henry Steele Commager) (1937—in its 5th edition, 1963); Portugese Voyages to America (1940); Admiral of the Ocean Sea (1942) (awarded Pulitzer Prize for biography); Ropemakers of Plymouth (1950). He is at present writing a one-volume "Oxford History of the American People," and ~~"Two Ocean War," a condensed history of the United States Navy in World War II, a version of his 15-volume naval history.~~

He is editor of the American Neptune and the New England Quarterly, and of a new edition of William Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation. In 1960 he was awarded his second Pulitzer Prize for his biography of John Paul Jones, published in 1959. He has recently been awarded the Emerson-Thoreau Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Gold Medal of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. *With the Pulitzer Prize, he was cited by the government authority on U.S. naval history and a major contributor to American History.* ⁵⁰
 Other distinctions: He has been ^{President} President of the American Historical Association (1950), and of the American Antiquarian Society (since 1938); Vice ^{President} President (~~President~~) of the Naval Historical Foundation, and of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts; Fellow of the American Philosophical Society, ^{and} the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, ^{and} the British Academy; and the Royal Academy of History, Madrid; and is an honorary member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and of the Society of the Cincinnati, in Massachusetts; and a member of the Charitable Irish Society.

He has received honorary degrees from Trinity College, Hartford (1935); Amherst College (1936); Union College (1939); Harvard University (1936); Columbia University (1942); Yale University (1949); Williams College (1950); University of Oxford (1951); and College of the Holy Cross (1962). He is a member of the Army-Navy Club, Washington; Harvard Club, New York; St. Botolph Club and Somerset Club, Boston; and Athenaeum, London.

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(Boston College (1961) Bucknell Univ. (1960))

