

CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. ASSERSON, Jr.  
UNITED STATES NAVY

William Christian Asserson, Jr., was born aboard the USS WABASH at the Navy Yard, Boston, Massachusetts, on May 19, 1903. He attended Sidwells Friends School in Washington, D. C, prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy on appointment from the State of Indiana on July 18, 1922. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1926, he subsequently attained the rank of Captain, to date from March 20, 1945.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1926, he had sea duty until October 1929, one year in the USS MISSISSIPPI, a unit of Battleship Division 4, Battle Fleet, and two in the USS LITCHFIELD, Squadron Leader of Destroyer Squadron 12, Battle Fleet. In November 1929 he reported to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training, and designated Naval Aviator in July 1930, he served for three years as pilot of Torpedo Squadron 2B, based on the USS SARATOGA.

In June 1933 he returned to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, for a tour of duty in the Assembly and Repair Department. His next five years were spent aboard the USS CALIFORNIA, with Observation Squadron 4B; and at Coco Solo, Canal Zone, with Patrol Squadron 33.

In July 1940 he joined Patrol Squadron 56, and in that assignment in the Spring of 1941, he had temporary additional duty with Commander Destroyer Division 13 and Patrol Squadron 52 in connection with secret operations in high latitudes. For this he received commendatory letters from various sources, including the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet. His squadron was redesignated Transition Training Squadron, Atlantic, in July 1941, and he continued duty therewith at Naval Air Station, Banana River, Florida, until February 1942, just after the United States entered World War II.

From March to August 1942 he commanded the Naval Air Station, St. Lucia, British West Indies, and for ten months thereafter he was Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station, Trinidad, British West Indies. He returned to Pensacola in June 1943 and served on the Staff of Commander, Naval Air Intermediate Training there, and at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, until October 1944. He then joined the USS PRINCE WILLIAM, to serve as Executive Officer, and later in command, until August 1946.

From October 1946 until April 1949 he had duty as Bureau of Aeronautics Representative at Reaction Motors Inc., Naval Ammunition Depot, Lake Denmark, Dover, New Jersey. In May 1949 he assumed command of the USS PINE ISLAND (AV-12), and a year later he was transferred to command of the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, Luzon, Philippine Islands. In August 1951 he reported to the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California, for duty as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander Naval Air Bases, Twelfth Naval District.

Capt. W. C. Asserson, Jr., USN

Page 2

Captain Asserson has the American Defense Service Medal; Fleet Clasp; the American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; and the Navy Occupation Service Medal Asia Clasp.

Captain Asserson is the son of Captain W. C. Asserson, Sr., USN, and Mrs. Isabella (Pigman) Asserson; and the grandson of Rear Admirals Peter C. Asserson, CEC, USN, and George W. Pigman, USN.

NAVY Biographies Section, OI-023  
23 March 1953