

CAPTAIN ALVIN LANNARD BECKER, U. S. NAVY

Captain Becker was born in Bartlett, Texas, on October 1, 1898, the son of Robert and Emma (Hodde) Becker. He attended Taylor High School and Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College before entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on appointment of the Honorable J. P. Buchanan, Member of Congress from Texas, on July 30, 1918. While at the Academy he was a member of the Fencing Squad, winning the Block N in 1920-1921, and winning the Academy Championship, Second Place in 1920 and first place in 1921. He was Captain of the Navy Fencing Team in 1921-1922, and was Midshipman Director of the YMCA during the same period. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1922, he advanced progressively to the rank of Captain to date from April 1, 1943.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy, Captain Becker remained there for the summer course in aviation, after which he served from September 1922 until March 1924 as Radio Officer of the USS TEXAS. From March 10 until June 9 of the same year, he trained at the Naval Academy for a place on the U. S. Fencing Team, for participation in the Olympic Games of 1924.

Captain Becker reported in June 1924 to the USS RAPPAHANNOCK and following two months' service aboard, was assigned duty as Communication and Issuing Officer, on the staff of Commander, Base Force, USS PROCYON, Flagship. He served in that capacity until detached on May 12, 1927, when he was ordered to the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland, for the course in Radio and Communication Engineering. Continuing the course at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, he received the degree of Master of Science on June 19, 1929.

Following an inspection-educational tour of the East Coast from June 24 to August 3, 1927, Captain Becker served until June 1932 as Radio Officer of the USS NEW YORK. He returned to shore duty as District Communication Officer of the Ninth Naval District, Great Lakes, Illinois, where he also had charge of Training and Instruction Naval Communication Reserves from June 1932 until September 1934. During that period he prepared a Navy Mathematical History of Radio for exhibition in the Hall of Science, Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, Illinois, in 1933.

Duty as Force Radio Officer on the staff of Commander, Battle Force, in the USS CALIFORNIA, from September 1934 until April 1935, preceded that of Division Radio Officer on the staff of Commander, Cruiser Division Six, USS LOUISVILLE, Flagship, until June 24, 1936, at which time he became Assistant Fleet Communication Officer on the staff of Admiral A. J. Hepburn, Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, whose

flag was in the USS PENNSYLVANIA. He was detached on January 29, 1938, for duty in the Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., reporting there on April 5, 1938.

Captain Becker served in Radio and Sound Division, and later Design Division, of the Bureau of Engineering (combined in June 1940 with the Bureau of Construction and Repair and redesignated Bureau of Ships) until late in May 1941. He was then ordered to sea duty as Navigator, later Executive Officer, of the USS AUGUSTA, and served in that assignment throughout 1941 and until detached in August 1942.

Returning to the United States, Captain Becker had temporary duty at Headquarters, First Naval District, Boston, Massachusetts, and in the Bureau of Ships, Navy Department, until November 4, 1942 when he reported to Headquarters, Fourteenth Naval District, Pearl Harbor, T. H., for duty as Radio Material Officer of that District, until February 1945. During that period he served as Officer-in-Charge of the Communications Planning Group on Guam from October 22, 1944, to February 1, 1945, and for meritorious achievement in that assignment he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with the following citation:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

"For meritorious achievement as Officer-in-Charge of the Communications Planning Group on Guam from October 22, 1944, to February 1, 1945. Displaying outstanding ability and initiative, Captain Becker rendered skillful service in the planning, expeditious installation and rapid expansion of the communication system of Guam, thereby contributing materially to the war effort in the Pacific. His devotion to duty throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

After brief duty in the Bureau of Ships, Captain Becker reported in June 1945 to the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, for duty as Radio Material Officer, with additional duty as Officer-in-Charge of the Naval Training School, Electronics, at that Yard. Ordered back to the Navy Department in February 1948, he became Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Ships for Electronics.

In addition to the Bronze Star Medal, Captain Becker has the Victory Medal and is entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp (USS AUGUSTA); the European-African-Middle Eastern Area Campaign Medal; the American Area Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.



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