

CAPTAIN STEPHEN W. CARPENTER  
UNITED STATES NAVY

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Stephen Wriston Carpenter was born in Stanley, North Carolina, December 20, 1911, son of Oscar B. and Lula Pinckney (Smith) Carpenter. He attended Kings Mountain (North Carolina) High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, prior to his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from his native state in 1931. As a Midshipman he was Manager of the Lacrosse Team in 1935. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 6, 1935, he subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Captain, to date from March 1, 1954.

Following his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1935, he joined the USS MISSISSIPPI, and in December 1936 reported aboard the USS ELIOT. He had further duty afloat in the USS NASHVILLE between May 1938 and June 1941, when he was ordered to the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland, for instruction in ordnance engineering. He continued the course, September 1942 until September 1943, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Cambridge, from which he received the degree of Master of Science.

In September 1943 he reported as Gunnery Officer aboard the USS SAN JACINTO, and in that capacity participated in operations at Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy forces in the air, ashore, and afloat in the Pacific War Area ..." he is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS SAN JACINTO. Detached from the SAN JACINTO in August 1944, he transferred to the USS COLORADO to serve as Gunnery Officer during operations at Leyte, Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, Okinawa, and in the occupation of Japan, until October 1945. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," for "exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Gunnery Officer of the USS COLORADO, during extended operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands and the Ryukyu Islands, from November 10, 1944 to May 22, 1945..." The citation further states in part:

"Despite numerous hostile suicide aerial and small boat attacks, (he) rendered invaluable assistance to his commanding officer in organizing, planning and delivering destructive bombardments against enemy positions and contributed materially to the success of his ship in supporting the landings and advanced of our assault troops..."

He joined the staff of Commander Battleship Squadron TWO as Gunnery Officer and Assistant Operations Officer in November 1945, and in January 1946 transferred in a similar capacity to the staff of Commander Battleship-Cruiser Force, Pacific. In March 1948 he reported for duty with the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Albuquerque, New Mexico, followed by service, November 1948 until May 1951, in command of Navy Special Weapons Unit 471 (first organization of its type in the U. S. Navy). He next had Prospective Commanding Officers training attached to the staff of Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific, and during August and September 1951 was assigned to the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron THREE as a Destroyer Prospective Commanding Officer.

In October 1951 he assumed command of the USS SHELTON, which under his command had two cruises in the Korean theater, October 1951 to April 1952, and November 1952 to April 1953. The SHELTON participated in operations of Task Forces SEVENTY TWO, SEVENTY SEVEN and NINETY FIVE in 1951, 1952, and 1953. "For meritorious service ...(in that command) during operations against the enemy in the Korean theater from December 3, 1952 to April 20, 1953..." he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V." The citation further states in part:

"...During this period the SHELTON participated in offensive operations against the enemy as a unit of Task Force SEVENTY SEVEN and NINETY FIVE. For a period of thirty-nine days, the SHELTON operated in the Wonsan Harbor area of North Korea within range of enemy guns and was taken under fire seven times. By accurate counter battery fire, calm, resolute ship handling in confined spaces, he avoided enemy gunfire while effectively directing the fire of his own battery. As Commander Task Unit NINETY FIVE POINT TWO POINT ONE, he displayed sound judgment in the deployment of vessels assigned his unit to obtain maximum patrol coverage and gunfire support for mine sweeping units..."

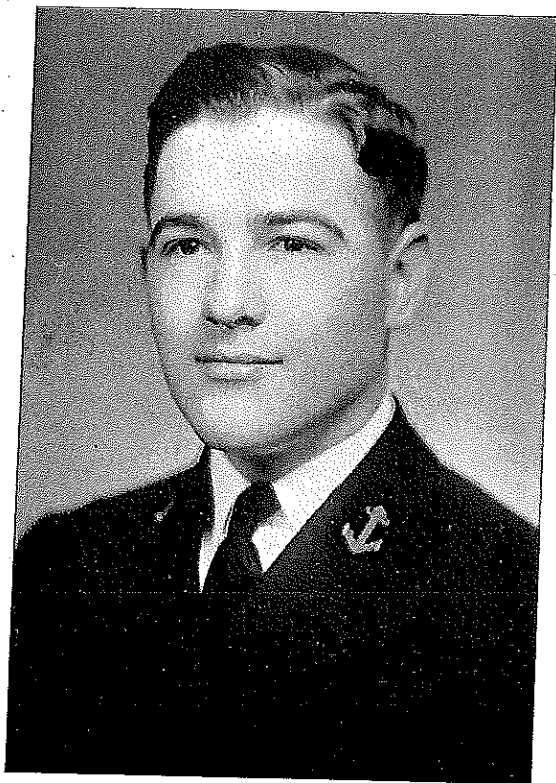
Detached from command of the SHELTON in April 1953, he became Commander Mine Squadron FIVE the next month. He continued to serve in that command until May 1954, and following brief instruction, June 27 to July 10, 1954 at the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, he reported as Commanding Officer of the Clarksville Base, Tennessee, with additional duty as Commanding Officer of the U. S. Naval Administrative Unit, Carlisleville Base, Tennessee.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, each with Combat "V," and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Captain Carpenter has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four stars; World War II Victory Medal; China Service Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; the Korean Service Medal with three stars; United Nations Service Medal; Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star; and Korean Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.

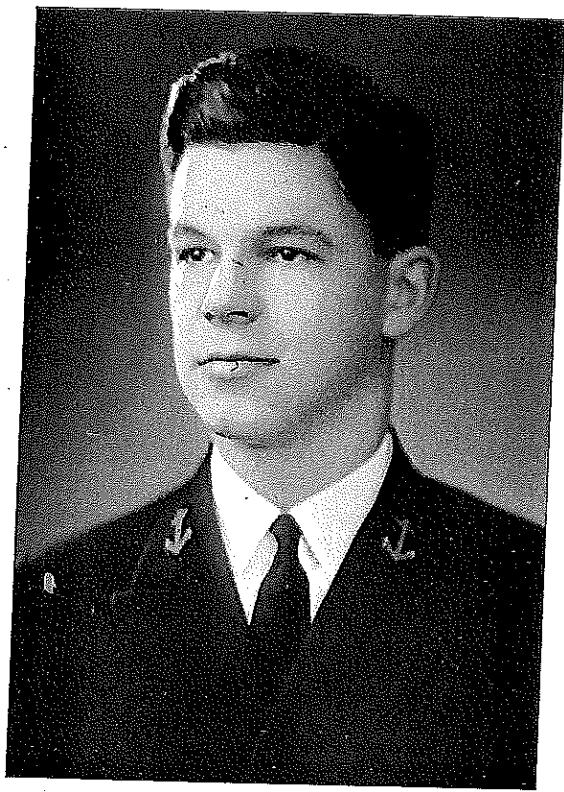
He is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity.

NAVY Biographies Section, OI-440  
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"I die, I'll be a Tarheel dead"—that's Steve,—a true son of the South. Steve waited until college days before deciding upon the Navy as a career, but since then, he has proved by diligent effort his adaptability to the Service. Besides standing high in his class, Steve has gained a much respected reputation on the football field by holding down the right end position on the class team for four years. As a friend and wife, Steve is the best. Although a quiet sort of a chap, he is always ready for a good time. With a most pleasing personality, he is, and, as his classmates will testify, always a gentleman.



STEPHEN WRISTON CARPENTER  
 "Steve" "Carp"  
 Kings Mountain, N. C.



GORDON EUGENE SCHECTER  
 "Schec" "Bunny"  
 Deer Lodge, Mont.

ONE bright morning in June, 1931 a stalwart young Westerner presented his credentials for admission to the Naval Academy. Endowed with a never-say-die attitude, developed during his forest ranger days in the Montana wilds, he has applied this spirit to all activities during his four years visit with us. There is much that can be said regarding his activities, but the facts speak for themselves. He has made a name for himself in two major sports, football and crew, thus rounding out a full athletic year. Equally at home in the classroom and the drawing room as on the athletic field, he has benefitted by a well-balanced college career. He's dangerous as a rival, but, as a friend, he's the best.

Football 4, 3, 2, 1, N\*.  
 Lightweight Crew 4, 3, 2, 1, NA.  
 Quarterdeck Society 4, 3, 2, 1 (Vice-President).  
 2 Stripes.

