

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION *sent*

CAPTAIN WILLIAM S. ESTABROOK, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVY

William Sears Estabrook, Jr., was born on May 10, 1908, in Fayetteville, New York, son of William S. Estabrook of Syracuse, New York, and the late Mrs. Eleanor Weller Evans Estabrook. After graduation from Fayetteville High School, he entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland in June 1926. He was graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 5, 1930, and through subsequent promotions attained the rank of Captain, to date from March 4, 1949, having served in that rank (temporary) from December 1945 to January 1948.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1930, he served for almost two years as a junior officer in training aboard a battleship, the USS WEST VIRGINIA. From May 1932 until January 1933 he was Torpedo Officer and Communications Officer in the destroyer WATERS, and for three months thereafter was a student at the Naval Torpedo School in San Diego, California. During the period June 1933 to April 1936 he continued sea duty in units of the Battle Force, with successive service as Torpedo Officer of the destroyer HALE; Ship's Service Officer and Assistant Communications Officer of the USS LANGLEY, a unit of Carrier Division ONE; and Torpedo and Catapult Officer of the USS RICHMOND, of Cruiser Division 2.

In May 1936 he reported as Assistant to the Executive Officer of the USS COLE, operating with Destroyers, Scouting Force, and upon detachment in June 1936 returned to Annapolis as a student in General Line at the Naval Postgraduate School. He joined the USS MINNEAPOLIS in August 1938, and after five months' service as Engineering Division Officer, was transferred to the USS WILSON, then building at Bremerton, Washington. He served as her Engineering Officer during the period July 1939, when she was commissioned, to May 1941, and as her Executive Officer from June 1941 until May 1942.

From June 1942 until September 1943 he was Commanding Officer of the USS SCHENK, engaged in convoy duty in the Atlantic, and for outstanding services in that command, he received a Letter of Commendation, with Ribbon, from the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet. In September and October 1943 he was a student at the Prospective Command School, Key West, Florida, and in November assumed command of the USS MERTZ. He was Commanding Officer of that destroyer during the occupation of the Marianas and Philippine Islands.

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," for "heroic achievement of a Close-in Fire Support Ship (the MERTZ) in action against enemy Japanese forces at Saipan Island on June 14-15, 1944..." The citation further states: "Operating under difficult navigational conditions and in the face of repeated heavy enemy gunfire, Commander Estabrook skillfully maneuvered his ship

through dangerous waters and effectively directed accurate, concentrated fire against hostile shore batteries, contributing essentially to the success of our forces in the accomplishment of a vital mission..."

Detached from the MERTZ IN February 1945, he returned to the Naval Academy in May of that year for a tour of duty as Executive Officer (and Battalion Officer). His assignment completed in December 1947, he served for a year following as Commanding Officer of the USS UVALDE, assigned to occupation duty in the Asiatic area. In February 1949, after again returning to the United States, he reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for duty until February 1952, as Head of Budget and Planning, Research and Development Division, Bureau of Ships.

During the period March to December 1952, he commanded the USS NAVARRO, and in January 1953 he reported to the Commander, Alaskan Sea Frontier, for duty in Logistics, as Inspector General, SEVENTEENTH Naval District. He next served as Planning Officer in the First Naval District (Headquarters at Boston, Massachusetts) and in February 1958, was ordered to duty as Chief of the Naval Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Federal Republic of Germany with headquarters in Bonn.

In addition to the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," and the Commendation Ribbon, Captain Estabrook has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, with four engagement stars; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two engagement stars.