

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

CAPTAIN EARNEST G. CAMPBELL UNITED STATES NAVY

Earneſt Goodrich Campbell was born in Portland, Oregon, on May 28, 1911, ſon of George Campbell and the late Mrs. Amy Goodrich Campbell. He attended Lincoln High School in Los Angeles, California, and en- liſted in the U. S. Navy in June 1928. He ſtudied at the Naval Acad- emy Preparatory School, Naval Training Station, San Diego, California, and was honorably diſcharged to enter the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapo- lis, Maryland, on June 29, 1929. Completing the course with the Class of 1933-A, he was graduated and commissioned Enſign in the Supply Corps on June 1, 1933.

On July 15, 1935, he requested to be returned to the Line of the Navy, purſuant to the Line Personnel Bill, paſſed by Congress on June 25, 1935 primarily to permit Line officers to transfer to the Supply Corps. His requeſt was approved by the Navy Department in October 1935. He was relieved of his Supply Corps duties in November, and ſtarted performing Line duties in December 1935. On February 5, 1936 he was appointed an Enſign in the Navy, to rank from June 1, 1933. As far as is known, he is the only officer who has ever taken advantage of this Law to transfer from the Supply Corps to the Line of the Navy.

His early ſervice, while in the Supply Corps of the Navy, included inſtruction aboard the USS OKLAHOMA as Aſſiſtant to the Supply Officer until February 1934; and duty as Aſſiſtant for Diſbursing and Aſſiſ- tant to the Supply Officer of the USS ALTAIR, tender for Deſtroyers, Battle Force, until November 1935.

In January 1936, he was aſſigned to the USS MINNEAPOLIS, flagship of Cruiser Division SIX, Scouting Force. He remained in the USS MINNE- APOLIS until May 1938. He next ſerved in the USS CUSHING operating with Deſtroyer Squadron 3, Battle Force, from May 1938 to July 1940. He was then aſſigned to the USS DETROIT, a light cruiser, until July 1941 when he was transferred to the U. S. Naval Academy for duty. He reported to the Naval Academy in August 1941, where he was firſt aſ- ſigned as an inſtructor in the Department of Seamanship and Navigation. On the formation of the Reſerve Midſhipman School at the Naval Academy in December 1941, he was reaſſigned to the Executive Department, firſt as a company officer for the Reſerve Midſhipmen's School and later as Executive Officer of the Reſerve Midſhipmen's School.

On completion of his two years duty at the Naval Academy, he was ordered to a two weeks course of inſtruction at the Weſt Coaſt Sound School, San Diego, and then to the USS PERKINS to relieve as command- ing officer. One day after he reported aboard, and before he had taken command, the PERKINS was ſunk off New Guinea. On December 13, 1943, after being reſcued and returned to Milne Bay, New Guinea, he took command of the USS MAHAN. He remained in command until the MAHAN was ſunk on December 7, 1944, by the firſt of the multi-kamikaze at- tacks. The MAHAN at the time of her loſs was acting as a radar picket veſſel in ſupport of the landing of the 77th Division, U. S. Army, behind the Japanese lines at Ormoc Bay, Leyte, Philippine Iſlands.

He received a Letter of Commendation with Combat "V," from the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, for "excellent service in the line of his profession while serving as Commanding Officer of the USS MAHAN during participation in the bombardment and assault landings at Arawe and Cape Gloucester, New Britain, on December 26, 1943..." He was commended for entering the reefs and exploring the channel prior to the entry of the landing craft, and for "bombing shore positions in support of the landings while in dangerous proximity to enemy shore batteries."

He was also awarded the Silver Star Medal "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the USS MAHAN, in action against enemy Japanese forces in Ormoc Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands, December 7, 1944..." The citation continues in part: "During the shore bombardment and fire support of our troops (he) contributed materially to the success of his vessel in screening the assault area and in performing fighter director duties. Later when his vessel was attacked almost simultaneously by nine enemy bombers and fighters, he directed the anti-aircraft defenses of his ship and succeeded in destroying three enemy planes and damaging several others. Although the MAHAN was severely damaged when three hostile aircraft crashed her, he worked tirelessly to save his vessel, giving the order to abandon ship only after the magazines began to explode..."

He returned to the United States in December 1944, and after brief temporary duty in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, he had instruction in February and March 1945 at the Fleet Sonar School, Key West, Florida, and the Naval Training Center, Norfolk, Virginia. He then fitted out the USS LEARY, and assumed command of that destroyer on May 7, 1945. He remained in that command throughout the last few months of the war, while the LEARY, converted to a radar picket after her shakedown, trained in the Atlantic. After the Japanese surrender, the LEARY was ordered to duty in the Pacific in connection with occupation of the Japanese home islands.

The LEARY left for Japan after participating in the Presidential Review in New York Harbor on Navy Day 1945. She arrived in Japan in November, and in April 1946 was reassigned to Task Force 77, operating in the Western Pacific. In July 1946 the LEARY returned to Pearl Harbor, where, on July 17, he was detached and returned to the United States for a year of instruction at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C. He remained at the Industrial College for two additional years as a member of the faculty, first working in the field of manpower mobilization, and then touring the United States as a member of an Industrial College team lecturing on problems of economic mobilization.

In June 1949 he was detached from the Industrial College for assignment to the Staff of Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Germany, as Logistics Officer. He was detached from this duty in August 1952 and now commands Destroyer Division 322.

Capt. E. G. Campbell, USN

Page 3

In addition to the Silver Star Medal and the Commendation Ribbon with Combat "V," Captain Campbell has the American Defense Service Medal with star; the American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three stars; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star; the World War II Victory Medal; and the Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia and Europe Clasps.

He is a member of the U. S. Naval Institute.

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