

CAPTAIN VINCENT F. CASEY
UNITED STATES NAVY

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Born in Los Angeles, California, Vincent Francis Casey attended the University of Southern California, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry in 1935. He began naval service in June 1935 with flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and was designated Naval Aviator in 1936. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, he flew with Fighting Squadron FIVE (The Red Rippers) at the International Air Races, Lima, Peru, in 1937 and Fighting Squadron FOUR at the National Air Races in Cleveland in 1939.

In the fall of 1941 he joined the USS LONG ISLAND (first of World War II converted carriers) and in 1943 became Commanding Officer of Fighting Squadron TWENTY-ONE, and was Commander Air Group TWENTY-ONE from September 1943 to December 1944, based on the USS BELLEAU WOOD. While serving in that assignment he saw action at Guam, Palau, Celebes, Morotai, the Philippines, Formosa and Okinawa. He also participated in the Second Battle of the Philippines and the first strikes on Manila. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon for service with Task Force THIRTY-EIGHT and Task Force FIFTY-EIGHT.

Returning to the United States early in 1945, he was attached to the Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics General Representative, Western District, Los Angeles, California. During 1945 and 1946 he was Assistant Experimental Officer at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, California, and after instruction at the General Line School, had a year's duty with Carrier Air Group FIVE.

For two years he was Operations Officer at the Naval Air Station, Moffett Field, California and in 1950 assumed command of Composite Squadron ELEVEN. During the period 1951-1952 he served in the USS PHILIPPINE SEA, operating in the Korean area during the hostilities there, and in January 1953 became Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida. In the fall of 1954 he was assigned to Headquarters, Continental Air Defense Command and in May 1956 became Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam, Marianas Island, where he remained until July 1958.

Assigned next to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, he was Assistant Director of the Shore Establishments Division. Effective January 1, 1960, the Bureau of Aeronautics and the Bureau of Ordnance were consolidated. He then served as Executive Director to the Assistant Chief Field Support in the new Bureau of Naval Weapons. In April 1961 he was ordered to duty as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander Fleet Air, Jacksonville, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida.

NAVY - Office of Information, Biogs. Branch; 6 July 1962

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UNITED STATES NAVY

PERSONAL DATA:

Date and Place of Birth: 7/16/08, Los Angeles, California
Parents: Arthur J. and Mary Adeleide (Meyer) Casey

Education: UCLA (BA, 1935); NAS, Pensacola, Florida (flight training); General Line School, Newport, Rhode Island

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as Commanding Officer of Fighting Squadron TWENTY-ONE, attached to the USS BELLEAU WOOD, in action against enemy Japanese forces in the forward Pacific Area, from August 4 to October 25, 1944. Gallantly directing his squadron in a number of devastating attacks against the enemy aircraft and in inflicting severe damage upon enemy installations and shipping. As a result of his combat pilot training and superb leadership, he contributed materially to the safety of his squadron, losing only one pilot in action and none operationally..."

Presidential Unit Citation (USS BELLEAU WOOD): "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from September 18, 1943 to August 15, 1945...Daring and dependable in combat, the BELLEAU WOOD with her gallant officers and men rendered loyal service in achieving the ultimate defeat of the Japanese Empire..."

American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with seven stars
World War II Victory Medal
China Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Korean Service Medal with two stars
United Nations Service Medal
Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars
Korean Presidential Unit Citation
PROMOTIONS (Dates of Rank Only):

Aviation Cadet, USNR	9 June 1935
Ensign, USNR	1 September 1936
Lieutenant (jg), USNR	4 September 1939
Lieutenant (jg), USN	1 March 1941
Lieutenant, USN	2 January 1942
Lieutenant Commander, USN	1 May 1943
Commander, USN	15 March 1944
Captain, USN	1 July 1955

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

Jul 1935	Sep 1936	Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. (flight training)
Sep 1936	Jun 1937	Fighting Squadron FIVE
Jun 1937	Feb 1940	Fighting Squadron FOUR
Feb 1940	Jan 1941	Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. (Instructor)
Jan 1941	Sept 1941	Naval Air Station, Pensacola (Inspection and Test Superintendent)
Sep 1941	Mar 1943	USS LONG ISLAND (Landing Signal Officer) staff, Commander Fleet Air, West Coast
Mar 1943	Sep 1943	Fighting Sqd. 21 (CO) and CAG 21
Sep 1943	Dec 1944	Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics
Jan 1945	Sep 1945	General Representative, Western District, Los Angeles, Calif. (Liaison Off.)
Sep 1945	Jun 1946	Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, Calif. (Ass't Experimental Officer)
Jun 1946	Jun 1947	U.S. Naval School, General Line, Newport, Rhode Island (instruction)
Jun 1947	Aug 1948	Carrier Air Group FIVE (CO)
Aug 1948	Aug 1950	Naval Air Station, Moffett Field, Calif. (Operations Officer)
Aug 1950	Sep 1951	Composite Squadron ELEVEN (CO)
Sep 1951	Dec 1952	USS PHILIPPINE SEA (Operations Officer)
Jan 1953	Sep 1954	Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Fla. (Executive Officer)
Sep 1954	Apr 1956	Headquarters, Continental Air Defense Command
May 1956	Jul 1958	Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam (CO), additional duty as Commander Naval Air Bases, Marianas
Aug 1958	Jan 1960	Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Dept. (Ass't Director, Shore Establishments Division)
Jan 1960		Bureau of Naval Weapons, Navy Dept. (Executive Director to the Ass't Chief Field Support)
Apr. 1961	(orders)	Chief of Staff and Aide, Commander Fleet Air, Jacksonville, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida