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Rear Admiral Albert T. Church, U.S. Navy, Deceased

Church, Albert T.

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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REAR ADMIRAL ALBERT T. CHURCH
U. S. NAVY, DECEASED

Albert Thomas Church was born in Idaho City, Idaho, on April 6, 1882. He was appointed Naval Cadet (at large) and entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from Idaho on September 7, 1901. His title changed to Midshipman on July 1, 1902, he was graduated in 1905, and after two years at sea, then required by law, was commissioned Ensign on January 31, 1907. He subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Captain in 1927, and Rear Admiral, to date from June 23, 1938. On January 1, 1943 he was transferred to the Retired List of the Navy, but continued active duty until December 1945.

His two years at sea as a Passed Midshipman included service on board the USS MISSOURI, USRS LANCASTER, USRS FRANKLIN, USS CHARLESTON, USRS HANCOCK, and USS CONNECTICUT. After he was commissioned Ensign in January 1907, he served for two and one-half years in the USS CLEVELAND, operating on Asiatic Station. In September 1909 he returned to Annapolis for instruction at the Marine Engineering School, and upon completion of the course in May 1911 reported for brief duty as Assistant to the Inspector of Ordnance, at the E. W. Bliss Company, Brooklyn, New York.

During the period August 1911 until August 1914, he had successive duty afloat in the USS CHESTER, USS HANNIBAL and USS LOUISIANA. He was Senior Engineer of the CHESTER, assigned to stand by at Malta and Tripoli (for refugees) during the Tripolitan conflict, and in 1912 participated in the ice patrol established in the North Atlantic after the disaster of the SS TITANIC. He served as Executive Officer of the HANNIBAL surveying the coast of Nicaragua and the eastern entrance to the Panama Canal; and was on board the LOUISIANA at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914.

He next had a tour of shore duty from August 1914 to June 1917 in the Bureau of Steam Engineering, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. Detached during the early months of World War I, he joined the USS MELVILLE, and for the remainder of the war period served as Repair Officer for United States destroyers operating from British bases, and on the staff of Admiral William S. Sims, Commander, U. S. Destroyer Flotillas Operating in European Waters. He received a Special Letter of Commendation as follows: "He performed meritorious service as Flotilla Repair Officer of the Destroyer Force based at Queenstown, where his zeal and activity and resourcefulness made it possible for the destroyers to maintain the patrol with remarkably brief and infrequent intervals for overhaul."

Upon his return to the United States in January 1919, he served briefly in the Bureau of Steam Engineering, Navy Department, and in March of that year reported as Engineer Officer of the Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Washington. After detachment in February 1922 he served at sea for fifteen months as Engineer Officer on the Staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadrons Pacific Fleet. Returning

to the Bureau of Steam Engineering in August 1923, he completed a two-year tour of duty, after which he joined the staff of the Commander in Chief, Battle Fleet, Admiral Charles F. Hughes, USN, to serve as Fleet Engineer. When Admiral Hughes became Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, in September 1926, he continued duty until September 1927 as Aide on his Staff.

Appointed Head of the Postgraduate School at Annapolis, Maryland, he served in that capacity until June 1931 when he reported to the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington. There he served as Manager of the Yard until June 1936. Ordered next to the Third Naval District (with Headquarters in New York, N. Y.), he served as Naval Inspector of Machinery, with additional duty as Inspector of Navigational Material, for United Dry Docks, Inc., Mariners Harbor, Staten Island, N. Y., and the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Kearny, New Jersey.

He reported to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Navy Department, in December 1937, and for almost two years thereafter served in the Shore Establishments Division. During that period he was promoted to Flag rank. In October 1939 he became Director of the Naval Engineering Experiment Division, Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, and continued duty in that assignment (after his retirement) until September 1944. He was then attached to the Naval Academy until relieved of all active duty in December 1945. He was awarded the Legion of Merit "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Director of the U. S. Naval Engineering Experiment Station from October 19, 1939 to September 19, 1944..." The citation continues:

"Entering upon this important duty at a time of urgent need for tremendously increased facilities vital to the success of the shipbuilding program, Rear Admiral Church achieved the expansion project without interruption of work at hand and, in addition, provided capacity for greater increase. A thorough and vigorous administrator, extraordinarily skillful in directing the research development and testing activities of the Engineering Experiment Station, during a critical period, (he) has contributed distinctively to the expeditious expansion and the successful operation and maintenance of the largest Navy in the World."

In addition to the Legion of Merit for World War II and his World War I Commendation, Rear Admiral Church had the Mexican Service Medal; Victory Medal, Mobile Base Clasp (World War I); American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

Rear Admiral Church died at the Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland, on November 14, 1954. His widow, Mrs. Albert T. (Marion Gibson) Church lives at 26 Southgate Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland. Their sons are Captain William C. G. Church, CEC, USN, and Commander Albert Thomas Church, USN, who are both on active duty.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIO

JANUARY 17, 1945

LEGION OF MERIT AWARDED REAR ADMIRAL ALBERT T. CHURCH,
U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

Rear Admiral Albert T. Church, U.S.N., Retired, 62, has been awarded the Legion of Merit in recognition of his services as Director of the United States Naval Engineering Experiment Station, Annapolis, Maryland.

Rear Admiral Church was born in Idaho City, Idaho, and his usual address is 6937 Ellis Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

His citation reads:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Director of the United States Naval Engineering Experiment Station from October 19, 1939, to September 19, 1944. Entering upon this important duty at a time of urgent need for tremendously increased facilities vital to the success of the ship-building program, Rear Admiral Church achieved the expansion project without interruption of work at hand and, in addition, provided capacity for greater increase. A thorough and vigorous administrator, extraordinary skillful in directing the research, development and testing activities of the Engineering Experiment Station during a critical period, Rear Admiral Church has contributed distinctively to the expeditious expansion and the successful operation and maintenance of the largest Navy in the world."

(Biography available in Biographies Section, Office of Public Relations; photograph available in Pictorial Section.)

3/3/45 O.K.
2/14/43

REAR ADMIRAL ALBERT THOMAS CHURCH, U.S.N., RETIRED

Rear Admiral Church was born in Idaho City, Idaho, April 6, 1882, attended school in Boise, Idaho, and was appointed to the Naval Academy from that state in 1901. After graduation he served in the U.S.S. MISSOURI, the U.S.S. CHARLESTON and the U.S.S. CONNECTICUT, until 1907 when he joined the U.S.S. CLEVELAND operating on the Asiatic Station. Upon completion of a postgraduate course in Marine Engineering, he was assistant to the Inspector of Ordnance at E. W. Bliss Company, Brooklyn, New York, for several months in 1911 and later that year was Senior Engineer Officer of the U.S.S. CHESTER, which was assigned to stand by at Malta and Tripoli for refugees during the conflict in Tripoli. In 1912 he served in the ice patrol in the North Atlantic which was established after the S.S. TITANIC disaster.

He was Executive Officer and Navigator of the U.S.S. HANNIBAL surveying the eastern coast of Nicaragua and the eastern entrance to the Panama Canal, and was at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in the spring of 1914 and in the U.S.S. LOUISIANA. Later in 1914 he was ordered to duty in the Bureau of Steam Engineering, Navy Department. During the World War he was on the Staff of Admiral William S. Sims, U.S.N., as Repair Officer of destroyers operating from British bases and received a special letter of commendation for meritorious service, "where his zeal and activity and resourcefulness made it possible for the destroyers to maintain the patrol with remarkably brief and infrequent intervals for overhaul."

He was on the Staff of Admiral Charles F. Hughes, U.S.N., Commander in Chief, Battle Fleet, with additional duty as Fleet Material Officer, and served in the same capacity while Admiral Hughes was Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet.

Rear Admiral Church was head of the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland, from 1927 until 1931 when he was appointed Manager of the Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington. He was designated for engineering duty only in 1928.

In 1936, he was appointed Naval Inspector of Machinery and Inspector of Navigational Material at the United Dry Docks Incorporated, and the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Kearny, New Jersey.

Rear Admiral Church was on duty in the Shore Establishment Division, Navy Department, from December, 1937, until September, 1939. On October 19 of that year he reported for duty as Director, Engineering Experiment Station, Naval Academy.

Rear Admiral Church was transferred to the Retired List of the Navy on January 1, 1943. He will continue on active duty as Director, Engineering Experiment Station, Naval Academy.

Legion of Merit,
Rear Admiral Church has the Mexican Service Medal, U.S.S. LOUISIANA; Victory Medal, Mobile Base Clasp, U.S.S. ELVILLE, and the American Defense Service Medal.

His home address is Boise, Idaho.

REAR ADMIRAL ALBERT THOMAS CHURCH, U. S. NAVY

Rear Admiral Church was born in Idaho City, Idaho, April 6, 1882, attended school in Boise, Idaho, and was appointed to the Naval Academy from that state in 1901. After graduation, he served in the USS MISSOURI, the USS CHARLESTON, and the USS CONNECTICUT, until 1907 when he joined the USS CLEVELAND operating on the Asiatic station. Upon completion of a post-graduate course in Marine Engineering, he was assistant to the Inspector of Ordnance, at E. W. Bliss Company, Brooklyn, New York, for several months in 1911 and later that year was senior engineer/officer of the USS CHESTER, which was assigned to stand by at Malta and Tripoli for refugees during the conflict in Tripoli. In 1912, he served the ice patrol in the North Atlantic which was established after the SS TITANIC disaster.

He was executive officer and navigator of the USS HANNIBAL surveying the eastern coast of Nicaragua and the eastern entrance to the Panama Canal, and was at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in the spring of 1914 in the USS LOUISIANA. Later in 1914, he was ordered to duty in the Bureau of Steam Engineering, Navy Department. During the World War, he was on the staff of Admiral William S. Sims, U.S. Navy, as Repair Officer of destroyers operating from British bases and received a special letter of commendation for meritorious service, "where his zeal and activity and resourcefulness made it possible for the destroyers to maintain their patrol with remarkably brief and infrequent intervals for overhaul."

He was on the staff of Admiral Charles F. Hughes, U.S. Navy, Commander in Chief, Battle Fleet, with additional duty as Fleet Material Officer, and served in the same capacity while Admiral Hughes was Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet.

Rear Admiral Church was head of the postgraduate school, Annapolis, Maryland from 1927 until 1931 when he was appointed manager of the Navy Yard,

To Administrative Assistance 3/22/41
Re Ship

Rear Admiral Albert T. Church, U.S.N. (continued)

Bremerton, Washington. He was designated for engineering duty only in 1928.

In 1936, he was appointed naval inspector of machinery and inspector of navigational material at the United Dry Docks, Incorporated, and at the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Kearny, New Jersey.

Rear Admiral Church was on duty in the Shore Establishment Division, Navy Department, from December 18, 1937 until October 1939 when he reported for duty as Director, Engineering Experiment Station, Naval Academy.

Rear Admiral Church has the Mexican Service Medal for duty in the U.S.S. LOUISIANA and the Victory Medal with the Mobile Base Clasp for services in the U.S.S. MELVILLE.

Home: Boise, Idaho.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

18 November 1937.

CAPTAIN ALBERT THOMAS CHURCH, U. S. NAVY.
RE: SERVICE OF

1882 Apr 6 Born at Idaho City, Idaho.

1901 Sep 7 Appointed Naval Cadet from Idaho, at large.

1902 Jul 1 Title changed to Midshipman.

1905 U.S.S. MISSOURI.
U.S.R.S. LANCASTER.
U.S.R.S. FRANKLIN.
U.S.S. CHARLESTON.

1906 U.S.R.S. HANCOCK.
U.S.S. CONNECTICUT.

1907 Ensign.
U.S.S. CLEVELAND.

1909 Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. (Instruction in
Marine Engineering School)

1910 Lieutenant, junior grade.
Lieutenant.

1911 Works E. W. Bliss Co., Brooklyn, New York (Assistant
to Inspector of Ordnance)
U.S.S. CHESTER (Senior Engineer Officer)

1912 U.S.S. HANNIBAL (Executive and Navigator)

1913 U.S.S. LOUISIANA.

1914 Bureau of Steam Engineering, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.
(Additional duty as Inspector of Machinery, Sparrows
Point, Md.)

1916 Lieutenant Commander.

1917 U.S.S. MELVILLE (Repair Officer of destroyers operating
from British Bases)
Additional duty on Staff, Commander, U.S. Destroyer
Flotillas operating in European Waters as Repair
Officer, Destroyer Flotillas.

1918 Commander, temporary.

1919 Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Washington, (temporary).

1921 Commander.

1922 Destroyer Squadrons, Pacific Fleet (Aide on Staff,
Commander); additional duty as Engineer Officer,
Destroyer Squadrons, Pacific Fleet.

1923 Bureau of Engineering, Washington, D.C.

1925 Battle Fleet (Fleet Engineer) (Aide on Staff)

- 1926 U. S. Fleet. (Aide on Staff); additional duty Fleet Material Officer.
- 1927 Captain.
Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. (Head of Postgraduate School)
- 1931 Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Washington (Manager of Navy Yard)
- 1936 United Dry Docks, Inc. (Naval Inspector of Machinery); additional duty, Naval Inspector of Machinery, Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Kearny, N.J.; Naval Inspector of Machinery, United Dry Docks, Inc., Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island, N.Y.; and Inspector, Navigational Material, United Dry Docks, Inc., and the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. (Rep 26 June 1936)

To perform engineering duty only under provisions of Act of 29 August 1916, as amended by Act of 11 May 1928.

Completed postgraduate course in mechanical engineering.

Awarded Special Letter of Commendation by Navy Department for service during World War:

"He performed meritorious service as Flotilla Repair Officer of the Destroyer Force based at Queenstown, where his zeal, activity and resourcefulness made it possible for the destroyers to maintain their patrol with remarkably brief and infrequent intervals for overhaul."

Mexican Service Medal, U.S.S. LOUISIANA.

Victory Medal, Mobile Base Clasp, U.S.S. MELVILLE.

Usual residence: 200 E. Idaho Street,
Boise, Idaho.

REAR ADMIRAL ALBERT THOMAS CHURCH, U. S. NAVY, RETIRED, 5746 *DECEASED*

TRANSCRIPT OF NAVAL SERVICE

6 Apr 1882 Born

*Died 11/14/54 at Naval Hospital
Annapolis, Md.*

7 Sep 1901 Midshipman, U. S. Navy
31 Jan 1907 Ensign, U. S. Navy
23 Jun 1938 Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
1 Jan 1943 Placed on Retired List and continued on active duty

SHIPS AND STATIONS

FROM

TO

USS CLEVELAND	Mar 1907	Aug 1909
U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.	Sep 1909	May 1911
Brooklyn Navy Yd. (Asst. to Insp. of Ordnance)	May 1911	Aug 1911
USS CHESTER	Aug 1911	Oct 1912
USS HANNIBAL	Oct 1912	Dec 1913
USS LOUISIANA	Dec 1913	Aug 1914
Bureau of Steam Engineering, Dept of the Navy, Washington, D. C.	Aug 1914	Jun 1917
USS MELVILLE (Repair Officer of Destroyers Operating from British Bases)	Jul 1917	Jan 1919
Bureau of Steam Engineering, Dept of the Navy, Washington, D. C.	Jan 1919	Mar 1919
Navy Yard, Pudget Sound, Bremerton, Wash. (Engineer Officer of the yard)	Mar 1919	Feb 1922
Destroyer Squadrons Pacific Fleet (Engineer Officer)	Mar 1922	Jul 1923
Bureau of Engineering, Dept of the Navy, Wash., D. C.	Aug 1923	Aug 1925
USS CALIFORNIA (Fleet Engineer in Commander in Chief Battle Fleet)	Sep 1925	Sep 1926
U. S. Fleet (Aide on Staff of Commander-in-Chief)	Sep 1926	Sep 1927
U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. (Head, Postgraduate School)	Sep 1927	Jun 1931
Navy Yard, Puget Sd., Bremerton, Wash.	Jun 1931	Jun 1936
Commandant, THIRD Naval District (Insp. of Mach.)	Jun 1936	Dec 1937
Office of the Asst. Secretary of Navy, Dept of the Navy, Wash., D. C. (Shore Establishments Division)	Dec 1937	Sep 1939
U. S. Naval Engineering Experiment Station, Annapolis, Md. (Director)	Oct 1939	Sep 1944
U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.	Sep 1944	Dec 1945

Schools attended before Naval Academy: Not in record

Next of Kin: Marion Gibson Church

Date and place of Marriage: Not on record

Children: *Capt* William C. G. Church, ^{USN}; *Edw* A. T. Church, Jr., ^{USN}

Father: Not in record

Mother: Not in record

Home Address: 26 Southgate Ave., Annapolis, Md.