



Æviágrip: Jerauld Wright, Admiral US. Army.

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A f r i t

ADMIRAL JERAULD WRIGHT, UNITED STATES NAVY

Biography

Admiral Jerauld Wright, U.S. Navy, is the Commander in Chief Atlantic and U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. Included in his U.S. Atlantic Command are the joint Army-Navy-Air Force commands in Iceland and the Azores, and the North and South Atlantic Ocean areas. The U.S. Atlantic Fleet is comprised of more than six hundred ships, thousands of naval aircraft, and over 200,000 men. Admiral Wright succeeded to these commands on April 12, 1954. His Headquarters are in Norfolk, Virginia.

He was appointed by the President of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Council to be Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, effective April 12. The Allied Command, Atlantic, is the world's first international ocean command, and is supported by the fourteen member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The geographic boundaries of the command extend from the North Pole to the Tropic of Cancer, and laterally from the coastal waters of North British Isles. Its primary task is control of the North Atlantic for NATO and the support of NATO forces abroad. Admiral Wright holds two other NATO posts: he is also Commander in Chief Western Atlantic Area, and Commander Ocean Sub-Area (Atlantic).

Admiral Wright was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, on June 4, 1898, the son of General W. M. Wright, U.S. Army, and Mrs. Marjorie Jerauld Wright.

Appointed to the Naval Academy from the Tenth District of New Jersey, he was commissioned Ensign in June 1917. His promotions to Lieutenant (junior grade) and Lieutenant were conferred temporarily during World War I, and made permanent in 1920. His subsequent promotions were: Lieutenant Commander, January 1931; Commander, June 1938; Captain, June 1942; temporary Commodore, October 1944; Rear Admiral to date from May 1943; and in September 1950, he was appointed Vice Admiral.

His first tour of duty was in the USS CASTINE. He reported to that ship immediately after graduation from the Naval Academy in 1917, and served in the Mediterranean with the British naval command at Gibraltar on convoy escort duty in the Mediterranean.

After the conclusion of World War I hostilities, he served in the destroyers USS DYER in the Eastern Mediterranean, and USS REID in the Atlantic. He served in the Pacific and on the Asiatic Station in USS JOHN D. FORD from February 1922 to July 1924.

In August 1924, he reported for duty aboard the Presidential Yacht USS MAYFLOWER, with additional duty as Naval Aide to President Calvin Collidge.

From July 1926 to July 1929, he was in the battleship USS MARYLAND, and was aboard that ship when President-elect Herbert Hoover cruised with the MARYLAND on his good-will visit to South America in 1928.

In August 1929, Admiral Wright reported to the Bureau of Ordnance for duty in connection with the development of anti-aircraft fire control equipment, and was assigned additional duty as Naval Aide to President Hoover.

He returned to sea duty in August 1931 as First Lieutenant and later Gunnery Officer of the cruiser USS SALT LAKE CITY in the Pacific Fleet. In June 1934, he reported for duty on the executive staff of the Naval Academy, and one year later was selected as Aide to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Henry L. Roosevelt.

In June 1936, he was again assigned to the Bureau of Ordnance for duty.

In July 1937, he took command of the destroyer USS BLUE for two years duty in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. Upon completion of his tour of duty in the BLUE, he returned to the Naval Academy for duty on the executive staff.

In March 1941, Admiral Wright returned to sea duty as Executive Officer of the battleship USS MISSISSIPPI in the Pacific. Later, the ship operated with British Naval Forces guarding the Denmark Strait.

After serving aboard the MISSISSIPPI until the Spring 1942, he joined the staff of Admiral E. J. King, Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations. Here he was intimately associated with the formulation of U.S. and Allied war plans, particularly concerned with amphibious and joint operations.

His next tour of duty was as a Naval member of the staff of the Commander Allied Expeditionary Force, General Dwight Eisenhower. He was a member of the staff group in Norfolk House, London, which planned OPERATION TORCH, the joint landing of Allied forces in North Africa.

Prior to the invasion of North Africa he was assigned as Naval member of a group of officers under General Mark Clafk, U.S. Army, who secretly went ashore by submarine and folding boat at Cherchel, North Africa, two weeks in advance of the invasion and made contact with French officers who were assisting the Allied cause. It was the negotiations with these officers that resulted in arrangements which facilitated prompt French participation in later Allied operations in North Africa.

He made a second secret entry into enemy-held territory aboard the British submarine HMS SERAPH, when he was charged with the evacuation of General Giraud and a group of French

staff officers from the village of La Fosette in southern France.

In January 1943, after participating in the North Africa invasion Admiral Wright joined the combined staff of Admiral A.B. Cunningham, the British officer who was then Commander in Chief of Allied Naval Forces, Mediterranean. Then, and later on the staff of Admiral H.K. Hewitt, USN, he was again engaged in planning Mediterranean amphibious assault operations.

During those tours of duty, he was intimately concerned in the planning and execution of the Tunisia, Sicily and Salerno invasions, involving sea, land and air forces of the Allied nations.

In December 1943, Admiral Wright was transferred to the Pacific to command the heavy cruiser USS SANTA FE. As a unite of the Fast Carrier Task Forces under Admiral Raymond A. Spruance and Admiral W. F. Halsey, SANTA FE participated in carrier strikes and amphibious assaults in the Central Pacific. Assaults at Kwajalein and in the Caroline Islands, the seizure of Saipan, the First Battle of the Philippine Sea, strikes against Formosa and the Japanese mainland marked the battle record of SANTA FE under Admiral Wright's command.

Selected for promotion to Rear Admiral, he was detached from SANTA FE to become Commander Amphibious Group 5 in November 1944. In the now-familiar task of joint operations with land, sea and air elements of Allied forces, he participated in the amphibious assaults against Okinawa and Nasei Shoto, and in the planning of further amphibious assaults that were to be major elements of the Allied campaign in the Pacific.

From August 1945 until cessation of hostilities, Admiral Wright commanded Cruiser Division 6 in Chinese and Korean waters and participated in the surrender of Japanese forces in Korea.

With the end of the shooting phase of World War II, Admiral Wright reported to the Chief of Naval Operations as head of the Operational Readiness Section. There he directed the further development of amphibious and other joint warfare doctrines of naval forces, and the pattern for participation in joint operations by elements of the three U.S. armed services.

His experience in joint operations was again utilized by the Navy when he was assigned as Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. In that command, he assisted in the revision of tactical and strategic concepts of amphibious assaults, and conducted the training of Army, Navy and Air Force units. In March 1950, he conducted in the Carribbean the first large-scale amphibious operations in which atomic bombs were assumed to be employed by U.S. and enemy forces.

While Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, he was promoted to Vice Admiral and has been reappointed in that rank for successive assignments.

The pattern of joint military operations continued to shape his career in his next duty, that of Deputy U.S. Representative to the Standing Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There he worked with Service representatives of all NATO nations in the formulation of plans and policies on the concepts of NATO military operations.

In June 1952, Admiral Wright was designated Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, with the rank of Vice Admiral. This command included all U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and personnel in the Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean, Middle East and Indian Ocean (North of the Equator). Its major component was the U.S. Sixth Fleet, in the Mediterranean. He was additionally responsible for providing and supporting U.S. naval elements assigned from time to time for participation in NATO exercises.

He held this command until his present appointment in April 1954, when he relieved Admiral Lynde D. McCormick, USN, as supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) and Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT). Admiral Wright is the second officer to become SACLANT. The command was established in April 1952, with headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia.

Throughout his naval career, Admiral Wright has specialized in the joint operations of naval, ground and air forces, and in amphibious warfare. Since the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty he has been actively interested in the development of NATO military forces, and participated in the NATO conferences in Washington, London, Brussels, Ottawa and Lisbon.

Decorations: He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (Navy); the Silver Star Medal (Navy); Legion of Merit (Army), and Gold Star (Navy) in lieu of a second award; Bronze Star Medal (Navy); Commendation Ribbon with Combat "V" and metal pendant (Navy); Letter of Commendation (Army); and the Legion of Honor, rank of Chevalier (France). His campaign medals include: World War I Victory Medal with Fleet Clasp; American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp; Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with one silver and two bronze battle stars; European-African-Middle East Theater Medal with three bronze battle stars; American Theater Medal; World War II Victory Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal.

May, 1954