

CAPTAIN PORTER F. BEDELL, UNITED STATES NAVY

A native of Los Angeles, California, Porter Fryman Bedell graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1933. He was commissioned in the U. S. Naval Reserve, due to previous legislation, however a year later he received his appointment as Ensign in the U. S. Navy. He then joined the battleship PENNSYLVANIA and between 1938 and 1941 continued duty afloat in the destroyer WASMUTH and the cruiser PORTLAND.

He was designated Naval Aviator in the summer of 1941 and was serving with Patrol Squadron 21, based on Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese attacked the Naval Base there on December 7, 1941. He transferred in April 1942 to Patrol Squadron 101 to serve as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer until December 1943. After a period of training, he reported in April 1944 as an Instructor in the Department of Navigation at the Naval Academy and while there also served as basketball coach. He was Aviation Member with the U. S. Naval Mission to Chile for two years, followed by duty afloat in the aircraft carrier ANTIETAM.

During the period 1949-1951 he served as Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida. Completing the course in strategy and tactics at the Naval War College, he assumed command of Air Transport Squadron 3 in July 1952. He next had duty, 1954-1956, as Chief of the Training Division and Director of Personnel and Security at the Field Command, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

He was Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations to the Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Mediterranean from October 1956 until May 1958, when he was ordered to duty as Commanding Officer of the USS YORKTOWN. After a year at sea he reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for duty in the Bureau of Naval Weapons. Under orders of March 8, 1961, he is now Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

NAVY - Office of Information
Biographies Branch
13 June 1962

CAPTAIN PORTER FRYMAN BEDELL, UNITED STATES NAVY

PERSONAL DATA:

Education: The Citadel, Charleston, S. C.; University of South California at Los Angeles; U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. (BS, 1933); Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. (flight training, designated Naval Aviator, 12 August 1941); Naval War College, Newport, R. I. (1951-1952)

PROMOTIONS:

Appointed Midshipman, 20 June 1929
Commissioned Ensign, USNR, 1 June 1933
Commissioned Ensign, USN, 28 June 1934
Lieutenant (junior grade), USN, 29 May 1937
Lieutenant, USN, 1 April 1941
Lieutenant Commander, USN, 1 October 1942
Commander, USN, 1 January 1944
Captain, USN, 1 July 1952

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS:

Army Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal
Gold Star in lieu of the Second Air Medal
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four engagement stars
World War II Victory Medal
China Service Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal

Foreign:

Orden Al Merito (Chile)
Condor De Los Andes (Bolivia)

CITATIONS:

Army Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism in flight and exceptional and outstanding accomplishment in the face of great danger above and beyond the line of duty. These operations consisted of over two hundred hours of operational flight missions, during which enemy fire was probable and expected."

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Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement...in aerial flight against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area from August 7 to September 10, 1943. Taking part in numerous night patrols and vigorous bombing raids on Japanese shipping and shore installations, (he) handled his plane expertly in spite of antiaircraft fire and inflicted damage on an enemy submarine and a cargo ship, several barges and ammunition dumps ashore..."

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement...as a First Pilot with Patrol Squadron 21 and as Patrol Plane Commander and First Pilot of a Bomber Plane in Patrol Squadron 101 in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Southwest Pacific War Area from December 7, 1941 to July 4, 1943. Completing his fifth mission during this period, (he) contributed materially to the success of his squadron and to the infliction of damage on the enemy..."

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF NAVAL SERVICE:

May 1933	- Jun 1934	Inactive Reserve Officer
Jul 1934	- Apr 1935	USS PENNSYLVANIA
Apr 1935	May 1938	USS WASMUTH
Jun 1938	- Jan 1941	USS PORTLAND
Feb 1941	- Aug 1941	Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. (flight training)
Sep 1941	- Apr 1942	Patrol Squadron 21 (Operations Officer)
Apr 1942	- Dec 1943	Patrol Squadron 101 (Executive Officer and CO)
Dec 1943	- Apr 1944	PBY-4 training
Apr 1944	- Apr 1945	U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. (Instructor, Dept. of Navigation)
Apr 1945	- May 1947	U. S. Naval Mission to Chile (Aviation Member)
May 1947	- May 1949	USS ANTIETAM (Navigator, Air & Operations Officer)
May 1949	- Aug 1951	Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, (XO)
Aug 1951	- Jun 1952	Naval War College, Newport, R.I. (student)
Jul 1952	- Jul 1954	Air Transport Squadron 3 (CO)
Aug 1954	- Sep 1956	Field Command, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Albuquerque, N.M. (Chief, Training Div., & Director, Personnel & Security)
Oct 1956	-	Staff, Commander in Chief Allied Forces, Mediterranean (Ass't Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations)
28 May 1958	(Orders)	USS YORKTOWN (CO)
27 Feb 1959	"	Bureau of Ordnance, later BuWeps
8 March 1961	"	Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. (C.O.)

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