

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

CAPTAIN ALLAN J. FISHER,
SUPPLY CORPS, U. S. NAVY

Allan Jack Fisher was born in Los Angeles, California, in October 23, 1916, son of Anthony and Josephine Polak Fisher. He was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California in 1939 and, completing Naval Reserve Officer Training there at the same time, he was appointed Ensign in the Supply Corps of the U. S. Naval Reserve, to date from May 29, 1939. His Reserve commission was terminated with his acceptance of appointment as Assistant Paymaster, with rank of Ensign in the Supply Corps of the U. S. Navy, from August 10, 1939, and he subsequently advanced to the rank of Captain, to date from July 1, 1958.

From August 31, 1939 until May 24, 1940 he was a student at the Navy Finance and Supply School, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was then ordered to Destroyer Division 59, for duty as Division Disbursing Officer, and served additionally as Assistant to the Gunnery Officer of the USS POPE (DD-225), flagship. His division was in Manila, Philippine Islands, on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and he participated in action during the bombing of Cavite on December 10, 1941; in the Battle of Makassar Straits on January 23, 1942 (the first destroyer night action of World War II, when seven Japanese ships were sunk); and in the Battle of Badoeng Straits.

He is entitled to the Ribbon for the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS POPE "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Java Campaign in the Southwest Pacific War Area from January 23 to March 1, 1942..." He was personally awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," and cited "For heroic service as a Battery Officer on board the USS POPE during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Java Sea on March 1, 1942..." The citation continues:

"With his ship attacked by Japanese cruiser-based dive bombers, Ensign Fisher resolutely directed the fire of his machine guns to fight off the relentless enemy, while inspiring his men to greater effort by his own unflinching fortitude and cool courage. Despite shock and deafness suffered from terrific blasts close aboard, he remained steadfast at his exposed station on the galley deckhouse utterly oblivious to the showers of bullets and flying bomb fragments as he led his men through twelve vicious hostile attacks..."

He was on board the POPE when that destroyer was sunk in the Battle of Java Sea, on March 1, 1942, and was in the water for fifty-seven hours before his rescue by a Japanese destroyer, as a Prisoner of War. Throughout the remaining period of hostilities he was incarcerated in a POW Camp in the Netherlands East Indies, and "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Senior American Officer at the Prisoner of War Camp at Makassar, Celebes, from October 2, 1943 to July 25, 1945..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. The citation further states:

"...Working untiringly for the welfare of those under his charge although himself in a weakened condition from malnutrition, Lieutenant (junior grade) Fisher was directly responsible for improving conditions within the camp and for expertly coordinating the activities of the American Prisoners of War with those of other Allied internees. Despite brutal punishments by his enemy captors, he continued in his courageous efforts, maintaining a high level of discipline and establishing authority through his staff. In addition, he personally visited the sick each day, assisted in constructing an air raid shelter, kept accurate personal records of all prisoners within the camp, thereby helping to clear up numerous cases carried on the missing roles, and aided in improving sanitary conditions. By his forceful leadership, (he) was in large measure responsible for saving the lives of many of his fellow countrymen interned at the Macassar Prisoner of War Camp, and his devotion to duty throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Repatriated in September 1945, he was a patient at the Naval Hospital, Corona, California, until February 1946, when he reported to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., for three months' temporary duty. In June of that year he was sent to the Naval Supply Depot, San Diego, California, where he served for almost three years as Control Group and Material Group Officer. Next ordered to sea, he had duty from May 1949 to July 1950 as Supply Officer on board the USS MISSOURI (BB-63). In August 1950 he returned to San Diego, reporting to Headquarters, Eleventh Naval District, for a tour of duty as Senior Assistant to the District Supply Officer.

He was a student at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, from February to June 1953, and for two years thereafter served as Logistics Officer on the Staff of Commander Service Force, SIXTH Fleet. In August 1955 he reported as Executive Officer of the General Stores Supply Office, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and in March 1958 returned to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department. In February 1960 he was selected for instruction at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C., and after graduation in June 1961 became Supply Officer at the San Francisco, California, Naval Shipyard. He reported as Deputy Commander of the Defense Depot, Ogden, at Ogden, Utah, in June 1964 and a year later was designated Commander of that depot.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Commander Fisher has the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in combat and the Army Distinguished Unit Citation with star. He also has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, with two operation stars; the World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; and the Philippine Defense Ribbon, with star.

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