

War College Library

# THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

GRADUATION 4 Jo 1946

Adm. R.A.Spruance



INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

[CA 1946]  
Admiral Anderson

Your Excellency, Admiral Carney, Admiral Gygax, Officers of the Graduating Classes and their families, and other friends of the Naval War College.

For the first time since December 2nd, 1941, the graduation exercises at the Naval War College take place without the unhappy feeling in our hearts that within a few weeks most of the members of the graduating classes will be engaged in mortal combat with our enemies.

We are thankful to God that our country is again at peace; that the almost constant exposure to danger of our armed forces no longer exists; and that for most of our military personnel, the long separation from families and friends has ended, or will soon end, with happy reunions. For those who will not return we say a prayer and enshrine them in our hearts as the heroes they are.

Let us strongly resolve to do everything we can within the bounds of reason to prevent future wars. Let us not again make the fatal mistake of believing that our military weakness will ensure peace, or that a rich, peace-loving nation, like the United States, can bring about world disarmament by example.

In the United States the freedom of the individual is the greatest, and the standard of living is the highest, of all of the nations of the world; yet, notwithstanding this high level of individual well-being, avarice, envy and crime abound.

Thus we may be sure that so long as human nature remains what it is those less fortunate nations, which at the time may be controlled by small groups of avaricious individuals, will attempt self-aggrandizement at the expense of militarily weaker nations.

Military forces in themselves need not constitute a threat to any weaker nation. Preparedness for war is not inherently evil. The evil lies in the use to which a government puts its trained military forces. In the hands of a trained surgeon a scalpel is a life-saving instrument; in the hands of a criminal it is a deadly weapon.

In the United States, military men have never attempted to control the nation's government nor its foreign policy. They have, however, during peace, continuously pointed out the necessity for greater military power. Our country has paid dearly in lives and treasure for its failure to heed the advice of its professional military men.

A military force which is not efficient will, in an emergency, prove but a broken reed. It is to aid in maintaining a high state of efficiency in our naval forces that the Naval War College will continue to train officers in the exercise of command and in the performance of important staff functions.

Thankful as we are that the war is over, we cannot but regret that its termination will bring about a marked change in

the composition of the personnel of the student body. In future classes there will be a smaller percentage of Army officers and only such Naval Reserve officers as have signified their desire to be commissioned as permanent officers.

During the war we have enjoyed and profited by the presence in the student body of a comparatively large number of selected Army officers. We believe that both services have profited by this close association.

All branches of the armed forces are convinced of the necessity for mutual understanding and effective coordination. They all believe in unity of command within each theater of operations. The attendance of officers of each branch at the advanced schools of each other branch is an important method of furthering coordination and team work of the armed forces.

We are proud of the record of the Naval Reserve officers who have been students at this College during these war-time years. They have demonstrated the high standard of patriotism, character, and intelligence, of our young business and professional men. They have done a splendid job. The War College has profited by many suggestions received from naval reserve graduates, made in the light of their post-graduate experience in active operations, with a view to improving the Preparatory Staff Course for the benefit of students of later Classes.

We are particularly proud that some Naval Reserve officers

who were eligible for release voluntarily extended their period of service in order to complete the current War College Course. We hope that both in civil life and in their future service in the Naval Reserve, what they learned may fully repay them for the additional time spent here.

Officers of the Graduating Classes.

On behalf of the Staff I congratulate you upon your successful completion of the prescribed courses and wish you the greatest success in the future.

For five months you have carried on an intensive study of naval and amphibious warfare with the purpose of preparing yourselves for more important assignments to duty. We believe that what you have learned here not only has benefited you individually as officers but, also, that the armed forces will profit from your increased knowledge of the conduct of war.

Fortunately the end of the war makes unnecessary further active operations, but to those of you who remain in the services the training you have received here should serve you well in carrying on the peace-time training of our armed forces and in furthering coordination of the various branches. To those of you who return to civil life your course will be of less value, but we hope that it will have convinced you of the

necessity for the training of officers during peace-time, and that in your respective communities you will exert your influence to keep this nation better prepared for war than it ever has been during peace.

Five months ago you came here as strangers; today you are shipmates, bound together by the ties of friendship and of mutual respect and confidence which the term "shipmates" symbolizes. Don't let these friendships die. Keep the addresses of your classmates and renew these ties at every opportunity. As the years go by you will value, more and more, these war-time associations.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, the good wishes of the President and Staff of the Naval War College will be with you. The best of luck to each and every one.

We are fortunate today in having present to address you and to present your diplomas, Rear Admiral R. B. Carney, whose war record includes service as Commanding Officer of the cruiser DENVER in the operations for the defense of Guadalcanal, and approximately two years as Chief of Staff to Admiral Halsey. Included in this latter period were all operations of the 3rd Fleet in the China Sea, the Battle of Leyte, and all of the operations on the coast of Japan.

It is an honor and pleasure to present one of the Navy's outstanding Chiefs of Staff, Rear Admiral Robert Bostwick Carney.

Before closing these exercises I desire to express to my Chief of Staff and the officers of the Staff of the War College, my appreciation of the excellent work they have done in the term just finished. It has been principally through their loyal, devoted service that this course has been a success.

I desire also, to express the appreciation of the President of the College, the Staff and the student officers to the civilian personnel, to the WAVES, and to the Audio-visual Aid personnel, who are assigned to the College. Many of the civilian personnel have declined temporary positions in other stations for which they would have received higher rates of pay, in order to continue their loyal, efficient service here. Without the experience and faithful service of the civilian personnel, and of the enlisted naval personnel, the course of instruction at this college would be seriously reduced in efficiency.

Upon the completion of these exercises guests are invited to inspect the library, maneuver room and work rooms of the student officers. In the maneuver room there are on exhibit many battle photographs, and laid out on the deck is a graphic demonstration of one of the important naval battles of the present war. An officer of the Staff will describe the various points of interest in the battle.

> The exercises will be concluded by the playing of the National Anthem.

