

Rear Admiral Wilfred Neville Derby

REAR ADMIRAL WILFRED NEVILLE DERBY was born in Newark, New Jersey, on December 4, 1889. He was appointed a cadet to the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, May, 1908.

Upon graduation from the Academy in January, 1911, he performed duty afloat for the next seven years on the following cutters: SENECA, TUSCARORA, THETIS and ITASCA. This tour of sea duty entailed service on the coasts of the United States, Hawaii, and Alaska.

His early shore duty assignments took him back to the Coast Guard Academy, where he was assigned to duty on the staff as an instructor of cadets in charge of training of enlisted recruits.

In September, 1927, as a Lieutenant Commander, he returned to sea duty as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer CASSIN, subsequently serving as Division Commander of Destroyer Divisions One, Four and Three successively.

As a Commander in February, 1935, he was transferred to command of the ITASCA. He was attached to this ship during March, 1935, at which time an expedition from the ITASCA took possession of Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands for the United States. The ITASCA also received the highest merit for cutters in the Engineering Competition during this period.

Upon detachment from the ITASCA in October, 1935, he was assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters as Operations Officer in the Office of the Chief of Operations.

In June, 1941, he became Commanding Officer of the USS WAKEFIELD, but returned to Coast Guard Headquarters two months later to assume Chief of the Maritime Service and Chief of Merchant Ship Control.

During early part of 1942 he served on the staff of Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet; in June of that year he reported to First Naval District in Boston, Massachusetts, for assumption of duty as District Coast Guard Officer.