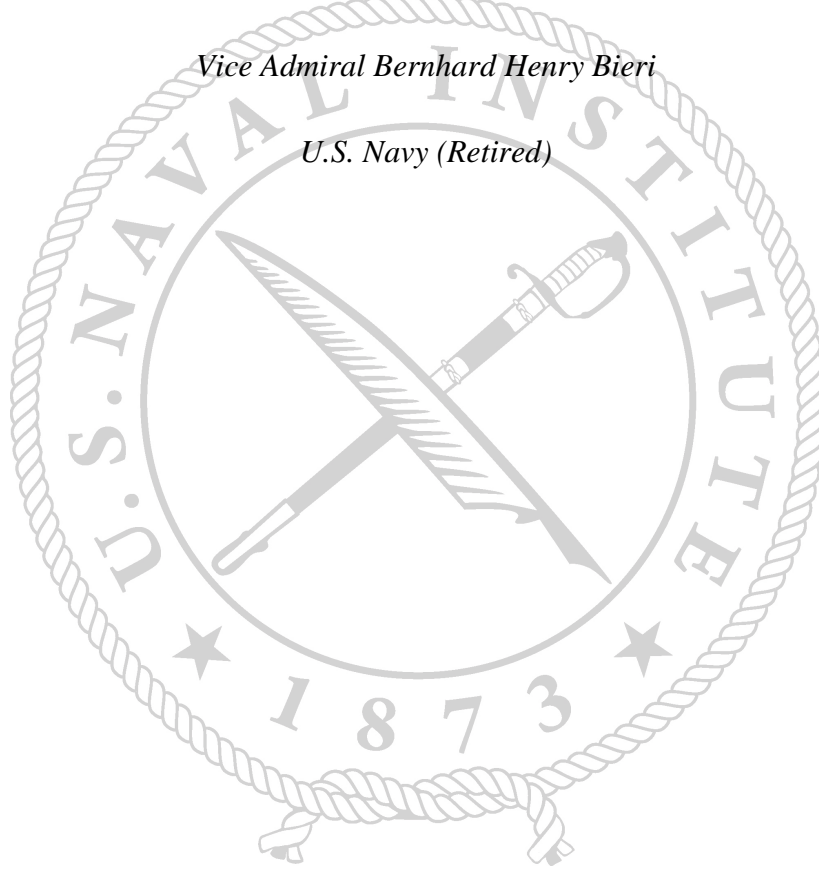


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Reminiscences of

Vice Admiral Bernhard Henry Bieri

U.S. Navy (Retired)



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Ingram, Lieutenant Commander Jonas H., USN (USNA, 1907)

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King, Fleet Admiral Ernest J., USN (USNA, 1901)

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Knox, Frank

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Leonard, Captain John C., USN (USNA, 1882)

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Martin, Lieutenant Commander Frank C., USN (USNA, 1902)

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Martin, Major General Frederick L., USA

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McDonald, Captain John D., USN (USNA, 1884)

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Newton, Rear Admiral John H., USN (USNA, 1905)

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General Douglas MacArthur didn't get the support he requested from the Navy as the islands were falling in 1942, 137

Planning

Development of plans in 1941 to defend the fleet at Pearl Harbor against air attack, 85-86; joint Army-Navy work in procuring transports and landing craft for amphibious assaults in World War II, 96-99; for the Allied invasion of Europe, 100-101; the Joint Chiefs of Staff sometimes put up with amateurish schemes from Churchill and Roosevelt during World War II, 103-105; for the North Africa invasion of November 1942, 108-113; top Allied officials met at the Cairo conference in late 1943 to plan war strategy, 123-134; in London in early 1944 for the upcoming invasion of France, 141-147, 152-154; British planning in 1944 for the postwar world, 145, 162; disagreement among U.S. planners in 1945 over whether the Allies would have to invade Japan, 165-166; plans made during World War II for the unification of the U.S. armed services after the war, 186-188

Pope Pius XII

Hosted a visit from Admiral and Mrs. Bieri shortly after World War II, 223-224

Promotion of Officers

After World War II, Bieri was slow in being promoted to vice admiral because of an incorrect perception of actions he had taken at the time of the North Africa invasion in 1942, 115-116; selection boards were reinstated shortly after World War II to pick naval officers for promotion to higher rank, 191-194; after the war, selection boards had to pick more specialists than previously, 194-199

PT Boats

Disposal of surplus U.S. boats to Mediterranean nations in the immediate aftermath of World War II, 213-214, 219-220

Public Relations

During World War II, the Navy had programs to recognize the contributions that defense contractors made to the war effort, 139-140, 188; Bieri's contacts with the public while serving as commandant of the 11th Naval District at San Diego in the late 1940s, 230-231

Rabaul, New Britain

General Douglas MacArthur was unsuccessful in getting his proposal for the invasion of Rabaul approved at the Cairo planning conference in late 1943, 125-127

Radio

Development of high-frequency transmitters by the Navy in the 1920s, 62-63; use of facsimile machines in the 1920s, 67

Ramsay, Admiral Bertram H., RN

Involved in the planning for the Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942, 106, 110-113; had a stiff personality, 110, 117-119; as Allied naval commander for the invasion of France in the spring of 1944, 141, 143-147, 149, 151-152, 158-161

Recruiting

As a result of the demobilization at the end of World War I, ships had to do their own recruiting, 34

Richardson, Admiral James O., USN (USNA, 1902)

As Commander Battle Force and CinCUS, 1939-41, was a forceful and able officer, 81-83; disagreed with President Franklin Roosevelt about basing the battleships at Pearl Harbor, 83; relieved as CinCUS in 1941, 84-85; had a visit from Admiral Ernest King, probably in early 1941, 174-175, 257

Rodman, Rear Admiral Hugh, USN (USNA, 1880)

Commanded the U.S. battleship division that served with the Royal Navy in World War I, 26, 30; served as Commandant of the Fifth Naval District in the early 1920s, 36-38, 40-41; was part of a U.S. delegation to Peru in July 1921, 36-38

Ronarc'h, Rear Admiral Pierre, French Navy

Commanded the French naval contingent at Algiers, Algeria, shortly after World War II, 212, 225

Roosevelt, President Franklin D.

Was quite interested in the Navy when he took office as President in 1933, 75-76; directed the relief of Admiral J. O. Richardson as CinCUS in 1941, 83; met with Allied leaders at the Cairo conference in late 1943 to plan war strategy, 123-124, 130; agreed at the Yalta Conference in February 1945 to give war materials to the Soviets, 180

Royal Navy

The Texas (BB-35) was among the five American battleships that served as part of Britain's Grand Fleet in 1918, 26, 29-32; Thanksgiving celebration following the Armistice in November 1918, 32-33; ships were stationed off Mexico in 1914 when World War I broke out, 39-40; a British mine layer took a party of staff officers from Gibraltar to Casablanca for a progress report on the invasion there in November 1942, 119-120; efforts at the Cairo planning conference in late 1943 to gain a role in the Pacific, 128-129, 246; command relationships with U.S. warships in World War I, 150; command relationships in World War II, 150-152; service in the Pacific toward the end of World War II, 189; role in the Mediterranean Sea in the immediate post-World War II period, 211-212, 215, 226

Salvage

Refloating of the battleship Texas (BB-35) after she ran aground on Block Island in 1917, 27-28; work on damaged merchant ships at Algiers following the Allied landings there in late 1942, 121-123, 151

Santo Domingo

In 1912-13 the gunboat Nashville (PG-7) was sent to the country to represent U.S. interests, 16-19

Scotland

U.S. battleships were based at Scapa Flow and the Firth of Forth in 1918 while supporting the British Grand Fleet in World War I, 30-32

Security

Information on the development of atomic bombs was tightly held during World War II, 167-169, 171, 173; people were granted access to information during the war only if they needed it, 171-174

Selection Boards

Reinstated shortly after World War II to pick naval officers for promotion to higher rank, 191-194; after the war, selection boards had to pick more specialists than previously, 194-199

Severn, USS

Square-rigger used for sail training at the Naval Academy in 1907, 7-8

Sherman, Vice Admiral Forrest P., USN (USNA, 1918)

As DCNO (Operations) shortly after World War II worked with the State Department to coordinate U.S. policy in the Mediterranean, 210; took command of U.S. naval forces in the Mediterranean in 1948, 228-229; as Chief of Naval Operations in the late 1940s, 233

Shore Bombardment

U.S. concern about inadequate plans for gunfire support of the Allied invasion of France in the spring of 1944, 141-142; during the invasion itself, 155-156

Smith, General Walter Bedell, USA

Service as General Dwight Eisenhower's chief of staff during World War II, 142, 146-147, 158-161; as director of the Central Intelligence Agency in the early 1950s, 237-238

Sontag, Dr. Raymond

University of California history professor who took leave to spend time on the National Board of Estimates in the early 1950s, 238, 240

Soviet Union

At the Yalta Conference in February 1945 the United States agreed to furnish ships and equipment to the Soviet Union, 179-180, 182-185

Stark, Admiral Harold R., USN (USNA, 1903)

As Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe, was involved in the planning for the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, 110-113; involved in the planning for the invasion of France in the spring of 1944, 152-154, 163; didn't really have much of a substantive role in London, 154-155

Strategy

Top Allied officials met at the Cairo conference in late 1943 to plan war strategy, 123-134

Surveying

The destroyers Corry (DD-334) and Hull (DD-330) did survey work in the 1920s with early models of sonic range finders, 47-48, 55-61

Sutherland, Major General Richard K., USA

As General Douglas MacArthur's chief of staff, in 1943 pushed a plan for the invasion of Rabaul, 125-127

Swimming

Taught at the Naval Academy in 1907, 6

Tacoma, USS (CL-20)

Grounded at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in January 1924, 54-55

Taylor, Dr. A. Hoyt

Work for the Naval Research Laboratory in the 1920s on the development of high-frequency radio transmitters, radar, and sonar, 62-63

Tenth Fleet

Operations in early 1946 in the South Atlantic, 201-203

Texas, USS (BB-35)

During the early part of World War II, was in the York River and Chesapeake Bay to train gun crews for merchant ships, 25-26; ran aground on Block Island in September 1917, 27; salvage and repair, 27-28; ran into heavy weather while en route to Europe, 29-30; served in 1918 with Britain's Grand Fleet, 29-32; Thanksgiving celebration in 1918, 32-33; return to New York in December 1918, 33-34; dismal postwar recruiting, 34; ran aground in the late 1920s, 69; operations in the early 1930s while serving as fleet flagship, 70

Training

Swimming was taught at the Naval Academy in 1907, 6; the square rigger Severn was used for sail training of midshipmen at the Naval Academy in 1907, 7-8; Naval Academy summer cruises around 1910, 8; during the early part of World War I, the battleship Texas (BB-35) was in the York River and Chesapeake Bay to train gun crews for merchant ships, 25-26

Troubridge, Rear Admiral Thomas, RN

Commanded a task force for the Allied landing at Oran, Algeria, in November 1942, 113; present at the Cairo conference of late 1943 in connection with plans for Southeast Asia, 126-127

Tunisia

Received a goodwill visit by U.S. Navy ships shortly after World War II, 223-224

Turkey

Visited shortly after World War II by the small U.S. naval presence in the Mediterranean, 209, 221

Turner, Rear Admiral Richmond K., USN (USNA, 1908)

Served on the faculty of the Naval War College in the late 1930s, 77-78; arranged for Bieri to join the U.S. Fleet staff in early 1942, 93; was involved in some joint planning work with the Army before going to sea in mid-1942, 94-96, 100-101, 242

Unification

Plans made during World War II for the merging of the services after the war, 186-188

Uniforms-Naval

Admiral E. J. King introduced gray uniforms during World War II, 256-257

United Nations

Bieri's role from 1949 to 1951 as Joint Chiefs of Staff representative, 233-237

Utah, USS (BB-31)

Unhappy ship in the late 1920s with poor officers and martinets as skipper and exec, 68-69

Vardaman, Commodore James K., Jr., USNR

As naval aide to the President shortly after World War II, was involved in a delay of Bieri's promotion to vice admiral, 115-116

Venereal Disease

The San Diego Journal published critical material about the Navy and venereal disease in the late 1940s, 231-233

Vera Cruz, Mexico

The battleship Virginia (BB-13) operated off Tampico and Vera Cruz during a period of government unrest in 1913-14, 22-23; landing at Vera Cruz in April 1914, 23-24; the cruiser Tacoma (CL-20) grounded at Vera Cruz in January 1924, 54-55

Virginia, USS (BB-13)

Had an unusual arrangement of gun turrets, 8-inch on top of 12-inch, 19-20; discussion of commanding officers, 1913-16, 20-21; operated off Tampico and Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1913-14, 22-23, 39-40; support of the U.S. landing at Vera Cruz in 1914, 23-24; based at the Boston Navy Yard, 23-24; placed in reserve in 1916, 24

Von Heimburg, Lieutenant Ernest H., USN (USNA, 1919)

Was executive officer and navigator of the destroyer Corry (DD-334) during a difficult cruise to Alaska in 1924, 58-59

Weather

The battleship Texas (BB-35) ran into heavy seas while en route to Europe for service with the British Grand Fleet in 1918, 29-30; the transport Henderson (AP-1) collided with a destroyer while operating in the fog near Seattle in the summer of 1923, 50-51

Wedemeyer, Colonel Albert C., USA (USMA, 1919)

In early 1942 put forth an overly optimistic plan for the Allied invasion of Europe, 100-101

Women

Use of WAVES in the CominCh headquarters in Washington in World War II, 169-170

World War I

During the early part of the war, the battleship Texas (BB-35) was in the York River and Chesapeake Bay to train gun crews for merchant ships, 25-26; the Texas served in 1918 with Britain's Grand Fleet, 29-32; as a result of the rapid demobilization at the end of the war, ships had to do their own recruiting, 34; German and British ships were stationed off Mexico in 1914 when the war broke out, 39-40; command arrangements with the British during the war, 150

Yalta Conference

Held in the Crimea in February 1945, it dictated, among other things, that the U.S. Navy had to turn over ships and other war materials to the Soviets, 179-180, 182-185

Yugoslavia

Unrest in 1946 on the Italy-Yugoslavia border, 205, 210, 220

