

The Captain



COMMANDER WARD WAYNE WITTER

Commander Ward W. Witter, USN, was born on 16 March 1917 in Des Moines, Iowa. After attending Iowa State College, he was appointed from his home state to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in 1940.

His first ship was the USS NEVADA BB 36 on which he was aboard in Pearl Harbor during the initial Japanese attack. Commander Witter remained aboard the NEVADA until June 1945 and served as Assistant Gunnery Officer and later as Navigator. He returned for two years to the Naval Academy for advanced courses in naval ordnance. In September 1947 he was ordered to the NROTC unit of Purdue University, earning his master's degree in industrial engineering while stationed there. A little over a year later he was assigned to the USS OAKLAND CLAA 95 as Gunnery Officer. In the summer of 1949 Commander Witter reported aboard the USS MANCHESTER CL 83 as Gunnery Officer and held this position for eighteen months. For the next two years he served as Gunnery Readiness Officer on Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet staff and in 1952 became Executive Officer and Administrative Officer of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Plant in York, Pennsylvania.

The first part of 1956 he was relieved of his duties at the Naval Ordnance Plant and reported aboard the USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER on 9 February to relieve Commander John D.H. Kane as Commanding Officer.

Commander Witter; his wife Phyllis; their daughter Kimmerle, 13; and their son David, 7 reside in Coronado, California.