



Admiral Harry W. Hill

USS HARRY W. HILL (DD 986), is named in honor of Admiral Harry Wilbur Hill, U. S. Navy, a distinguished naval officer who achieved extraordinary success and much honor as commander of numerous amphibious operations during World War II.

A graduate from the Naval Academy in 1911, he served successively in **USS MARYLAND (ARC 8)**, torpedo boat tender **USS IRIS**, **USS PERRY (DD 11)**, with the Pacific Flotilla, as the Engineer Officer in **USS ALBANY (CL 23)**, and during World War I, in **USS TEXAS (BB 35)** and as navigator in **USS WYOMING (BB 32)**, when both battleships were attached to the British Grand Fleet. Immediately after WWI he served as navigator in **USS ARKANSAS (BB 33)** until January 1919 when he was assigned duty as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Admiral R. E. Coontz, Commander of the Atlantic Fleet's Division Seven. In July of the same year he transferred to similar duty on the staff of Commander, Division Six, Pacific Fleet.

Continuing as aide to Admiral Coontz, as Chief of Naval Operations from 1919 to 1923, Lieutenant Commander Hill then joined **USS CONCORD (CL 10)** as gunnery officer from 1923. After serving the next three months as Aide to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet he again had duty afloat as gunnery officer in **USS MEMPHIS (CL 13)**. After duty as executive officer of the receiving barracks at Hampton Roads, he was gunnery officer in **USS MARYLAND (BB 46)** from 1928 to 1931 and then served in the Executive Department at the Naval Academy. As a number of his ships won gunnery awards while under his direction, he was Force Gunnery Officer on the Staff of Commander Battle Force, U. S. Fleet, in the Pacific from 1933 to 1934. As a commander he commissioned and commanded **USS DEWEY (DD 349)** from October 4, 1934 until June 17, 1935, when he was again assigned to the Officer of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department.

In May 1938 Commander Hill completed the Senior Course at the Naval War College, and was promoted to

Captain. Captain Hill then served as War Plans Officer of the staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, until February 1940, after which he had a third tour of duty in the Office of Naval Operations, where he was attached to the War Plans Division until January 1942. Ordered to sea, Captain Hill took command of the heavy cruiser **USS WICHITA (CA 45)**, which operated for several months on convoy duty with the British Home Fleet to the north Russian port of Murmansk. In September 1942, he was promoted to rear admiral and reported as Commander Battleship Division Four, Flagship **USS MARYLAND (BB 46)**, serving a year in the South Pacific. He was also Commander of a task force which was the first ever to comprise both battleships and escort carriers. In September 1943 he became Commander Amphibious Group TWO, FIFTH Amphibious Force, and in that capacity participated in the capture of Tarawa, and later in operations against the Gilberts, Marshalls, Marianas, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa where he commanded the amphibious and support operations of that force until the island was secured at the end of June 1945. Admiral Hill was promoted to vice admiral in April 1945 and relieved the Commander FIFTH Amphibious Force at Okinawa where he commanded the amphibious and support operations of that force until the island was secured at the end of June. At the close of the war in August 1945, Admiral Hill commanded the Amphibious Force that landed the Sixth Army for the occupation of Japan. He was later served as first Commandant of the National War College, Chairman of the General Board of the Navy, and Superintendent of the U.S. Navy Academy.

Although he retired in the rank of admiral in May 1952, he was not detached from his final assignment until the following August.

Admiral Hill then reported as Governor of the Naval Home at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he continued to serve on active duty until May 21, 1954. Admiral Harry Wilbur Hill passed away on July 19, 1971.