

Date 5-17 Hour 2:40

To _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From Jim Hessman

Of Sea Power Mag. Editor

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Message

Review Arleish Burke

time frame - P11

750 words

Editor
Sea Power Mag

2300 Wilson
Blvd
22201

ALH

Signed _____



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

7 June 1990

Mr. Jim Hessman
Editor in Chief
SEA POWER
2300 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Jim:

As you requested, I have prepared a 750 word review of E. B. Potter's ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE: A BIOGRAPHY attached herewith.

Sincerely,

ER Zum *Bud*
E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960

Attachment

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE: A BIOGRAPHY
by E. B. Potter, Annapolis, MD, Random House, 1990, 451 pp

The legendary Arleigh Burke becomes flesh and blood in this biography.

There is something for everyone!

For those who savor Horatio Alger success stories, this book traces Burke's rise from humble immigrant ancestry, a childhood of hard work and loving but strict family life on a farm--molding character and integrity--to phenomenal success.

For the career military officer, there is the revelation that this man experienced the same challenges, disappointments and professional setbacks that most have had in their own careers.

For the thousands of wives of military men who have experienced the career poverty, separations, surprise changes, and ever-lurking prospect of their husband's deaths, there is the inspirational example of Bobbie Burke--scrimping, awaiting her sailor-man's return home at all hours, understanding that he had to give priority to Navy over family.

For those who love true adventure, Arleigh Burke's life provides an ample supply.

For those who aspire to understand geopolitics, there is the opportunity to understand the dynamics of the uses of power and influence--and their limitations, inherent in democracies--as witnessed and dealt with by Arleigh Burke in war and peace.

Arleigh Burke would be prompt to agree that the first and essential requirement for getting to the top is luck. You have to survive. You must be in the right place at the right time. The book confirms that Burke had such luck. A second essential requirement is to have the lifelong energy and enthusiasm with which to work tenaciously at the current job while devoting additional time to reflection on how the tasks fit into the bigger picture. The book reveals Burke's immense capacities in that regard. A third important requirement is to couple professional excellence with the character, loyalty, and personality which makes others want to help one get ahead. It becomes clear that Burke generated such support.

Although Burke had many technical and operational qualifications, he was first and foremost a destroyerman. He knew in his mind and in his gut their capacities and how to exploit them optimally through training and leadership. With a peacetime destroyer command behind him, he was well positioned to command in the early phase of the Pacific war first a division of four and then a squadron of eight destroyers.

With the US striving desperately to halt the Japanese advance toward the Antipodes, clinging to its foothold in Guadalcanal, seeking to conserve its inadequate number of carriers and aircraft, the numerous surface actions in the South Pacific archipelagoes was a natural arena for Burke's immense talents. We relive, through Potter, the exploits that brought Burke from obscurity to become the Navy's best known Captain.

With the US rearmed and fast carrier task forces ready in

numbers to roam westward aggressively Burke was ordered to leave his beloved "Eager Beaver" Squadron and become Chief of Staff to Vice Admiral Mark Mitscher, the brilliant aviator commanding the fast carrier Task Force 58. The story of how these two dealt with Burke's assignment for which neither thought him qualified, how mutual dislike became respect and then warm friendship, how destroyerman Burke became rapidly capable of serving as alter ego in an aviation command to the battle weakened Mitscher is a classic example of how talents can be molded in adversity.

Burke's subsequent successes: in the Korean War, in command, in key staff assignments--and his survival in the center of military and political controversy--to win nomination as Chief of Naval Operations are well told.

His stout contributions to defense reorganization, his victory in persuading President Eisenhower to overrule the Secretaries of Navy and Defense to permit the Navy to use the draft to obtain critically needed personnel, his aggressive sponsorship of the Poseidon ballistic missile submarine fleet are but a few of Burke's exploits as CNO which are chronicled herein.

Potter does a superb job of relating Burke's background, childhood training, and early naval career to his later successes. Through his skilled pen we see the intelligence and character with which Burke began his career, reinforced by his boundless energy, mold the young naval officer into an ever broadening, seasoned mariner. We see the leadership, courage and tactical brilliance of his World War II experience equip him in wisdom and by reputation to win the Navy's top assignment. And

we see him in that job, still ably supported by Bobbie whose sacrifices helped him get there, accomplishing historic exploits as the longest serving and greatest of all the Chiefs of Naval Operations.