

THE RAY PETE STORY

Ray Pete and I were classmates, fellow destroyer men. We first began to be rivals when I was returning to Washington from Command of Arnold J. Isbell where I had won the Battle Efficiency Pennant and the Efficiency Pennant from each of the Department of the Ship. Admiral Holloway, the father, was Chief of Naval Personnel, and when he heard about this record he promptly had me nominated to be Admiral Arleigh Burke's administrative aide, relieving Commander Tom W who was going to sea. I was told that when I got to BuPers that I probably would only stay there two or three weeks and then go work for Admiral Burke. However, two factors conspired to prevent this, (1) Mrs. Burke had Mrs. W get in the wives of several prospective candidates. At that time Mousa was heavily pregnant with Mouzetta and Mrs. Burke apparently felt that she would not be able to participate as fully (that's a bad word to use about a pregnant woman) as some of the un-pregnant wives. Separately, Admiral Burke had served with Ray Pete and knew about him so Ray was detached from Command of his destroyer early and brought into that job. Subsequently, I went over to Richard Jackson's office and toward the end of my tenure there was one of the two destroyer men picked

by Admiral Rickover, after a lengthy screening and interview process, for command of the nuclear destroyer, Bainbridge - our first one - and Exec of the nuclear cruiser, Long Beach. Rickover indicated that he had no preferences to which of the two went where. Ray Pete and I both agreed that we wanted command of the Bainbridge and that neither one of us wanted to be Exec of the Long Beach. So I relayed this to Admiral Dunham who was the Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel. The Admiral asked to speak to both of us, asked us if we couldn't work it out - we both agreed that we would neither accept the Long Beach job - so he then made the decision that since both records were identical and since I was senior in the class, I would get the job. We each went back to our offices and within about 30 minutes I received a call from Admiral Dunham telling me that there'd been a slight change, that Ray Pete would go to the job instead of me. This had been a decision between Admiral Burke and Admiral Paige Smith: Admiral Burke, strongly favoring Admiral Pete, to whom he felt loyal, and Admiral Paige Smith being violently against me for having worked so hard for the Hump Bill. Ray Pete was in on the decision and Admiral Smith then endeavored to persuade me to take the

Long Beach job which I refused to do and insisted on carrying out my original order to do it.

It was known from the very beginning that whoever was selected to command the Bainbridge would be selected two years early for Captain because another classmate, Admiral Bill Anderson, had taken his submarine, the Nautilus, under the Pole a few months earlier. President Eisenhower had wanted to promote him immediately to Captain. Admiral Burke had persuaded the President that that could be handled by a selection board and it wouldn't rape the system as badly so it was quite clear that Commander Anderson was going to have to be selected for Captain on that Board. However, before the Board could meet, Commander Cowherd, another classmate also took his submarine under the Pole, the Skate, and it was apparent that the Board, in order to be fair, would have to be directed to take two submariners. All of us who were following the thing pretty closely felt that the odds were very high that the Board would then feel that they had to balance it by picking one aviator and one destroyer man, and that whoever got orders to command the Bainbridge would be the guy that was picked. And sure

enough that's the way it worked out with Calvert, Anderson, Pete and an aeronautical engineering duty officer - the aviator - in my class being selected - four of them - two years early. I was one of