

BIOGRAPHY OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM G. PRIVETTE, JR.
COMMANDING OFFICER - USS YORKTOWN

Captain William G. Privette, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. William Garland Privette, was born in Washington, North Carolina, August 1915. He attended the University of North Carolina and was graduated in 1936 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. In December 1936, he entered flight training at NAS, Pensacola, Florida as an Aviation Cadet. Twelve months later he was designated a Naval Aviator, and in January 1938, was commissioned Ensign.

Captain Privette's first duty station as a Navy Pilot was VT-5, the Torpedo Squadron aboard the USS YORKTOWN (CV-5). After a three year stint in the squadron, he received orders to NAS, Miami for two years duty as an instructor.

Following instructor duty he reported to another Torpedo Squadron, VT-6. While serving as the squadron's executive officer and later commanding officer, VT-6 was attached to the carriers ENTERPRISE, INTREPID AND HANCOCK. It was from the decks of these famous aircraft carriers in WWII he flew in raids on the Gilberts, Marshalls, Truk, Okinawa and Japan.

Included among his medals are the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with six stars, and the World War Two Victory Medal. He won the DFC while leading his INTREPID-based squadron in a raid which destroyed sixty aircraft on a seaplane ramp on the island of Truk.

Captain Privette's other duties have been executive officer, NAS Cabaniss, executive officer and skipper of the USS BLOCK ISLAND, executive officer of the University of Pennsylvania NROTC Unit and commanding officer of VAW-11, an All Weather Attack Squadron. In 1959 he was the commanding officer of NAAS, Saufley Field, Pensacola, Florida, and prior to assuming command of YORKTOWN June 10, 1961, captained the USS MOUNT BAKER (AE-4).

Captain Privette is married to the former Miss Ida Francis Quinn. They have three children, William, Janet and Mac. William is presently attending the University of Texas and Janet and Mac are living at the Privette's home in Tarazana, California.