



JOHN HERBERT WRIGHT

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Jack Wright, alias "Hatchet," reported aboard TUSCALOOSA following graduation. The Gunnery Officer and the Engineer Officer tossed a coin; the Engineer Officer lost, and Jack has been at least remotely associated with engineering billets ever since.

Life aboard TUSCALOOSA from June 1940 to June 1943 was always interesting, and sometimes it was even related to fulfilling the mission of the Navy. Some of the highlights of this era were: Embarking FDR for his destroyers-for-bases cruise of the Caribbean; entertaining the Prince of Wales; transporting Admiral Leahy as Ambassador to Vichy; participating in the engagement with French Naval Forces and shore batteries at Casablanca. On September 1, 1942, Jack took time out to marry Kathleen Kirk.

From June 1943 to December 1944, Jack was a Machinery Design student at the P. G. School at Annapolis. This was a class with 24 members, with numerous representatives from USNA '39 and USNA '41, but no other fugitives from USNA '40. Jack upheld the prestige of '40, however, and as evidence of the value of higher education, and in testimony of the fact that he did his homework, this period marked the arrival of his number one son, George, on 18 November 1942.

The next year and a half found Jack installed as Engineer Officer in AMSTERDAM, an element of the famed "Third Fleet." The big event of this period was participation with Task Group 38.1 in strikes on the Japanese home islands from 10 July through 15 August 1945.

From August 1946 'til April 1948 Jack served as Engineer Officer in BREMERTON. Coincidentally, his first daughter, Anne Kathryn, was born in the city of Bremerton on 8 March 1947. Just about a year later, on 3 April 1948 to be exact, Jack placed BREMERTON and his uniform in moth balls; BREMERTON entering the Reserve Fleet at Hunters Point, and Jack entering the ranks of civilian life at Treasure Island.

On resigning Jack returned to Washington, D. C., his home town, where he has worked for the Navy Department ever since, except for—Charlie (22 Dec. '48), Martha (29 July '50), Johnny (24 Aug. '52), Mary (20 Feb '54), Katie (31 Aug '55), Monica (28 May '57), and Maureen (3 Aug '59).

Employment in the Department has been varied, including service as a Project Engineer in the Machinery Design Branch, BUSHIPS, from 1948 'til 1955; and Program Manager for the SHIP ALT program in the Fleet Maintenance Division, BuShips, from 1955 'til Jack's 1957. Jack's current assignment is as an Assistant Division Director in the Navy Management Office in EXOS. His address is 10106 Kinross Avenue, Silver Spring, Md.