

John Corbett Borden Leaves For Uruguay

By JERRY BALLARD

With 18 years of service in the United States Navy behind him, Commander John Corbett Borden, a native Wilsonian, left Wilson yesterday for Washington, D. C., and ultimately the country of Uruguay where he will assume the duties of Chief of the Naval Mission to Uruguay.

A veteran of the Pearl Harbor attack, the Okanawan typhoon, and a former commander of two destroyers, 39-year-old Borden will carry his years of Naval experience to the Uruguay advisory post.

The Naval Mission to Uruguay is part of the United States broad assistance program to the western bloc nations. Commander Borden will work in the mutual defense assistance program and military assistance advisory group as Chief of Naval Mission.

Duty in Uruguay will be primarily in connection with the Uruguay Naval Training program. He will work with the Naval section of the military, will observe and advise the Uruguay Navy department, and act as liaison officer between the Uruguay Navy and the United States navy.

Commander Borden's wife, the former Lois Hughes of Long Beach, California, and their three children will accompany him to his new "home base" in Montevideo, Uruguay. The children are: Beverly, age 14; John Jr., age 9; and David, age 8.

The Bordens will be in Washington around eight weeks before departure to Uruguay. The commander will enter language school there as preparation to his new "Mission to the Republic of Uruguay."

"We are very happy with these orders," Commander Borden said. "This is the kind of thing we officers look forward to but are afraid to hope for. We are really looking forward to our work in Uruguay."

The Navy career man with only two years remaining until he is eligible for retirement will carry to Uruguay a backlog of

experiences including the nightmare of Pearl Harbor. Commander Borden was on the bridge when the planes arrived. His ship was the U.S.S. Nevada.

"I was in my room that Sunday morning when the alarm sounded. We all thought it was a heck-of-a-time for a drill, but we took our posts. Mine was on the signal bridge. We were tied up alongside Ft. Island, the Naval Air Station. Then I saw the planes come out of the sky. I even saw the plane that swooped down and torpedoed us. Also the one that hit the Arizona. We were directly behind it. A good number of our boys were on shore. It was just another weekend for us, until it happened."

There will also be the memories of the disastrous Okanawan typhoon which set the American forces back in their famous battle of Okanawa.

Commander Borden was on the U.S.S. Pittsburg serving as communications officer that bleak day when nature served so great a blow and took her toll in World War II.

"We knew a storm was coming and had taken all the precautions possible. A battle was in progress and we were giving cover fire to forces on the island. Then the typhoon came. I was on the bridge when the worst part hit. The eye passed directly over our task force. I was watching as a 104-foot section of our bow began to weave back and forth and then broke loose from the main section of the ship. We knew it was becoming weak and had closed it off, moving all the men astern. The section remained afloat and was pulled into Guam about 10 days later."

"In 1955, Commander Borden was given command of the U.S.S. Herbert J. Thomas, a destroyer the officer commanded for 26 months until being relieved recently for his mission to Uruguay.

Prior to this, he had commanded the destroyer U.S.S. Charles J. Badger in 1951 and 1952 as part of the Atlantic Fleet. This was during the Korean Con-

When he returned from Uruguay in 1960-1962 he was stationed in Arlington, Va at the Armed Forces Staff College. While he was there he was promoted to Captain.

From July 1962 he was sent to Long Beach, Cal. and given command of the ship Navarero. He stayed with it til he retired in 1965.

1965
1940
25



J. C. BORDEN

flict. In 1950, he was executive officer on the destroyer Sarsfield.

John Corbett, as he is known by most Wilsonians, graduated from Charles L. Coon High in the class of 1934. He was born here on July 25, 1918.

The future Navy commander attended Atlantic Christian college here, Randolph Macon in Ashland, Virginia, and Draughon Business college in Columbia, South Carolina. He worked for a time with the Imperial Tobacco company before embarking on his Naval career.

Mr. Borden entered the Naval Reserve in 1940, attending Midshipman school and entering active duty in July of that year. After the war he switched into the regular Navy to make it a career.

He was married in 1942, served during the war years on the Nevada, the Alabama and the Pittsburg.

In 1946 he was stationed in Manila. The years 1947 and 1948 found him at Guam. Then, in 1949, the commander returned to the U.S. to attend the Navy's General Line school in Monterey, California.

Enclosure (1)

COMMAND HISTORY FOR YEAR 1962

The Attack Troop Transport Navarro departed from Long Beach, California, on 22 January 1962, to begin a tour of duty in the Western Pacific that was to keep her until 25 August 1962, when she returned to Long Beach as heroine of the Thailand crisis.

Operation Prairie Wolf, an opposed sortie exercise from the Long Beach Harbor and convoy exercise going into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was the first of several multi-ship operations that was to involve Navarro. Steaming with other units of COMPHIBRON Seven, and with the assistance of submarines, screen units, and aircraft, Navarro came through the exercise in outstanding order.

After two days in Pearl Harbor, Navarro steamed to Buckner Bay, Okinawa, where she left the Marines whom she had transported from Camp Pendleton, California, and went on to Subic Bay, Philippines, which was to be her "home away from home" for months to come.

Upon arrival in Subic Bay, several hundred Marines were embarked and Navarro became a part of the three-ship ready amphibious squadron, along with an amphibious assault ship and dock landing ship.

After a three-day "Gecko II" amphibious exercise with the other amphibious ready ships in the Subic Bay area in March, and a six-day visit to Hong Kong in April, Navarro joined several dozen other ships of the United States, Philippines and Australian navies for Operation Tulungan. Named for the Tagalog word meaning "help me", the Tulungan operation was one of the largest scale amphibious operations since World War II. With the help of units of Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps from the three SEATO nations, the landing force was landed successfully on the island of Mindoro in the Southern Philippines.

In May, a few days before a scheduled "rest and recreation" visit to Hong Kong, the three ships of the amphibious ready squadron received word to get underway unexpectedly. With their destination known only to a select few, the ships steamed to the Gulf of Siam and awaited further orders. Then the word was given to land Marines in Bangkok, Thailand. While the amphibious assault ship landed her troops and equipment by helicopters from the Gulf, the Navarro, followed by the dock landing ship, slowly steamed up the long, winding river to Bangkok, where they off-loaded their troops and equipment in record time. While the Marines were going to the Thailand-Laos border to ward off Communist threats, the amphibious ready group made their way back to Subic Bay to stand by once more, ready to go to any Southeast Asian hotspot on a moment's notice.

In June, Navarro went to Hong Kong for another six-day visit, and in July, after being relieved as ready transport ship, she departed Subic Bay for Yokosuka, Japan. After ten days at Yokosuka, Navarro steamed to Buckner Bay, Okinawa, where she embarked a thousand Marines-- the same Marines who were transported to Thailand by the amphibious ready group in May.

Leaving Okinawa on 11 August, Navarro returned to Long Beach two weeks later, on 25 August. A leave and upkeep period followed and on 12 October, Navarro, along with the USS ESTES (AGC-12), departed for Puget Sound, Washington, for Operation Shore Line.

Embarking several hundred Army Troops from near-by Fort Lewis Army Base, Navarro prepared for a week of amphibious operations. However, the exercise was cut short by the Cuban situation, and on 23 October, Navarro departed Tacoma for San Diego.

A period of training and upkeep followed in the San Diego -- Long Beach Area, and on 3 December, Navarro entered Todd Shipyard in San Pedro for her interim overhaul.

U. S. S. NAVARRO (APA-215)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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APA215/08/JHH/rpq

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Serial:

886

DEC 18 1962

From: Commanding Officer, USS NAVARRO (APA-215)
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Command History Report Symbol OPNAV 5757-4; submission of

Ref: (a) COMPHIBPAC Instruction 5727.1A

Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

John C. Borden
JOHN C. BORDEN

Copy to:

COMPHIBPAC

COMPHIBRON SEVEN



Berry ^{John Hackney} — 10/25/07

John Michael Wenker

Provides these pics

of Japanese

planes bombing

the "Neuhaus"

on 12/07/41.

Put with history

on John Corbett

Borden. He was

wounded on bridge

of the "Neuhaus"

that day

John Borden
Corbett



John

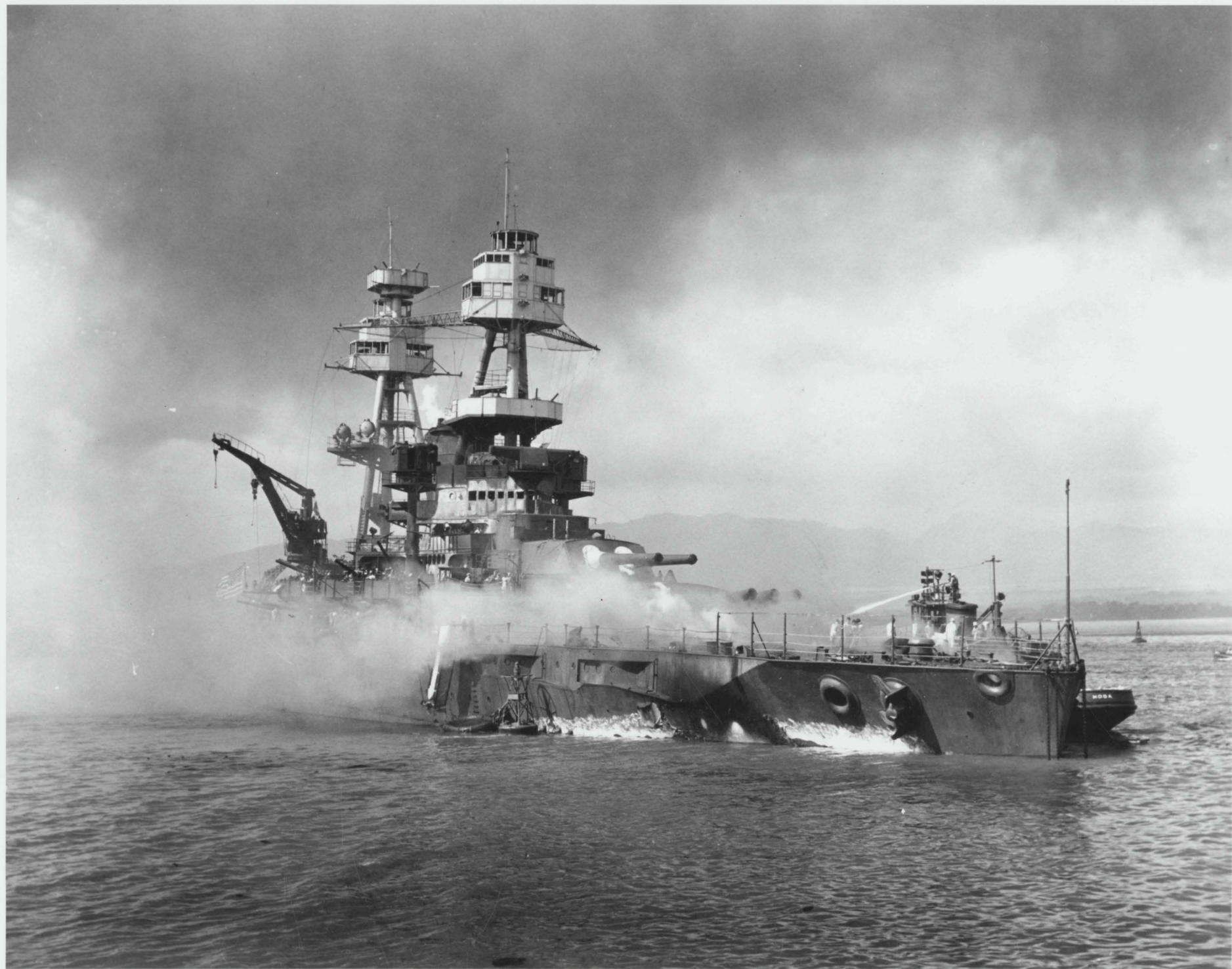
Happy to help out.
Sorry that I took
so long.

North Raleigh
919.876.2488

Mike Wenger

10/25/07 Mike Has Pearl Harbor
Pictures From 12/07/41 - Some
Taken By Japanese Planes - Of The
Bombing. These Show The "Nebraska"
The Only Battleship To Get Underway
That morning. It had to be beached
After the hit. John Corbett Borden
was wounded on the Prince As this hit





The "Nevada" at Pearl Harbor during the
12/7/1941 attack - The only ship to get underway during
the attack -

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^{USS}
"Nevala" on 12/7/1941 in Pearl Harbor attack


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Jellus

Happy to help out.

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