

REAR ADMIRAL FREDERICK CHAMBERLAYNE BILLARD

Born at Washington, D. C., September 22, 1873, appointed Cadet in the Revenue Cutter Service from the state of Maryland on January 11, 1894. He graduated number two in his class on April 27, 1896, appointed Ensign and assigned to duty on the FORWARD at Tampa, Florida. During the Spanish-American War he served on the cutter CORWIN attached to the Pacific fleet. He served as principle advisor to the Commandant from 1906 to 1911, and was appointed Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy on June 1, 1914. When the United States entered the World War, he requested duty afloat and was sent to Europe in August, 1918, and given command of the USS APHRODITE engaged in convoy duty in European waters. Upon returning to the United States in April, 1919, he was appointed aide to the Commandant, serving as such until the President appointed him Rear Admiral Commandant on January 11, 1924, re-appointed him in 1928, and again in 1932.

Commended by: Secretary of the Treasury on November 6, 1913, and the Committee of Lloyds on November 19, 1914, expressing admiration for the highest degree of skill, efficiency, and tenacity of purpose on operation, as Commander of the cutter ANDROSCOGGIN, in searching for and towing into Boston Harbor the derelict British steamer TEMPLEMORE which not only removed from the trans-Atlantic steamship lane the largest and most dangerous derelict of which there is any official record, but restored to its owner property valued at not less than \$100,000.00; by the Commandant on October 25, 1915 expressing appreciation of the manner in which he, as superintendent, and the officers attached to the Academy, applied themselves to their several tasks in creating interest evinced by the cadets, the proficiency attained by them, and the smartness of their appearance; by the British Admiralty, the owners and the master of the steamship VETURIA lost on Hatteras Shoals during the stormy night of February 20-21, 1918, as commanding officer of the ONONDAGA, in successfully removing and bringing safely to shore every officer and member of the crew of the stricken vessel. Most striking in connection with this incident is the modest official report of Admiral Billard and the contrasting high praise of the Boatswain whom he placed in charge of the boats engaged in the rescue.

He received the Spanish Campaign Badge, Victory Medal with Escort Clasp, and the Navy Cross with citation, "For distinguished service in line of his profession as commanding officer of the USS APHRODITE engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies to European ports through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines."

Largely through the efforts of Admiral Billard a fund was raised, by popular subscription, for the erection in Arlington National Cemetery of a memorial to the officers and men of the Coast Guard who lost their lives during the first World War.

Admiral Billard died on May 17, 1932. Floral tributes and messages of sympathy came from practically every station of the Coast Guard, from the highest officials who exercised supervision, to the lowliest surfman who patrolled the lonely beaches at night, mute evidence of the fact that he was loved and respected by all who knew him. After having lain in state at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church at Washington, D. C., his body was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.