

Admiral Arleigh Albert Burke

(1901–1996)

Chief of Naval Operations

VITA

Born in Boulder, Colorado; graduated from Naval Academy (1923); *USS Arizona* (1923–28); *USS Procyon* (1928–29); postgraduate student, Naval Academy and University of Michigan (1929–31); naval gun factory, Washington Navy Yard (1931–32); *USS Chester* (1932–33); battle force camera party, U.S. Fleet (1933–35); Bureau of Ordnance (1935–37); *USS Craven* (1937–39); commanding officer, *USS Mugford* (1939–40); naval gun factory (1940–43); commander, destroyer divisions forty-three, forty-four, twelve, and twenty-three (1943–44); chief of staff and aide, first carrier task force, Pacific (1944–45); research and development division, Navy Department (1945–46); chief of staff and aide, Atlantic Fleet (1946–47); General Board, Navy Department (1947–48); commanding officer, *USS Huntington* (1948); office of the chief of naval operations (1948–50); chief of staff, Naval Forces, Far East; commander, cruiser division five; military armistice delegation, Korea (1951); director, strategic plans, office of the chief of naval operations (1951–54); commander, cruiser division six (1954–55); commander, destroyer force, Atlantic Fleet (1955); chief of naval operations (1955–61); died at Bethesda.



U.S. Navy

We believe in *command*, not *staff*. We believe we have “real” things to do. The Navy believes in putting a man in a position with a job to do, and let him do it—give him hell if he does not perform—but to be a man in his own name. We decentralize and capitalize on the capabilities of our individual people rather than centralize and make automatons of them. This builds that essential pride of service and sense of accomplishment. If it results in a certain amount of cockiness, I am for it. But this is the direction in which we should move.

—Letter from Arleigh A. Burke to RADM Walter G. Schindler,
May 14, 1958

Portrait by
Orlando Lagman.