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## Biographical Sketch

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Vice Admiral William M. Callaghan, U. S. Navy**

William McCombe Callaghan was born in Oakland, California, on August 8, 1897. He attended St. Mary's College of California, the University of San Francisco, and Drew's Preparatory School before his appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy from the Sixth District of California in 1915. He graduated and was commissioned Ensign on June 6, 1918, with the Class of 1919.

After graduation he served briefly in the USS WISCONSIN before reporting for duty with the Destroyer Force based on Queenstown, Ireland. Assigned to the USS STEVENS in August 1918, he served for four months in that destroyer, and in December was transferred to the USS ALLEN. In July 1919 he returned to the United States reporting to the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, San Francisco, assisted in fitting out the USS HAMILTON and the USS NICHOLAS. He served aboard the latter from her commissioning, November 23, 1920, until January 1921, and then had successive duty until June 1923 in the destroyers DENT, FARQUHAR, TWIGGS and SLOAT.

Returning to Annapolis on June 9, 1923, Vice Admiral Callaghan was under instruction in Electrical Engineering at the Post-graduate School, continuing the course at various places, including Columbia University, New York. He received the degree of Master of Science from Columbia in June 1925. In October he joined the USS CONCORD in Cuban waters, and continued duty in that cruiser until September 1928. Returning to the United States, he had duty in the Repairs Division, Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., from November 1928 until May 1930. In June of that year he joined the USS SARATOGA, and later served as Assistant Engineer Officer of that aircraft carrier from December 1931 until May 1933.

After duty for three years as an instructor in the Department of Marine Engineering at the Naval Academy, he assumed command in June 1936, of the USS REUBEN JAMES. In March 1938 he was transferred to the USS HENDERSON for a year's duty as

**Executive Officer.** In May 1939 he returned to the Navy Department for duty in the Ships' Movement Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Observer at the American Embassy, London, England.

Returning to the United States in September 1941, Vice Admiral Callaghan had duty during the early period of World War II, until June 1942, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department. He served on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, from July 1942 until the spring of 1944, and was awarded the Legion of Merit during this period.

After his return to the United States Vice Admiral Callaghan fitted out the USS MISSOURI at the Navy Yard, New York, and commanded that battleship from her commissioning, June 11, 1944 until May 1945. Under his command the MISSOURI arrived in the forward area of the Pacific early in February 1945, and participated (as a part of the famous Task Force 58) in the first mass air strike against the Japanese homeland on February 16-17, furnished close support to carriers operating against the enemy stronghold of Iwo Jima, participated in the carrier strikes against Tokyo, February 25-27, and again struck at Iwo Jima, on March 1, 1945. Later that month she took part with Task Force 58 in a two-day sweep down the Japanese coast line, and on March 24, participated in the initial bombardment of Okinawa.

Transferred in May 1945 to duty on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, he served briefly in that assignment, and in July of that year returned to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C. Following temporary duty in the Bureau of the Chief of Naval Operations, and was designated Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Transportation), and Chief of the Naval Transportation Service. On August 13, 1948, he reported for duty as Commander, Training Command, Atlantic Fleet.

On July 29, 1949, he was again ordered to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations for duty, and on September 15, 1949, he was designated Commander, Military Sea Transportation Service, Washington, D. C.

**In addition to the Legion of Merit, Vice Admiral Callaghan holds the Victory Medal, Atlantic Fleet Clasp; the China Service Medal; the American Defense Service Medal, Base Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two combat stars; the American Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.**

**Vice Admiral Callaghan is a brother of the late Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan, USN, who was killed in action aboard the USS SAN FRANCISCO during the Battle of the Solomons in November, 1942.**