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Coast Guard Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

Biographical Sketch of Rear Admiral H.G. Hamlet, U.S.C.G.

Rear Admiral Harry G. Hamlet, U. S. Coast Guard, who was appointed by the president to the office of Commandant of the United States Coast Guard on June 14, 1932, for a term of four years, was born at Eastport, Maine, August 27, 1874, being the son of Captain Oscar C. Hamlet of the former Revenue Cutter Service (now Coast Guard).

He graduated from the Dorchester, Massachusetts High School, and was appointed a cadet from the State of Massachusetts on April 12, 1894, receiving his early Service training and instruction on the practice ship CHASE. He graduated high in his class and was commissioned an ensign on April 27, 1896, his first assignment being aboard the historic cutter BEAR. He was attached to that vessel on her Relief Expedition to the Arctic in 1897-98. This Expedition was successful in rescuing the crews of four whaling vessels, and the event has gone down in history as one of the most arduous and perilous rescue expeditions to the Far North.

In 1900, he was assigned to the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island, for the War College Course, being one of the first officers of the Coast Guard to be assigned to this institution. In 1901, he returned to the Coast Guard Cutter BEAR and from then until the entrance of the United States into the World War, he served with credit aboard units of the Service on both the East and West Coasts, Alaskan and Arctic waters.

When the United States entered the World War, he was assigned to the Third Naval District, and organized the various activities and the training of personnel at Naval Section Bases 6 and 9, subsequently joining

in October, 1918, the United States Naval Forces at Brest, France, assuming command of the U.S.S. MARIETTA. While in command of this vessel, he rescued on the morning of April 28, 1919, off the coast of France, the crew of two officers and 45 men from the U.S.S. JAMES, which was sinking in a heavy gale. With high seas threatening to crash the two vessels together, he skillfully and courageously maneuvered his ship along the JAMES and was instrumental in saving all on board. In recognition of his gallant conduct upon this occasion, the Secretary of the Treasury awarded him the Congressional Gold Life-Saving Medal of Honor, and he was the recipient of a Special Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy entitling him to wear the Silver Star upon his service ribbon.

In September, 1919, he reported to Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D. C., and was assigned as Personnel Officer and in charge of Ship Operations, serving in such capacity until his detachment in May, 1922. He then assumed command of the Coast Guard Cutter MOJAVE at Honolulu, and took that vessel on her cruise to the Orient and Philippines.

When Congress in 1924 made provision for the acquisition of additional vessels for the Coast Guard, he was ordered to the Philadelphia Navy Yard and superintended the reconditioning, outfitting and commissioning of the 20 destroyers turned over to the Coast Guard from the Navy, and trained the crews to go aboard these craft. The Commandant commended him for his exceptional meritorious and efficient service in discharging this task, involving an expenditure of over \$2,400,000 in repair funds. When these reconditioned destroyers were placed in commission and organized into the Coast Guard Destroyer Force, he was placed in command of them in July, 1925.

In October, 1926, he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and in May, 1928, he was appointed Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut, at which institution the future commissioned officers of the Service receive their training and professional education.

The appointment of Admiral Hamlet to the office of Commandant came as a fitting reward for his highly meritorious and honorable service for a period extending over 38 years on practically all stations of the Coast Guard. Admiral Hamlet married Miss Francel Hastings of Port Townsend, Washington, and has a daughter, Miss Jean H. Hamlet.

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