

CAPTAIN EDWARD G. RIFENBURGH, USN July 1966 - July 1970

Captain Rifenburgh entered the Navy in January 1941 from the Merchant Marine, in which he was a licensed Master Mariner. His first assignment was USS ARCTIC (AF-7) in the Pacific. After serving successively as Gunnery Officer, Navigator, and Executive Officer of ARCTIC, he was commissioned and commanded USS CHEHALIS (AOG-4). Near the end of World War II, Captain Rifenburgh took command of the commandeered merchant ship JOSEPH HOLT. With a volunteer Navy crew he fitted her out as a "guinea pig" to locate and test safe channels through minefields in the Japanese home waters. After the war, Captain Rifenburgh served in Washington and England. He was assigned as Operations Officer of the cruiser SAINT PAUL when she was flagship for the Seventh Fleet. He left the cruiser to command USS HAILEY (DD-556), which operated in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Middle East. From the HAILEY he returned to Washington to become U. S. Foreign Liaison Officer for the Navy. Later, Captain Rifenburgh became the U. S. Naval Attaché to France and Switzerland. In 1962, Captain Rifenburgh assumed command of USS ARNEB (AKA-56) and participated in OPERATION DEEP FREEZE 62-63. After returning to the United States, he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in October 1963. Captain Rifenburgh was assigned as the Director, Naval Investigative Service after serving as Head, Foreign Intelligence Division, Office of Naval Intelligence.