

5030  
Ser N00/

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
To: Chief of Naval Operations  
Via: (1) Commander, Navy Region Northwest  
(2) Commander, Navy Installations Command

Subj: FACILITY NAMING REQUEST FOR NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS)  
WHIDBEY ISLAND

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5030.12F

Encl: (1) Aerial view showing Building 386 (Hangar 5)  
(2) Chronology of CDR Haviland  
(3) Photos and Articles

1. Per reference (a), request authorization to name NAS Whidbey Island building 386 (Hangar 5), as "Haviland Hangar" in honor of CDR Willis B. Haviland, 10 March 1890 to 28 November 1944, who accomplished heroic deeds as a Naval Aviator and made major contributions as NAS Whidbey Island's first Reserve Commanding Officer.

2. Justification:

Heroic Naval Aviator. Commander Willis Bradley Haviland was one of America's first combat aviators who was highly decorated by France, Belgium, Italy and the United States during World War I. CDR Haviland received the U.S. Navy Cross, French Croix de Guerre, with two palms and one star, Belgian Croix de Guerre, with palm, the Italian War Cross, and the Italian Military Medal. Additionally, he was credited as the first American pilot to launch a plane from a battleship.

CDR Willis B. Haviland enlisted in the United States Navy from 1907 to 1911. When war broke out in Europe, CDR Haviland joined the American Field Service (American Ambulance Corp, nicknamed "Friends of France") in 1915. There he drove ambulances for seventeen months at the Alsace front. When the Field Service and American Ambulance severed ties in the summer of 1916, Willis received a pilot's license on the 7th of September in that year and entered the American Escadrille (soon afterward renamed Lafayette Escadrille,) becoming the sixteenth American pilot to volunteer in the squadron.

Subj: FACILITY NAMING REQUEST FOR NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS)  
WHIDBEY ISLAND

CDR Haviland's flying missions often involved scouting past the enemy lines, photographing vital enemy positions and equipment, and returning safely with "film in the can". By rule, he was permitted only to engage in air combat with the enemy in defense. Consequently, he was assigned only a few escort and bombing assignments, resulting in two credited kills.

In 1918, CDR Haviland left France and joined American forces. He commanded the U.S. Naval Air Station near the village of Porto Corsini and trained hundreds of pilots. "So successfully did the station carry out its mission that ADM H. T. Mayo, USN, stated on the basis of his inspection 10 November 1918, "the station had the distinction of being the most heavily engaged unit of the U.S. Naval Forces in Europe."

At the end of World War I, CDR Haviland left Naval Air Station Porto Corsini and was assigned as Air Officer on the USS TEXAS (BB-35), where he teamed up with other aviators, launched the first ever military flights off ships and opened the door to sea-based aviation. Later, he also served as the Air Officer on board USS OKLAHOMA (BB-37).

First Reserve NAS Whidbey Island Commanding Officer. CDR Haviland was the first Reserve Commanding Officer of NAS Whidbey Island from April 1942 to the commissioning of the base in September 1942. He oversaw the rapid construction of both Seaplane and Ault Field airfields. He was then the Executive Officer until November 1943 when he became the second Active Duty Commanding Officer until October 1944. Numerous squadrons trained and operated from NASWI and deployed during World War II - including PBY Catalinas, F4F Wildcats, F6F Hellcats, PV-1 Venturas, and SBD Dauntless dive-bombers.

3. Point of contact is LT Laura Reeves, NAS Whidbey Island, email: [laura.reeves@navy.mil](mailto:laura.reeves@navy.mil), or telephone (360) 257-5591, fax: (360) 257-0383.

G. K. DAVID

## Hangar 5 Location on NAS Whidbey Island



Encl (1)

## **Chronology of CDR Willis B. Haviland**

### **Military Career**

- 1907: CDR Willis B. Haviland enlisted in the United States Navy from 1907 to 1911.
- 1915: He joined the American Field Service (American Ambulance Corp, nicknamed "Friends of France"). There he drove ambulances for seventeen months at the Alsace front.
- 1916 - 1918: He received a pilot's license and entered the American Escadrille (soon afterward renamed Lafayette Escadrille)
- 1918 - 1924: He left Naval Air Station Porto Corsini and was assigned as Air Officer on the USS TEXAS (BB-35). Later, he also served as the Air Officer on board USS OKLAHOMA (BB-37).
- 1924 - 1942: CDR Haviland departed Active Duty.
- 1942: Returned to Active duty as the first Reserve Commanding Officer of NAS Whidbey Island from April 1942 to the commissioning of the base in September 1942. He oversaw the rapid construction of both Seaplane and Ault Field airfields. He was then the Executive Officer until November 1943 when he became the second Active Duty Commanding Officer until October 1944.
- Dec 1944: CDR Haviland passed away in Corona, CA.

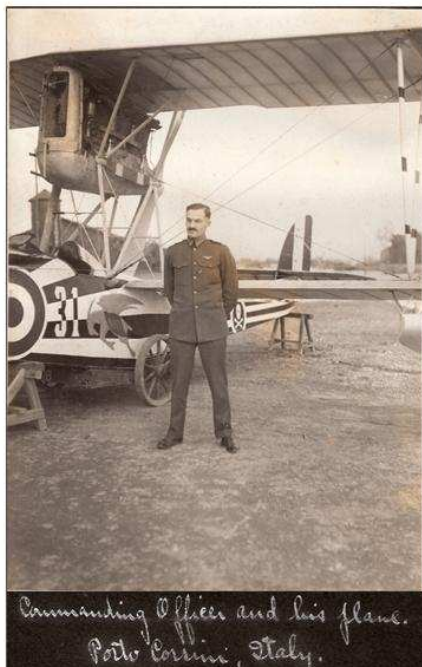
Encl (2)



## Photos and Articles (WWI Era)



Willis B. Haviland in 1916, when he joined the Lafayette Escadrille



Commanding Officer Haviland and his plane. Porto Corsini, Italy, circa 1918.



Willis B. Haviland's French Pilot License

### Surviving Members of the Lafayette Escadrille and Lafayette Flying Corps *In order of enlistment in the French Army*

JULES JAMES BACH	CHARLES HERBERT WILSON	CHARLES McVANE KINSOLVING
EDGAR JOHN BOELLICHY	GEORGE EVANS TURNER, JR.	ROBERT EMERY READ
HERMAN LINCOLN CHATKOFF	CHARLES WAYNE KERWOOD	UPTON SUPPLE SULLIVAN
ROBERT SOCRAN	JOSEPH CHARLES STEHLIN	WILLIAM AUGUSTUS WELLMAN
WILLIAM THAW	JOHN RUSSELL ADAMS	HERMAN WHITMORE
FREDERICK WILLIAM ZINN	PAUL FRANK BAE	THOMAS BRADLEY BUTTUM
LOUIS CHASTON	COLER JAMES COATSWORTH, JR.	JAMES ALEXANDER CONNELLY, JR.
FERRE DE LACASSE BOHL	EDGAR GIBBS HAMILTON	REGINALD SINCLAIRE
MARVIN ROMAN BOGLE	SEYMOUR THOMP JACOB	CHARLES CHESTER BASSETT, JR.
WILLIAM EDWARD DUGAN, JR.	LEONARD MINOR RENO	CHARLES GOSWAG GARY
DIDER MANNON	CHARLES THOMAS MALONE	JASPER CORNISH BROWN
FREDERICK CURTIS	CHARLES MARY JONES	DAVID WILSON LEWIS
ELLIOT CHRISTOPHER CORDEN	MARCELLES EDWARD WILD	ALVIN ALEXANDER CUSHMAN
DUDLEY LAWRENCE HILL	WAINWRIGHT ABBOTT	BENJAMIN HESTER BAIRD
CARROLL DANA WINDOLF	CHARLES JOHN BRIGGS	THOMAS HITCHCOCK, JR.
CHARLES CHRISTIAN JOHNSON	HERSCHEL JOSEPH MCKEE	JAMES McMILLAN
LAWRENCE RUSKEY	ALFRED HOYT STANLEY	WILLIAM BLACKSTOCK RODGERS, JR.
HORACE CLYDE BAILEY	RUSSELL FALCONER STEARNS	LESLIE RAY TARR
WILLIS BRADLEY HAVILAND	CHARLES HERBERT VEIL	WALTER RAYMOND YORE
ROBERT LINCOLN ROCKWELL	AUSTIN GILLETTE PARKER	HUGH GORDON CAMPBELL
WARREN D. WORTHINGTON	PHILIP NELSON BUSH	ERWIN BRADLEY FAIRCHILD
KENNETH PROCTOR LITFAKER	CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM FORD	GEORGE MARION KYLE
STEPHEN SOMMER BIGELOW	EDWARD CHARLES CORN	HUGH ALLEN KENTON
THOMAS MOSES HERTT, JR.	NATHANIEL EDMUND DUFFY	ARTHUR LAWRENCE CUNNINGHAM
EDWIN CHARLES PARSONS	CLARENCE LOWELL MOORE	THOMAS GANTZ CASADY
WALTER LEVELL	CLARENCE BERNARD SHONINGER	ROBERT BENTLEY HOESER
HAROLD BUCKLEY WILLES	CLARENCE HOGGSON FAITH	COLEMAN DE FREEST LARSEN
EDWARD FOOTE HUCKLE	GEORGE GALE WILLARD	GEORGE CLARK MORGLEY
KENNETH MILLER	LESTER STRAYER BRAY	KENNETH ALBERT ROTHMEL
RAY CLAFIN BRIDGMAN	CLARENCE NELSON SUTTERLY	ALAN FRANCIS WINSLOW
ARCHIBALD BURT JOHNSTON	FERNCARL IAN FERGUSON	CEORGE GERALD FAINTLINGROV
CHARLES HEVY DOLAN, JR.	DAVID EDWARD JUDS	WILLIAM GRAHAM BULLEN
DANIEL HORTON	CHARLES BERNARD NORDHOFF	ROBERT GRIMSHAW EOFF
GEORGE ARCHIBALD McCALL	WILLIAM ETHELBERT WASS	DAVID SHELDON PAREN
JAMES NORMAN HALL	CHARLES RAYMOND BLAKE	AUSTIN BALLARD CROSBIE
LELAND LASELL ROUNDS	WILLIAM THOMAS POND	JOHN FRANCIS RANDALL
JOHN ARMSTRONG DREXEL	CLARENCE MERRITT CLOVER	ALAN AUGUSTUS COOK
HENRY SWEET JONES	WILLIAM FITCH LOOMIS	RUSSELL BRACKEN COREY
BENNETT ARTHUR MOLTRE	LEO ERNEST BENOIT	DAVID WARE GUY
ROBERT LOUIS DONZÉ	JOHN ROWELL COTTON	RALPH LANE LOOMIS
GRANTVILLE ALEXANDER FULLOCK	GEORGE DOCK, JR.	HENRY ELMER STERNY
EVERETT TIMOTHY BUCKLEY	JOSEPH FRANCIS GILL	WILLIAM CLAY VAN FLEET, JR.
FRANK WILLARD WELLS	HAROLD YOUNG SANN	RUFUS RANDALL RAND, JR.
DANIEL ELLIOT HUGER	CLIFTON BADLAM THOMPSON	HENRY AUGUSTUS BATCHELOR, 3RD
JOHN JOYCE WHITMORE	LOUIS LESLIE BYERS	JAMES MURRAY GREER
	DONALD HERBERT ELDRIDGE	WALTER JOHN SHUTTER
	HENRY FORSTER	ELLISON CONVERSE BOGGS
	EARL W. HUGHES	

List of survivors from the Lafayette Escadrille.  
WBH is in the first column, almost halfway down.

## Photos and Articles (WWI Era)

**THE ANDERSON HERALD**

**AMERICAN AVIATORS CITED.**

**EX-ANDERSONIAN WINS AIR FIGHT**

**WILLIS HAVILAND, OF FRENCH AVIATION CORPS, SHOOT DOWN GERMAN PLANE.**

**DEED IS REPORTED FROM FRANCE**

PARIS, April 30.—American aviators have again emerged victorious from a battle in the clouds with German airmen. The heroes of the encounter were Willis Haviland, of Indianapolis, and Charles C. Johnson, of St. Louis, who are under the command of Lieutenant William Thaw.

Flying together in separate machines, the two Americans encountered a group of German airplanes. Haviland forced one enemy craft to an altitude of 1,000 feet. Here he engaged it in combat. After a spirited fight, the German machine, riddled by machine gun fire, collapsed and fell. Almost at the same time Johnson had a desperate battle with another German machine, which he put to flight, evidently in distress. Its fate was not determined. Several other German aircraft refused battle and escaped.

**IS FORMER ANDERSONIAN.**

**Willis B. Haviland Has Many Friends in This City.**

Willis B. Haviland, mentioned in the press dispatch from Paris, is well known in Anderson, having made his home in this city before moving to Indianapolis about four years ago. While in this city, Haviland was connected with the American Rotary Valve Co., and acted as the agent for that company when he removed to Indianapolis. He was known to many of the city's leading citizens.

**LAFAYETTE SQUADRILLA IS CITED IN ARMY ORDERS.**

The Lafayette Squadrilla has been cited in army orders as follows:—

"A squadrilla, composed of American volunteers who came to fight for France with the highest spirit of sacrifice, it has carried on without ceasing an ardent struggle against the enemy under the command of Captain Thenault.

"In several combats and at the cost of severe losses, which far from diminishing have exalted its morale, it has brought down twenty-eight of its adversaries.

"It has excited the profound admiration of the chiefs who have had it under their command and of the French squadrillas fighting beside it, who have striven to emulate its valor."

Article from 1917. Sgt. Haviland sited as courageous and adroit pilot.



Photos and Articles (WWI Era)

## Local Man Is Hero of Thrilling Battle in the Air Near Paris

Willis B. Haviland, Who Shot  
Down German Aeroplane  
From the Clouds, Is Known  
Here as Tennis Champ.

### MOTHER AIDS ALLIES BY NURSING WOUNDED

Indianapolis friends of Willis B. Haviland, the young American aviator who shot down a German aeroplane in a thrilling air duel near Paris yesterday from an elevation of 4,000 feet, said today that while his adventure was the first to be mentioned in press dispatches, they have heard at various times of other feats hardly less startling.

Mr. Haviland and his mother, Mrs. Grace K. Haviland, lived at the Glenn Martin apartments, St. Joe and Meridian streets, until he left about two years ago to join an ambulance corps, later to become a member of the French flying corps.

Mr. Haviland's mother followed him to France and now is doing hospital work there in order to be near her son. He has been a member of the flying corps for only a year, but, according to letters received from Mrs. Haviland by her Indianapolis friends, his exploits have earned him the name of the American fighting scout.

#### KNOWN AT ANDERSON AS TENNIS CHAMPION.

Mr. Haviland was popular in Indianapolis during his period of residence here. He came here from Anderson about four years ago. In Anderson he is remembered as a champion tennis player and through his fondness for this sport he made the acquaintance of a number of members of the local Hawthorn Tennis club after he came to Indianapolis. He was employed by the Remy Electric Company and the Rotary Valve Company during his residence in Indiana.

A tendency to seek adventure always has been the characteristic of young Haviland, who



Left to right, the third man in the picture is Willis Haviland. The photograph was taken in Paris, where the four took their first lessons in aeroplane flying.

1917 article from the Indianapolis Daily Times, writing of Haviland's brave air feats and becoming known at home as Tennis Champion.



## Photos and Articles (WWI Era)



### Captions

**Left** - "Our Executive Officer" Lieut. G. W. Almour.

U.S. Navy, Mar. 1903 - May 1912. Naval Militia, Florida, Sept. 1912 - Sept. 1916. In Federal service, Dec. 1916 to present time. Has seen service on numerous ships on the Atlantic Fleet: world cruise: has been twice around the world: visited practically every large port on earth. Since advent of war: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Bagley: Officer in Charge, Section Six, Training Camp, Brooklyn, N.Y. Later Communication Officer at Pauillac, France. Executive Officer, U.S. Naval Air Station Porto Corsini, Italy, July 1918 - January 1919.

**Center** - Our camp and other swamp land as seen from about 300 meters. The "gadget" in the foreground imitating "Haley's Comet" is a plane leaving the canal. The "Pilot" wishes he had already left. The wing tip, struts and pontoon comprising the left half of the picture belong to Ensign Taliaferro's M8. He was perched forward of said wing, taking this photo and wishing he was already through with the job of landing.

**Right** - "Our Command Officer" Lieut. W. B. Haviland.

U.S. Navy, Jan. 1907 - Jan. 1911, American Ambulance Corps, 1915, in Alsace (17 continuous months at the front.)

U.S. Navy, 1918 - Chief Pilot at Dunkerque; one month special duty with the 13th squadron, R.N.A.S. as pilot of "Sopwith" (Camel) single-seater.

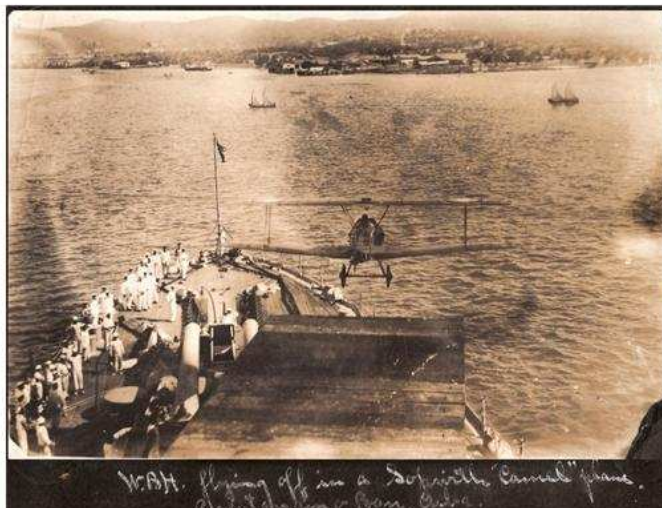
Two years in French aviation. Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Air Station Porto Corsini, Italy, July, 1918 - January 1919.



## Photos and Articles (Cuba & Battleship Launch)



LCDR Haviland, Cuba, 1919



LCDR Haviland flying off a ship in a **Sopwith** "Camel" plane, Cuba, 1919.  
[One of the First American Aviators to launch an aircraft from a Naval Ship]

## Photos and Articles (NAS Whidbey)

### NAS Whidbey Island 1942 - 1944



The following is an excerpt from *The Lafayette Escadrille, Pilot Biographies*, by Dennis Gordon.

When the *U.S.S. Oklahoma* was sunk by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, Haviland sought reinstatement as a naval officer. He was accepted with rank of Commander and was made the supervising executive officer in charge of the construction of the new naval air station designated for Whidbey Island, Washington. In November, 1943, Haviland assumed command of the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station which he ran with clockwork efficiency. His superiors noted this, and he was soon to be given a special assignment in the Central Pacific War Zone. He relinquished command of the Whidbey Island Station on 11 September, 1944.

This section of *An Earlybird's Scrapbook* includes photos and memorabilia from the first years of operation of NAS Whidbey Island, and some "looks back into the past" from 1980s editions of *Whidbey Crosswinds*.



## Photos and Articles (NAS Whidbey)



### COMDR. HAVILAND NEW C.O.

Official appointment of Commander Willis B. Haviland as Commanding Officer of NAS, Whidbey was received this week from the Bureau of Personnel, Washington, D. C. Thus Commander Haviland continues in the post he has held temporarily since the detachment of Captain Cyril T. Simard.

The Captain served as Executive Officer under Captain Simard from the commissioning of this station and upon the latter's departure assumed the duties of commanding officer.

Commander Haviland's distinguished and colorful career has fitted him well for this important command.

The Commander spent his early training at Kemper Military Academy and went from there to Iowa State College at Ames. His education was interrupted by the commencement of hostilities in Europe and it was shortly thereafter that he joined the forces of the French Foreign Legion. It was at this time that the Commander became one of the 16 Americans in the Foreign Legion to form the world-famous Escadrille Lafayette.

Following this period, Commander Haviland served for a short time as Executive Officer of a Naval Air Station at Dunkirk, France.

At about this time the United States entered the first world war and Whidbey's Commanding Officer joined the U. S. Navy and was assigned as Commanding Officer of a naval air station in Italy. While serving in this capacity he led his bombing squadron on some of the early bombing raids of that war. Pilots of the Commander's squadron were awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor and sixteen Navy Crosses. The Congressional Medal, which was the only one awarded to a naval aviator in the last war, went to Ensign Charles Hermann for whom the destroyer USS Hermann, sunk in the battle of Midway, was named.

At the close of the last war Commander Haviland joined the fleet where he served as Air Officer aboard the USS Texas in 1919 and in the same capacity on the USS Oklahoma in 1920. It was during this period that the Captain became the first man to take off in an aircraft from the deck of a battleship. The experimental runways on these ships were approximately 40 feet in length by 12 feet wide and were laid on the turret guns.

Commander Haviland holds combat decorations from four countries. These are, the American Navy Cross, three French Croix de Guerres, the 'Vierge' Croix de Guerre and the Italian War Cross.

All officers and men aboard the good ship NAS, Whidbey Island are delighted at the prospect of continuing to serve under this fine Naval Officer and friend, who has already compiled such an excellent record of achievement in the entire development of this comparatively young but increasingly responsible command.

(3)

18 Feb., 1944 article siting CDR Haviland as NASWI's new CO.

## Photos and Articles (NAS Whidbey)



Change of Command at NAS Whidbey Island. 21 Sep, 1942  
CDR Haviland is at the base of the stairs, with CAPT Simard at the top.



Photos and Articles (NAS Whidbey)



CDR Haviland greeting his new XO, LCDR Carleton Pike, 14 Aug., 1944.

## Photos and Articles (NAS Whidbey)

### CAPTAIN HAVILAND DETACHED

Tonight Whidbey says farewell to the officer who has given so unstintingly of his time and effort in the pioneering and early development of NAS, Whidbey. From a comparative wilderness to the present naval air base, the station, under Comdr. Haviland's guidance and leadership, has grown into one of the largest and most important on the Pacific Coast. After two years in which he has served in the successive capacities of Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, Comdr. Haviland has been ordered to the command of a new naval air activity in the Central Pacific.

Reporting aboard in May of 1942, Comdr. Haviland acted as Officer-in-Charge until the official commissioning of the station on September 21, 1942, at which time Captain C. T. Simard assumed the command, with the then Lt. Comdr. Haviland as his Executive Officer. Comdr. Haviland served in that capacity until relieved in November 1943, when he was ordered to duty as Commanding Officer, upon the detachment of Captain Simard.

Captain Haviland's military and naval career has extended through both of the great world conflicts. His distinguished record includes a tour of duty with the French Foreign Legion and the famed Escadrille Lafayette. His naval career has placed him variously at the posts of Commanding Officer of a naval air station in Italy and as air officer aboard the U.S.S. Texas and the U.S.S. Oklahoma. During the latter period, the Captain, with a small group of other offi-

cers, proved the feasibility of aircraft catapult operations by conducting test flights from a catapult erected on a battleship, the forerunner of our now mighty fleet of aircraft carriers. Comdr.

Haviland holds combat decorations from four countries. They are the American Navy Cross, three French Croix de Guerres, the Belge Croix de Guerre and the Italian War Cross.

The long, pleasant and successful association of Comdr. Haviland with NAS, Whidbey and its personnel is now officially at an end - the Skipper goes on to more important things in a world at war. The admiration and respect with which we all regard him can be expressed only in part by those who have worked for and with him, but the sincere best wishes of all hands at Whidbey accompany him to his new command.

Smooth sailing, Skipper.



*Pictured above is Captain Cyril T. Simard flanked by his then Executive Officer, Lt. Comdr. Willis B. Haviland, at the commissioning ceremonies for NAS Whidbey in September 1942.*

12 Sept., 1944 article from Prop Wash, CDR Haviland leaves NAS Whidbey Island.



## Photos and Articles (NAS Whidbey)

### *Commander J.B. Voit New C.O.*

Whidbey this week welcomed aboard its new Commanding Officer, Commander James B. Voit, U.S.N. Commander Voit officially assumed command here on 27 November, relieving Lt. Cmdr. C. M. Pike who has been acting in that capacity and who now resumes his post of Executive Officer.

Commander Voit comes to this station directly from a tour of sea duty during which he served aboard an aircraft carrier as its Executive Officer. While at sea his ship has participated in many of the recent epic Naval engagements and battles which have been rolling the Japs back to their own shores. Commander Voit's ship and its aircraft fought the enemy in the Marshalls, Hollandia, Saipan and in the very recent Battle off Leyte in the Philippines.



Commander J. B. Voit

Our Commanding Officer graduated with the Naval Academy class of 1921 and after three years on destroyers and a battleship was transferred to Pensacola for flight training. After graduation in 1924 with Class 21 he served aboard many of our country's fighting ships including the USS Langley, USS Lexington, and at the Naval Air Stations at Pensacola, Squantum, Mass., Norfolk, Va., and San Diego, Cal.

This skeleton review of the Captain's Naval history will serve to acquaint Whidbey's personnel with the wealth of experience and ability brought to this command by Commander Voit. Whidbey in turn, extends its warmest welcome and its best wishes for a pleasant tour of duty during Commander Voit's stay on Whidbey Island.

### *Comdr. Haviland Taken By Death*



Commander W. B. Haviland

Commander Willis B. Haviland, former Commanding Officer of NAS Whidbey and one of this station's early pioneers, died Tuesday night in the Naval hospital at Corona, California.

Commander Haviland who had been in poor health intermittently during the past year, had recently been detached from this command for service overseas.

The Commander was the original Executive officer of NAS Whidbey and later became its Commanding Officer during a two year tour of duty here. His military record, well known here, extended through both great wars and included combat decorations from four countries.

Commander Haviland's death is a source of shock and sorrow to his many friends and associates on NAS Whidbey, where he served so long and so well. To his family, Whidbey extends its sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy in their very great loss.

## Photos and Articles (Awards)



Haviland's Navy Cross citation reads, "For distinguished and heroic service as a pilot of a seaplane engaged in patrolling waters of the War Zone, escorting and protecting troops and cargo ships, operating against enemy submarines, and bombing the enemy coast, showing at all times courage and a high spirit of duty."