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About Officers, USN

Richard E. Stockwell

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About Officers, USN

by

Richard E. Stockwell

ア

WARRANT

He did his duty
While looking through thick lenses
Of experience.

X

ENSIGN

Too many forgot
Their first years and pushed their rank
In his face daily.

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力

JG

One-half stripe but a
Long step up, up from the one
Stripe kindergarten.

合

衆

LIEUTENANT

Most years, it meant that
His rank was recognition
He knew a few things.

固

LT.-COMMANDER

Competence, or luck,
Or both, he sweated out his
Duty and future.

海

COMMANDER

First time with cap that
Told the observer that he
Had paid his sea dues.

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将

CAPTAIN

Survivor of the
Selection boards, he watched his
Duty and a star.



COMMODORE

Few were fortunate
To escape the plateau that
Separated them.

校

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REAR ADMIRAL

Two stars and golden
Sleeves were heavy with duty
And thoughts of three stars.

よ

VICE-ADMIRAL

More service time was
Past than remained to think and
Look for one last rank.

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階

ADMIRAL

Duty years left him
Steered at the abysmal drop
Of retirement.

級

RETIRED(USN)

Puffing pipe and mind,
Gazing out to sea, he looked
For his memories.

認

識

This sequence of poems was written in American-Haiku, a format developed from the traditional Japanese haiku poetry form.