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## President's Notes

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Twenty-five years ago Rear Adm. Henry E. Eccles retired from active naval service. In the 30 years following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, Admiral Eccles spent 12 years in submarines, and several years in battleships, cruisers, and destroyers before he took command of U.S.S. *John D. Edwards* in 1941. Attached to the Asiatic Fleet, *Edwards* saw considerable combat action including the battle of the Java Sea. During World War II, Commander, and later Captain, Eccles was deeply involved in base development and logistics planning and operations for the Pacific campaigns. He commanded the battleship U.S.S. *Washington* in 1946. In recognition of his valor and distinguished service, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit and the Netherlands Order of the Bronze Cross. He retired in 1952.

His naval career has been in the highest traditions of the service. However, this issue of the *Naval War College Review* is dedicated to him not for this service while on active duty, but for his career following this alleged retirement. Since 1952 (incidentally, the year in which I was commissioned) he has given unstintingly of his time, effort, concern, and ideas to the Naval War College, its students, faculty and friends. His record of accomplishment has been extraordinary.

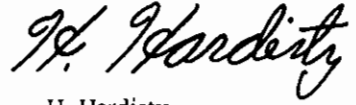
His considerable energies have been directed toward the study and exposition of military theory—not an impractical, esoteric concept or even a prescriptive how-to-do-it checkoff list, but an approach in the classic sense. To him, it is a means to understand complex phenomena, to sharpen our minds so that we may approach problems intelligently, and to distinguish the important from the trivial. Among other things, he has conducted seminars, delivered lectures, written books, articles and informal papers and consulted with students and faculty. His writings and lectures are consistently marked by terse, pithy sentences, sometimes describing complex ideas, sometimes stating obvious but overlooked truths. They are always well organized, to the point and, above all, stimulating.

As valuable as they may be, the most precious gift he has given us is himself. His energy and enthusiasm match and usually exceed that of men 40 years his junior. He has been a trusted confidant to numerous presidents of the Naval War College and a prod, stimulus and inspiration to countless men and women here and elsewhere. We dedicate this issue to him in grateful appreciation.

In this special issue, therefore, we have included personal statements from Adm. Arleigh Burke, Ambassador

Thomas S. Estes and Professor Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, Jr. We also have included a recent paper by Admiral Eccles on military unionization and a bibliography of his published and some of his unpublished works to illustrate our point. We are fortunate to have Edwin Newman write on the use and misuse of the English language, one of Admiral Eccles' favorite topics. The remaining

articles cover a wide variety of topics that illustrate the catholicity of Admiral Eccles' own interests.



H. Hardisty  
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President, Naval War College