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Challenge

Stansfield Turner

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CHALLENGE!

In December the Naval War College passed two significant milestones. One was the completion of the first course in Strategy under the new curriculum. The other was the dedication of our new auditorium, named in honor of Adm. Raymond A. Spruance.



In the November-December issue of the *Review*, I outlined our plans for the new Strategy curriculum. This new course is centered on case studies of military history. The style of teaching was intended to put the onus on the student for digging out for himself the principles of strategy and the lessons inherent in these cases. Now that we have completed the first course, I thought you would be interested in seeing some of the results and in judging the program for yourselves. Accordingly, I have devoted the bulk of this issue of the *Review* to some of the products of this first Strategy course.

On 7 December, Spruance Hall was dedicated, less than 24 hours after the first Raymond A. Spruance Lecture was delivered in the new building. Spruance Hall, a magnificent granite-faced building, represents the initial fruit of the college's \$23 million expansion and modernization program. It symbolizes the college's growth and vitality, and its beautiful auditorium provided the setting for the first of a lecture series of intellectual excellence. The Spruance lectures, to be presented annually, are intended to promote common ties with the neighboring academic community.

As the series' premier lecturer, Mr. Herman Wouk is a speaker with superb credentials. He is a distinguished writer whose work has been recognized by the award of the Pulitzer Prize. His profound knowledge of war and naval strategy

been expressed in his novels *The Winds of War* and *the Caine Mutiny*. Mr. Wouk's abiding interest in the naval profession was the basis of his eloquent lecture, "The Naval Officer in the Age of Revolution."

The audience contained many members of the academic community, and the most illustrious representative was Rear Adm. Samuel Eliot Morison, USNR (Ret.). Intellectual, scholar, writer, and teacher—Admiral Morison graced the occasion with his remarks about his old friend Adm. Raymond A. Spruance during the dedication ceremony the following day.

Many other communities and professions were represented, as well. Two renowned artists who immortalized Spruance on canvas and in bronze viewed their works on display in the Spruance Hall lobby: portrait painter Albert K. Murray and sculptor Felix W. de Weldon. Government and naval civilian representatives included Secretary of the Navy John Warner, Senator Claiborne Pell, Governor Frank Licht, former Secretary of the Navy and Governor John Chafee, and philanthropist and former Assistant Secretary of the Navy John Nicholas Brown.

The lecture and the dedication also assembled former members of Spruance's World War II staff for a nostalgic reunion, probably the last time they will



Rear Adm. and Mrs. Samuel E. Morrison and Rear Adm. Richard Bates at President's reception



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wouk and Vice Admiral Turner at President's reception.



Audience for Spruance lecture viewed from the stage of Spruance Hall



Ribbon cutting by Mrs. Spruance and Secretary Warner with Vice Admiral Turner



Left to right: Capt. R.J. Olver, USN (Ret.), Mr. C.F. Barber, Comdr. T.B. Buell, USN, Rear Adm. C.J. Moore, USN (Ret.), Mr. C.R. Huie, Vice Adm. S. Turner, USN.



Mrs. Spruance and Secretary Warner standing before the bust of Admiral Spruance after dedication ceremony.

ever again gather together. Those members of the staff who mustered to honor their great leader included Rear Adm. Charles J. Moore, USN (Ret.), Chief of Staff; Mr. Charles F. Barber, Flag Secretary; Capt. Gilvin M. Slonim, USN (Ret.), Japanese Intelligence Officer; Rear Adm. William H. Buracker, USN (Ret.), Operations Officer at Battle of Midway; Mr. Cyrus R. Huie, Flag Lieutenant, Commander 5th Fleet; Capt. Robert J. Oliver, USN (Ret.), Flag Lieutenant, Battle of Midway; Rear Adm. William M. McCormick, USN (Ret.), Flag Lieutenant, Commander Cruiser Division 5; and Capt. Rufus King, USN (Ret.), Staff, Commandant 10th Naval District. Other retired officers who were subordinate commanders under Spruance included Vice Adm. Morton L. Deyo, USN (Ret.), a 5th Fleet task group commander; and Rear Adm. Richard L. Bates, USN (Ret.), who commanded the cruiser *Minneapolis* during the Gilberts and Marshalls operations.

The following morning, 7 December, the guests again assembled in Spruance Hall to witness its dedication. Rear Admiral Morison told several anecdotes that revealed Spruance's character and personality. "The key to Admiral Spruance's character is this," said Admiral Morison. "He was always at peace with himself. In the poet's words, 'he was secure within' . . . A modest and a great man, he should have been given a fifth star."

Admiral Morison then recited Dryden's translation of Horace's 29th Ode as a reflection of his feelings about Admiral Spruance.

Happy the man and happy he
alone,

He who can call today his own.

He who secure within can say,
Tomorrow do your worse, for I
have lived today.

Be fair or foul or rain or shine,
The joys I have possessed, in
spite of fate, are mine.

Not Heaven itself upon the past
has power,
But what has been has been, and
I have had my hour.

Admiral Morison thus set the spiritual tone for the remainder of the dedication, a moving and emotional ceremony.

The principal address was delivered by Comdr. Thomas B. Buell, USN, who is attached to the Naval War College while participating in the Professional Development Program. Commander Buell concurrently is writing the biography of Admiral Spruance, and his address revealed the human, personal side of the late admiral. Commander Buell's address also appears in this issue of the *Review*.

Secretary Warner and Mrs. Raymond A. Spruance, the admiral's widow, then formally dedicated Spruance Hall. A broad ribbon containing the Naval War College colors—a montage of service colors—draped the stage front. Secretary Warner spoke briefly, ending his remarks by emphasizing the vital role played by the Naval War College in training naval leaders for future high command. Then he and Mrs. Spruance took golden shears in hand and cut the ribbon—Spruance Hall had joined the naval service.

Afterwards the guests mingled in the lobby, viewed the exhibits that portrayed the career of Raymond Spruance, and renewed old friendships. Everyone was reluctant to leave, because they had sensed the greatness of Admiral Spruance and the glory that was his and the Navy's. After years of obscurity, a modest naval hero had been recognized.



STANSFIELD TURNER
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College