IV

PRESENTATION OF COMMISSIONS BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE UNIT

As you receive your commissions here today you have by virtue of those commissions been designated as leaders of men. No matter what your mental characteristics or your intellectual attainments you now assume grave responsibilities. Henceforward there will seldom be a time when men in small numbers or large will not be dependent upon you for their welfare, their comfort, their battle training, and perhaps even their very lives. Such is the measure of the responsibility you assume!

All cannot be the inspired leaders of history but each and every one of you can, if you so choose, develop the qualities of good leadership. Many books have been written on this subject. All of them list and discuss the attributes of a good leader and all are worthy of your most serious study. It has been said that “There is no royal road to leadership for it demands . . . hard work, sincere living, and a high regard for justice and individuality.” Leadership has many tools, but I would impress upon you that the most potent of all is the power of example.

Tomorrow you will be engaged in battle with the most vicious enemy of civilization the world has ever known. It will be your responsibility, your duty, and, it may be, your glory through your leadership to play an ever-increasing rôle in winning the victory we know is bound to come. Those of us here at the Rice Institute who, perforce, must remain behind, look to you to carry on in the spirit of the Institute,
Presentation of Commissions

and in the best traditions of the United States Navy. With you go our hopes and our prayers.

And now as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Officers’ Training Unit of the Rice Institute, it is my right and also my honor to present to you young gentlemen your commissions as Ensigns in the Naval Reserve of the United States. With each commission goes my sincere congratulations and each carries my fervent wish that it may symbolize for you the beginning of a long, active, valuable, and honorable career as an officer in the United States Navy.

V. F. Rathbun, Commander, U.S.N. (Ret.)

V

MEMBERS OF THE UNIT RECEIVING COMMISSIONS

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Beecher, Charles Edward, Jr.
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Carter, Robert Murray
Conley, Richard Allen
Conrads, Bernard Ray
Cox, Thomas Harold
Elliott, William Kent
Emig, Ralph William
Flanagan, Thomas Alward, Jr.
Goerner, Joseph Kofahl
Hartman, Charles Paine
Hartsook, Edmund Arthur
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Heaton, Lewis Carnes, Jr.
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Kmieck, James Gerald
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Marchand, Earl Edward
Meyer, John Henry, Jr.
O’Keefe, Robert Franklin
Row, Harold Sutton
Scruggs, William Franklin
Smith, Robert Calhoun
Speich, Ralph John
Tesoro, Robert
Thomen, James Reuben
Vansickle, Ray Allen
Vilbig, John Lee, Jr.
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Witte, George Christian, Jr.