



Ignatius Joseph "Pete" Galantin

Ignatius Joseph "Pete" Galantin was born in New York City September 24, 1910. The son of Hungarian immigrants, he died July 6. He grew up in Des Plaines, IL. Beset by the unusual number of applicants for appointment to the Naval Academy, U. S. Senator Deneen announced that his appointment would go to the winner of a competitive examination. Pete won over 30 other candidates. During his first class year at the Academy he was captain of the fencing team. Upon graduation in 1933 he was commissioned as Ensign in the US Navy. Following graduation he served two years in the battleship NEW YORK before entering the submarine force. After training at Submarine School, New London, CT, early submarine assignments included the minelayer ARGONAUT, the S-24, and Commanding Officer of the R-11. Next came command of the submarine HALIBUT (SS-232) and a magnificent wartime performance by the Captain and his crew. Quoting from a Navy Unit Commendation awarded by the Secretary of the Navy: "For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese shipping... brilliantly intercepting an enemy task force... fearlessly penetrated the screen's inner defenses and while withstanding severe anti- submarine measures... destroyed a 10,000 heavy cruiser... daringly pressed home the attack, and although extensively damaged by merciless depth charging, valiantly carried on... the HALIBUT escaped destruction only by the heroic performance of duty of her courageous officers and men." The HALIBUT survived but on her last patrol was so badly damaged by depth charges that it was not fit for further service. The ship returned to the west coast of the United States and was later decommissioned. For his wartime service Commander Galantin was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, and two Gold Stars in lieu of the second and third Silver Star Medals. Upon return to the United States in November 1945 Commander Galantin served on the staff of Commander Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet. Next came a tour on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, DC. In August 1952, now a Captain in the Navy, he took command of the Fleet Oiler NAVASOTA and received a Letter of Commendation for combat operations in the Korean War. Returning in the Submarine Force he served as Squadron Commander and then was ordered to the prestigious National War College in Washington, DC for a year of study. Armed with years of wartime experience and thoroughly knowledgeable of every aspect of submarine operations he again was assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, this time to a key position in planning submarine warfare. Early promotion to Rear Admiral in 1957 opened new horizons and he served on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Southern Europe, a NATO command in Naples, Italy, and then went back to sea as Commander Cruiser Division Two in the Mediterranean. In 1951 Admiral Galantin became Director of Submarine Warfare on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. The following year he assumed new and urgent duties as Special Projects Manager of the Polaris Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. He relieved VADM W. F. Rayborn and was responsible for management of the planning, construction, and testing of the vitally important Strategic Deterrent Force. Admiral Galantin's final tour was as Chief of Navy Material. Now a Four Star Admiral, the Navy's highest military rank in peacetime, the Navy's

procurement and logistic support for ships and aircraft during the Vietnam War were in his hands. His years of experience and management skills enabled him to make an unexcelled contribution to the Navy and to the nation. He retired on July 1, 1970. Upon retirement he spent 20 years in Pinehurst, NC, moving to Fleet Landing, a retirement community in Atlantic Beach, FL, in 1991. He enjoyed golf, cultural and civic events, cruises, and writing. Admiral Galantin published two books about submarines: TAKE HER DEEP tells of wartime action when he was skipper of the submarine HALIBUT during WWII. SUBMARINE ADMIRAL details the evolution of the submarine in the US Navy. In 1935 he married Virginia E. Jaeckel of New York. His wife, three daughters Joy Veazey, Vivien Creelman, and Linda Galantin, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three sisters survive him. A memorial service will be held Friday, July 9 at 10:00 AM at Fleet Landing. Burial will take place at the United States Navy Academy with full military honors. Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, Jacksonville Beach. Please sign the Guestbook at Jacksonville.com