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Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.
August 8, 1941.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF NAVIGATION:

SUBJECT: Enlisted Personnel - discharge of for China.

Sometime about the close of May, I was called in conference with Captain Shafroth (Naval Reserve Division), Captain Good (Central Division), Commander Lynch (Naval Reserve Division), Mr. Leighton, U.S. Naval Academy Class of '13, and one or two other civilians (ex-Army).

We were told that the Secretary of the Navy had directed that a certain number of Reserve Officers and an undetermined number of enlisted men who desired it should be separated from the service for employment in China to help the Chinese Government with their aircraft.

So far as enlisted personnel were concerned, it was agreed that:

- (a) The civilians would be given necessary authority to interview officers and enlisted men in various aeronautical units of the Navy.
- (b) At the expiration of their service in China, enlisted personnel would be permitted to reenlist in the regular Navy. Enlisted men consulted could be orally informed of this promise. The question was brought up as to what could be done for men who were killed in China, and it was agreed that their families could receive no benefits from the Government. It was not definitely settled, but my understanding was that the Chief of Bureau would be asked to recommend to the Secretary of the Navy that men, who returned and desired it, would be permitted to reenlist regardless of their physical condition. They would then be allowed to serve until they had sufficient time in service to retire.
- (c) All requests for discharge should state that men desired to take employment with the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Co., which would signify that they were going to China.
- (d) The matter was secret.

Forty-five men have been discharged to date for this project.

H. M. Briggs
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