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SOUTHAMPTON  
HISTORY OF WORLD'S WAR WORK  
NEW YORK STATE HISTORY

Name in full and rank ..... *William A. Barstow - Lieutenant U.S.N. R.F.* .....

Organizations ..... *U.S. Naval Reserve Force* ..... Ship .....

Place and date of enlistment ..... *Brooklyn 1912* ..... *New York N.Y.* .....

Place and date of discharge ..... *Dec. 31, 1918 (Training Det.)* .....

Military camps with dates .....

Date of trip overseas and return ..... *Sept. 11, 1918* ..... *to Dec. 1918* .....

① Describe below service as you saw it, battles and engagements, etc., also interesting items of historic value. ② Give account of all medals, citations and certificates of merit awarded you. Your photograph is especially requested. Are you a member of the Malcolm White Post, No. 433, American Legion? If so, note it below.

① *See biography attached.*  
②

"When the United States entered the World War, Mr. Barstow volunteered his services to the Naval Reserve Forces, and was enlisted in April of 1917, being commissioned Lieutenant in charge of the New York Purchasing Office of the Second Naval District. On the closing of the New York office in November 1917, Lieutenant Barstow was transferred to the New York Navy Yard at Brooklyn as Assistant Chief of the Purchasing Section in which capacity he served until April of 1918.

Because of the mines and enemy submarines the British Admiralty was having great difficulty in maintaining the supply of fuel oil to the Grand Fleet, and it was necessary to evolve a scheme of delivery to obviate the great hazard of tank boat service. British Admiralty officials conferred with the U. S. Navy Department and pipe line experts of the Standard Oil Company, and it was decided to lay a fuel oil pipe lines across Scotland from Old Kilpatrick, on the River Clyde about ten miles below Glasgow, to Grangemouth on the Firth of Forth, a distance of about 36 miles. Lieut. Barstow was placed in charge of the work. In April 1918 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander as officer in charge of the U. S. Naval Pipe Line Unit, and proceeded to the Philadelphia (Pa.) Navy Yard to recruit and outfit the Pipe Line Unit. The Unit sailed in June. Under Commander Barstow's personal direction and due to his business-like methods, this pipe line was completed in approximately three months, which was quick work considering the many obstacles that had to be overcome. This was the first pipe line project carried on in that country and the expediency and efficiency with which the work was completed earned high commendation from the British Admiralty and the U. S. Navy Department. In recognition of this work Mr. Barstow was promoted to the rank of Commander in June 1919. For a time before returning to the United States in December 1918, he was on duty at the U. S. Naval Headquarters in London. The following is an abstract from a letter to his business associates from Sir George H. Ashdown, C.B., E. of the Admiralty Department on the death of Mr. Barstow and with whom he was associated during the Great War: "commander Barstow achieved the impossible; no difficulty was too great for him to overcome, and he was at all times the most cheerful and level-headed of men. I know Admiral Sir Hugh Tophill had a very high opinion of his outstanding ability and held him in great esteem. Ties such as he formed are enduring, and help more than any diplomatic means, to bring our two nations closer together. Our loss is mutual".