

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

Name in full and rank . . . . . Steuart Davis, Lieutenant Commander, U.S.N.R.F.  
 Organizations . . . Naval Reserve Force . . . . . Ship Second Naval District  
 Place and date of enlistment . . . Newport R. I., February 24th, 1917  
 Place and date of discharge . . . Orded to inactive duty March 4, 1919  
 Military camps with dates . . . . .  
 Date of trip overseas and return . . . . .

Describe below service as you saw it, battles and engagements, etc., also interesting items of historic value. 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.

Member of Admiral Usher's committee to enroll all motor boats and yachts on the Atlantic Coast.

March 12, 1917 detailed by Admiral Sims to take entire charge of organizing the Second Naval District Reserve Force and to make recommendations for the Coast Defence for the District. Additional duties as Commander Newport Patrol, also Executive Officer of Naval District Force.

August 31, 1917 assigned duty as Commander Inspection Section. This duty consisted of all inspection of the Second Naval District (material personnel, and military)

November 28, 1917 appointed Senior Member of the Joint Merchant Vessel Board.

March 8, 1918 assumed duties as Aid For Information Second Naval District.

March 27 1918 at my request, I was detached from duties as Commander Inspection Section and Senior Member, Joint Merchant Vessel Board.

While performing the above duties I served on nine General Court Martial Boards as Senior member and member.

Appointed Historian by order of The Secretary of the Navy to compile data for the History of the War from April 6, 1917 to cessation of hostilities.

Books written,

"District Information Service in War and in Peace"  
 Commended by Navy Department in letters dated  
 Feb. 28, 1918 Office of Naval Operations  
 Nov. 1, 1918 Office of Naval Intelligence  
 Nov. 29, 1918 " " " "  
 Dec. 12, 1918 " " " "  
 Jan 11, 1919 " " " "

The story of the inception and development of the Patrol Squadron until the time it was merged into the 2nd. Naval District is of value because it was the concrete exposition of the idea which later was crystallized in the formation of the United States Naval Reserve Force.

Lieut. Comdr. Stuart Davis was the man who <sup>conceived</sup> conceived the idea of a nation wide patrol squadron formed of patriotic yachtsman willing to equip and train themselves for use in time of emergency. On the sinking of the Lusitania he realized that this Country would be drawn into the war, and the need of fighting the submarine with small fast vessels. Through his efforts, in 1915 was organized the Volunteer Patrol Squadron which had two objects in view, the training of yachtsman, and the stimulating of <sup>interest</sup> interest throughout the country to build vessels that could be used in war. At this time Commander Davis was in close touch with Franklin D. Roosevelt and co-operated with him in the plans for the creation of a Reserve Force. In 1916 the Patrol Squadron assisted the Navy Department in carrying out experiments against submarines at Block Island. The results were so successful that the Squadron was enrolled by Rear Admiral Austin M. Knight Commandant, ~~us~~ as part of the Second Naval District defence. From these experiments were planned and designed the 110 foot submarine chasers which with our converted yachts and motor boats were responsible for sinking more <sup>men</sup> subs than the rest of the American Navy. Previous to our entry in the war the Patrol Squadron comprised some 600 men these formed the nucleus around which <sup>was</sup> built up the activities of the U.S.N.R.F.

Commander Davis in view of his organizing work was commissioned  
Lieutenant-Commander and throughout the war remained the ranking  
Reserve officer in the Second District. He served on a committee  
appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to canvass the Atlantic  
coast for yachts and motor boats, was an Aid to Admiral Sims in  
1917, Commander of the Inspection Section 2nd, N.D., Senior Member  
of the District Joint Merchant Vessel Board in 1917-18 and as  
Aid for Information to Admiral Ogan 1918-19 organized the Naval  
Intelligence Service in the District and was also Captain of the  
Port at Newport R.I. He has always been a great believer in  
preparedness. When aviation was in its infancy he interested  
himself in aeronautics, and was the first American to pilot and  
demonstrate dirigibles for war purposes.

He was born in 1882 in Providence, R.I. and can boast of an  
ancestry of fighting men. His grandfather being General Steuart  
of Civil War fame, and his sixteenth great grandfather, Robert  
Bruce famous in the history of Scotland.

Commander Davis has two brothers in law, overseas with the  
Expeditionary Forces; Major Henry Sanford, and Lieut. Col. R.H.  
Williams.

Commander Davis' two brothers in law, Major Henry Sanford, and  
Lieut. Col. R.H. Williams, who have been overseas with the Expeditionary  
Forces have just returned to this country.

Mrs Davis, the former Agnes Edgar daughter of the late Newbold  
Edgar, of New York and Southampton, has leased the Marshall Fry  
place, at Southampton for the summer.