



Photos From an Admiral's Album

By RONALD BEERENS

The photos presented herewith are from the album of Rear Admiral Aaron Putnam "Put" Storrs, III, USN (Ret.). He graduated from the Naval Academy in the Class of 1923, went to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator on 23 April 1926. He was assigned to VF-2, and when that squadron was split, 1 January 1927, he remained with the main body which was redesignated VF-6 and became VB-2B in 1928. The same year, Lt. D. W. Tomlinson formed an unofficial aerobatic team with LTjg's William V. Davis and Storrs which soon became known as the "Three Sea Hawks" and created a tremendous impression at the Los Angeles National Air Races in September 1928.

"When I joined the squadron in 1926," Admiral Storrs has written, "we were equipped with VE-7s and VE-9s and later a mixture of FB-1s, FB-2s and F6C-1s and F6C-2s. The FB-5s with the big Packard engine came next. I recall that I went East on temporary duty and made the first fighter landings on the newly commissioned Saratoga. In April of 1928 we received the F2B-1s. The F2B turned out to be a beautiful little acrobatic airplane and was a perfect tool for our formation aerobatics."

During WW II, he served in the Alaskan Sector of the Western Sea Frontier. In October 1947 he assumed command of the USS Coral Sea, upon her commissioning, staying with her four years, then became Commander of Naval Air Basic Training at Pensacola (Jan. 1951), Commander of Carrier Division Sixteen (May 1953) and of Carrier Division Five (Feb. 1956) and retired in August 1957.

Today RAD Storrs is Chief of Operations at the Honolulu International Airport, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Photo above shows Ford Island in 1928 while visited by F2B-1s of VF-6 and virtually all the rest of the Navy's single engine carrier aircraft. Lower photo shows F2B-1s of the "Three Sea Hawks" in action during 1928.





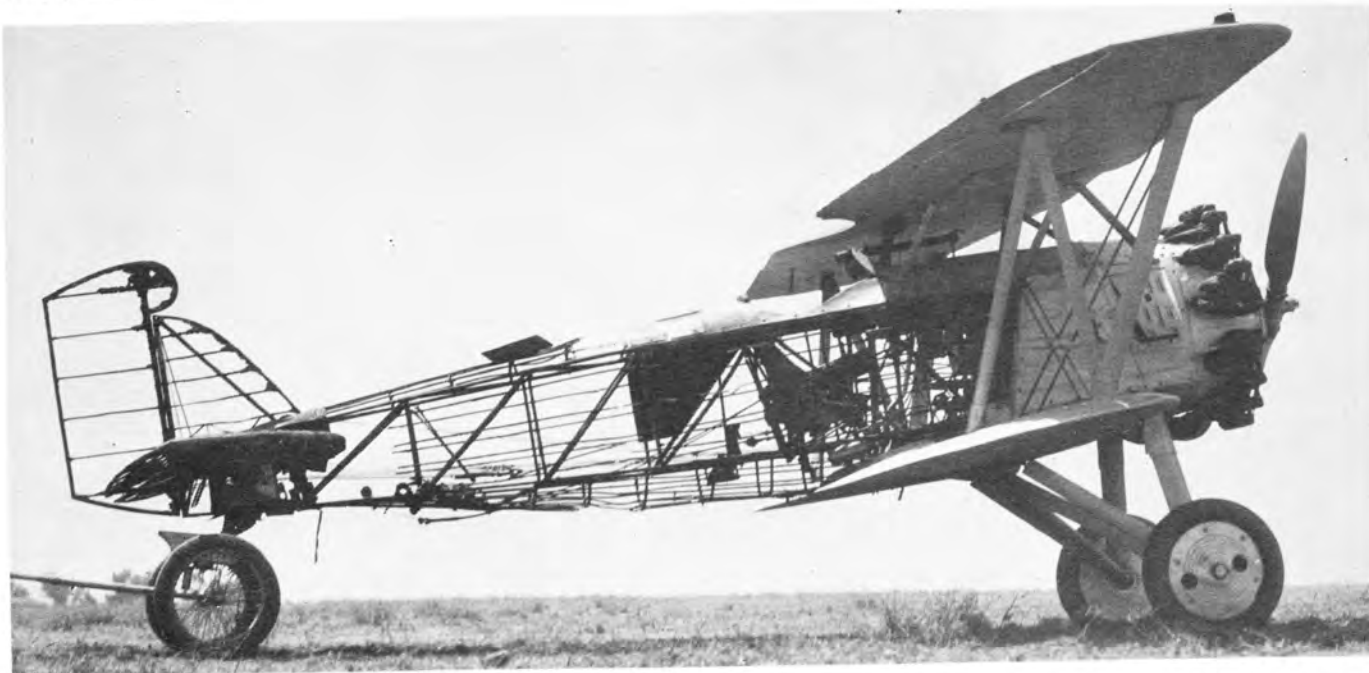
LTjg Aaron P. Storrs flying over San Diego during 1928 in his Boeing F2B-1 of VB-2B. (Photo - RAD A. P. Storrs)



Another view of LTjg Storrs' Boeing F2B-1 over San Diego showing upper wing chevron, fleet in background. (Storrs)

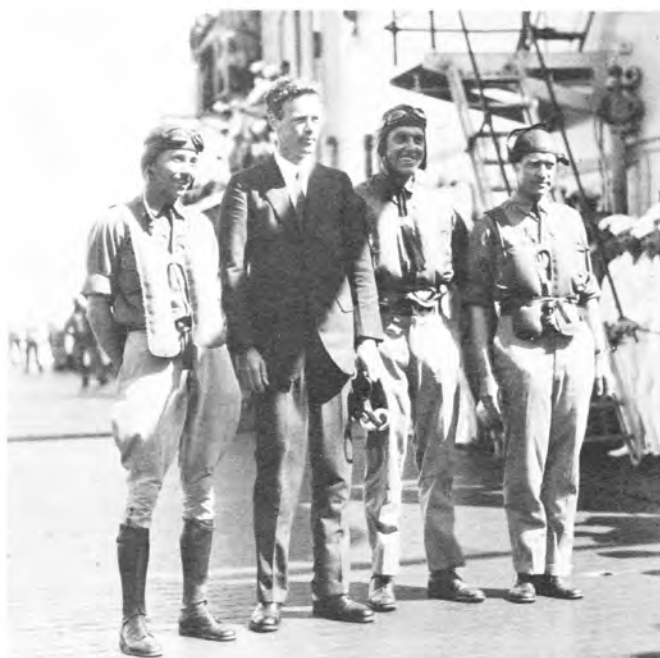


Above, two views of LTjg Storrs' F2B-1, number two plane of the "Three Sea Hawks", at Los Angeles in August 1928.
Below, the same aircraft after fire in the air from movie camera installation while filming for MGM. (Photos-Storrs)





The "Three Sea Hawks" at Mines Field in 1928 at the time of the National Air Races [from l]: LTjg William V. Davis, Jr., LT Daniel W. Tomlinson (leader of the team) and LTjg Aaron P. Storrs. (Photo - RAD A. D. Storrs)



Aboard USS Saratoga, Feb 1929, just before Davis and Storrs flew wing in 3-plane formation with Col. Charles A. Lindbergh on flight to Albrook Field, Balboa, Canal Zone. At right, LC A. C. Davis. (Photo - Storrs)



Standing before the Curtiss F6C-4, A-7403, number one plane of "The Flying Fish", are the members of this aerobatic team organized by LT Storrs at Anacostia in 1929: Storrs [l], M. B. Gardner and F. M. Trapnell. (Photo-Storrs)