



W.S. Hosley,
Rear Admiral U.S.N.
Retired.

OBITUARY

REAR-ADMIRAL W. S. CROSLY, U. S. N. RETIRED.

Rear-Admiral Walter Selwyn Crosley, U.S.N. Retired, died on 6th January 1939 in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland at the age of 67.

He was born in East Jeffrey, New Hampshire, on 30th October 1871, the son of the Rev. William Jacob Crosley and Charlotte Davis Crosley. In 1889 he was appointed to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and received his commission as an ensign on 1st July 1895.

He was advanced two numbers in rank for eminent and conspicuous conduct in battle on 21st July 1898 at Nipe Bay, Cuba, and participated in an engagement which resulted in the destruction of the Spanish gunboat Don Jorge Juan.

His service record takes in most of the naval movements of the period it covered: the Philippine Insurrection of 1900, the West Indian campaign, the Haitian occupation in 1915 and the Dominican occupation of 1916. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. PRAIRIE, he had charge in 1915-16 of a survey around the island of Hispaniola.

During the World War, Admiral Crosley received the Navy Cross with this citation: "For distinguished service in the line of his profession as naval attaché at Petrograd and for conducting a party of Americans out of Russia in April 1918, under difficult and trying circumstances. Later, from March 1918, to the conclusion of the war, as naval attaché to Madrid, his services were of a high order." He previously had been naval attaché at Constantinople.

In 1921, Rear-Admiral Crosley served as Commandant 7th Naval District with additional duty as Commandant, Naval Operating Base, Key West, Florida. He commanded the U.S.S. IDAHO, battleship, from June 1923 to November 1925, when he was appointed Hydrographer, Navy Department, and served in that capacity until 1927. He directed surveys of importance in Cuba and Central America.

In 1926, he was a Delegate to the International Hydrographic Conference at Monaco, and was elected Vice-President of this Conference. On account of the illness of the President, he presided at the Conference.

He was ordered then to command Train Squadron One, Fleet Base Force. He reported for duty as Commandant, 9th Naval District, Great Lakes, Ill. 1st July 1929.

In 1929, he was a Delegate to the International Hydrographic Conference, and was elected to preside over the Conference.

In 1932, he was ordered to command Battleship Division Three, Battle Force. In 1933, he was appointed Commandant, 15th Naval District, Balboa, Canal Zone, served in that capacity until July 1935, and was a member of the General Board until he retired from active duty 1st November 1935.

Besides the Navy Cross, Admiral Crosley had been decorated with the Sampson Medal, the Spanish Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal, the Dominican Campaign Medal and the Victory Medal with star. He was recipient of the Chinese Order of Wen Hu, the Haitian Medal of Honour and was named Commander of the Crown of Italy.

In April 1937, Admiral Crosley was elected Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco, by the IVth International Hydrographic Conference. He took up his duties on the 1st August 1937 and undertook immediately the drawing up of an hydrographic dictionary, as requested by the above Conference. He was obliged by illness to interrupt this work and his duties as Director and, in June 1938, tendered his resignation, owing to ill-health which, in spite of every care and the best attention, brought about his demise.

The loss of this distinguished officer's services will be keenly felt, not only in the International Hydrographic Bureau to which he endeared himself during the time he filled the post of Director, but also amongst the States Members.

Rear-Admiral Crosley is survived by his wife, Mrs Pauline Stewart Crosley, and two sons, Lieutenant Floyd S. Crosley, U.S.N. Retired, Bronxville, N.Y., and Lieutenant Paul C. Crosley, U.S.N., attached to the U.S.S. CLAXTON.

