

THE SKIPPER OF THE WESTMORELAND



CAPTAIN JAMES "M" HICKS, USN

In the minds of all who served on board, the name of Captain James "M" Hicks is closely coupled with the name USS WESTMORELAND, for he was her Commanding Officer from the day she went into commission until the time she went out of commission. All who served on the WESTMORELAND will be interested in this short biography of him.

Captain Hicks was graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland with the class of 1925. Duty took him first to the USS TEXAS and a little later to the USS DENVER. The DENVER was operating out of the Panama Canal Zone at the time as part of the "Special Service Squadron," a designation for the task force which operated in the Caribbean area.

Having requested submarine duty, he was sent to Submarine School at New London, Connecticut in June 1927. By December 1927 he had finished the course and soon thereafter received orders to the S-30, part of the Asiatic Fleet. He remained on the S-30 until 1930, when he returned to the Academy at Annapolis for post-graduate work in Diesel Engineering. He also took work in Diesel Engineering at Pennsylvania State College.