

Spokesman in Korea

John Victor Smith

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Of the 18 John Smiths who have been graduated from the United States Naval Academy, John Victor Smith is the only one who received special mention in the academy yearbook, *Lucky Bag*, for his "tact and conversational ability." "J.V.'s heart is a treasury of material for making lasting friendships," his classmates wrote under his picture in the class of 1934 yearbook.

Man
in the
News

"His many friends testify to his ability to spend wisely from this treasury and we know that there will never be any lack of funds."

If there was ever a place in which Rear Adm. John V. Smith could use these qualities, it is in his chair across the table from Maj. Gen. Pak Chung Kook of North Korea in Panmunjom, Korea.

Admiral Smith, as senior member of the Military Armistice Commission of the United Nations command in Korea, has the task of persuading his North Korean counterpart to give back the *Pueblo*. The Navy intelligence-gathering vessel seized by North Korean patrol boats.

When Admiral Smith sat down at Panmunjom last September, he learned quickly that the verbal diet at the conference table was unseasoned polemics, not friendly discussion. Friends back home insist that his tact will be maintained throughout.

Son of Famed Marine

Admiral Smith is the only son of the late Gen. Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith, the hard-boiled Marine hero who was called the "father of modern amphibious warfare."

The young Smith, however, has more of his father's soft-heartedness than his outer fierceness, according to his friends, and the academy yearbook duly noted his good looks and "popularity with the femmes," explaining that "there has always been a beautiful girl waiting for him."

Born in Seattle on May 24, 1912, he lived in various military bases with his father and mother, Ada, throughout his boyhood. He received a Presidential appointment to the Naval Academy in 1929, and vowed, according to the yearbook, to attain the highest grades possible.

He was named a "star scholar" during two of his four years, an award given to midshipmen with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. He was graduated 31st in a class of 463.

Standout on Crew

At the Academy, Midshipman Smith was a standout



Associated Press

Known for his tact

on the heavyweight crew team, winning varsity letters all four years.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned an ensign and assigned to the *Perry* for a three-year tour. He served on several destroyers and cruisers until 1943, when he assumed command of the destroyer *Shubrick*.

During World War II, he was an aide to Adm. W. D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to President Roosevelt.

After the war, he commanded another destroyer the *Brush*, before returning to land duty as head of the armament department at the Navy proving ground in Dahlgren, Va.

After a year of study at the Armed Forces Staff College in 1949 and 1950, he served on the staff of the commander of the First Fleet in the Pacific, and in a similar post with the Seventh Fleet. In July, 1952, he assumed command of a destroyer division off the coast of Korea and served until July, 1953.

Shortly after graduation from the Academy, he married Marion D. Zalersky, the daughter of a Navy Doctor. They have two children, Mrs. Marion S. Hambrick, 27 years old, and Holland M. Smith 2d, 25.

Mrs. Smith is living with her husband in Seoul, Korea, until his tour of duty is ended. A normal tour of duty is six months.

Friends say that Admiral Smith plays golf occasionally, "but isn't very good at it." His favorite hobby is collecting and building clocks, and he has hundreds from all over the world.

One, which he built, according to friends, has his photograph for a face,

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