

OFFICER BIOGRAPHY SHEET
 PERS-979 (REV. 5-49)

This form (one copy only) to be submitted initially and when changes occur. It will be used for public relations purposes and will be considered authoritative. Officers should insure that an accurate up-to-date biography is on file in BuPers. REPORT PERS-3-31

NAME (Surname) SPENCER	(First) Frederick	(Middle) Albert	GRADE CDR(USNR)	CLASSIFICATION 1105	FILE NO. 105659
HOME TOWN ADDRESS (To be used in answering press inquiries) Rancho Samatagama, Descanso, Calif		DATE OF BIRTH 14 Mar.1905	PLACE OF BIRTH Cleveland, Ohio		
FATHER'S NAME Frank Otho Spencer (deceased)			MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Margaret Turnovsky		
SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES ATTENDED PRIOR TO ENTERING NAVY Yale University Class of 1929					DEGREES Ph.B.

As applicable: USNA CLASS; MIDSHIPMEN SCHOOL AND CLASS; NROTC SCHOOL AND CLASS

DATE COMMISSIONED March 1941	GRADE COMMISSIONED IN Lt.(JG)	DATE DESIGNATED (If Naval Aviator or Submariner)
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ATHLETICS, SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, LITERARY SOCIETIES, ETC, PARTICIPATED IN

Yale University Swimming Team Holder of Major Y for athletics

DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE 26 June 1947 New York City	HOME TOWN AND MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE Los Angeles Catherine L. Van Wart
NAMES OF CHILDREN Frederick A. Spencer Jr	DATE OF BIRTH 24 Nov 1948
CLUBS, SOCIETIES, ORGANIZATIONS, ETC. MEMBER OF	

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF CAREER - FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES (Include information relative to (a) Occupation and achievements in civil life. (b) Unusual assignments to special duties. (c) Participation in any naval or military campaigns or engagements. (d) List campaign badges or medals, citations, decorations and commendations and foreign decorations received.) Include permanent duty assignments, promotions, and military service prior to commissioning. If recent picture in present grade has not been filed, forward one in accordance with BuPers Manual.

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See attached data

DATE SUBMITTED 1 August 1950	SIGNATURE
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March 13, 1941. Commissioned as Lieutenant (junior grade) in the United States Naval Reserve, serving with the Eleventh Naval District Reserve Photographic Unit.

Sept. 12, 1941. Called to active duty and assigned in the Office of the Coordinator of Information (later) the Office of Strategic Services.

Sept. 1941 to Aug. 1943. Directed the establishment of the Coordinator of Information's photographic unit. Had charge of procurement of personnel, equipment and supplies. Served as the unit's first Executive Officer. Made repeated appearances before the Bureau of the Budget and the War Production Board.

Nov., 1941. Assigned to make secret film reports for President Roosevelt of war preparations in Iceland and at the Panama Canal.

Aug., 1942. Ordered to London, England, to set up photographic liaison with the British armed services. Assigned to the staff of Admiral Harold R. Stark, (ComNavEu), with additional duty with the Coordinator of Information.

Aug., 1942. Aided in preparations for photographic coverage during the invasion of North Africa.

Aug., 1942. Assigned to liaison work with Lord Mountbatten's Commandos, making photographic reports of experiments with highly secret weapons developed for amphibious landings. Only two prints were made of each film, one for the British top echelon of command, the other for the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Washington, D.C.

Sept., 1942. Supervised establishment of O. S. S. photographic laboratory at London England.

Oct., 1942. Directed photographic coverage of the visit of King George of England to the headquarters of Admiral Louis Mountbatten. Complete short subject made of this footage.

Nov., 1942. Returned from England to Washington, D.C., to report to General Donovan upon the progress made with the British in the establishment of photographic liaison. Made recommendations for the establishment of an expanded photographic service in the European theater. Became acting Commanding Officer of the Photographic Branch of the Coordinator of Information.

Jan., 1943. Formulated program for the production of motion and still pictures of secret activities conducted by the Office of the Coordinator of Information, establishing at the same time liaison channels with all the pertinent National War Agencies.

Jan., 1943. Established photographic unit for the photographing of Army and Navy secret weapons, working in close cooperation with the Office of Scientific Research and Development, headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush.

Oct., 1943. Assigned to produce motion picture showing the scope of the operations of the Royal Air Force Coastal Command.

Nov., 1943. Assigned to coordinate photo teams gathering top secret film reports behind the lines with the Maquis in France, with the Tito partisans in Yugoslavia, with the Greek underground movement and with other resistance organizations. Also assigned to work closely with the top British commands, particularly with the opposite number of the O. S. S. in the British forces, the so-called S. O. E. (Secret Operational Executive). This assignment called for the production of many films of the activities of the S.O.E. designed for the training of saboteurs and secret agents.

April, 1944. Returned from Washington, D.C., to London to take part in plans for photographic coverage of the invasion of Normandy.

May, 1944. Designated Coordinating Officer of all U.S. Naval Photographic Units assigned to cover the Normandy invasion. Established liaison with the Royal British Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy, plus the combat crews of the U.S. Coast Guard and the O.S.S.

May, 1944. Appointed a member of the Anglo-American Film Board, with the formal duty of formulating and executing plans for the interchange of film and the integration of the armed services motion picture production by the United States and the British Empire. This service continued until March 1945 and entailed close contact with the British Ministry of Information.

Feb., 1943. Organized photographic unit assigned to Hollywood, Calif., for purpose of working at the California Institute of Technology under direction of Rear Admiral Holmes to produce a series of motion pictures of secret rocket experiments. This unit later became the West Coast Photographic Branch of the Office of Strategic Services.

Aug., 1943 With unit of 40 officers and men and with complete photographic and processing equipment, was ordered to London, England, as Officer-in-Charge of the combined London, Algiers and Cairo units. Established headquarters at London.

Sept., 1943. Completed arrangements at Denham Village, England's principal motion picture area, for procurement of adequate photographic space. Established liaison in these projects with Sir Alexander Korda, president of London Films, and with other motion picture executives, including Mr. Ben Goetz, of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and Mr. David Rose, of Paramount Pictures.

Oct.-Nov., 1943 Made survey of Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern theaters for the Office of Strategic Services to establish requirements for photographic units there. Returned to London. Submitted report of needs to General Donovan.

Dec. 1943. Recalled to Washington for conferences and discussion of photographic missions to Algiers and Cairo. Arrangements were completed at this time for despatching of personnel and materials to Algiers and Cairo.

June, 1944. Directed by the SHAEF Public Relations Office to direct, supervise and produce top secret, documentary film of the Normandy invasion, from D-Day Minus 10 to D-Day Plus Four, utilizing all available footage. Three prints of this documentary were produced, one for President Roosevelt, one for Prime Minister Churchill, and one for Premier Stalin. Completion of this documentary was made in 72 hours. Delivery of print to President Roosevelt was on D-Day plus Eight.

Sept., 1944. Aided in the establishment of forward echelon photographic branch of the O.S.S. at Grandville, France, in order to provide still and motion picture coverage of enemy-held coastlines, harbors, artillery installations and V-1 rocket emplacements.

Sept., 1944. Assigned photographic unit to make still and motion pictures of debris-filled Cherbourg, France, in order that rapid, strategic reconstruction of port facilities and clearance of choked harbor could commence.

Nov. 1944. Aided in the establishment of forward echelon O.S.S. photographic laboratory at Paris, France.

April, 1945. Returned to the United States, and upon the request of the Navy Photographic Service, a request that had previously been made many times, was detached from the O.S.S. and assigned to the Navy Photographic Service.

May 1, 1945. Assigned as Coordinator of all motion picture production in the Naval Photographic Science Laboratory (now the U.S. Naval Photographic Center) Anacostia, D.C.

Aug. 1945. Assigned as special assistant to the Chief of the Naval Photographic Services.

Dec. 1, 1945 While supervising a series of training films related to the handling of all types of naval vessels in the San Diego area, assigned by the Secretary of the Navy to make a documentary movie of statements of leading Japanese officials upon strategy of American forces which caused their downfall.

Jan. 10, 1946. Completed documentary movie, "Report from Tokyo".

Feb. 1, 1946 Assigned as Officer-in-Charge of the advance echelon photographic unit of Joint Army-Navy Task Force One and directed photographing of the evacuation of natives from Bikini Atoll and their resettlement.

April 1, 1946 Assigned to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Culver City, Calif., as technical advisor to assist in the production of movie, "Bikini-The Atom Island", which utilized footage of the evacuation and resettlement of the Natives.

May 6, 1946 Assigned to USS MT. MCKINLEY (AGC-7), and to the Staff of Vice Admiral W. H.P. Blandy, USN, Commander Joint Task Force One, to direct motion picture coverage of the atomic bomb experiments. After each of the atomic tests, returned to the United States to aid in newsreel releases to the public.

Aug. 1, 1946 Produced for the President of the United States a top secret preliminary film report of the atomic bomb experiments at Bikini.

Oct. 1, 1946 Directed to produce documentary and historical film of OPERATION CROSSROADS, the atomic bomb experiments conducted by Joint Task Force One, from approximately 1,000,000 feet of motion picture film.

DECORATIONS

BRONZE STAR MEDAL
(with citation)

March 23, 1946

Awarded for "meritorious achievement" in filming documentary project, "Report from Tokyo".

MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF
THE BRITISH EMPIRE (RANK
OF OFFICER)
(with citation and ribbon)

August, 1946

Awarded for "inspiring officers and men and for the great enthusiasm, hard work, interest and attention to detail displayed in production of a motion picture film dealing with Royal Air Force Coastal Command.

COMMENDATION
(with citation and ribbon)

Dec. 1, 1944

Awarded for devising and executing plan for pictorial coverage of Normandy D-Day invasion landings

American Defense Medal

American Theater Campaign Medal

✓ European-African Theatre Campaign Medal

✓ Asiatic Pacific Theatre Campaign Medal

✓ Victory Medal