

Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus

PRESIDENT, 18 JUNE 1934 - 15 DECEMBER 1936
and 30 JUNE 1939 - 2 NOVEMBER 1942

Oil on Canvas Albert Murray, 1943

*Loan from the Navy Art Collection, Naval History and Heritage
Command*



Edward Kalbfus (1877 - 1954) was a staunch believer in the value of the Naval War College to the service. He exerted strenuous efforts to forward the institution's objects and to enhance its stature within the Navy Department as well as in the City of Newport, which names the main street leading from town to the College as Admiral Kalbfus Road. He graduated from the College in 1927, served two years on the staff and served two separate tours as president. On leaving the College as the twenty-second College president, he was promoted to vice admiral in 1936 as Commander Battleships, Battle Force, and in 1938 to four stars as Commander Battle Force, United States Fleet. On reassignment as the twenty-fourth president of the Naval War College, he reverted to his permanent rank as a rear admiral. He is best remembered for the production by the Naval War College of *Sound Military Decision* (1942), the only published guide for naval planning in the Navy, and for the successful efforts that he made to keep the College open during the Second World War. After leaving the War College in 1942, he became a member of the Navy's General Board and in 1944, the first Director of Naval History. In 1944, he was a member of the three-officer Pearl Harbor Court of Enquiry.