

Vice Admiral Charles L. Melson

PRESIDENT, 31 JULY 1964 - 25 JANUARY 1966

Oil on Canvas

Commander Edmond J. Fitzgerald, USNR, 1965

Naval War College commission

Ac. 1976.37.01



Vice Admiral Charles LeRoy Melson (1904 - 1981) graduated from the Naval War College in 1948 and served on the staff the following year. As the thirty-third president, Melson supported greater emphasis on basic naval subjects, and he expanded the use of the Naval Electronic Warfare Simulator (NEWS) for the use of war gaming in both the senior and junior courses. It was during his term also that an addition was made to Mahan Hall for an expanded library collection. Before coming to the presidency of the Naval War College, he was Superintendent of the Naval Academy, 1958 - 1960; Commander, First Fleet, 1960 - 1962; and Commander, Taiwan Defense Command, 1962 - 1964.

Admiral Melson's first choice of an artist for this portrait was Commander Dwight Shepler, whom he knew from their prior service together in the Pacific during World War Two. Shepler was unavailable, but Commander Fitzgerald agreed to undertake the work in his stead. The Bureau of Personnel ordered Fitzgerald to thirty days' temporary active duty, beginning on 18 November 1965, to come to the Naval War College and to paint this portrait.