

## Admiral Raymond A. Spruance

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PRESIDENT, 1 MARCH 1946-1 JULY 1948

Oil on Canvas

George Sottung, 1983

Gift of the Naval War College Foundation

Ac. 1983.19.01



Spruance graduated from the Naval War College in 1927 and returned to serve twice on the faculty, first as head of correspondence courses in 1932 - 1933, then as head of tactics instruction for the junior class in 1935 - 1936, and for the senior class in 1936 - 1937. Finally, as the twenty-sixth president of the College in 1946 - 1948, Spruance lent dignity and prestige to the College as it led in

educational preparations for the Cold War era. He laid the groundwork for a wide number of innovations, including a much broader curriculum, establishing academic chairs for a distinguished civilian historian and a political scientist, and what eventually would become the *Naval War College Review*.

George Sottung (1927 - 1999) painted this portrait of Admiral Spruance for Spruance Hall at the Naval War College. The portrait depicts Spruance about 1948, just before his retirement from active duty in the Navy to become U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines. Sottung was a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago and did his postgraduate studies at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. He later became the chief staff artist at the *Chicago Tribune* and an illustrator for Charles E. Cooper Studios and Mendola, Ltd., in New York. For many years, he worked as a freelance artist. His works are in many permanent art collections, including the White House, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Princeton University.