



THE ADMIRAL STARK ROOM

Admiral Harold Raynsford Stark was born in Wilkes-Barre. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wilkes College for several years. Admiral Stark was Chief of Naval Operations in the Pacific in World War 2, and at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked by the Japanese. Chase Hall was his sister's home and given to the College through his efforts.

This collection room is a typical officer's room. The wall panels are walnut with an oil finish. The gold stripes which border the rug and the spread eagle in the center represent Admiral Stark's navy insignia. Pictures of ships he commanded are on the walls. The PT boat was his first command. The desk and chair are from his office in Washington. The photographs are people he knew and worked with during his career. Admiral Stark's portrait hangs over the fireplace; Mrs. Stark's between the bookcases. The books comprise a collection of naval history. His personal letters, etchings and two flags complete the furnishings. His ceremonial sword can be seen outside the room.

Admiral Stark acquired the nickname, Betty, as a result of his initiation at Annapolis. A Revolutionary War hero, whose last name was also Stark was known to have made a statement something like "I'm doing this for God, Country, and Betty (his wife) Stark." Admiral Stark was required to make this pronouncement as part of the hazing activities at Annapolis. From then on, many of his friends referred to him as "Betty."



