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Lillian Kirby Arrants

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Lillian Elizabeth Kirby Arrants '42

Lillian Kirby Arrants was born on September 24, 1921 in Williamsburg County, South Carolina. She was the daughter of Hazel Eugene Kirby and Marie Davis Kirby. She graduated from Lynchburg High School and attended Winthrop College. At Winthrop she majored in History. She taught school for one year before joining U.S. Navy. After training in Massachusetts, she was assigned to a post in communications in Washington, D.C. where she engaged in the difficult task of stripping the codes from Japanese messages.

Lillian served the Navy for four years and was stationed in Jacksonville, FL after the end of the war. During her tenure she progressed from ensign to full lieutenant. Following her military service she earned a master's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee. She taught courses related to history and political science for nearly ten years and also served as principal in the Aiken school system

She married Willard D. (W.D.) Arrants and they had one daughter. She passed away on September 6, 2014.