



Donald Gay, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

“Donald”

Date of Designation: April 1940 NA # 7517

Dates of Active Duty: 3 June 1933 - 22 August 1969

Total Flight Hours: 9,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 200

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,000 Prop: 8,000 VP: 2,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: Atlantic Neutrality Patrol and ASW operations in PBY's, 1941 - 1942.

WW II: CO, VPB-105, 1943 - Dec. 1944 (“Liberators”).
RAF Coastal Command, England - 60 missions.
Bay of Biscay ASW offensive and Operation Overlord.

Aviation Commands:

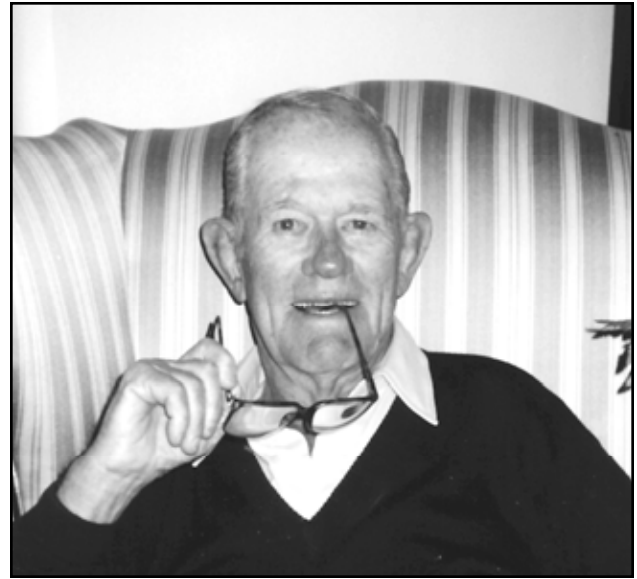
CO, VPB-105, 1943 -1944
CO, VF-41 in USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, 1948 - 1949
Commander, Carrier Air Group 3, USS *Leyte*, 1953 - 1954
CO, USS *Floyds Bay* (AVP-40), 1959
CO, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61), 1960 - 1961
Commander, Carrier Division 18, 1963
Commander, Fleet Air Wings, Pacific, 1968 - 1969

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross with Star
Bronze Star Medal
Air Medal with two Stars

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/3/37 Graduated from U. S. Naval Academy.
7/37-7/39 USS *Nevada* (BB).
7/39-7/40 USS *Sims* (DD-409).
7/40-4/41 Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, FL.



4/41-4/43 VP-31 (PBY's), Atlantic.
1943-44 CO, VPB-105, England.
1945-46 DCNO (Air), Aviator Detailer.
1946 3 months Refresher Training, Pensacola, FL.
1947-48 CO, VF-41 (F4U Corsair) USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt*.

1949 Navigator, USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt*.
1950-53 Student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA., then Staff, Naval War College, Newport, RI.

1953 Commander, Carrier Air Group 3 (6th Fleet).
1954-55 Plans Officer, Commander Naval Strike and Support Forces Southern Europe (NATO).
1955-56 Director, Service Test, NATC Pax River, MD.
1957-58 Operations Officer, Commander 7th Fleet.
1959 CO, USS *Floyds Bay* (AVP-40, Seaplane Tender).

1960-61 CO, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61).
1962 Office of CNO.
1963 Commander, Carrier Division 18.
1964-66 Plans, Staff of CINCPAC.
1966-69 Commander, Fleet Air Wings Pacific.
7/69 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) In 1956, as Director Service Test, NATC Patuxent River, organized and supervised the initial and continuing Fleet Introduction Program (FIP), which effectively phased new aircraft into fleet squadrons.
- (2) As Commander of a group of seven Navy “Liberator” bombing planes on 28 December 1943, during the battle of the Bay of Biscay, made contact with a task force of enemy destroyers and led his planes in repeated strafing and bombing attacks resulting in damage to four destroyers.
- (3) As Commander, Fleet Air Wings Pacific, he instituted a logistics program, Pacific wide, which greatly enhanced readiness of P-3 squadrons through out the Pacific command.