



Constantine A. Karaberis, Rear Admiral, USN

Rear Admiral Karaberis was born in Lewiston, Maine, but grew up and attended school in Manchester, New Hampshire. Appointed to the Naval Academy from New Hampshire. He was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1935, and in 1951 completed the Senior Course at the Naval War College. He was designated Naval Aviator in February 1939, and since that time has been associated with aviation.

Prior to World War II, he had gunnery, communications, and engineering duties on board the USS *Saratoga*, and served in the aviation unit of the USS *Honolulu*, and as Senior Aviator of that cruiser. In 1941 he received a Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy and was awarded the Adm. William A. Moffett Memorial Trophy for aviation safety for all cruiser and battleship aviation units.

On board the *Honolulu* at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombed the U. S. Fleet there on December 7, 1941, he was detached in May 1942 for a year's duty as Flight Instructor at the NAS, Jacksonville, Florida. In July 1943 he joined Fleet Air Wing 8, for training at Sanford, Florida, and from January to September 1944, served as Air Officer of the USS *Shamrock Bay* (CVE-84), in the Pacific and the Atlantic. He had brief duty as Operations Officer at the NAS, San Diego, California, and in March 1945, reported as Executive Officer of the USS *Wake Island* (CVE-65), which was kamikazed twice by the Japanese at Okinawa.

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," for "meritorious achievement" as the *Wake Island's* Executive Officer during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area from March 21 to June 20,

1945, during which period he contributed "materially to the outstanding record of the embarked air squadron in inflicting damage on the enemy..." He is also entitled to the Ribbon for the Navy Unit Commendation awarded that vessel. He remained on board the *Wake Island* until April 1946, and for two years thereafter was an Instructor in aviation at the General Line School, Newport, RI. Following a three months' refresher course at the NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, he served as Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron 2 (Alaska rotation) and from March to June 1950, as Operations Officer on the Staff of Fleet Air Wing 4, Whidbey Island, Washington.

Completing the Strategy and Logistics course at the Naval War College in June 1951, he next had a tour of duty as Executive Officer of the NAS Alameda, California, then served from June 1953 to June 1954 as Chief Staff Officer to Commander Fleet Air Wing 2. He next had two years as Commanding Officer of Air Transport Squadron 23, operating in the Japan and Far East Area, and in August 1956 reported as Director of the Aircraft Division of the Research and Development Group, Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department.

During the period October 1958 to May 1960 he was Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Anti-Submarine Defense Force, Atlantic, and in June assumed command of the USS *Wasp* (CVS-18). Assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, he served as Deputy Assistant Chief for Personnel Control from July 1961 to March 1963, when he became Commander Carrier Division FIFTEEN, later redesignated Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Group ONE. In April 1964 he assumed the duties of Manager (title changed in June 1965 to Commander), Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems Project Office, Office of Naval Material, Navy Department. Upon the reorganization of the Navy Department, effective May 1, 1966, the Office of Naval Material became the Naval Material Command. "For exceptionally meritorious services..." in that capacity, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In June 1967 he became Commander Fleet Air, San Diego/Fleet Air Wing 14 and Commander Southern Sector Antisubmarine Warfare Group, Western Sea Frontier, with headquarters at the NAS North Island, San Diego, California and was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious service..." in that capacity. He served as such until relieved of active duty pending his retirement, effective July 1, 1969.

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS:

- Legion of Merit
- Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit
- Bronze Star Medal, Combat "V"
- Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon (USS *Wake Island*)
- American Defense Service Medal, with Star
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, two Stars
- American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal
- China Service Medal (extended.)
- National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
- Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

CITATIONS:

Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious service from April 1964 to May 1967...A capable and resourceful leader, RADM Karaberis was selected for and assigned the duty of creating the Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems Project Office in response to the Secretary of the Navy's charter. His sound and energetic leadership provided the impetus responsible for the successful development and fulfillment of the concept of Project Management, applied to a diffused and complex ASW technical effort formerly dispersed through the Navy Material Support Establishment. By his thorough understanding of Project Management techniques, and his professional drive and ingenuity, (he) effectively directed the establishment and implementation of this new organization..."

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious service from June 1967 through June 1969 as Commander Fleet Air, San Diego/Fleet Air Wing FOURTEEN, and Commander Southern Sector Anti-submarine Warfare Group, Western Sea Frontier. During this period, Rear Admiral Karaberis was responsible for the administration, training and operational readiness of two major fleet-support naval air station, and thirty-one assigned fleet aviation units, including deployable squadrons, air detachment, and carrier ASW air groups which contributed significantly to United States efforts in Southeast Asia. Through his exceptional managerial abilities, he directed numerous programs to sustain and improve the material posture of Pacific Fleet Air ASW Forces during a period of declining resources availability. Some of these programs ensured that the deployed ASW support aircraft carrier, once turned over to the SEVENTH Fleet, could be depended upon to perform its mission with traditional excellence. Rear Admiral Karaberis' superb leadership, wisdom, imagination, and planning resulted in the highest possible state of anti-submarine readiness in the units assigned to his command, and contributed substantially toward the overall combat effectiveness of Pacific Fleet Carrier Forces. Because of his deep human understanding and sincere desire to be of personal assistance to dependents of those reported as prisoners of war, missing, or killed in action, (he) has rendered invaluable service to the Navy and to the nation in general, and has earned for himself the highest respect of those involved in these situations. Additionally, he has consistently exhibited an inspiring quality of leadership in community and civic affairs, thereby maintaining the excellent image which the U. S. Navy has so long enjoyed in Southern California..."

Bronze Star Medal: "For meritorious achievement as Executive Officer of the USS *Wake Island* during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area from March 21 to June 20, 1945. Demonstrating outstanding ability, Commander Karaberis rendered valuable assistance to his commanding officer in maintaining the fighting efficiency of his ship at a high peak, thereby contributing materially to the outstanding record of the embarked air squadron in inflicting damage on the enemy..."

Navy Unit Commendation (USS *Wake Island*): "For out-

standing heroism in action against enemy forces in the air, ashore and afloat. After completing a successful Anti-Submarine cruise against German Atlantic Raiders in which the U-545 was sunk, the USS *Wake Island* and her attached air squadrons joined our Escort Carrier Force to participate in the three final invasion operations which led to the defeat of the Japanese Empire. The *Wake Island* sent out her planes repeatedly in spotting and strike missions to place our Naval gunfire on suitable targets and to destroy hostile emplacements, aircraft and equipment. Her Fighter Directors completed interception of enemy aerial forces threatening the Task Force, and the concentrated fire from her own anti-aircraft batteries destroyed or fought off attacking planes. By her own readiness for combat and the gallant fighting spirit of her courageous officers and men, the *Wake Island* achieved a notable record of service and success in action..."

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

- 6/35-12/37 USS *Saratoga* (Gunnery and Engineer)
- 1/38-2/39 NAS, Pensacola, Fla. (Instruction)
- 3/39-5/42 USS *Honolulu* (Aviation Unit)
- 6/42-6/43 NAS, Jacksonville, Fla. (Flight Instructor)
- 7/43-1/44 Fleet Air Wing 6 (Prospective CO of PV-2 Squadron).
- 1/44-9/944 USS *Shamrock Bay* (Air Officer)
- 10/44-2/45 NAS San Diego, CA (Operations Officer)
- 3/45-4/46 USS *Wake Island* (Executive Officer)
- 5/46-6/48 General Line School Newport, RI. (Aviation Instructor)
- 7/48-10/48 NAS Corpus Christi, TX (Instruction)
- 11/48-2/50 Patrol Squadron 2 (CO)
- 3/50-6/50 Staff, Commander Fleet Air Wing 4 (Operations Officer)
- 7/50-6/51 Naval War College, Newport, RI. (Instruction)
- 7/51-6/53 NAS, Alameda, Calif. (Executive Officer)
- 6/53-6/54 Staff, Commander Fleet Air Wing 2 (Chief Staff Officer) (Hawaii)
- 6/54-7/56 Air Transport Squadron 23 (CO) (Japan)
- 8/56-9/58 Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Dept,
- 10/58-5/60 Staff, Commander Antisubmarine Defense Force, Atlantic (Chief of Staff and Aide).
- 6/60-7/61 USS *Wasp* (CVS- 8) (CO)
- 7/61-3/63 Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Dept. (Deputy Asst. Chief for Personnel Control)
- 3/63-3/64 Commander Carrier Division 15, redesignated Commander ASW Group ONE.
- 4/64-5/66 Manager (title changed in June 1965 to Commander), ASW Systems Project Office, ONM, Navy Dept.
- 5/66-5/67 Commander, ASW Systems Project Office, Naval Material Command (reorganization of Navy Dept. effective May 1, 1966)
- 6/67-6/69 COMFAIR, San Diego/Fleet Air, Wing FOURTEEN and Commander Southern Sector ASW Group, Western Sea Frontier, headquartered at NAS, North Island, San Diego, CA.
- 1 July 1969 Transferred to Retired List of the Navy.