



**Kenneth Craig, Rear Admiral, USN**

Kenneth Craig was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on October 3, 1902, son of George and Alice Jane (Broadbent) Craig. He attended public schools in Galesburg, and had two years at Knox College in that city before entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in "August 1922, on appointment from Illinois. As a Midshipman he played basketball and lacrosse, winning letters in both sports in 1924, 1925, and 1926. Graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science, he was commissioned Ensign on June 4, 1926, and through subsequent promotions attained the rank of Captain, his date of rank August 15, 1943. His selection for the rank of Rear Admiral was approved by the President on July 24, 1953, his date of rank June 1, 1954.

After Graduation in June 1926, he was assigned to the USS *Arizona*, and served for a year as a junior Division Officer of that battleship, a unit of the Pacific Fleet. In 1927-1929, he served alternately as Division Officer in the USS *Niagara* on survey duty in the Atlantic (Panama Area), and as Assistant Coach at the Naval Academy.

In 1930 he completed flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. Designated Naval Aviator on October 2, 1930, he was assigned during the period December 1930 to May 1933, as a pilot of Observation Squadron 3-B, aviation unit of USS *Nevada*.

From June 1933 until February 1934 he served with Patrol Squadron ONE-F, Aircraft Squadrons, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, and for fifteen months thereafter had duty at the Fleet Air Base there. He remained in the Pacific while assigned to the USS *Langley* as Division Officer from May 1935 to January 1937, after which he served as Gunnery Officer of Patrol Squadron 11, at San Diego, until March

1938. During the next eighteen months he served at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia as Commanding Officer of XPBS-1, a 4-engined seaplane, in which he made a trip to San Diego, and Honolulu T. H. While stationed at Norfolk, he had additional duty with the Board of Inspection and Survey, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Reporting in October 1939, to Air Group FIVE in the Pacific, he was Executive Officer of Fighting Squadron 5, based on the *Yorktown*, from May to November 1940. He was then transferred to Patrol Wing TWO based on Ford Island, Honolulu, T. H., for duty as Assistant Operations Officer on the staff, and was serving in that assignment when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In July 1942 he was detached for similar duty on the staff of Commander Patrol Wings, Pacific Fleet, and the next month was assigned to the staff of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

Returning to the United States in April 1943, he assumed command of the Naval Air Station, Deland, Florida, in June of that year, remaining in command until February 1944. For eight months he was Commanding Officer of the USS *Sable* at Chicago, Illinois, and in October 1944, assumed command of the USS *Croatan* in the Atlantic. While in the latter command, he served concurrently as Commander Task Group 22.5.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services...from November 1944 through September 1945...By his resourcefulness, leadership and courage, the Task Group successfully accomplished its mission of anti-submarine warfare, sinking three enemy submarines in April 1945..."

During the post-war period, October 1945 to June 1946, he served as Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander, Carrier Division 4, first at Alameda, California, and later Quonset Point, Rhode Island. When detached he remained at Quonset Point to serve until March 1948, as Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Fleet Air Quonset, at the Naval Air Station there. He then returned to the Naval Academy for a tour of duty as Head of the Department of Aviation. In March 1950 he was ordered to Washington, D. C., to serve for a year as Aide to the Secretary of Defense.

He next commanded the USS *Midway* from March 1951 until April 1952, in European waters, after which he served as Chief of the Naval Advisory Group, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. On July 8, 1954 he became Commander of the Alaskan Sea Frontier and Commandant of the Seventeenth Naval District, with headquarters at Kodiak, Alaska, and between August 1955 and January 1958 was Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department. He was Commander Carrier Division TWO from March to April 1959, when he was assigned as Commander Fleet Air, Jacksonville, Florida. In

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July 1959 he assumed additional duty as Commander Naval Air Bases, Sixth Naval District. He continued to serve as such until relieved of all active duty pending his retirement, effective June 1, 1961.

In addition to the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," Rear Admiral Craig has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe Clasp; and the National Defense Service Medal.

He and his wife, the former Anne E. Grant of Seattle, Washington, had three children: Cynthia Anne, Kenneth Grant, and Sarah Elizabeth Craig.