



CAPTAIN FRANK AKERS, U.S.N.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, the Commanding Officer of the Saratoga is a veteran of 27 years of naval service, 20 of them in naval aviation. After his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1922, he served on the USS SUMNERS, a four-stack destroyer, as engineering officer. Completing his Pensacola training in 1925, the young navy flyer served on the NEVADA, LANGLEY and LEXINGTON. As a member of VF-1, he took part in early carrier trials on the LANGLEY and, in VF-5, helped commission the old LEXINGTON.

From the time he earned the Master of Science degree in electrical communications at Harvard, Captain Akers' career has been marked by much experimental work in aviation radio communications. For experiments on the LANGLEY in 1934, he was awarded the D.F.C.

Under Admiral E. J. King, he was communication officer for the aircraft base force. After a tour of duty in the Bureau of Engineering, he became commanding officer of the George E. Badger, aviation tender, in 1939. Perhaps his most memorable duty was as navigator for Captain M. A. Mitscher on the old HORNET in 1941-1942, a period which included the Doolittle strike on Tokyo. Commander Akers left the HORNET to head the Aircraft Radio and Electrical branch of the Bureau of Aeronautics, and in April, 1945, he relieved Captain L. A. Moebus as Commanding Officer of the Sara.

COMMANDER R. D. HOGLE, U.S.N.

The Executive Officer was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on 26 May 1906. After completing public schools he attended a junior branch of Texas A. & M. for one year prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy in 1925, where he graduated in 1929.

His first assignment was aboard the USS UTAH, followed by duty on the ARIZONA. In 1931 he attended flight training at NAS Pensacola, receiving his wings in 1932. He then served on the old LEXINGTON, WASP and ENTERPRISE.

The outbreak of the war found him at the Naval Aircraft Factory in Philadelphia. He remained there until December 1942 when he was ordered to the Alaskan Sector. From Alaska he went to Carrier Division of Task Force 58. Then he was assigned to a force partaking in the occupation of the Western Carolines.

Comdr. Hogle reported aboard the SARATOGA on 25 February 1945 as Executive Officer.

He holds the Legion of Merit for operation in Task Force 58, a Bronze Star for the assault and occupation of the Western Carolines and a second Bronze Star for operations in the Aleutians.

