

Received Award

1991

NOMINATION FOR ABMA LIVING LEGEND AWARD

submitted by Willie Gann ABCM (Ret)

Documentation of this nomination has been personally reviewed by me and is currently located in the possession of Bernice Carleton, 370 Roman Way, Chula Vista, Ca 92011 telephone 619-420-8764.

I hereby nominate Jack E. L. Carleton CDR. (LDO) RET. for the ABMA Living Legend Award. Jack is the only person in the AB field that I know to be a true Navy Mustang Commander. Seaman Recruit to CPO/ WO1 to WO4/ LDO LT. to CDR.

BIOGRAPHY

Jack Carleton enlisted in the U.S. Navy prior to World War Two on 20 January 1941 as a Seaman Recruit. After attending basic training and Signalman school he reported to the USS Saratoga CV 3 in July 1941. He served on Saratoga for most of WW 11 and underwent one of the most concentrated attacks of the war by Japanese Kamikazes during the invasion of Iwo Jima. He was advanced from Seaman Apprentice to Chief Signalman during this tour on Saratoga. Subsequently he was selected for advancement to Warrent Bos'n May 1945. After attending a short Flight Deck Bos'n indoctrination training he reported to USS Enterprise CV 6 for the billet of Flight Deck Bos'n/ Asst. Flight Deck Officer. He was honorably discharged after WW 11 in October 1945 and voluntarily returned to active duty in March 1946. He then served on USS ATA-123 until August 1947 at which time he reported to the USS Antietam CV 36 as Flight Deck Bos'n/Asst. Flight Deck Officer until the Antietam was decommissioned in May 1949. His next tour of duty was O.I.C. of NATTC Naval Mobile Detachments instructing aircraft crash fire fighting for Navy/ Marine, Corps/ Coast Guard air stations throughout the U.S. and abroad. In September 1952 he was transferred to NATTC Norman Okla. to the billet of O.I.C. crash and salvage. He reported in June 1954 to the USS Oriskany CV 34 as the first Warrent Catapult/Arresting Gear officer. From June 1956 through March 1958 he was stationed at NAS Whibdey Island as O.I.C. crash/salvage/seaplane handling. He was attached in April 1958 to the USS Midway CVA 41 as a Catapult/ Arresting Officer. While aboard Midway he was advanced in July 1960 from WO4 to Aviation Operations LT. (LDO). He served from July 1960 until June 1962 as Security Officer at NAS Guantanamo. His next tour was Security Officer at NAS Oceana. In June 1965 he reported to USS Enterprise CVN 65 as a Catapult Officer, During this time the ship conducted extended operations off Viet Nam. In April 1968 he was transferred as O.I.C. Det. Tango, Taiwan to serve as liasion between Nationalist Chinese Air Force and US Navy. He then reported in October 1970 as O.I.C. of the SERE (survival, evasion, resistance, escape) Det. Warner Springs. During this tour he was promoted to become the first AB LDO Commander. Jack retired after 30 years active duty with the US Navy in March 1972.

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SYNOPSIS

July 1941 to May 1945..USS Saratoga CV3.....SA to WO1.....Signal bridge  
May 1945 to Oct. 1945..USS Enterprise CV6....Bos'n.....Flight Deck Bosn/Asst Flt Deck Off  
Oct 1945 to Mar. 1946..Honorably discharged  
Mar.1946 to Aug. 1947..USS ATA-123 .....Bos'n.....Billet unkown  
Aug.1947 to May 1949..USS Antietam CV 36...Bos'n.....Flt. Deck Bos'n/Asst Flt Deck Off  
May 1949 to Sep. 1952..NATTC (NAMID).....Bos'n.....OIC Firefighting Dets (Mobile)  
Sep.1952 to Jun. 1954..NATTC Norman.....Bos'n.....OIC Crash Crew/Fire House  
Jun.1954 to Sep. 1956..USS Oriskany CV 34...Bos'n.....Cat/AG Officer (1st WO in billet)  
Sep 1956 to Apr. 1958..NAS Whidby Isl.....Bos'n.....OIC Crash/Salvage/Seaplanes  
Apr.1958 to Jul. 1960..USS Midway CVA 41....WO4 to LT. (LDO).Catapult/Arresting Gear Officer  
Jul.1960 to Jun. 1962..NAS Gitmo.....LT.....Security Officer  
Jun.1962 to Jun. 1965..NAS Oceana.....LT.....Security Officer  
Jun.1965 to Apr. 1968..USS Enterprise CVN65..LT/LCDR.....Catapult Officer  
Apr.1968 to Oct. 1970..Taiwan.....LCDR.....OIC Det. Tango (liasion USN-CAF)  
OCT.1970 to Mar. 1972..SERE San Diego.....LCDR/CDR.....OIC SERE Det San Diego  
March 1972.....Retired from USN with 30 years active duty as first AB LDO Commander

\*AWARDS

Asiatic Pacific Theater with 9 battle stars  
American Theater  
American Defense with battle star  
Viet Nam Service Awards (Several)  
Navy Expeditionary Award  
Navy Unit Commendation  
Navy Achievement Medal  
Navy Commendation Medal

Numerous letters of commendations including one dated July 1970 from  
Major General Leng Pei-Shu,Nationalist Chinese Air Force, Taiwan Air Base.

\*These are all the awards I could document although I am convinced there has to be  
additional ones, especialy WW 11 awards.

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INFORMATION OF PARTICIPATION IN ABMA

1. Attended first nationwide AB reunion in 1972 .
2. Joined the ABMA immediately upon formation as Life Member number L-3.
3. Proposed the AB of the Year Award.
4. Has served as an elected ABMA Board of Directors member.
5. Has served as a selection committee member for the AB of the Year Award.
6. Has served as an ABMA convention chairman, and worked on other ABMA convention committees.
7. Attends as many ABMA conventions/symposiums as possible.
8. Active member of the ABMA local chapter in his area and provided the chapter with its meeting facility that is still in use. Attends all local chapter functions whenever possible.

Personal comments by the writer

In the AB community today we have among us such individuals as Jack Carleton. These sailors toiled in the frontier area now known as the AB world long before an official AB rate existed. These individuals served at times under the harshest of conditions, during times of combat, without formal training, and with machinery/equipment that many times was untested until actual shipboard operation. Many of them remained as a part of the AB world until their Naval retirement. Many through active involvement remain a part of the AB community to this day. These individuals we speak about were the true pioneers of the AB rate and these pioneers such as Jack Carleton deserve in all respects the honor of being AB living legends.

Respectfully submitted,

*Walter R. Stamer* ABMA (RET)