

REAR ADMIRAL FORT H. CALLAHAN
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED

Fort Hammond Callahan was born in Bainbridge, Georgia, on November 29, 1899, son of Andrew J. and Caroline (Fort) Callahan. He attended Bainbridge High School and Marion Military Institute, Marion, Alabama, before entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from the Second District of his native state in 1917. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1921, he subsequently advanced, attaining the rank of Captain, to date from July 10, 1943. He was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy on June 30, 1952, and advanced to the rank of Rear Admiral on the basis of a combat award.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1921, he joined the USS NEW YORK and in July 1923 transferred to the USS MILWAUKEE. While aboard the latter he visited, during her "shakedown cruise" most of the South Sea Islands, many of which had never before been visited by American ships, exploring a number of uninhabited islands, and in 1924 was a member of the landing force of the MILWAUKEE ashore at Tequicigalpa, Honduras, during the revolution there. Detached from the MILWAUKEE in July 1924, he then had further sea duty until December of that year in the USS BRECK.

Ordered to the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, he had submarine training in the USS CHEWINK and upon completing his instruction in June 1925 joined the USS S-26 the next month. Transferred to the USS S-7 in April 1927 he continued duty in that submarine for two months, when he was detached to report for instruction in communication engineering at the Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland. During July and August 1928 he had further instruction in the Office of Naval Communications and the Bureau of Engineering, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and in June 1929 completed the course at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, receiving the degree of Master of Science.

In September 1929 he joined the USS COLORADO and in June 1932 was detached for duty as an Instructor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Naval Academy. He remained there until May 1935 and the next month reported as Communication Officer aboard the USS TUSCALOOSA. He became District Communication Officer, Seventh Naval District, Key West, Florida, in May 1938 with additional duty commanding outlying naval Radio Stations and radio direction finder stations in the Seventh Naval District; as Officer in Charge of the Naval Station, Key West, and further additional duty during May and June 1938 as Instructor of Division ONE, Naval Reserve, Seventh Naval District.

On May 15, 1941 he became Assistant District Communication Officer, Sixteenth Naval District, with headquarters at Cavite, Philippine Islands. "For meritorious achievement as Communications Officer, Sixteenth Naval District, during operations against enemy Japanese forces, on the Philippine Islands, during World War II..." he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V." The citation further states:

"Exercising ingenuity and resourcefulness in the discharge of his vital assignment, (he) contributed notably to the success of the

desperate delaying action of our forces on Corregidor by the maintenance of efficient communications under almost continuous enemy bombardment of facilities. His courageous leadership under the most trying conditions and his devotion to duty reflect great credit upon Lieutenant Commander Callahan and the United States Naval Service."

He was taken a prisoner of war by the Japanese upon the fall of Corregidor on May 5, 1942 and in September 1945 was liberated and returned to the United States for repatriation. From January 1946 to August 1948 he was Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations on the staff of the Commandant Seventh Naval District with headquarters in Key West, Florida. Following duty as a member of the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Facilities and Services at Atlanta, Georgia, he reported, in December 1949, as a member of the Southeast Area Joint Committee of the Management Committee, Office of the Secretary of Defense with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

He served with the Navy Department Management Survey, Office of the Under Secretary of Navy, between February and July 1950, when he became Planning and War Plans Officer on the staff of the Commandant Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, California. He remained there until relieved of all active duty pending his retirement on June 30, 1952.

In addition to the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," Rear Admiral Callahan has the World War I Victory Medal; the American Defense Service Medal; the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; and the Philippine Defense Ribbon.