



COMMANDER J. M. CARSON, USN



COMMANDER WALLACE B. MECHLING



COMMANDER H. J. DYSON, USN

Five men have served the ship as Executive Officer since the May 25, 1943, commissioning date. First was big, diligent Commander C. E. Ekstrom, USN, who completely fulfilled the responsibility of starting the crew off on the right foot. His affable manner and his giant capacity for hard work made him a natural for the crew's early training. In December, 1943, Commander

Ekstrom was promoted to the rank of Captain and received orders designating him Commanding Officer of a CVE then in construction on the West Coast. Commander C. A. Ferriter, USN, next senior line officer and a submarine veteran, took over the Executive Officer's Office.

In less than a month after his new duties began, Commander Ferriter was ordered to the U. S. S. Indianapolis as her Executive Officer. He had served the ship from its infancy, coming aboard as prospective First Lieutenant. Early in the war, Commander Ferriter was awarded the Navy Cross for his work during an early Japanese raid on the Philippines base at Cavite.

Commander J. M. Carson, USN, originally the Bunker Hill's Air Officer, moved in to take over the Executive Officer's post. A fighting Irishman from the start, Commander Carson presided over an efficient crew and saw them through a series of tough but victorious actions.

On May 4, 1944, Commander Wallace B. Mechling, USN, became the ship's fourth Executive Officer. Originally the Navigator and noted for his efficiency, Commander Mechling represented the last original plank-owner head of department remaining aboard. He came to the Bunker Hill from the Engineering Section of the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, and was ordered in November, 1944, to return to Washington for duty. He was relieved by Commander H. J. Dyson, USN.

