



Rear-Admiral WALTER R. GHERARDI, U.S. Navy (1875-1939)

OBITUARY NOTICE

REAR-ADMIRAL WALTER R. GHERARDI, U.S. NAVY.

Rear-Admiral Walter R. Gherardi, U.S. Navy, died on 24th July 1939 at Bohemian Grove, Russian River, California.

He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Neville Taylor Gherardi, 1075 California Street, San Francisco, California.

Rear-Admiral Gherardi was born in Honolulu, 1875, the son of Rear-Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, U.S. Navy. He was appointed to the Naval Academy by the President of the United States in 1895 and served during the Spanish-American War in the West Indies on the U.S.S. Marblehead and U.S.S. Indiana.

In 1914, he was appointed Naval Attaché to the American Embassy in Germany and served in that capacity until the entry of the United States into the World War, April 1917. He returned home with the American Ambassador to Germany and was placed in command of the De Kalb, the former German ship Prinz Eitel Friedrich. For this service he was awarded the Navy Cross with the citation :

« For distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer to the U.S.S. « De Kalb », engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies to European ports through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines. »

He was also given a special letter of commendation by the War Department for duty in command of the De Kalb.

At the close of the war, Rear-Admiral Gherardi served with the Peace Commission in Paris and later was in command of the Aircraft Squadrons in the Atlantic. He completed the Naval War College course in 1920.

In June 1924, he reported for duty as Aide to the Secretary of the Navy Wilbur and in June 1926 was ordered to duty in connection with the fitting out of aircraft carrier Lexington. Rear-Admiral Gherardi qualified as an aviation observer at Pensacola. He was on duty in the First Naval District, Boston, Massachusetts, from June 1927 to June 1928, when he was ordered to Washington, D.C. as a member of the General Board. He was on duty as Hydrographer, Navy Department from June 21, 1930 until May 1935. He served as Commandant, First Naval District and Commandant Navy Yard, Boston, Massachusetts, from June 5, 1935 until July 26, 1938, and since September 1, 1938, he has been serving as President General Court Martial, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, California.

Rear-Admiral Gherardi was the Head of the U.S.A. Delegation at the Third International Hydrographic Conference held at Monaco in 1932.

He has received the following medals :

Navy Cross (Commanding Officer - U.S.S. De Kalb - World War).

Special Letter - War Department.

Spanish Campaign Medal.

Philippine Campaign Medal - U.S.S. Annapolis.

Victory Medal - Transport Clasp - U.S.S. De Kalb.

Home : Chevy Chase, Maryland.

