

CAPT William Heald Groverman

Commanding Officer

The ultimate responsibility of the USS Des Moines lies upon this one man--her Commanding Officer. In his hands lies the destiny and well being of every man aboard his ship.

Captain Groverman has been groomed for his assignment as Skipper of the USS Des Moines by a distinguished career that goes back to his graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1932. His first assignment was to the USS Saratoga, soon to be followed by the USS Mississippi, a showpiece of the pre-war Navy. In 1934 he was assigned to a small combatant, the USS Yamall. Prior to Pearl Harbor he was assigned to the USS Charleston and the USS Wicks.

After Pearl Harbor, Captain Groverman became Executive Officer of the destroyer Radford. In the battle of Kula Gulf in the Solomon Islands, the Radford was active in the destruction of a Japanese cruiser and destroyers. The Radford also rescued survivors of the cruiser Helena, for which Captain Groverman received the Silver Star and the Presidential Unit Citation. In 1943 he assumed his first command, the USS Phillip, at Guadalcanal. During this command he received his second Silver Star in the action Vella Lavella.

After serving on the Staff, Commander Destroyers, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, for which he received a Bronze Star, Captain Groverman was made Commanding Officer of the USS DeHaven. He was awarded his second Bronze Star when he led an attack on Japanese shipping in Sagami Wan, Japan.

After World War II he served as Head of the Undersea Warfare Branch of the Office of Naval Research. During the Korean conflict he assumed command of Destroyer Division 122, during which he received his third Bronze Star. In 1952 he became Operational Readiness Officer on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Prior to taking command of the USS Des Moines, Captain Groverman served as Commanding officer of the USS Mississinewa.



Image courtesy of [NavSource](#).



<http://ussdehaven.org/grovermn.htm>

<http://ussdehaven.org/vjletter.htm>

<http://ussdehaven.org/images/groverman/groverman.htm>

<http://www.nytimes.com/1997/01/27/us/w-h-groverman-87-submarine-warfare-expert.html>

Obituary

Rear Admiral William H. Groverman, former commander of the Western Sea Frontier and one of the Navy's leading authorities on anti-submarine warfare, died Christmas Day at **Peninsula Hospital** in Burlingame. He was 87.

As an expert on the Soviet submarine fleet, Admiral Groverman was instrumental in the design and implementation of many of the Navy's anti-submarine technologies, tactics and procedures. He retired from active duty in 1971 after more than 43 years of naval service.

Admiral Sad at Leaving 6th Fleet

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON — There may not seem to be much sentiment about a sailor. Nor is there much outward sentiment about the cold grey steel of a warship and the men who man it. But there can be. And when a man retires from the difficult job of welding together several thousand men and several hundred warships into a team for the defense of the Mediterranean, it can bring a lump in the throat.

Officers stood at attention on the deck of the U.S.S. Des Moines at anchor in the harbor of VilleFranche. Over head flew the flag of Vice Adm. Charles Brown, about to retire as commander of the 6th Fleet.



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For 2 years he had carried the American flag, American forces, and American good will into the ports of Greece, Turkey, Italy, France, Spain, Lebanon and North Africa, working to unite those countries as NATO allies. Now he was leaving for a higher command.

"A ready fleet made up, as this one is, of a responsive brotherhood, trained, equipped and eager to do the mission assigned to us is like a great musical instrument with an instant response to every touch," Admiral Brown addressed his officers and men.

"The time has come when I must say goodbye. I wish it were not so. But there is something inevitable — something inexorable about orders from the Bureau of Personnel.

"It was some 2 years and 2 months ago that I broke my flag in the Salem," Admiral Brown continued with a tinge of sadness in his voice. "It has now been my privilege to command the 6th Fleet longer than anyone else before me. Each of us

has his idea of paradise on earth. Mine has been the 6th Fleet.

"I am, of course, happy to get a 4th star. But I feel that I have already gotten the most that life can ever give to a sailor. Nothing can ever substitute for me the sense of fulfillment and feeling of direct usefulness that has come with the command of this magnificent fleet.

"Two of the happiest years are behind me — and the saddest moment is now upon me. Thank you, good luck, and may God bless you.

"Captain Groverman, haul down my flag."

The admiral turned to Vice Adm. Clarence Ekstrom, his successor, shook hands, and departed.

This Day

1948 Because of the Iowa polio epidemic, Waukon's annual Corn day celebration, scheduled for Oct. 12, was canceled.

Irwin L. Nelson, former 20-40 club director, was named assistant superintendent of recreation at a meeting of the Playground and Recreation Commission.

President Byron Hollinshead was to represent Coe college at the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower as president of Columbia university.

1938 The blue and gold of Kiwanis spotted the Cedar Rapids business district as 600 members and their wives, representing more than 40 cities in the Nebraska-Iowa division, assembled here for their 19th annual convention.

B. B. Hickenlooper, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, pointed to the number of "political cliff dwellers" and the increase in the state payroll under the current Democratic regime in an address at Bedford.

As estimated \$750 damage was done by a fire at the Iowa Iron and Coal Company.

1928 John Philip Sousa and his

band gave a Shrine auditorium high school band appeared in the first with Sousa, valedictorian sent it with cup.

Gypsy Smith

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