



Charles Donald Griffin, Admiral, USN

Dates of Active Duty: June 1927 - 1 February 1968

Combat Tours:

- WW II: Commander, Air Group NINE/Air Officer, USS *Essex* (CV-9). Attack on Japanese shipping in Rabaul Harbor on November 11, 1943 and in Task Group Defense against Japanese planes.
- WW II: Operations Officer, Commander, Carrier Division THREE aboard USS *Yorktown*. Participated with Task Force 58 in the occupation of the Marshall Islands and raids on Truk and the Marianas.

Aviation Commands:

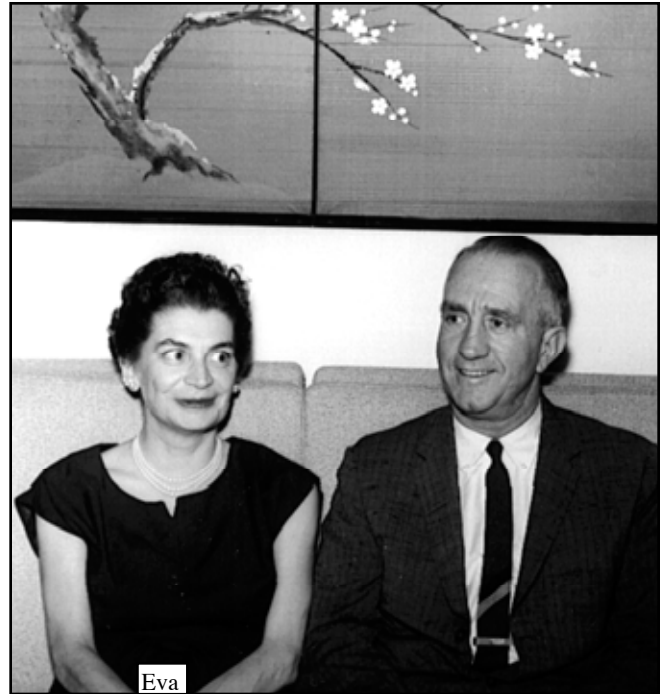
- Commander, Air Group Nine, Aug. 1942 - Sep. 1943
 CO, USS *Croatan*, Sep. 1945 - Jan. 1946
 CO, USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), Jun. 1953 - Aug. 1954
 Commander, Carrier Division Four, Nov. 1957 - Nov. 1958
 Commander, SEVENTH Fleet, Mar. 1960 - Oct. 1961

Combat Awards:

- Bronze Star Medal, Combat "V"
 Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with two stars

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 6/23-6/27 Midshipman, U. S. Naval Academy.
 6/27-6/28 USS *Florida*.
 6/28-10/29 USS *Coghlan*.
 11/29-6/30 Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, Florida.
 6/30-6/33 Scouting Squadron Nine (Pilot aboard USS *Chester*).
 7/33-6/34 Patrol Squadron Six.
 7/34-6/36 Naval Postgraduate School, Annapolis, MD.
 6/36-7/37 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.



- 7/37-6/40 Operations Officer, Scouting Squadron Six aboard USS *Enterprise* (CV-6).
 7/40-7/42 Flight Test Officer, NAS Anacostia, D. C.
 8/42-9/43 Commander, Air Group Nine aboard USS *Essex* (CV-9).
 9/43-12/43 Air Officer, USS *Essex*.
 12/43-3/44 Operations Officer, Commander, Carrier Division Three aboard USS *Yorktown*.
 3/44-9/45 Joint War Plans Committee, Joint Chiefs of Staff (Naval Aviation Member).
 9/45-1/46 CO, USS *Croatan*.
 2/46-9/46 Operations Officer, Staff, Commander, EIGHTH Fleet aboard USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA-42).
 9/46-9/47 Assistant Chief of Staff (Plans), Staff, Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet.
 9/47-7/48 Chief of Staff and Aide, Staff, Commander, Fleet Air Wing Two.
 7/48-9/48 Plans Officer, Staff, COMNAVAIRPAC.
 10/48-8/50 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (Head of the Aviation Liaison and Special Projects Section, Strategic Plans Division).
 8/50-6/51 National War College (Student).
 7/51-5/53 Assistant Chief of Staff (Plans), Staff, Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
 6/53-8/54 CO, USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34).
 9/54-4/55 Deputy Chief of Naval Operations - Air (Special Assistant for Special Studies).
 4/55-6/56 Director, Long Range Objectives Group, Chief of Naval Operations.
 6/56-11/57 JCS (Special Assistant to Chairman).
 11/57-11/58 Commander, Carrier Division Four.
 12/58-2/60 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. (Strategic Plans Division Director).
 3/60-10/61 Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.
 1/62-6/63 Deputy CNO (Fleet Ops. and Readiness).
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Duty Assignment Chronology (continued)

6/63-3/65 Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Europe and U. S. Commander, Eastern Atlantic.
3/65-1/68 Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe.
2/1/68 Transferred to Retired List of the U. S. Navy

Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) Participated in "Revolt of the Admirals" with other Navy Flags against Air Force and SECDEF efforts to kill Navy air.

PROMOTIONS:

Ensign, June 1927
Lieutenant (junior grade), June 1930
Lieutenant, July 1936
Lieutenant Commander, September 1941
Commander, September 1942
Captain, March 1945
Rear Admiral, February 1955
Vice Admiral, January 1960
Admiral, June 26, 1963

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Distinguished Service Medal
Gold Star in lieu Second Distinguished Service Medal
Bronze Star Medal, Combat "V"
Presidential Unit citation Ribbon/ two stars (USS *Essex* and USS *Yorktown*)
American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, one silver star (five engagements)
World War II Victory Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe Clasp
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Korean Service Medal
United Nations Service Medal

CITATIONS:

Distinguished Service Medal: "For exceptionally meritorious service...as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness) from December 1961 to June 1963. Admiral (then Vice Admiral Griffin displayed a high degree of imagination and foresight while involved in the personal direction of much of the Navy's operations incident to the Cuban Quarantine. The readiness and proper deployment of U. S. Navy forces were a major concern of Admiral Griffin, and his keen perception and thorough understanding, both of possible measures available to our forces, and of the likely response to be expected of our adversaries enabled him to discharge his responsibilities during this period of grave crisis with outstanding skill and resourcefulness. Recognizing the need for centralized coordination of policies and procedures throughout the Navy, (he) was instrumental in effecting the establishment of the Office of the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Training). Under his leadership, the concept of specially trained counterinsurgency teams

was developed and in January 1962, the first Sea Air Land (SEAL) Teams were established. He was also a driving force in the incorporation into the Fleet of such important contributions as the Automatic Air Intercept Control Computer, the Drone Antisubmarine Helicopter (DASH) weapon system, the P3A (ORION) patrol plane, and the Fleet Computer Programming Centers..."

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Distinguished Service Medal: "For exceptionally meritorious service...as Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, from March 1965 through January 1968. Serving in this key post of international significance, during a period of unrest, conflict and heightened tensions, Admiral Griffin made outstanding contributions to the security interests of the United States and considerably enhanced the security posture of the North Atlantic Alliance. As a result of his able direction and his skill in coordination, the security and operational readiness of the multinational forces committed to his command were improved significantly. Admiral Griffin continuously demonstrated a high degree of resourcefulness, a keen and perceptive insight, and sound Judgment in the achievement of Allied objectives, furthering at the same time, a mutual understanding and respect among the civil and military elements of the NATO countries in his area of responsibility. He was greatly instrumental in the successful achievement of multinational peacetime agreements which would meet the critical test of wartime requirements. Admiral Griffin's efforts in materially enhancing the military readiness and overall effectiveness of Allied Forces, Southern Europe, coupled with his unique contribution in the furtherance of military integrity and general security within Allied Command Europe, was of immeasurable benefit to the mission of the North Atlantic Alliance..."

Bronze Star Medal: "For meritorious achievement as Air Officer of the USS *Essex* in the Pacific War Area from September 1943 to January 1944. Having previously commissioned, organized and trained Air Group NINE while serving as its commander, (he) contributed largely to the success of this group in an attack on Japanese shipping in Rabaul Harbor on November 11, 1943, as well as the defense of the Task Group when subjected to a determined counterattack on that date by approximately 300 Japanese aircraft..."

Presidential Unit Citation (USS *Essex*): "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from August 31, 1943 to August 15, 1945..."

Presidential Unit Citation (USS *Yorktown*): "For participation with Task Force 58 in the occupation of the Marshall Islands and raids on Truk and the Marianas."

Letter of Commendation (SECNAV): "For high fixed gunnery score, heavy cruiser class, U. S. Fleet."