

WILLIAM A. SESSIONS, A RETIRED ADMIRAL

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OAKDALE, L.I., Dec. 17—Rear Adm. William A. Sessions, a Naval Reserve officer who was promoted to flag rank on his retirement in 1957, died Saturday in the Veterans Administration Hospital, Northport. He was 76 years old and lived on Chateau Drive.

Admiral Sessions was commanding the destroyer escort Gandy on a dangerous convoy route to Murmansk in April, 1944. Another warship's mines forced a German submarine to the surface and it opened fire on his ship. He bore down with guns blazing, rammed and sank the submarine and rescued its captain from the sea with other survivors. He received for this feat a Legion of Merit and commendation from the Secretary of the Navy and, in 1945, the Soviet Order of Fatherland War, first class.

His final command before retirement was a Brooklyn battalion in the Third Naval District.

In civilian life he was a surety bondsman in New York City.

Admiral Sessions leaves his wife, the former Stephanie Baron; 2 daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Bornhoeft and Mrs. Barbara Root; a son, Stephen; a sister, Mrs. Virginia Corper, and 12 grandchildren.

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