

Kauffman, Draper Laurence

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(Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy, WWII, Korea) (04 Aug 1911 CA-18 Aug 1979 Hungary, buried United States Naval Academy Cemetery, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, MD) (Distinguished career commencing with enlistment in the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps in France during WWII where he was captured by the Germans and held prisoner until his escape two months later. He later joined the Royal Navy and served as a mine and bomb disposal officer in London. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was commissioned by the U. S. Navy and sent to Pearl to disarm bombs. He organized the Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT's) used late in the war to clear beachheads for allied troops and planned and directed demolition operations. After WWII, he participated in the Bikini Atoll Atomic Bomb tests as a member of Operation Crossroads. His accomplishments are too numerous to list here but he was the 44th Superintendent of the Naval Academy and Commander of the 9th Naval District headquartered at Great Lakes, IL prior to his retirement in 1973) Navy Cross w/1 Gold Star, Distinguished Service Medal w/1 Gold Star

