

Board Selects HM1 Thomas As Man of the Quarter



Hospital Corpsman First Class William T. Thomas has been chosen as July, August, and September "Man of the Quarter".

With the honor goes a \$50.00 U. S. Savings Bond, a special 48-hour liberty and a letter of accomplishment in his service jacket. Thomas was Bennington's August "Man of the Month", and said that he was very honored to have been selected "Man of the Quarter".

Before joining the Navy in October of 1958, Thomas attended Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. His first duty station upon completion of recruit training was Hospital Corpsman "A" School in San Diego.

From "A" School Thomas was transferred to the USS Northampton and the Naval Station at San Juan, Puerto Rico before coming to Bennington in May of 1967.

He was advanced to Hospital Corpsman First Class aboard Bennington on 16 November 1967.

Hospital Corpsman Thomas holds the

good conduct Medal for his 10 years service and feels that his Navy career has been so successful and rewarding that he plans to remain in as a career man.

Thomas is married to the former Helen Blanchard from Hollendale, Fla. They have two children and are currently residing in San Pedro. During his off duty hours Thomas likes to hunt and fish.

ASW Group 3 Breaks Flag

Rear Admiral William J. Moran, Commander Antisubmarine Group Three, broke his flag on Bennington Feb. 8 in order to participate in the major First Fleet exercise "Beadstringer."

Before becoming Commander ASW Group Three, Admiral Moran was the Commanding Officer of USS Randolph

Aerographer's Mate Becomes Benn's Man of the Month

Aerographer's Mate Third Class Gary D. Groff has been chosen as Bennington's December "Man of the Month."

With the selection goes a \$25 U. S. Savings Bond, a special 48-hour liberty, and a letter of accomplishment in his service jacket. He will also be eligible for selection as "Man of the Quarter."

Groff has served aboard Bennington since 31 August, 1967, and was very happy and surprised at his selection.

Groff enlisted in the Navy in August 1965, after attending Bradley University for a short time.

Before reporting to Bennington Groff was stationed at Cubi Point Naval Air Station where he made Aerographer's Mate Third Class on 16 April 1967.

When asked about his Navy career, Groff replied, "I like my rate because I get to meet people and learn how to get along with them." When asked about the places he has seen he stated, "I liked my first visit to Hawaii because the people were friendly and informal. Also I thought that the Apollo pickup was most interesting."

While in high school Groff played football, participated in drama productions, was on the Student Council, and was a member of the Future Farmers of America.

During his off duty hours Groff likes the great outdoors, hunting being his favorite pastime. Upon completion of his enlistment, Groff plans to return to school.

(CVS-15) and subsequently became ASW Group Three on August 11, 1967.

Admiral Moran entered the Navy in February 1941 and saw action in World War II with Squadron VF-72 embarked on the USS Hornet (CV-8). After the Hornet was sunk he flew from the escort carrier NASSAU and from the Island of Guadalcanal. After a brief tour of duty as an instructor he served with VF-10 aboard USS Intrepid (CV-11) and completed the war on that ship.

During the last stages of the Korean Conflict Admiral Moran assumed command of VF-25, a F2H-3 Banshee Squadron deployed in USS Essex. He then served off the coast of Vietnam during the siege of Dien Bien Phu.

Admiral Moran assumed command of his first ship, the USS Rainier (AE-5) in August 1965.

Admiral Moran is a graduate of the University of Nevada and is married to the former Miss Ruth E. Nelson of Saint Croix Falls, Wis. He resides in quarters at 2631 White's Point Drive, San Pedro, Calif.