

# ADMIRAL SWIFT DEAD.

Headed Board Which Recommended  
-Present Navy Systems.

*Special to The New York Times.*

NEWPORT, R. I., June 30.—Rear Admiral William Swift of the United States Navy, retired, died at the United States Naval Hospital here today, after a long illness, at the age of 71. The body will be taken to his home at Richfield Springs, Otsego County, N. Y., where the burial takes place Thursday. The removal of the body from the naval hospital will be without military honors, at the request of the family.

Admiral Swift, who was born in Windham, Conn., March 17, 1848, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Swift, was one of the navy's most prominent officers, with wide experience, and known for his efficient work.

During the war with Spain he was on duty at the New York yard as ordnance officer. He was the first commander of the battleship Connecticut. He was tried by court-martial in 1907 for allowing the Connecticut to run on a shoal in the harbor of Culebra, and was sentenced to suspension from duty on half sea pay for nine months, and was also reduced three numbers in his grade. After he had been suspended for about six and a half months he was restored to duty, being made commandant of the Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, where he served until 1909. He held the post of Aid for Material at the Navy Department from 1909 to 1910, during which time he made a report on management of navy yards which resulted in his appointment by Secretary George Von L. Meyer, in 1910, as the head of the Swift Board, which investigated and reported on the whole subject of reorganization of the Navy Department, and upon the recommendation of this board practically all of the present system of the Navy Department was organized. After this duty was completed Admiral Swift retired for age, in 1910, but remained as adviser to Secretary Meyer on navy yards and industrial affairs in the navy. He was the first officer to hold the office of Aid for Material.

Admiral Swift was a member of the General Board and the Army and Navy Joint Board from 1902 to 1906, and had also served as Governor of Guam.

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