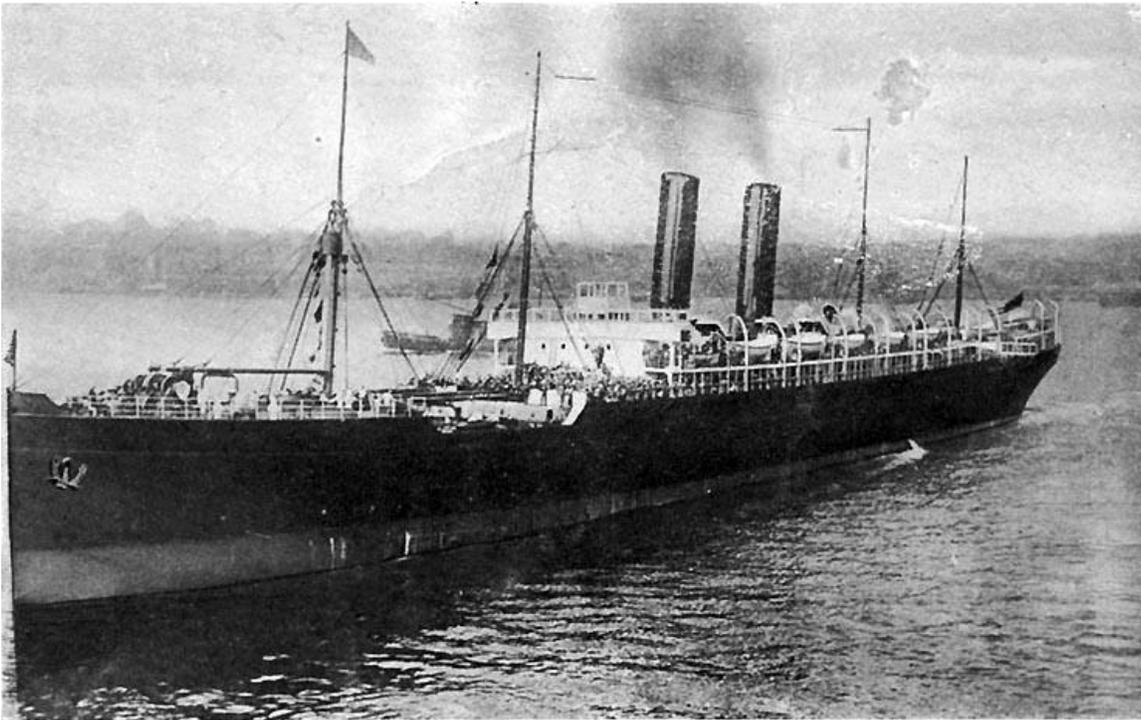


Chaim Rikower

Chaim Rikower was born January 27, 1900 to a Jewish family in Maków Mazowiecki, Poland, which at that time was under Russian jurisdiction. Chaim immigrated to the United States with his parents and sister after fleeing pogroms, riots against Jews.



Chaim Rikower was a steerage passenger on the steamship *Finland* (pictured above) which departed from Antwerp, Belgium on March 17th, 1906 and arrived in New York Harbor on March 27th. Rickover's sister recalls "The boats were so big, they frightened him." Chaim lived off a barrel of salted herring except when passengers threw oranges to him and other children looking up from the bowels of the ship.

Hyman G. Rickover, as he became known in America, settled first in the seething East Side of Manhattan, but the family moved two years later to Chicago, where his father continued his work as a tailor. Hyman began work to help support the family at nine years of age, and later said of his childhood that it was a time of "hard work, discipline, and a decided lack of good times." Hyman went to high school, but he always worked too, as a delivery boy and messenger. Though small, frail and sickly looking, he bicycled solemnly around the streets from 3pm to 11pm, dutifully turning over his earnings to the family. While delivering telegrams, he became acquainted with U.S. Congressman Adolph J. Sabath, who nominated Rickover for appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Rickover graduated from the Naval Academy in 1922 and served on board USS *LaVallette* and USS *Nevada*. Rickover underwent submarine training in 1930, and he eventually assumed command of submarines and other naval vessels. His service as head of the Electrical Section in the Bureau of Ships during World War II brought him a Legion of Merit and gave him experience in directing large development programs, choosing talented technical people, and working closely with private industry. Assigned to the Bureau of Ships in September 1947, Rickover received training in nuclear power and worked to explore the possibility of nuclear ship propulsion. Rickover led the effort to develop the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), launched in 1955. Promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral by 1958, Rickover exerted tremendous personal influence over the nuclear Navy in both an engineering and cultural sense.



Admiral Hyman Rickover aboard the USS Nautilus, which he developed as the world's first nuclear powered submarine.

Admiral Rickover was twice awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for exceptional public service, in 1958, and in 1983. Rickover was also an outspoken supporter of peace through preparedness but worried about the rise of nuclear weapons, and stated 'I would forego all the accomplishments of my life, and I would be willing to forego all the advantages of nuclear power to propel ships, for medical research and for every other purpose of generating electric power, if we could have avoided the evolution of atomic explosives.' In 1980, President Jimmy Carter presented Admiral Rickover with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest non-military honor, for his contributions to world peace. In 1982, after 63 years of service to his country, Rickover was forced to retire from the Navy. Following a stroke, Admiral Rickover died in 1986.