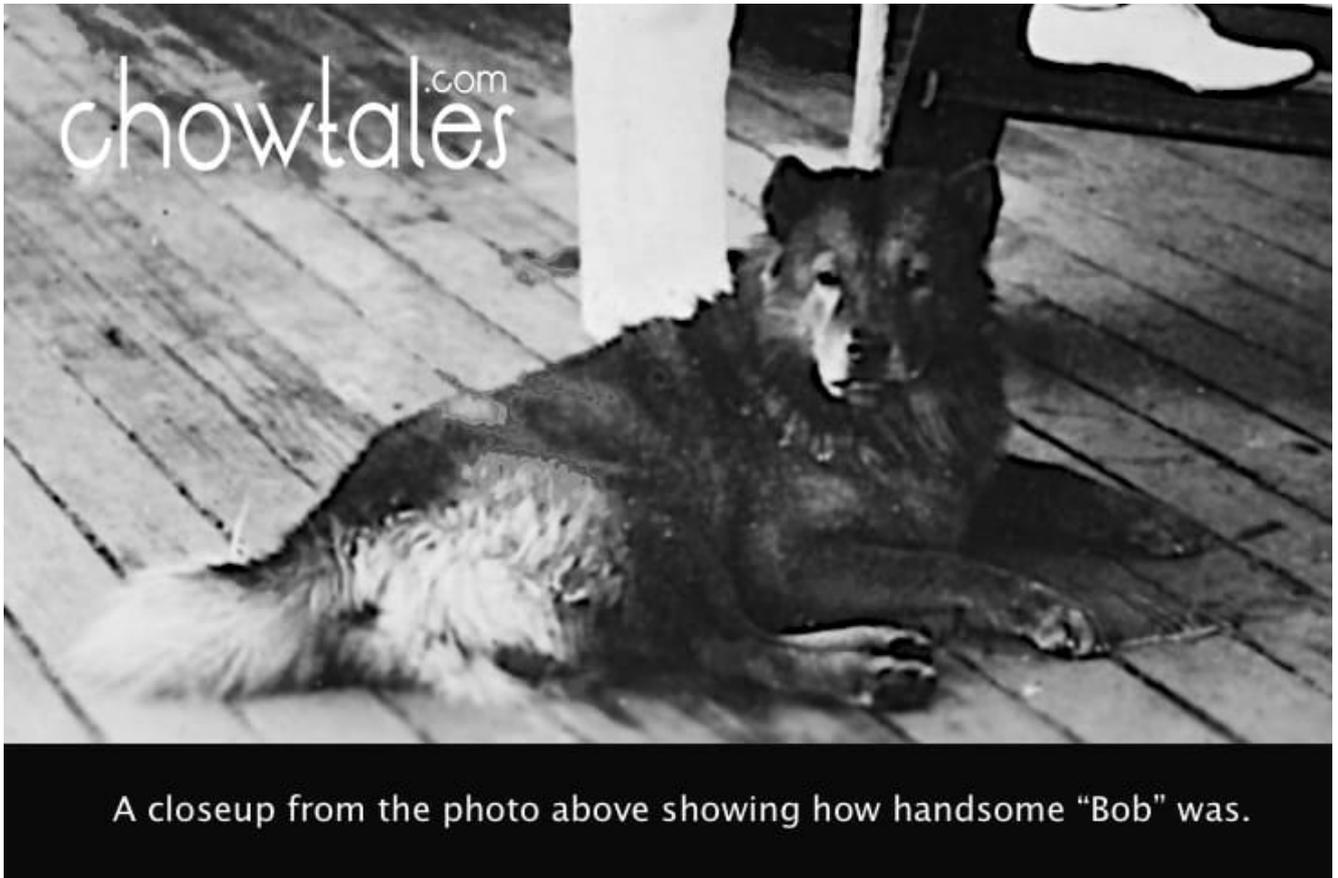


# Admiral Dewey and his chow mascot Bob-late 1800's



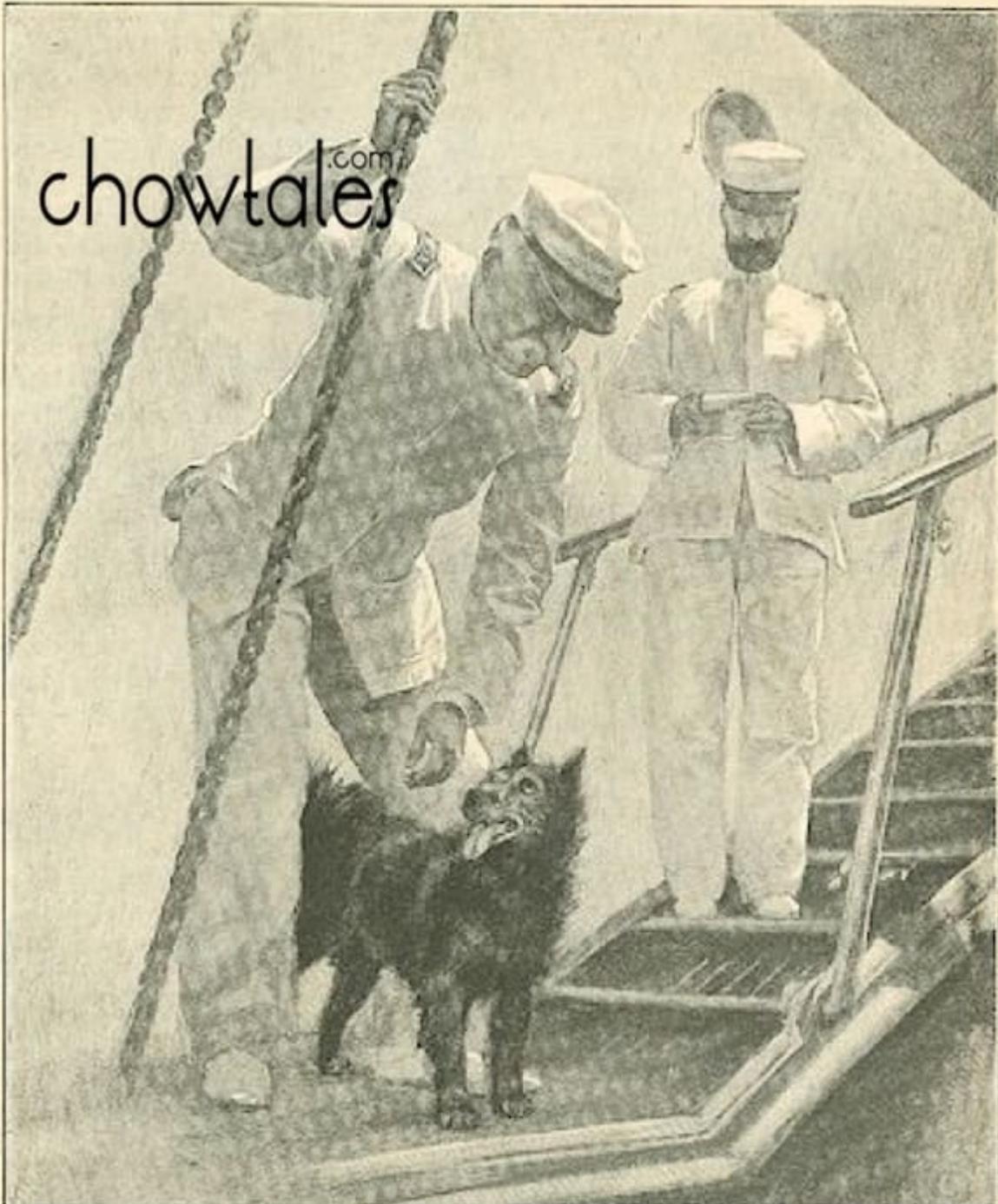
Admiral Dewey and his mascot chow Bob - Original late 1800's image in the ©Sandra Miller Collection

Below are a series of photos I have been sitting on for quite some time waiting to pull all the clippings together into an article and it all began with this original 1917 press photo I acquired was released following Admiral Dewey's death the same year. This loyal little Chow mascot found on the streets of Canton China during Dewey's travels, was written about often in the papers and magazines of the day (late 1800's.)



**George Dewey** (December 26, 1837 – January 16, 1917) was Admiral of the Navy, the only person in U.S. history to have attained the rank. Admiral Dewey is best known for his victory at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

chowtales.com



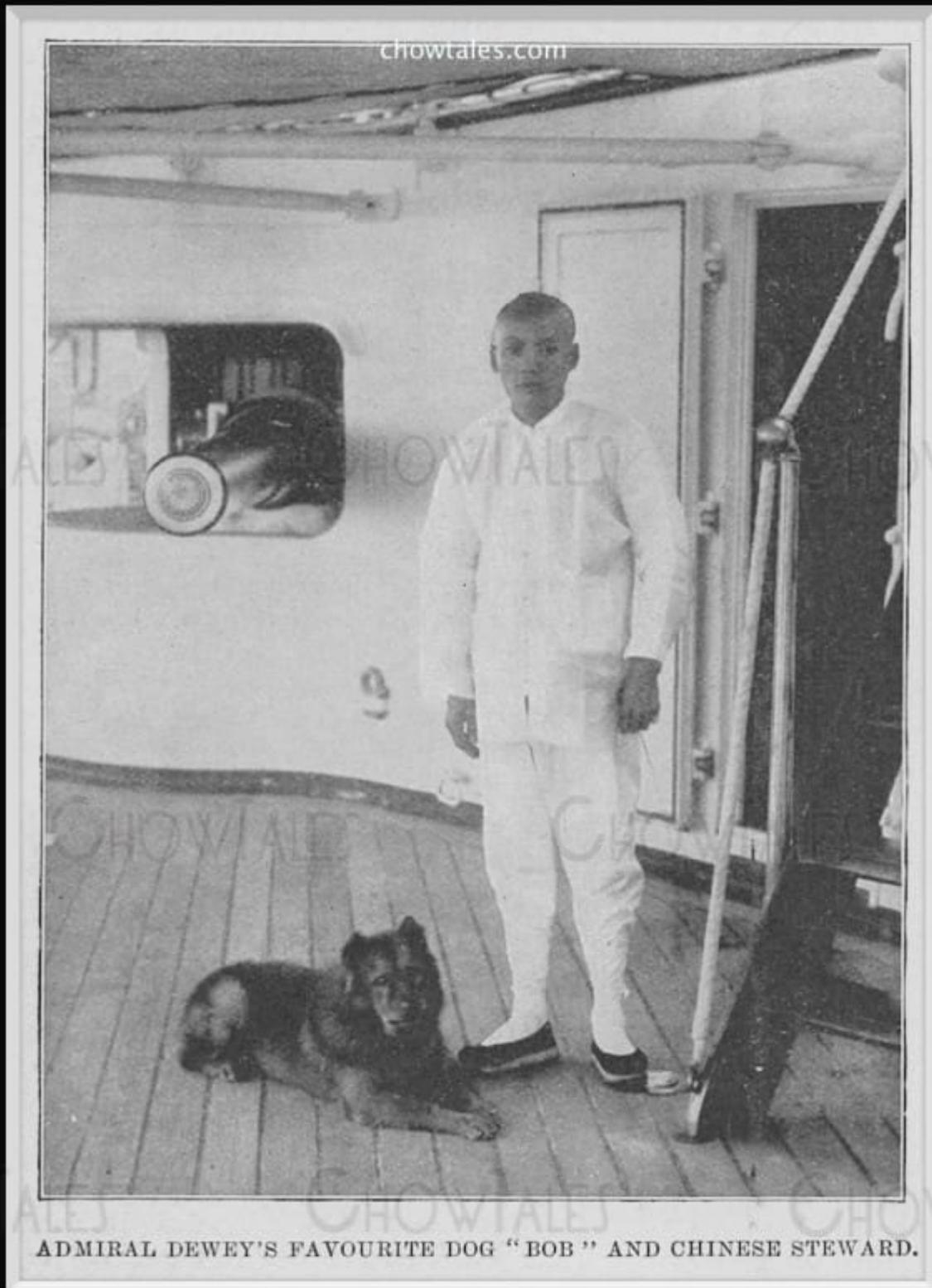
Admiral Dewey and Chow "Bob" depicted in etching circa 1890's

and to see one of the ship's crew, but that is looking for all men.

In their effort to tell their readers everything, pressmen gave much ink to the admiral's sea-weary dog—a bushy-haired Chow named Bob—and to an account of his Chinese servant's happy reply to the news that he would be permitted ashore. (According to *The New York Times*, he said, "Me liky velly, velly much.") Of course it was Lipton who received ongoing publicity as the admiral visited *Erin* for dinner on his first night home and

SOURCE: A Full Cup: Sir Thomas Lipton's Extraordinary Life and

His Quest for the America's Cup



ADMIRAL DEWEY'S FAVOURITE DOG "BOB" AND CHINESE STEWARD.

Circa August 2, 1899 THE SKETCH magazine  
An extremely rare photo of Admiral Dewey's Chinese steward with Dewey's chow "Bob"  
From the private collection of Sandra Miller

ABOVE AND BELOW IS ONE OF MY VERY PRIZED ARTICLE PHOTOS FROM 1899 OF DEWEY'S SERVANT MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE ARTICLE. I

CROPPED 'BOB' CLOSE TO SHOW YOU HOW EXQUISITE THIS DOG WAS.



Circa August 2, 1899 THE SKETCH magazine  
An extremely rare photo of Admiral Dewey's Chinese steward with Dewey's chow "Bob"  
From the private collection of Sandra Miller

## ADMIRAL DEWEY'S PET DOG.



It has been said that no great man ever seemed great to his valet, but here is a Chinese coolie who thinks his master is the finest man who ever wore shoe leather. This coolie is none other than Admiral Dewey's steward on board the Olympia, and the dog shown beside this august Celestial in the picture is the admiral's favorite dog Bob. Bob is a very clever little canine, and to say that he loves his master, the admiral, as much as his master loves him would seem superfluous to any one who had ever seen the two together.

ABOVE: 1899 Artist rendering from another publication of the photograph above

CIRCA 1898 Admiral Dewey & Bob MUNSEY MAGAZINE

The chow that started it all.....the original chow "craze" in America began with Admiral Dewey's loyal chow "BOB" who was rescued from the streets of China to soon become the ship mascot and media darling

This photo from a 120 year old magazine is a treasure and a welcome addition to the growing entries in the ChowTales "Dewey" archive



ADMIRAL DEWEY ON THE DECK OF THE OLYMPIA IN THE BAY OF NAPLES, DURING AN AFTERNOON BAND CONCERT.

*From a photograph—Copyright, 1899, by Frances Benjamin Johnston, Washington.*



Below, I found a reprint of the original photo from the news clipping above and did some restoration work on it

I was able to reconstruct the blurred and dark print to show the details and mutual admiration of this wonderful pair.

Note the rays of sun putting them in a spotlight

CIRCA 1899  
Admiral Dewey  
and his chow  
mascot on the  
U.S.S Olympia

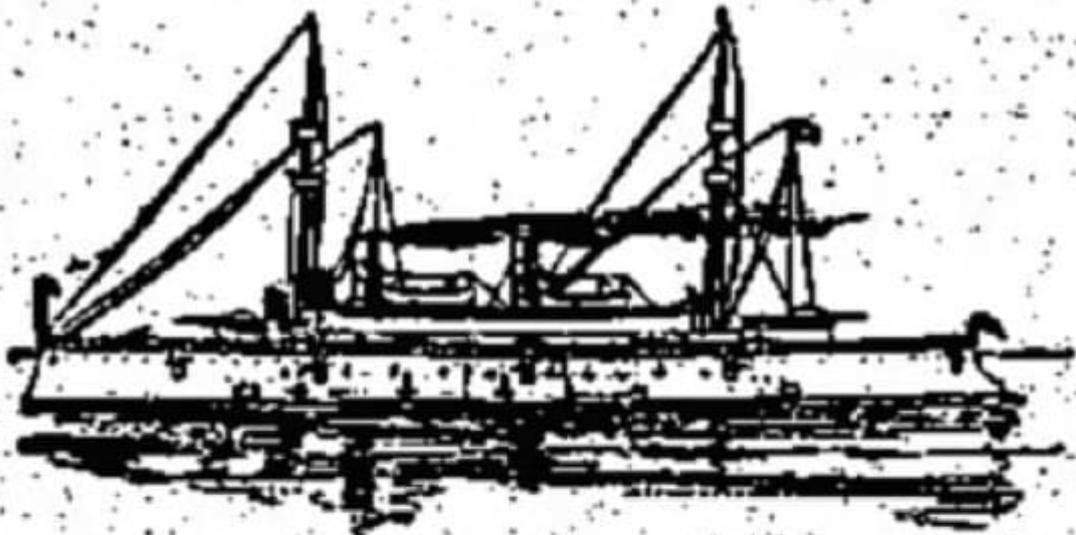
"Bob" as he was named was the Admiral's constant companion, found on his China travels.

We can credit Bob's popularity with the public and the 1800's press for the first huge wave of the Chow fad in America

chowtales.com



These photos are priceless. I treasure each and every one of them



### CRUISER OLYMPIA.

The admiral stroked the head of a tawny-haired dog, the chow dog of a Chinese breed, that appears in the illustrated interviews with the admiral. "Bob, here," he said, "is not well. He yearns to be ashore; he is sick to get a little grass, and to scamper around. I feel a good deal that way myself. I am mighty glad to get home. It isn't good for a man any more than for a dog to live on shipboard for 23 months."

The admiral said that he felt tired.

# ADMIRAL DEWEY AND HIS FAVORITE DOG



A wonderful etching of Admiral Dewey with his Chow , Bob  
upon his return to New York on the Olympia  
Collection of Sandra Miller

ABOVE: Admiral Dewey and Bob September 24, 1899



Admiral Dewey's chow mascot "Bob" aboard the Olympia. Launched in 1892, Cruiser Olympia (C-6) is the oldest steel warship afloat in the world.  
Photo collection of Olympia museum



THE ADMIRAL AND HIS CHOW DOG "BOB." TAKEN AT MIRAMAR,  
THE SEAT OF MAXIMILIAN BEFORE HE WENT TO MEXICO

From the ©Sandra Miller Collection

Though hardly known in America ten years ago, the chow is now extremely popular here. The first ones on record here came not from England but from China. Admiral Dewey brought over two good ones a year after the battle of Manila Bay. The first entries under the A. K. C. were

An interesting clipping from a 1919 article suggesting Dewey may have brought 2 more Chows to America after losing "Bob"





most remarkable and picturesque creature of the fox type, and about his size, but shorter in the body. He is a little yellow, prick-eared beast with a bushy tail curled over his back. He lolls about lazily, his open mouth with purple black lips and tongue giving him the appearance of having just finished a feast of ripe mulberries—and of having eaten too much.

Nearly everyone who was a member of Admiral Dewey's fleet here knows what a Cantonese dog is, for the Admiral had a very beautiful dog of that type which was his constant companion. I remember quite well while the Monadnock was laying off Caloocan the day the army advanced, the Admiral came on board, and as his launch came alongside the dog leaped over the side of the ship



Admiral Dewey and his Chow in Manilla

SOURCE: Estate of Lieutenant C.J. Dutreaux

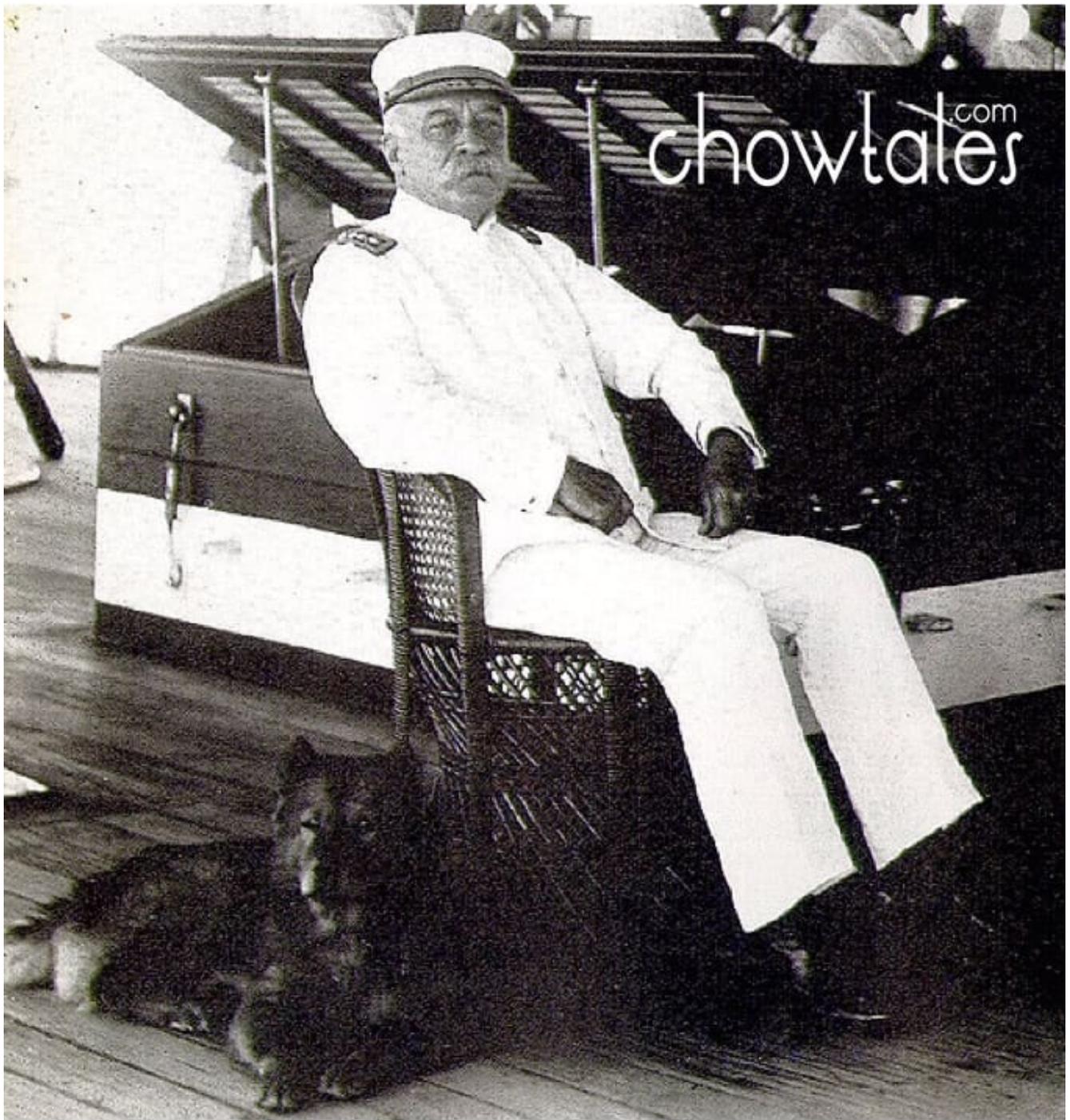
BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL 1899  
— AUTHOR FREDERICK PALMER

This Chinese "chow" dog, whom the Admiral found a vagrant in a foreign land and adopted, has the run of the flagship. He is a ball of fur, with a wolfish nose and his tail bent over his back, perpetually on the salute. There was a time in Southern China when they ate all such dogs as "Bob." Now they eat only those that they cannot sell to foreigners for pets. Before "Bob" came, "Sagasta," a native pig, washed every day and shaved once a week, was the Olympia's only mascot.

He resents "Bob's" presence and is still mascot by right of might.

"Bob," the Admiral says seriously to him, "I think that your ancestors were Esquimaux. You are quite like them, except in color. Probably your great grandfather and great grandmother were tanned brown in their migration southward."

"Bob" always went ashore with the Admiral in the barge, and while the Admiral was driving, Robinson, the orderly of the barge, took "Bob" for a walk; or "Bob" took Robinson. At any rate, it meant shore leave for Robinson; also a good deal of exercise.



Admiral Dewey in the late 1800's with his Chow dog "Bob"

As for the end of Bobs life, there are a couple of different versions I've found with variations on each. My guess is that both are true when combined into one story. The abuse this faithful little chow took from the crew aboard the Olympia surely led to severe injuries which could not be repaired. I am so glad I discovered these photos and stories as I want "Bob" to always be remembered for the loyal companion he was

to the Admiral. Dewey's history I vaguely remembered from history class but learning about this precious dog really made the story sink in.

## DEWEY'S CHINESE DOG DEAD.

**The Admiral Suffers the Loss of a Faithful Friend.**

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.—Admiral Dewey's pet Chinese dog Bob, the mascot of the flagship Olympia on her homeward trip, is dead, and the Admiral declares that he thereby loses a faithful friend. From the time of the Olympia's arrival the animal had been attended by skilled veterinary surgeons, who exhausted every possible effort to save its life. When this became an impossibility Bob's sufferings were ended on Monday last.

Bob was of a breed of half wolf and half fox, from Hongkong. While the Olympia was coaling there the Admiral's attention was attracted to the animal, which followed him.

Bob was ill when the Olympia reached this port, and the Admiral sent it aboard the supply steamer Armenia, Captain Wright, of the United States Lighthouse Service, Tompkinsville, L. I., where Bob was kept until two weeks ago, under the care of George Clark and Henry W. Bath, veterinary surgeons. Then Bob's condition became so bad that Dr. Bath took the dog to the hospital, in New Brighton. There Bob suffered a paralytic stroke, and the surgeon advised that it be killed. Capt. Edward M. Shepherd, of the Lighthouse Department, advised the Admiral at Washington of Dr. Bath's suggestion and asked for instructions. The Admiral's reply was:

"I only too fully appreciate poor Bob's condition, and I suppose it is better that he should die at once than linger and suffer. Bob was my faithful companion, and now he is lost to me I shall never have another pet."

Upon receipt of the Admiral's letter preparations were at once made to end the animal's life, and on Monday Dr. Bath administered chloroform. The dog's body was buried on Staten Island.



ADMIRAL DEWEY'S CHOW DOG, "BOB."

It Accompanied Him on His Voyage Around the World and is His Favorite Companion.  
Photograph Taken on the Olympia at New York.

October 8, 1899 Admiral Dewey and his Chow mascot Bob, pictured one month before Bob was lost to paralysis while in New York  
Collection of Sandra Miller.

Admiral Dewey and Bob photograph Oct 8 1899 one month before Bob died . On Olympia in New York

SOURCE: NAVY HISTORY The Society of the Dog

Admiral Dewey had on board Olympia as his pet a badly spoiled dog. He was very fond of it and in his eyes it could do no wrong; however he was alone in that opinion and both officers and the crew, particularly the afterguard sweepers, detested the animal. The dog was smart enough to know that his enough to know that his sole protector was the Admiral and ran back to him if he had been maltreated, whenever anyone touched or

made a pass in his general direction.

Several men were punished, some justly and perhaps some not quite so justly, and a quartermaster was disgraced. Partly in a spirit of waggishness and born of the monotony of the blockade in Manila bay before the fall of the city the men formed a very secret organization called the "Society of the Dog." To be an ordinary member a man had to have kicked the brute, but to become a member first class he had to have kicked him while the Admiral was on deck and could possibly have seen him do it, or had performed some other allied act of equal daring. There were very few of these.

The organization lasted as long as the dog did for one morning he turned up missing. That day a first class member was hurriedly promoted to the office of "Chief Superior Dog" and the society prudently disbanded. "Chief Superior Dog" was an afterguard sweeper.

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Circa September 9, 1899 from the Leslie's Weekly Illustrated publication.

This entire large format magazine was dedicated to Admiral Dewey and his life, crew and pets aboard his ship the The USS Olympia

This was an extremely rare find featuring the Admirals faithful chow "Bob" both on the cover and with the crew.



DEWEY NUMBER—THE BRAVE ADMIRAL AND HIS SPLENDID OFFICERS AND CREW ON THEIR HOMEWARD JOURNEY, COPIOUSLY ILLUSTRATED.

# LESLIE'S WEEKLY ILLUSTRATED

Vol. LXXXIX.—No. 386.  
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NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 9, 1899.

PRICE, 10 CENTS. 140 YEARS.  
EST. 1824. Entered as second-class matter at the New York Post-office.



ADMIRAL DEWEY'S FAITHFUL COMPANION.

HIS FAVORITE PET, THE CHINESE DOG "BOB," WHO IS ALWAYS AT HIS FEET.  
PHOTOGRAPHED ESPECIALLY FOR "LESLIE'S WEEKLY" BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, J. C. HEMMENT.—COPYRIGHTED, 1899.



CLICK THE VINTAGE BUTTON FOR A CIRCA 1913 ARTICLE I FOUND ABOUT HOW ADMIRAL DEWEY'S CHOW INFLUENCED THE BREED POPULARITY IN AMERICA



TREASURE ALERT ABOVE!

Circa 1899 Leslies Weekly magazine " DEWEY NUMBER"

In this huge publication, I spied what I was searching for and purchased the entire magazine to save this image for the archives.

Onboard the USS Olympia, Admiral Dewey's crew are keeping busy while the Admiral's chow mascot "Bob" looks on with great interest. This was without doubt Dewey's heart dog and constant companion and their travels on sea and land were well documented by the press

Bob was, without doubt, the first celebrity Chow Chow on record to ignite the chow craze in America, followed by the two chows (Tim and Blackberry) that President and Grace Coolidge had in the Whitehouse.



# DEWEY'S FAMOUS DOG "BOB" DEAD.

chow-chow — 11/10/1899

Chow-Chow, Mascot of  
the Olympia, was In  
Hospital.

HAD NERVOUS DISEASE.

Only Sad News of the Admiral's  
Wedding Day — "Bob"  
Buried by His Orders.

Admiral Dewey's dog is dead. His dog was the Chinese chow-chow with the Caucasian name of Bob, which held the position of official mascot on the conquering cruiser Olympia.

Bob was as faithful a member of the crew as any aboard. He was the most famous animal of the fleet, too, for cable dispatches came from every port where Dewey stopped en route from Manila giving the news about the ship's company and the latest facts about the chow-chow dog.

Bob was photographed many times with the Admiral. His picture appeared in the Journal, and is posted up in thousands of nurseries, whose little occupants thought the chow-chow dog irresistibly funny and intelligent.

When the Olympia reached Tompkinsville Bob fell ill. It was not the rich diet, the Admiral said, although candy and cake were given to him by most of the visitors to the war ship, but a nervous disease from which he suffered.

The Olympia's launch went ashore one day, her propeller churning the water in frantic haste, for Bob had what seemed to be a fit. The launch returned with a veterinary surgeon, who found the Admiral with a sad face bending over his pet.

"I'm afraid you'll lose one of your ship's company," said the doctor. "Bob must go to a shore hospital. The sick bay on a cruiser is no place for him."

So the poor chow-chow was tenderly lifted up and taken to the horse and dog hospital of Dr. Bath, at New Brighton, S. I. There he was put to bed in the nervous ward, with a hysterical pug dog on one side of him and an ailing spaniel on the other. Bob and his fellow patients became great chums.

When Admiral Dewey came to see him the chow-chow dog was failing fast, but he recognized his master and tried to bark. The Admiral left instructions that no expense should be spared, but money could not save Bob. He died on Wednesday night of paralysis.

Word was sent to the Admiral. It was the only sad note on his wedding day—this news that Bob had gone. He wrote to the hospital that the dog must have a proper funeral.

Bob was carried to his grave by Dr. John Clark, of Tompkinsville, consulting veterinary surgeon, and by Dr. Bath. The boys and girls of Staten Island talk of putting a little headstone over the grave.

In China they do not bury chow-chow dogs. They eat them. The chow-chow dog is a vegetarian, living on chutney and rice, and is fattened for the tables of mandarins.