

VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #42

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2008



VWOA Director Robert C. Marzen

Received in the mail today from VWOA Director Robert C. Marzen several copies of United States Coast Guard Press Releases. I thought they would be of interest to VWOA members who may have been in the Coast Guard or interfaced with them while serving in other branches of Military Service.



U.S.Coast Guard Cutter Spencer

Painting donated to the Spencer

Association by artist:

William H. RaVell III - ISMP

International Society Of Marine Painters

Official Coast Guard Artist

Bob Marzen served aboard the USCGC Spencer, in both the North Atlantic & Vietnam, as RM2 and then RM1 during 1968-69 and presently also serves as Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Spencer Assn.

I have tried to piece together many of the other interactive Emails on this subject that I have read, as well. They are to me a testament to the undying patriotism of those who have served in the US Military Service.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2008 11:38 PM

To: hevans@usnews.com
Cc: Jim Tierney
Subject: Fw: U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER
Spencer, Mast Ceremony
Dear Mr. Evans,

I am writing this on behalf of our past Secretary, Mr. James Tierney, of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter SPENCER Assn., with whom you had previous correspondence regarding your article, "THE NEW CENTURY" (apprx 1998) in which the Cutter SPENCER was featured, in an action photo, in the sinking of a German submarine on April 17, 1943 in the North Atlantic.

I wish to inform you that on this Saturday, Sept. 27th, at 10AM, a dedication ceremony for the original SPENCER MAST is being held at the Coast Guard Recruit Training Center ('Boot Camp') at Cape May, NJ. The MAST has been re-installed in close proximity to the Memorial of the Coast Guard's ONLY Medal of Honor recipient, Mr. Douglas Munro, who was killed in action while saving the lives of 500 Marines at Guadalcanal. (Doug Munro's first assignment, as well as 'boot camp', was on the SPENCER, prior to this country's entry into WW2).

I send this information in case you would have any interest in this event. The ceremony at 10AM is open to all interested persons. The attached photo shows the site of the recently installed MAST with the Munro Memorial to the forward. You can contact me direct if you

desire any further information regarding the activities.

By the way, Mr. Tierney still lives in Connecticut and sends his Best Regards to you! He will be attending the ceremony on Saturday.

Thank you for your time and consideration and especially for your past interest in Coast Guard history.

Most sincerely, and Semper Paratus!

//Bob
Robert C. Marzen
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Spencer Assn

----- Original Message -----
From: "Bradley, Bruce CMC"
<Bruce.R.Bradley@uscg.mil
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2008 12:44 PM
Subject: FW: Spencer Mast

Please pass this on' yours were the email address that I had easily saved in my files. Because here she is in all of her reborn glory and yes the bell is on the back side.

Also this morning before the mast was stepped, in keeping up with nautical tradition I placed a package in the base foundation. Inside was a DVD copy of the VHS tape sent to

me of SPENCER on Weather Station and copies of several of the emails from various members of your association that I have received during this process. Also when I received the bell it came with a small wooden plaque you all gave the INTREPID folks many years back. But now on the back of that plaque is a collar device from every pay-grade here at Cape May; E1 to E9, W2 to W4 and O1 to O6 along with a Cutterman insignia. The mast is now not only firmly set in her new home, but the crew of Cape May will watch out for it now.

Now moving on to the dedication day events. I have requested that our All-Hands Club open up earlier on the 27th for a no host lunch (and beverages of choice) following the ceremony for an informal reception. So with that I need you all to help pass the word and drum up support for this with your folks. So please have one of the officers get back to me with some word of if we can get a good turn out for this before I get too deeply into the planning with the manager.

Thanks and we are all looking forward to seeing you all in a few short weeks.

CMC Bruce R. Bradley Jr. (#172)
Command Master Chief
U.S. Coast Guard Training Center
1 Munro Avenue
Cape May, NJ 08204
(609) 898-6923

"A Mentor is someone whose hindsight can be your foresight".

OORAH for the "law" of UNintended consequences!!!
Semper Paratus and THANKS for BEING THERE at the
Beginning!!! Sincerely, Bob Marzen

----- Original Message -----

From: "McGranachan, James CIV"
<James.J.McGranachan@uscg.mil>
To: "Mitchell, Dottie" <Sent: Monday,
September 22, 2008 3:53 PM
Subject: FW: U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER
Spencer, Mast Ceremony
Dottie,
Hope you enjoy the photo attached.

This mast has been on quite an adventure. Monroe Hall at Cape May Training Center is the final destination. CGC Spencer was Douglas Monroe's first duty station after boat camp. Goggle has a photo of him on that mast in 1939. Little did we know that it would eventually find such an appropriate site?

It did look great during the nineties at the entrance to the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. All the WWII, Korea and Viet Nam vets from the Spencer Association love the story (they know the facts) that there is no paper work on the disposition of the mast from 1980 until its 2007 transfer from ATON New York to Cape May. They believe members of

the "Old Guard" are
still on watch.

The dedication ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m.,
Saturday, Sept. 27th at Training Center Cape
May. The Spencer Association is holding its
annual reunion at a nearby hotel/conference
center. They anticipate a large turnout. Media
coverage is anticipated and I will forward
results.

It is funny how a short phone call, so long ago,
about 72-feet of six tons of rusty steel could
create such a joyful gathering of ship mates
decades later. I always smile when I think
about what was to become a melted piece
of steel, and the name Dottie (savior/escape
artist etc.). Let's hope the PA's make it a
good story.

Jim McGranachan

-----Original Message-----

From: McGranachan, James CIV
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2008 8:42 AM
To: Gentile, Thomas MSTCM; Heitsch, Timothy
CDR
Cc: McBrady, Mike LCDR; O'Brien, Robert;
McLaughlin, Christopher PA2
Subject: FW: U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER
Spencer, Mast Ceremony

Master,
Thought you might be interested in attached.
It's up and ready to be dedicated this

Saturday! Note: They chopped a couple of
feet off the ladder to prevent feisty Saturday
night sailors from climbing.

Jim McGranachan

Editor's note:

I have attached the copies of the
United States Coast Guard Press
Releases after Page 7 of this
Newsletter.

WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

Returned Email to VWOA Member William Campbell resulted in some telephone checkup phone calls with the following response:

According to his son in Willingboro NJ Bill went to a family reunion in July in Wisconsin. Shortly after arriving he broke his hip. It was so bad the local hospital could not handle and he was taken by ambulance to Minnesota. Previously I recall when we had a problem reaching him he had been in a home in Florida and he had a bad car accident which had involved the hip. Then he moved to Lodi Ca to live with his daughter. He has been in rehab in Wisc but they expect he will go back to Lodi in a week or so.

Heard from Clay Scott on last VWOA Email Newsletter #41
Hi Francis and Wendell,

Thanks for the New Jersey PBS link in the #41 newsletter. I found the video to be interesting, entertaining and informative - I learned things that I did not know. The relevance to our own experience of the history as presented by the video was of such general interest that I took the liberty to email the link to some old friends.

Best to you,
Clay Scott

Received Letter from Herman Arond, former VWOA Director and long time VWOA Treasurer and now retired to Snug Harbor.

To: Francis Cassidy at VWOA
Dear Frank: Thanks very much for the VWOA Newsletter. I enjoy reading them, especially the last one #40. I'll get to that later.

Everything here is going along fine. This Kid will be 85 this next Saturday. WOW! I'm not cheering until I actually make it.

Concerning the Andrea Doria/Stockholm "incident" I remember it clearly. I was asore at the time and followed it in detail — especially the court hearings in N.Y. — followed in detail in the NY Times.

One thing that was barely mentioned in the reports was the first ship at the scene for rescue purposes was the United Fruit Co. small freighter "Cape Ann". She was the 1st ship to take off survivors — 150 passengers from the Andrea Doria. The "Ile de France" came along soon after and took off something like 700 survivors and it received most of the publicity. And of course there were other ships involved.

I know about the Cape Ann because the Radio Officer on there was Charles Failla. After the "incident", he switched over to Grace Line and he and I were on the same ship for 6 weeks.

A side line note — Charley told me he called Italian Line to make a reservation to Italy, he mentioned his role in the Andrea Doria/Stockholm collision, and he was given a free round trip ticket.

Concerning the collision — both ships were going full speed in thick fog. The Andrea Doria tried to make a starboard/starboard passage with the Stockholm, and the Stockholm tried to make the customary port/port passage, therefore “BINGO”. The Stockholm rammed the Andrea Doria.

The collision case was heard in U.S. District Court in NY, as a neutral place. The NY Times gave full coverage. Suddenly there was no more coverage, and there was an out of Court settlement. The papers said it was probably to limit liability. I’m glad I was in NY at the time. I found it interesting following the proceedings.

Concerning Cy Brill — he eventually became Manager of WSL, Mackay Radio, Amagansett Marine Coastal Station. From what I heard,

when the station closed, he shipped out. That’s the end of my knowledge.

Everything is going OK. Sorry I’m unable to make trips to New York.

So long and 73
Herman

VWOA MEMBERS

We would prefer to hear from you by
Email at:

ftcassidy@optonline.net

Or

wenben@nyc.rr.com

but if you must, send mail to:

VWOA
PO Box 1003 Peck Slip
New York NY 10272-1003



Document Number: 2617

Fifth District
U.S. Coast Guard

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



Photo Release

Date: Sept. 28, 2008
Contact: 609-677-2204

Coast Guard Cutter Spencer mast dedication



The mast of the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer W-36 was dedicated in honor of Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J., Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008.

The parade grounds at the training center are now the permanent home of the mast after being displayed at the Intrepid Museum in New York City then to Coast Guard Facilities Bayonne.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Ann Marie Gorden)



Members of the Spencer Association, including seven WWII veterans, pose for a picture Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, in front of the mast from Coast Guard Cutter Spencer W-36 at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J.

The Spencer Association formed after the final trip from New York to Baltimore when the cutter was decommissioned in January 1974.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 3rd Class Ann Marie Gorden)

For more information on the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer mast dedication and Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro click [here](#).

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DATE: September 27, 2008 13:21:17 EST

Document Number: 10

Coast Guard remembers hero, dedicates mast



CAPE MAY, N.J. - Members from Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, the U.S.S. Spencer Association, and local veterans groups salute [Signalman First Class Douglas Munro](#) on the 66th anniversary of his heroic actions at a dedication and remembrance ceremony today, Sept. 27, 2008 in the training center's gymnasium.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo/Chief Warrant Officer Veronica Bandrowsky)

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DATE: September 27, 2008 13:49:17 EST

Document Number: 12

Coast Guard remembers hero, dedicates Spencer mast

TRACEN Cape May, N.J.
U.S. Coast Guard

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



Photo Release

Date: Sept. 27, 2008
Contact: (609) 898-6969 press 2

COAST GUARD REMEMBERS HERO, DEDICATES SPENCER MAST



CAPE MAY- N.J. -Members from Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, the U.S.S. Spencer Association, and local veterans groups salute [Signalman First Class Douglas Munro](#) on the 66th anniversary of his heroic actions at a dedication and remembrance ceremony today, Sept. 27, 2008 in the training center's gymnasium.

The Coast Coast Guard Cutter Spencer's mast was permanently displayed on the training center's parade grounds Sept. 10, 2008 and dedicated today.

The Spencer served the nation for more than 37 years and when decommissioned in 1974, the Spencer was the most decorated cutter in the Coast Guard's fleet.

After the Spencer was decommissioned the Spencer mast was displayed at the entrance of the Intrepid Museum in New York City. Years later, the Coast Guard regained ownership of the mast and

DATE: September 24, 2008 09:06:48 EST

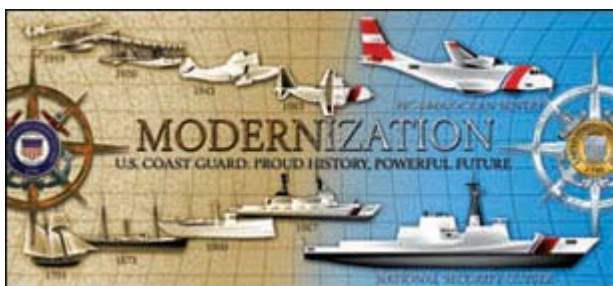
Document Number: 6

For more information contact:

Veronica Bandrowsky
U.S. Coast Guard
One Munro Ave
Cape May, NJ 08204

Coast Guard honors hero, dedicates mast

TRACEN Cape May, N.J.
U.S. Coast Guard



**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

Date: Sept. 24, 2008
Contact: (609) 898-6362

COAST GUARD HONORS HERO, DEDICATES MAST

CAPE MAY, N.J. - Coast Guard Training Center Cape May will honor [Signalman First Class Douglas Munro](#) and dedicate the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer's mast in a ceremony here on the training center's parade field Sept. 27, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Munro, the only Coast Guard Medal of Honor recipient, served aboard the Spencer. He was killed in action while protecting U.S. Marines at Guadalcanal during World War II and Sept. 27, 2008 will mark the 66th anniversary of his heroic actions.

The Coast Guard Cutter Spencer W-36 was commissioned in 1937, and was used as a search and rescue platform primarily patrolling Alaskan waters. In WWII under the U.S. Navy, the Spencer saw significant combat action in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. In the Battle of the Atlantic, the cutter acted as a convey escort and hunted German submarines, sinking the U-225 and the U-175. In late 1944, Spencer reported to the Navy's Seventh (Pacific) Fleet as a Communications Command Ship. There Spencer participated in numerous amphibious invasions including Luzon and Palawan in the Philippines. After the war, Spencer returned to Coast Guard operations serving as an Atlantic Ocean Station.

In January 1969, Spencer returned to combat duty off the coast of Vietnam. In November 1969, Spencer returned to the United States to continue peacetime missions. Spencer served the nation for more than 37 years and when decommissioned in 1974, the Spencer was the most decorated cutter in the Coast Guard's fleet.

After the Spencer was decommissioned the Spencer mast was displayed at the entrance of the Intrepid Museum in New York City. Years later, the Coast Guard regained ownership of the mast

and transferred it to Coast Guard Facilities Bayonne. The Spencer mast was permanently displayed on the Coast Guard Training Center Cape May's parade grounds Sept. 10, 2008.

Editor's note: Please contact CWO Veronica Bandrowsky at (609) 898-6362 if you have any questions or if you would like to attend the ceremony.

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The United States Coast Guard -- Proud History. Powerful Future.***



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