A World Wide Web Monument
Dedicated to Radio Operators who lost their lives during World War 2
1939 - 1945
In 1915 a monument was established in New York City at Battery Park. In 1928 the Veteran Wireless Operators Association assumed responsibility for this monument.

It commemorates radio operators who lost their lives when their vessels became casualties.
IN THE TURMOIL OF WAR, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE V.W.O.A. TO TALLY THE DEATHS AND THE SINKINGS OF SHIPS IN ALL THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD. IT WAS RELUCTANTLY DECIDED THAT ONE PLAQUE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE HEROISM THAT BECAME A COMMONPLACE OCCURANCE.
AFTER YEARS OF ANNONIMITY, RECORDS HAVE FINALLY IDENTIFIED HUNDREDS OF RADIO OPERATORS WHO DIED IN THE TRAGIC TORPEDOINGS, BOMBINGS, SHELLINGS, AND SHIPWRECKS THAT BEFELL AMERICAN MERCHANT VESSELS DURING WORLD WAR II.

THIS ELECTRONIC RECORD HAS BEEN PREPARED AS ADJUNCT TO THE MONUMENT THAT OVERLOOKS NEW YORK HARBOR FROM BATTERY PARK.

THE NAMES OF RADIO OPERATORS WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE ARE HERE LISTED.

THE MANY YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED HAVE NOT DIMMED THEIR GLORY.
Radio Operators on Combatant Aircraft

Thousands of aircraft engaged in bombing, torpedoing, observation, search-and-rescue, and other military tasks carried one or more radio operators.

The casualty rate among these radiomen was large but has never been tabulated.

In tribute to those who were lost in this service, the following is a sample of the recognition that they deserve.
BRISTOL BEAUFORT AIRCRAFT
NO.22 SQUADRON, RAF COASTAL COMMAND

Shot down while carrying out a successful torpedo attack on the German battle-cruiser Gneisenau in the French port of Brest on 6th April 1941.

Wireless Operator Sgt. William Cecil Mullis and three other crewmen were lost.

It was just after 6am when the Beaufort launched a torpedo that hit and severely damaged the Gneisenau in Brest harbor, putting the ship out of service for an extended time. The plane was hit repeatedly by the German guns and plunged down into the waters of the harbour, killing all on board. The Beaufort crew had severely affected the sea power of the Kriegsmarine, and in so doing doubtless saved many British and Allied merchant vessels and seamen.

The Germans recovered the Beaufort and buried the RAF airmen in a grave of honour at Brest.
Radio Operators on German Submarines

A total of 782 German U-Boats were lost during World War II. In many of these cases there were no survivors.

Each vessel had between one and five Radio Operators.

Recognizing those who were lost in this service, the following example serves as a memorial.
UNDERSEEBOOT 869

German Submarine (Type IX)
Built: Bremen  Commissioned: January 16, 1944
Commander: Hellmut Neuerburg (Lost)

Destroyed with depth charges on February 11 1945
by USN HOWARD D. CROW and USN KOINER.
The destroyer escorts were with Transatlantic
Convoy CU-58 when, at 1639 ships time, sonar
detected a target at position roughly 39.30N 72.58W.
After the attack with hedge-hogs and depth charges,
oil and air bursts came to the surface. However, the
kill was not confirmed until the wreck was found by
divers off New Jersey in 1991 and identified in 1997. None of the 56 crew members had survived.

U-869 departed Kristianstand, Norway on December 8, 1944 to patrol an area off the
New Jersey Coast. She found no Allied victims up to the time she was sunk. She
carried four radio operators with Martin Horenborg in charge. All died.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Died</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horenborg</td>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>FkMstr</td>
<td>01.10.1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bienentreu</td>
<td>Mathias</td>
<td>FkMt</td>
<td>04.12.1921</td>
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<td>Mehnert</td>
<td>Rolf</td>
<td>FkOGfr</td>
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<td>Uhlarsch</td>
<td>Johann</td>
<td>FkOGfr</td>
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The story of the U-869 is told in the PBS Nova Broadcast “Hitler’s Lost Sub.”
INFORMATION ABOUT THE RADIO OPERATORS LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN COLLECTED BY THE VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION.

THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES INQUIRES AND IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN CONTACTING SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER RADIO OPERATOR CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR II, PLEASE CONTACT THE VWOA.
THIS ELECTRONIC RECORD WAS INSPIRED AND SUPPORTED BY THE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION. THEY FEEL THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE IN WAR AND PEACE.

THIS EXHIBIT WAS CREATED BY DR. MILES D. MACMAHON, VWOA 1ST VICE PRESIDENT WHO SAILED AS A RADIO OFFICER ON LIBERTY SHIPS AND TANKERS.ALTHOUGH INELIGIBLE FOR GI BENEFITS BECAUSE HE WAS NOT CONSIDERED A VETERAN, HE EARNED THREE COLLEGE DEGREES AND BECAME A PHYSICS PROFESSOR AND COLLEGE DEAN. HE IS RETIRED IN NEW JERSEY