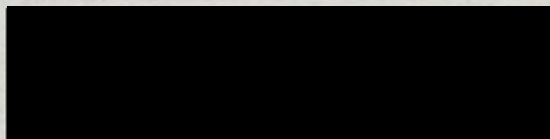


Brian -

I watched C-Span when they had the D-Day invasion of Normandy on. I thought you needed a little information on the U.S. Coast Guard so here it is,



Springfield, Ill 62703

A Bit of Coast Guard History on It's 204th Birthday

Submitted By A Member of the U.S.C.G. Combat Veterans Association

Semper Paratus (Always Ready). This is the motto of the United States Coast Guard. The first two lines of the U.S.C.G. Hymn tells it all. "From Aztec shores to Arctic zone to Europe and Far East, The Flag is carried by our ships in times of war or peace". The U.S.C.G. was founded August 4th, 1790. It has been in every conflict that the United States has been in. The U.S.C.G. went under the United States Navy in 1941 when war was declared. In 1945 the U.S.C.G. had 241,000 men and 10,000 women called "Spars" under arms. They manned 1400 ships. This was more ships than either the French or Russian navies had under their commands. Included in these ships were 351 U.S. Navy ships and 288 Army ships. The Coast Guard was involved in every invasion in World War II. The Coast Guard had more than 1,000 killed and more than 500 wounded. They saved more than 5,000 people in World War II. The biggest loss the Coast Guard had at one time was when the U.S.S. Serpens, an ammunition ship loaded with 500 lb. bombs blew up at Guadal Canal. here were 210 officers and men in the crew and only 8 survived. The largest rescue the Coast Guard was involved in was the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Coast Guard Flotilla Number one consisting of 60 - 83 foot cutters rescued 1,434 men and 1 woman.

Here are some of the Springfield area men who served in the U.S.C.G. during World War II that I know about, and I am sure there are many others. Frank Lesco was a Seaman on the Coast Guard Cutter Algonquin. This cutter was one of 45 ships in the Greenland Patrol. Frank also had some service in the Pacific. Tom Bauerer was a Storekeeper on the Samuel Chase APA-26. This Attack Transport was in several invasions including Sicily, Normandy, and the Phillipines. Leonard Maurer served on the USS Moseley, a destroyer escort, that was in the invasion of North Africa. Bill Dahlcamp was a ships cook aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer. This 327 ft. cutter was on convoy duty all the way to Murmansk Russia. It sank 2 German submarines in the North Atlantic. After it's convoy duty was over it was converted to a communications ship and was in the last invasion of the war at Okinawa and Borneo. Bernie McCabe served on the LST 830 in the Pacific. Rich Edwards was a Water Tender on a LST in the Pacific. Leo Lafauce was involved in anti-submarine activities. Ed Kohlrus served as a Ships Cook on the LST 886 that was in the invasion of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Joe Baldoni, a retired mail carrier, was in the Coast Guard in World War II.

These are the celebrities that I know were in the Coast Guard in World War II. Springfield's own Al Barlick served on an 83 ft. sub-buster out of New London, Connecticut. This was before he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Victor Mature of Hollywood fame served on a Troop Transport, the Admiral Mears, in the Pacific Theatre. Caesar Romero, also of Tinsle Town, served on the USS Cavalier APA-37 that was in the invasion of Saipan, Tinian, Leyte, Luzon and Subic Bay. Jack Dempsy served as an officer on a Troop Ship. Several other prominent fighters of the day including Lew Ambers and Lew Jenkins were in the Coast Guard. I hope I've Given a little knowledge about the United States Coast Guard, our 5th Service, who helped our great Army, our great Navy, our great Air Force, and our great Marines win World War II.

Springfield, IL 62703



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