

From:
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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: Copies of individual citations, biographies and photographs are available. Text of Admiral O'Neill's remarks is attached.

For Release at 10:30 a.m., May 14, 1952

Twenty-one Coast Guardsmen were decorated today by Edward H. Foley, Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Vice Admiral Merlin O'Neill, Coast Guard Commandant, for the rescue of 70 men in a heavy storm at sea Feb. 18-19.

The rescued men were crew members of the tankers SS FORT MERCER and SS PENDLETON which broke in two in 70-knot winds and 60-foot seas off the coast of Cape Cod, Mass.

The group ceremony was held in the Treasury before members of Congress and high ranking Coast Guard officers. Members of Congress from the homes of each man decorated, and members of committees which handle Coast Guard legislation, also were invited.

Also present were William B. St. John of the National Bulk Carriers, Inc., owner of the PENDLETON, and C. A. Thomas, W. G. Johnson and P. J. Clausen of the Trinidad Corp., owner of the FORT MERCER.

Admiral O'Neill described the Cape Cod rescue operations as unique in Coast Guard history. With each tanker broken in two forty miles apart, four hulks with survivors aboard were left adrift in the mountainous seas.

He said all types of rescue equipment were used including large Coast Guard cutters, an airplane, an ocean-going tug, motor lifeboats, radar, rubber liferafts, scramble nets, lifelines and exposure suits.

"But most of all," said Admiral O'Neill, "the situation called for raw courage and skill of the highest order - backed by Coast Guard teamwork."

Five of the men received the Treasury's Gold Life-saving Medal for "extreme and heroic daring." Four others received the Treasury's Silver Life-saving Medal for "heroic action." Fifteen were cited for "courage, initiative and unswerving devotion to duty" and authorized to wear the Coast Guard Commendation ribbon.

Those decorated were:

Gold Life-Saving Medal:

Andrew J. Fitzgerald, 21, Engineman 2nd class, Whitinsville, Mass.
Ervin E. Maske, 23, Seaman, 41-111 Crescent St., Long Island City, N.Y.
Bernard C. Webber, 24, Boatswain's Mate 1st class, Seaview St.,
Chatham, Mass.
Richard P. Livesey, 22, Seaman, 8 Belmont Avenue, Wilmington, Mass.
Ensign William R. Kiely, Jr., 3 Wooley Rd., West Long Branch, N.J.

Silver Life-Saving Medal:

Paul R. Black, 20, Engineman 2nd class, 1316 Merryfield St.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Ensign Gilbert E. Carmichael, 911 Young St., Dallas, Texas
Edward A. Mason, Jr., Apprentice Seaman, Maynard, Mass.
Webster G. Terwilliger, 21 Seaman, 981-4 Exposition Blvd.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Coast Guard Commendation Ribbon:

Antonio F. Ballerini, 20, Boatswain's Mate 3rd class provisional,
149 Marion, East Boston 28, Mass.
Donald H. Bangs, 35, Boatswain's Mate Chief, Seaview St., Chatham, Mass.
Richard J. Ciccone, 21 Seaman, 123 Hudson St., Providence, R.I.

John J. Courtney, 25, Boatswain's Mate 3rd class, 6433 Paschall Ave.,
Philadelphia 42, Pa.

John F. Dunn, 24, Engineman 1st class, Box 3, Rockville, R.I.

Phillip M. Griebel, 27, Radioman 1st class, 19 Ames St., Portland, Me.

Emory H. Haynes, 22, Engineman 1st class, 380 Rindge Ave., Cambridge,
Mass.

Roland W. Hoffert, 23, Gunner's Mate 3rd class, 1231 Otis Place
(Northampton 6) Bethlehem, Pa.

Eugene W. Korpusik, 19, Seaman Apprenctice, 19198 Old Homestead Ave.,
Detroit 24, Mich.

Ralph L. Ormsby, 38, Boatswain's Mate Chief, Box 78, Orleans, Mass.

Dennis J. Perry, 20, Seaman, 21 Parris St., Portland, Me.

Donald E. Pitts, 21, Seaman, 3844 Michigan Avenue, Kansas City, Mo.

Alfred J. Roy, 31, Boatswain's Mate 1st class, 8 Vestel St.,
Nantucket, Mass.

Herman M. Rubinsky, 23, Seaman Apprentice, 1874 58th St.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

LCDR John N. Joseph, 54 New York Ave., South Portland, Me.

(Of the above, Courtney, Hoffert and Korpusik could not be
present due to their assignments)