

MBTS Men Awarded Navy and Marine Corps Medal For Heroism

Lt. Anderson Receives Citation From C. O. at Regimental Review

For heroic and courageous conduct in effecting the rescue of 93 survivors of a torpedoed army transport at sea, Lt. Robert W. Anderson of the U. S. Coast Guard has been cited by Admiral R. E. Ingersoll, Commander of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet and awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. Admiral L. C. Covell pinned the medal on at regimental review here Saturday, May 20 in the first ceremony of its kind at MBTS.

The citation, read by Captain Arthur G. Hall, Executive Officer, is:

Anderson Volunteers

"For heroic and courageous conduct in effecting the rescue of survivors from the torpedoed S. S. Dorchester on 3 February, 1943.

"When the benumbed survivors of the S. S. Dorchester were unable, because of heavy seas and freezing winds, to make any efforts to climb on board the rescuing ship, Ensign Robert W. Anderson volunteered for the dangerous task of going over side and working in rough freezing water in order to assist the exhausted and helpless survivors in reaching the safety of the *Comanche*.

"In spite of strong, sub-freezing wind and rough, near-freezing seas, he disregarded all discomforts and danger and worked with complete disregard of his own safety until he and fellow volunteers had rescued a total of 93 survivors from certain death in steadily mounting seas.

"The bravery, determination and disregard for his own safety displayed by Ensign Anderson in assisting in the rescue of almost 100 helpless survivors were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

R. E. INGERSOLL
Comdr., U. S. Atlantic Fleet

The Navy and Marine Corps Medal is awarded to anyone in the Service who performs an act of heroism not involving actual combat with the enemy. Lt. Anderson, who is Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer of the U. S. S. Woonsocket, (PF 32), was Navigation and ASW Officer on the *Comanche*, a Coast Guard cutter on convoy duty when the rescue was effected. The *Dorchester* was a large army transport, and the loss of life from this sea accident is the largest reported in this war.

Went Over Side

Recalling the action which won him the award, Lt. Anderson stated, "Our first duty was to chase off the subs which were still in the neighborhood of the convoy. We got rid of them and went back to pick up survivors. It was in the middle of the night.

"We went over the side onto life-rafts from the sunken transport. The survivors were helpless. We had to secure lines around them and assist in hauling them aboard. The seas washed over us continually. Once I was swept into the sea and was pulled aboard by Charles W. David, SM1c. David died from natural causes about a month after this."

Showing surprise at receiving the citation and award, Lt. Anderson, who is 28 years old and a resident of Brooklyn, stated, "It all happened over a year ago and I had forgotten all about it. I never expected anything like this."

Admiral Covell, Commanding Officer of MBTS, upon making the award, congratulated Lt. Anderson for upholding the fine traditions of the U. S. Coast Guard and hoped "that you win another award in the not too distant future".



Rear Admiral L. C. Covell, Commanding Officer, congratulates Lt. Robert W. Anderson, after awarding Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism at regimental review here Saturday, 20 May. Lt. Anderson, member of PF crew stationed here, was instrumental in saving 93 survivors of torpedoed Army Transport a year ago.