

IN REVIEW:

Ship Losses In World War II

A Series Of Articles Describing The Loss Of Coast Guard Vessels

DURING WORLD WAR II the Coast Guard lost eleven of its own name vessels of 65 feet or over in length, five 65 to 100 feet in length, and twelve Navy vessels which were wholly Coast Guard manned at the time. Other Navy vessels which were sunk had some Coast Guardsmen among their crews. Most of the 572 Coast Guardsmen listed as killed in action were the members of the crews of these 27 vessels. Coast Guard losses of 72 officers and 966 enlisted men overseas represented respectively .005 per cent of the active peak officer strength and .006 per cent of the active peak enlisted strength. These compare with similar Marine Corps figures of .055 and .044, and .018 and .014 for the Navy. Coast Guard losses of 95 officers and 784 enlisted men in the U. S. area represent .007 and .004 of officer and enlisted active peak strengths, respectively, as compared with .026 and .003 for the Marine Corps and .010 and .003 for the Navy in the U. S. area.

CGC ALEXANDER HAMILTON

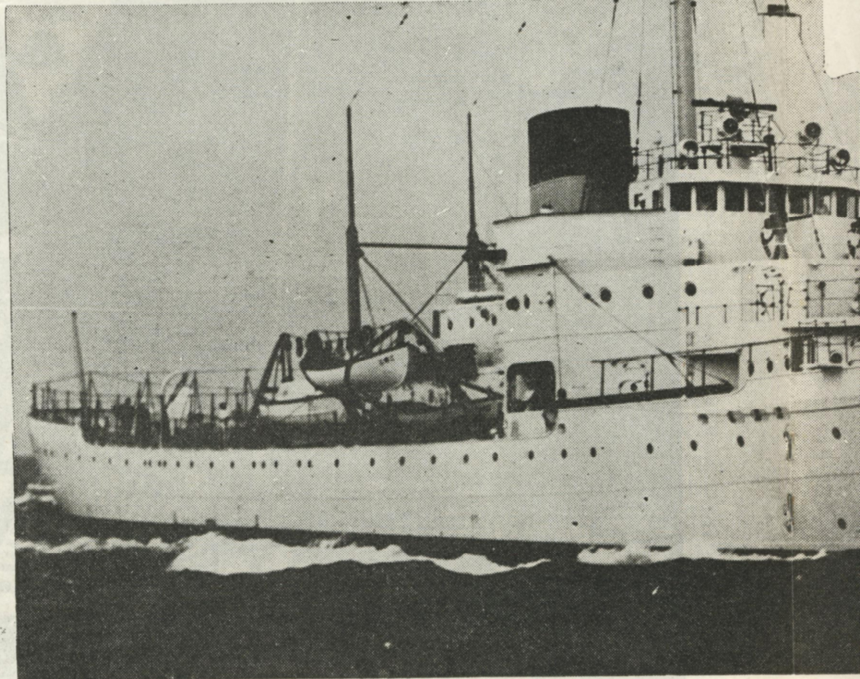
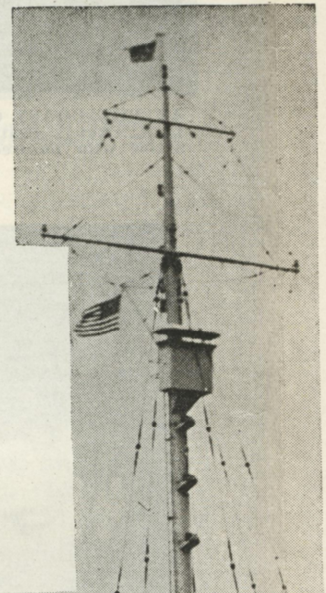
Shortly after she had cast off from a disabled Navy supply ship which she had been towing off the coast of Iceland at about 1312 on January 29, 1942, the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter ALEXANDER HAMILTON was jolted by an explosion on her starboard side. All hands immediately took their battle stations. Two shots were fired from one of her guns to attract attention and flares were sent up. Listing badly to starboard, the cutter settled but remained afloat. She remained afloat for many hours. However, as she was being towed into Reykjavik, Iceland, the wrecked cutter suddenly capsized. A few gun shots from other ships sent her to the bottom. Although no one saw a submarine, the officers were sure she had been struck by a torpedo, for had it been a mine, the blast would have occurred outside, not inside the ship. The shattering blast took place inside the engine room and caused live steam from broken pipes to spurt up through the midsection of the vessel. It has been officially reported that twenty-six men lost their lives in the disaster. Twenty were killed in action—one chief warrant officer and 19 enlisted men. Six died of wounds.

Although most of the crew of some 200 enlisted men were new men, making their first sea voyage, no

In Memoriam

Coast Guard Personnel who lost their lives in the sinking of the Coast Guard Cutter ALEXANDER HAMILTON on January 29, 1942, are listed herewith:

Lient. (Jg) Ludvig Sieck
James E. Costigan, WT1c.
Livingston Brooks, WT2c.
Clarence Little, F1c.
Joseph Emmanuelli.
Julian Booth, F3c.
Otto Liebra, CMM (a).
George Reynolds, CMM (a).
Michael Vas, F1c.
Clifford Lindsay, F1c.
Ennis Roberts, MM2c.
Walter Zajac, MM2c.
Charles Fletcher, Sea1c.
Joseph Kment, F3c.
Cecil Covington, Yeo3c.
Nicholas Holubec, F2c.
Herbert Yates, MM2c.
John McKinney, F3c.
James McGrane, WT2c.
Nick Sabelli, MM2c.
Teddy Wagda, Sea2c.
George Holl, SM3c.
Edwood Musselwhite, AS.
Bruce Davis, MM1c.
Robert Learner, Sea2c.
John Capporelli, Sea1c.



THE ILL-FATED CUTTER ALEXANDER HAMILTON is pictured here in her peacetime attire prior to the outbreak of hostilities in December, 1941. The HAMILTON was the first Coast

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