

COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

George Washburn - Editor Emeritus,
Jack McGrath - Editor

Publisher - CGHM

SPRING 2015

IN THIS ISSUE:
PROJECT SEA HUNT
FIRE IN THE CANAL
EXHIBIT CHANGES

NEW!
CAPE COD
MUSEUM
TRAIL

COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM

3353 MAIN ST. (ROUTE 6A)

P.O. BOX 161

BARNSTABLE, MA 02630

508-362-8521

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WEB SITE: WWW.CGHERITAGE.ORG



Here is the Spring issue of our newsletter. It has been 12 months since we produced a Newsletter, for which I apologize. We had a very busy and successful 2014, and the time slipped away without a Newsletter.

We renewed our lease with the Town of Barnstable, so we will be here for a long time to come. The town is also doing a multi-year restoration of the building, A U. S. Customs House built in 1856, so that has caused some disruption but we have been open throughout the process and will continue to be.

2014 was a busy year for reunions. The CGC Castle Rock, CGC Duane, CGC Hamilton, CGC Hornbeam and the Coast Guard Aviation Association (Pterodactyls) all visited the CGHM while on Cape Cod.

The CGAA was especially generous with their support, which helped us acquire many new display cases and completely revamp the second deck.

We also received a gift from the family of ETCM Dan Farrell, who sadly passed away at a young age after a long illness.

Harold Morrill, a long-time Auxiliarist, remembered us generously when he passed away.

Please check out the new Cape Cod Museum Trail. A great way to see the many unusual museums on Cape Cod.

Thanks to everyone for their interest and support.
We hope you enjoy this issue.

Jack McGrath
editor

MUSEUM NEWS

BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS AND DONORS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REPLACE MANY OF THE SECOND-HAND EXHIBIT CASES WE HAD ACQUIRED. THE NEW CASES BRING ARTIFACTS TO EYE LEVEL AND MAKES A MUSEUM VISIT MORE ENJOYABLE.

AS A FORMER AT, I AM ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO THE COAST GUARD AVIATION ASSOCIATION, (ANCIENT ORDER OF THE PTERODACTYL) FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION. WE NOW HAVE A VERY COMPREHENSIVE DISPLAY ON COAST GUARD AVIATION JUST IN TIME FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2016.

WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO ADD OTHER NEW DISPLAYS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING, ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE.

WE ARE ALSO CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING AN AUDIO TOUR SYSTEM, WHICH WILL ALLOW MUSEUM GUESTS TO TOUR AT THEIR OWN PACE AND PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS OF THEIR INTEREST.

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES ARE SOME PHOTOS OF THE NEWER DISPLAYS IN THE MUSEUM.

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING THE CGHM IS A LACK OF VOLUNTEERS! WE OPERATE WITH AN ALL-VOLUNTEER STAFF. BECAUSE WE ARE NOT YET IN A FINANCIAL POSITION TO HAVE PAID STAFF, VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR OPERATION. IF YOU LIVE NEARBY, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US AS A VOLUNTEER! JUST 5 HOURS ONCE A WEEK FROM MAY TO OCTOBER?

THANKS!!!

LUXX CAPE COD MAGAZINE AND FIRST CITIZENS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION HAVE PARTNERED WITH NEARLY 30 MUSEUMS ON THE CAPE TO PROVIDE LISTINGS, MAPS AND OTHER SUPPORT AT NO COST TO THE MUSEUMS. VISIT: WWW.CAPECODMUSEUMTRAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO.

LUXX MUSEUM TRAIL

- 1 1736 JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE MUSEUM
77 Nobscussett Road
Dennis, MA 02638
508.385.2232
dennishistoc.org
- 2 APTUCKET TRADING POST
Jonathan Bourne Historical Society
24 Aptuxet Road
Bourne, MA 02532
508.759.8167
bournehistoricalsociety.org
- 3 ATWOOD HOUSE MUSEUM
347 Stage Harbor Road
Chatham, MA 02633
508.945.2493
chathamhistoricalsociety.org
- 4 BREWSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
3171 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631
508.896.9521
brewsterhistoricalsociety.org
- 5 CAHOON MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
4676 Falmouth Road
Cotuit, MA 02635
508.428.7581
cahoonmuseum.org
- 6 CAPE COD BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
397 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
508.790.1723
capecodbaseball.org/archives/halloffame
- 7 CAPE COD CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
577 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649
508.539.8788
capecodchildrensmuseum.org
- 8 CAPE COD MARITIME MUSEUM
135 South Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
508.775.1723
capecodmaritimemuseum.org
- 9 CAPE COD MILITARY MUSEUM
30 Keene Street
Bourne Village, MA 02532
508.888.0633
capecodmilitarymuseum.org
- 10 CAPE COD MUSEUM OF ART
60 Hope Lane
Dennis, MA 02638
508.385.4477
ccmoa.org
- 11 CAPE COD NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
869 Route 6A
Brewster, MA 02631
508.896.3867
ccnmh.org

- 12 CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
513 Main Street
Centerville, MA 02632
508.775.0331
centervillehistoricalmuseum.org
- 13 COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM
3353 Main Street (Route 6A)
Barnstable, MA 02630
508.362.8521
coastguardheritagemuseum.org
- 14 CHATHAM RAILROAD MUSEUM
153 Depot Road
Chatham, MA 02633
508.945.5100
chathamrailroadmuseum.com
- 15 CHATHAM MARCONI-RCA WIRELESS MUSEUM
847 Orleans Road
Chatham, MA 02633
508.945.8889
chathammarconi.org
- 16 EDWARD GOREY MUSEUM
8 Strawberry Lane
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675
508.362.3909
edwardgoreyhouse.org
- 17 FALMOUTH MUSEUMS ON THE GREEN
55 and 65 Palmer Avenue
Falmouth, MA 02540
508.548.4857
museumsongreen.org
- 18 FRENCH CABLE STATION MUSEUM
41 South Orleans Road (Route 28)
Orleans, MA 02653
508.240.1735
frenchcablestationmuseum.org
- 19 GREEN BRIAR NATURE CENTER
6 Discovery Hill Road
East Sandwich, MA 02537
508.888.6870
thorntonburgess.org
- 20 HERITAGE MUSEUMS & GARDENS
67 Grove Street
Sandwich, MA 02563
508.888.3300
heritagemuseumsandgardens.org

- 21 JOHN F. KENNEDY MUSEUM
397 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
508.790.3077
jfkhyannisismuseum.org
- 22 MASHPEE WAMPANOAG MUSEUM
414 Main Street
Mashpee, MA 02649
508.477.9339
mashpeewampanoagtribe.com/museum
- 23 OLD HARBOR LIFE SAVING STATION MUSEUM
Race Point, Provincetown
Cape Cod National Seashore
nps.gov/caco/historyculture/old.harbor.life.saving.station.htm
- 24 ORLEANS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM
3 River Road
Orleans, MA 02653
508.240.1329
orleanshistoricalsociety.org

- 25 PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM
460 Commercial Street
Provincetown, MA 02657
508.487.1750
paam.org
- 26 PILGRIM MONUMENT AND PROVINCETOWN MUSEUM
1 High Pole Hill Road
Provincetown, MA 02657
508.487.1310
pilgrim.monument.org
- 27 SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM
129 Main Street
Sandwich, MA 02563
508.888.0251
sandwichglassmuseum.org
- 28 WOODS HOLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
579 Woods Hole Road
Woods Hole, MA 02543
508.548.7270
woodsholemuseum.org
- 29 ZION UNION HERITAGE MUSEUM
276 North Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
508.790.9466
zionunionheritagemuseum.org



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STILL MORE AIRCRAFT



DISPATCHES FROM THE FLEET

PROJECT SEA HUNT



Robert Barkin – Washington Post

Project SEA HUNT

Story by Ensign R. E. Winter, Coast Guard Office of Research and Development

How would it feel to be rescued after drifting at sea for days? You've been waiting and watching, hoping that the next plane will see you, despairing when it doesn't. Finally, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter sees you and turns, flying straight to the rescue, and you, you are anxious to thank your rescuer--until you find out that it's a pigeon!

That may happen. The Coast Guard is now training the birds for search and rescue. Yup! The they're the common, "statue in the park variety" pigeon, Olivea livia. In Honolulu, Hawaii, with the help of the U.S. Navy and Marines, nine pigeons are being trained at the Naval Ocean System Center to spot international orange objects and to notify a human of the sighting. Project code name: Project SEA HUNT.

But why SEA HUNT? And why pigeons?

And compared to the humans' 38-percent score for first-run sightings, the pigeons tallied up 90 percent!

Unfortunately, the program does suffer an occasional setback or two. First, there is the mixed problem of public relations. The first reaction of most people upon hearing about SEA HUNT is a sort of humorous disbelief. --"How cute! A rescue squab!" "Rescued by a pigeon? That's funny! But seriously, now . . ."-- That attitude seems to brim over into the area of budgeting. Hence, SEA HUNT has, in the past three years, received funding from the U.S. Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, but continued support is shaky and shifts from agency to agency. This year, the Coast Guard is carrying most of the ball.

Then, despite the fact that pigeons have been shown to have keen perception and long attention spans, few people are willing to assign the birds to important tasks. With training, the birds are able to sort through thousands of electronic

"We found in some tests we made a few years ago," says SEA HUNT project officer at Coast Guard Headquarters, LTJG Phil Sirois, "that the trained birds could detect a target on the first pass about 90 percent of the time. In about 84 percent of the runs, the pigeons spotted the target before their human pilots did."

Three trained pigeons ride in a plexiglas pod beneath a Coast Guard HH-52A helicopter, each bird having a full 180 degree view of the sea below. For the tests, the helicopter flies out to sea, drops an orange sphere, and flies away. Turning back, the HH-52A speeds the pigeons and people back toward the simulated life-jacket. When one of the pigeons spots the target, it pecks a switch, activating an indicator inside the cabin. This tells the crew both which direction to turn to find the sphere and which pigeon gets the food reward.

parts or medicinal capsules, to spot and identify the few defects. However, there seems to be a psychological block to taking vitamins from a bottle marked "Inspected by Pigeon 14," and the same qualm seems to extend to trusting one's life at sea to the abilities of a bird, no matter how much better the pigeon scores over humans.

The final, and major, setback happened last year. As three of the pigeons and their crew were out searching for a missing boat, the helicopter ran out of fuel and made a forced landing in the water. The pigeons, encased in the pod beneath the chopper, couldn't make it out. As Jim Simmons, project director in Hawaii, commented sadly to the press, "It was a totally unexpected and definite loss."

Fortunately, interest ran high enough for the program to continue. Early in 1979, ten new pigeons were recruited from off the park statue, and training began again.

Training pigeons can be a long and tedious process. First, the pigeons must learn to respond in the proper way. It's a simple lesson, and soon they learn that each time they peck the response button, a little bit of corn appears in their feed cup. Next, they must get used to the small, plexiglas-fronted cubicle that will be their center of operations. The "pigeon hole" isn't quite like home, since it is subject to increasing noise and vibration in order to acclimate the birds to the helicopter.

Then comes the time-consuming task; to train the pigeons to respond to the "International Orange" color whenever it appears in front of their window. Here the training becomes more individualized, as pigeons can be as individually different as humans. Some pigeons learn faster than others, some don't learn at all; so far this year, one pigeon has been retired to the park bench.

With simple color recognition learned, a mechanical buoy is then used to show an orange flag while floating in front of the pigeons' window -- first while close, then at progressively greater distances. Slowly, the pigeons develop an eagle eye when it comes to spotting the flag, their final distances range around two thousand yards.

Finally comes the flight test. It is here that the pigeon learns that there is more to search and rescue than pecking at the sight of little flags. The targets change to surfboards, beach balls, and life preservers. The elements of motion and altitude are introduced, and then -- graduation.

"It is difficult to imagine a pigeon being useful," says LTJG Sirois, "if all you remember is the pigeons you see in the park, fighting over a piece of popcorn. But try thinking of each bird as a living microcomputer, with highly specialized vision and a programmable memory. That's closer to the truth, and it's easier to accept.

"Once a pigeon is trained to know that it won't get fed until it sees a man in the water, that pigeon will spend its life looking for a man in the water. We treat them well, keeping them healthy and hungry. And as one Coast Guardsman put it, 'They're too dumb to get bored.'"

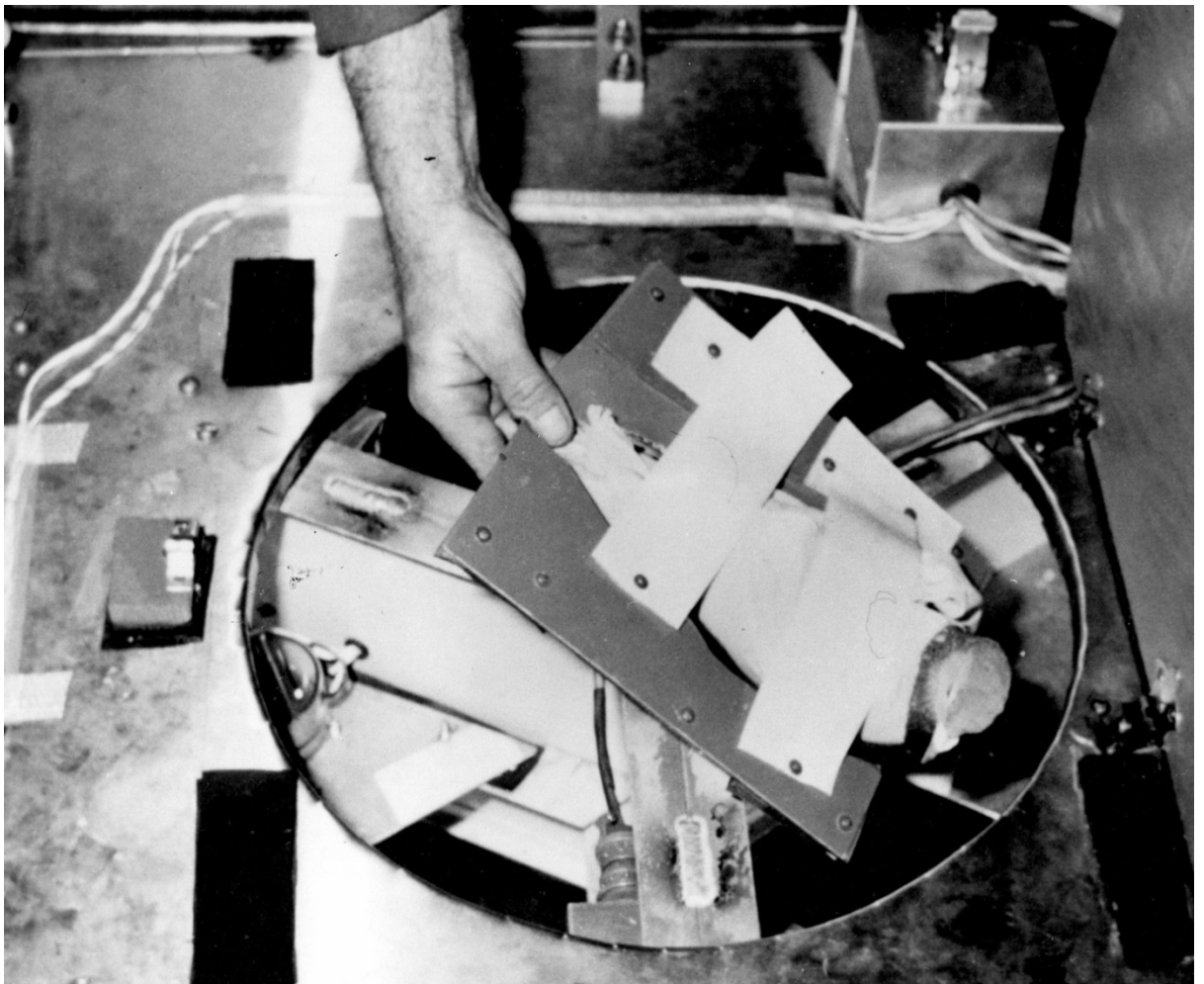
When will you be seeing pigeons mustering with your local Coast Guard helicopter crews? "One crew of trained pigeons should be ready for SAR duty in Hawaii by April of this year," states LTJG Sirois. And so, it's just a matter of time before simple pigeons provide cheap, effective, and friendly assistance to Coast Guard search and rescue.

Testing in San Francisco



No wet suits for the pigeons??





ALL STRAPPED IN!

Bird-brained idea? No; pigeons may save lives

Washington (AP)—In this age of laser and sonar and other sophisticated wizardries, the Coast Guard has hit on a new way of finding people lost at sea.

Hungry pigeons.

Pigeons of the plain, park-bench, statue-sitting variety.

A man at the Naval Oceans Systems Center, in Honolulu, has taken five pigeons under his wing, training them to spot the color orange. When the bird sees orange, it pecks at a switch and is rewarded with food.

After graduating from land-training with an orange flag that pops up randomly, the pigeons are strapped into a plexiglass pod attached to the underside of a helicopter and taken for a ride over the sea.

"We found in some tests last year that the birds would detect the target about 90 per cent of the time on the first pass," said Douglas Conley, who runs the project. "The pilots and crews would detect it about 40 per cent of the time and they know where to look."

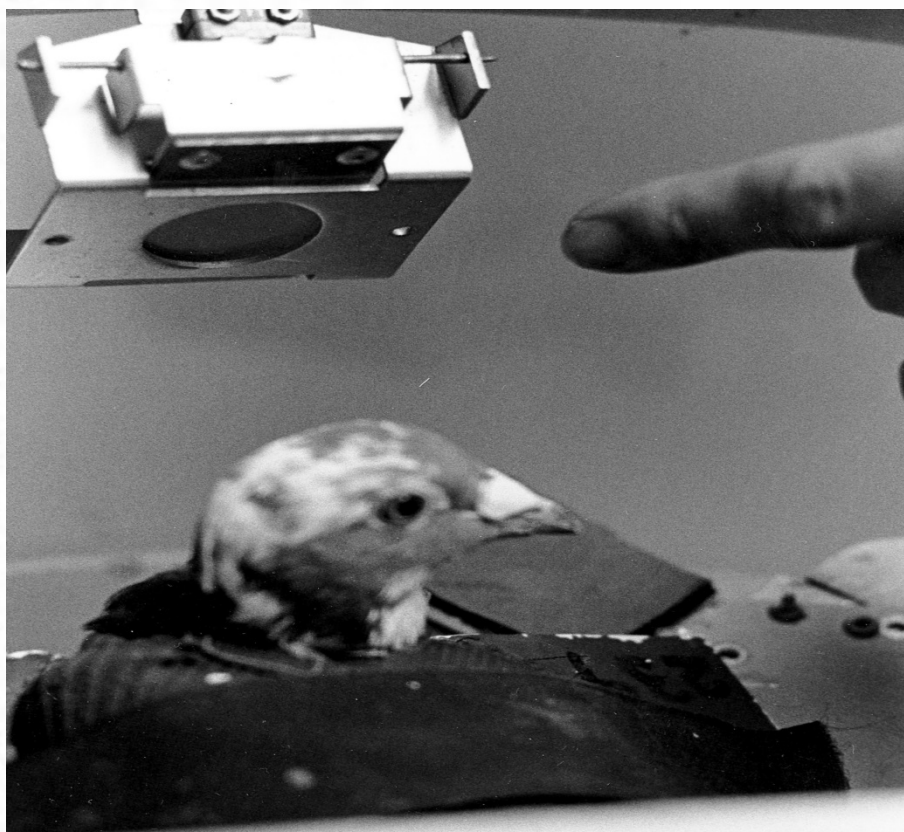
The pigeons ride three to a pod, each facing a different direction. Lights in the cockpit tell the pilot which bird spots the target and from that he knows which way to look. The winning bird gets food.

Do they cheat? "As far as I know, we haven't had many false alarms at all," said Mr. Conley, who is in the Coast Guard's Office of Research and Development.

At first, chopper captains thought flying co-pilot with pigeons was for the birds, but changed their minds with the results.

"The birds seem pretty happy about it," Mr. Conley said. "We haven't had any complaints."

It took 18 months to train the first set of three. They were used to look for a small motorboat off Hawaii in Febru-



School's out for almost everyone except this pigeon and others like it, which are being trained by the Coast Guard to spot and respond to the color orange. When the birds graduate, they will take to the sky not on their own wings but in helicopters from which they can spot colored rafts, potentially helping find people lost at sea.

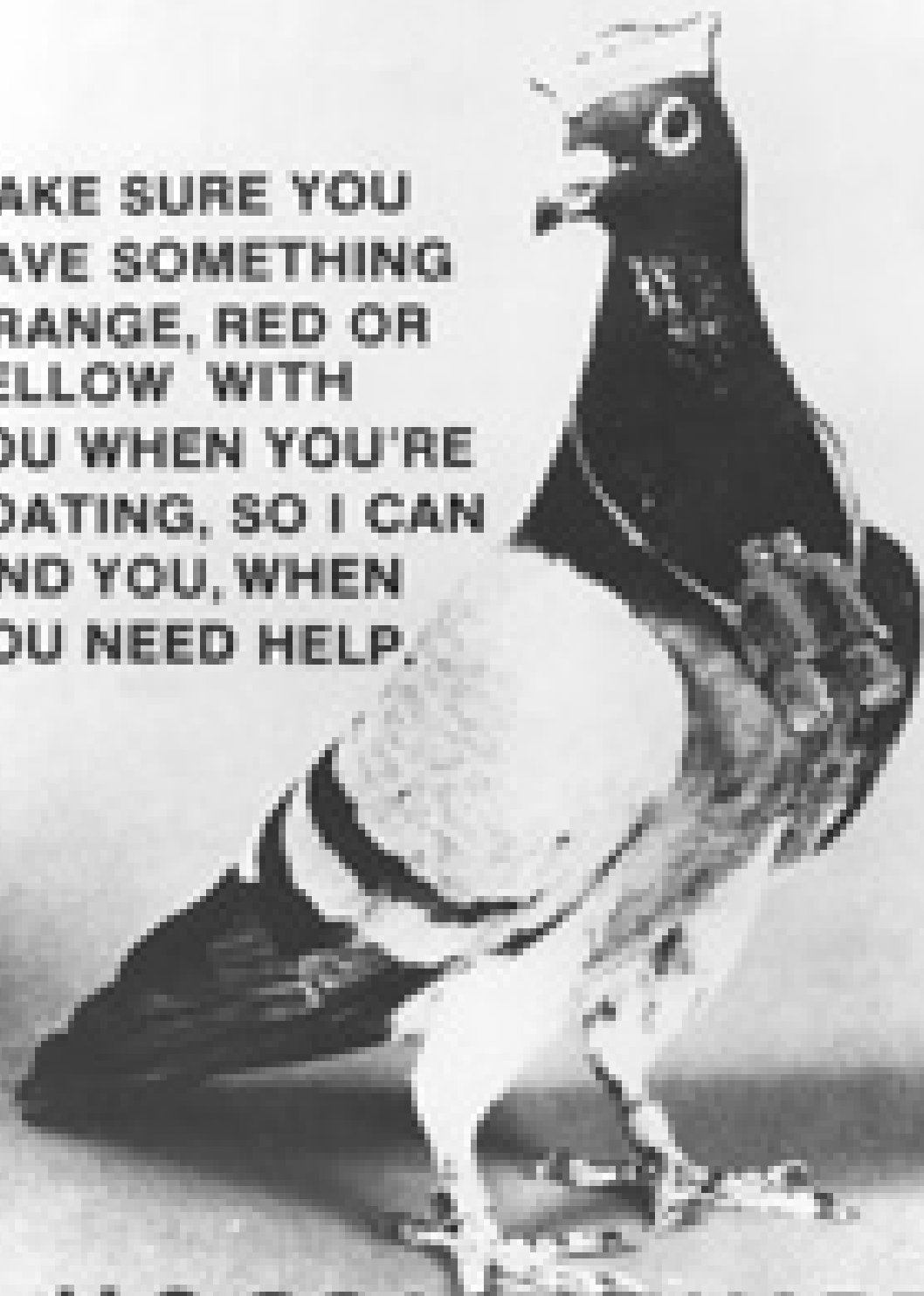
ary, but the helicopter crashed and the birds were lost. Five birds are in training now and are expected to be flying by the end of September and October.

If it works out, the Coast Guard hopes to use simulators to train the birds. Right now the target color is orange; later they'll be trained on yellow—the col-

or of most liferafts—and red. And, who knows, eventually pigeons may be trained to peck when they see anything man-made on the water.

This year, the Coast Guard is spending \$73,000 on the project, which pays for bird-training, a new observation pod and better electronic components.

**MAKE SURE YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
ORANGE, RED OR
YELLOW WITH
YOU WHEN YOU'RE
BOATING, SO I CAN
FIND YOU, WHEN
YOU NEED HELP.**



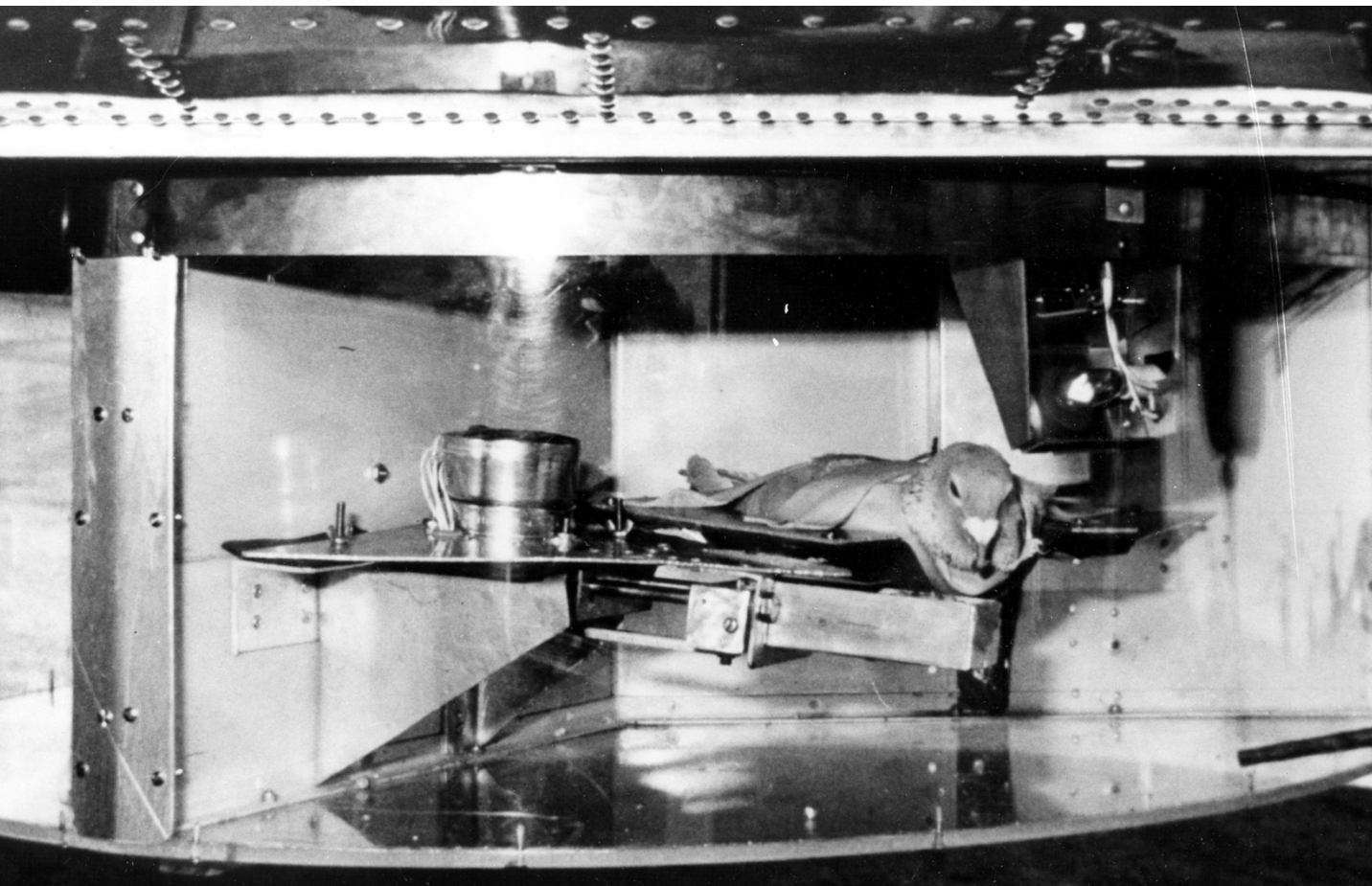
**U.S.COAST GUARD
SEARCH AND RESCUE**

3 Trained Pigeons Lost In Helicopter Ditching

HONOLULU, Feb. 16 (UPI)—Three pigeons trained to aid in ocean search and rescue were lost Thursday when a Coast Guard helicopter they were riding was forced to make an emergency landing in the ocean. The pigeons were trained by the Naval Ocean Systems Center to peck a buzzer if they spotted lifejackets or other ocean gear.

They were being used in a Coast Guard-Coordinated Search in Hawaiian waters for a missing 17-foot Boston Whaler, the Sarah Jo, with five men aboard. The boat disappeared Sunday afternoon.

The three birds were housed in a plastic bubble beneath the helicopter. A Coast Guard spokesman said all four crewmen aboard the helicopter were unhurt in the ditching.



What life vest??

Trained rescue pigeons cooped in by budget cut

Despite the fact that they're "superior, expert observers who work for chicken feed," the Coast Guard has laid off its trained pigeons as lookouts for search and rescue missions.

In what is strictly an economy move, the program was dropped Oct. 1, as the Coast Guard began its new budget year. Scientists emphasized the move had nothing to do with the birds' effectiveness.

Scientists claimed trained pigeons, with an 80-degree angle of acute vision, compared to two and one half degrees for humans, can see objects the size of a life jacket floating in choppy water up to three-quarters of a mile away.

"The pigeon is better suited to visual searches than man," said James V. Simmons, research scientist in charge of Project Sea Hunt, at Barbers Point Air Station, Hawaii. The birds can see floating objects faster and more consistently than Coast Guard lookouts, he said.

Pigeons in the program had a year of intensive training as Simmons taught them to peck an electrical switch when they sighted international orange, the widely used color of emergency equipment. When they did, the birds got a kernel of corn.

On the missions, three pigeons were stationed in separate compartments of a plexiglass bubble beneath a helicopter. By observing which pigeon was doing the pecking, the pilot learned the direction of an object.

The Coast Guard used the pigeons in a search mission only once. The rescue effort was successful, but the pigeons were killed when the helicopter lost power and had to make an emergency landing off the Kona Coast of Hawaii.

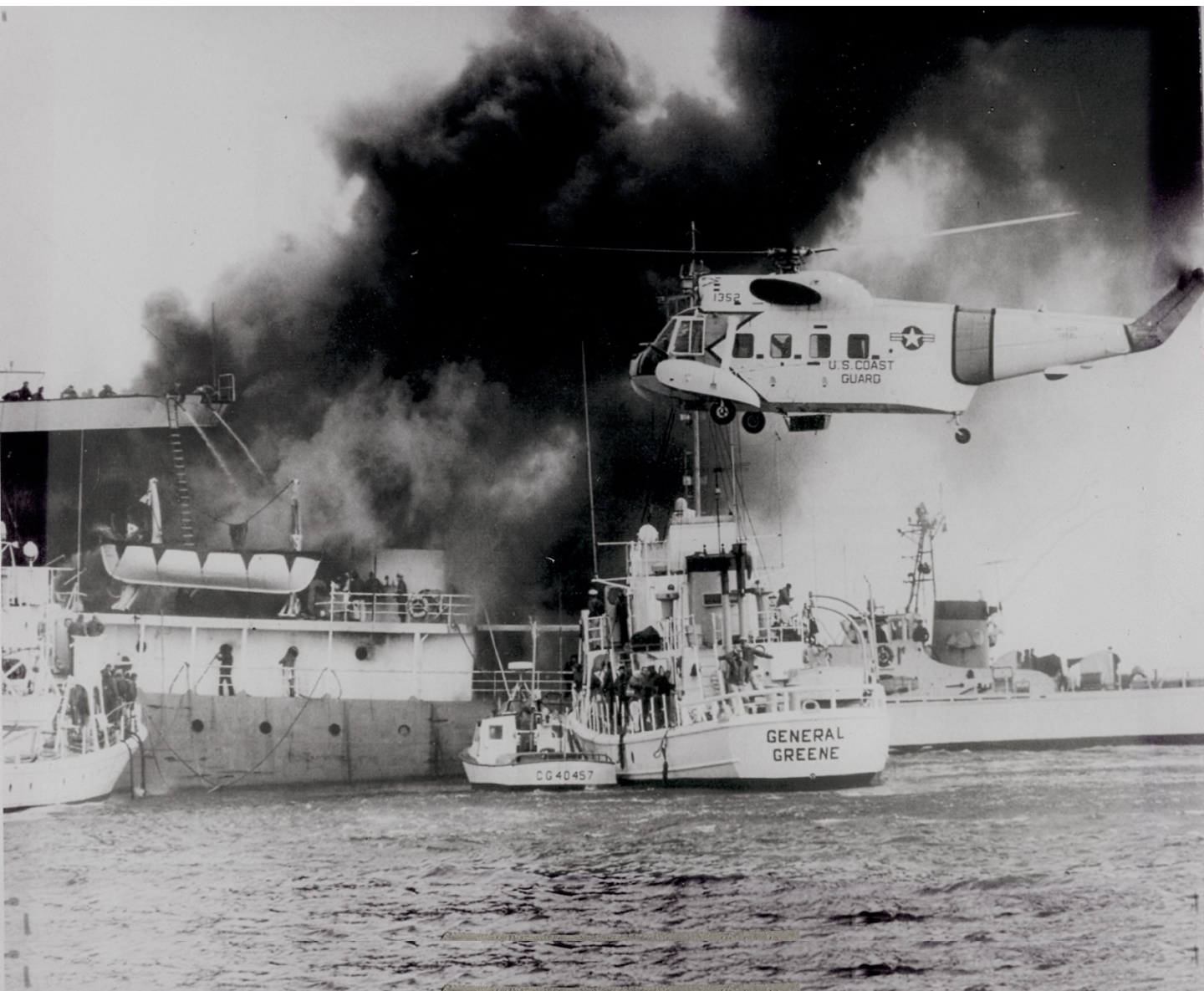
A new set of pigeons was recruited, but it took another year to train them, and money for the program has run out.

Strange but true. All photos and information from the Coast Guard Historian's office.

<http://www.uscg.mil/history/articles/PigeonSARProject.asp>

DISPATCHES FROM THE FLEET

FIRE IN THE CAPE COD CANAL



NOVEMBER 14, 1963

AT ABOUT 0658 ON 14 NOVEMBER 1963, THE NORWEGIAN FREIGHTER **FERNVIEW** COLLIDED IN DENSE FOG WITH THE UNITED STATES TANK VESSEL **DYNAFUEL** IN THE WESTERN APPROACHES TO BUZZARDS BAY.

THE COLLISION WAS BLAMED ON THE ACTIONS OF THE PILOT ABOARD THE FERNVIEW. HE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE BY A COAST GUARD EXAMINER.

THE 309 FOOT DYNAFUEL WAS OUTBOUND IN THE MAIN CHANNEL IN BALLAST, AND THE FERNVIEW WAS TRAVELING NE FROM NEW YORK WITH GENERAL CARGO.

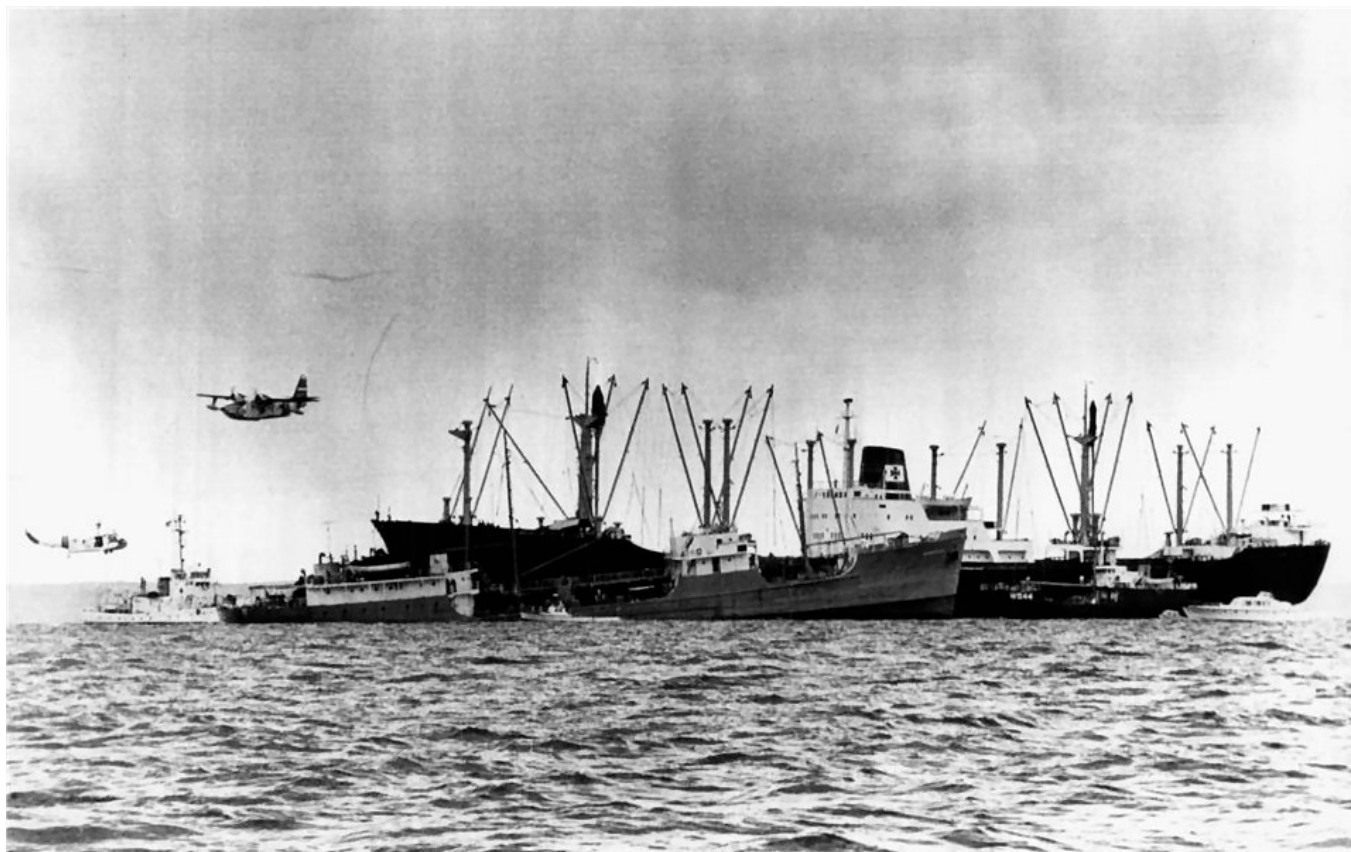
THE FERNVIEW PENETRATED THE PORT SIDE OF THE TANKER JUST AFT OF THE MIDSHIPS DECK HOUSE. FOUR TANKER SAILORS WERE INJURED, BUT THERE WERE NO DEATHS. A FIRE BEGAN AND BOTH SHIPS BURNED. THE FERNVIEW WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO NEW YORK, BUT THE DYNAFUEL ROLLED OVER AND SANK.

AFTER THE COLLISION, THE CREW OF THE DYNAFUEL TRANSFERRED TO THE FERNVIEW. THE INJURED CREWMEN WERE EVACUATED BY COAST GUARD HH52A AS THE FIRE WAS FOUGHT BY AN ARRAY OF USCG VESSELS, INCLUDING THE CGC HORNBEAM AND THE CGC GENERAL GREEN.

THERE WERE ALSO BOATS FROM THE CAPE COD CANAL COAST GUARD STATION AND WOODS HOLE.

AIRCRAFT RESPONDED FROM CG AIR STATION SALEM.

THE DYNAFUEL, OWNED BY SUN OIL CO., WAS 309 FEET & 3100 TONS, AND THE FERNVIEW WAS 510 FEET AND 3800 TONS. THE FERNVIEW CONTINUED TO SAIL UNTIL 1986, BUT THE DYNAFUEL WAS SCRAPPED.



SHIPS LOCKED TOGETHER. HH52 & HU16 ON SCENE





CGC HORNBEAM

U. S. COAST GUARD

INCOMING OFFICIAL MESSAGE

UNIT USCGC HORNBFAM

DATE 15 NOV 1963

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

INCOMING HEADING

R 151852Z

UNCLAS
FROM O
SHIP COLLISION BUZZARDS BAY

TEXT

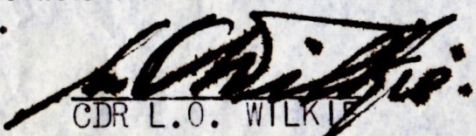
1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD.

QUOTE: I HAVE OBSERVED WITH PRIDE THE ACTIONS OF FIRST DISTRICT COAST GUARD UNITS IN RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO THE FREIGHTER FERNVIEW AND TANKER DYNAFUEL AFTER THEIR COLLISION IN BUZZARDS BAY. ALL PARTICIPANTS RESPONDED PROMPTLY EFFECTIVELY AND PROFESSIONALLY. THEIR EFFORTS NO DOUBT KEPT INJURIES AND PROPERTY LOSSES TO A MINIMUM. WELL DONE TO THE COMMANDER FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT, HIS STAFF, ALL HANDS WHO TOOK PART IN THIS RESCUE EFFORT. SIGNED VICE ADMIRAL D. MCG MORRISON, ACTING COMMANDANT, US. COAST GUARD.

UNQUOTE.

2. IT IS WITH PRIDE THAT I FORWARD THE ABOVE MESSAGE AND WISH TO ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. SIGNED RADM C.L. HARDING.
BT

TO ALL HANDS: I ADD MY HEARTY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR CHEERFUL RESPONSE THROUGHOUT THE SIXTY HOUR WORKING DAY THE HORNBFAM WAS IN THE BATTLE. WELL DONE.

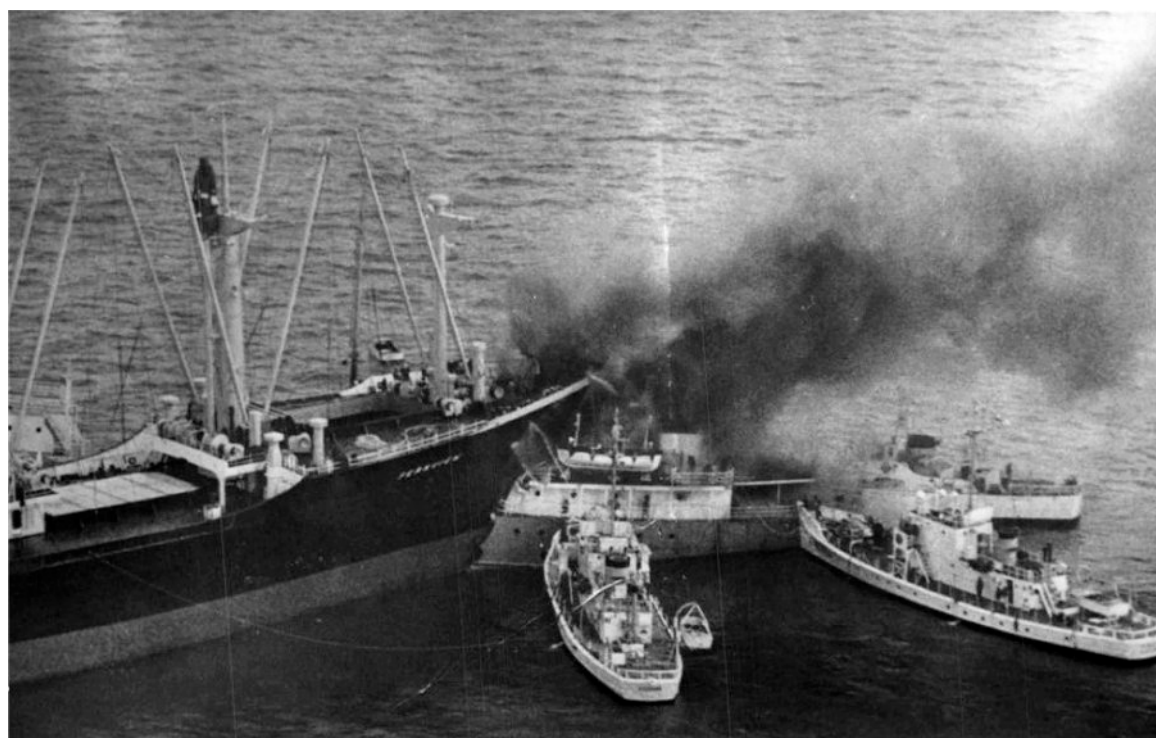

CDR L.O. WILKIE

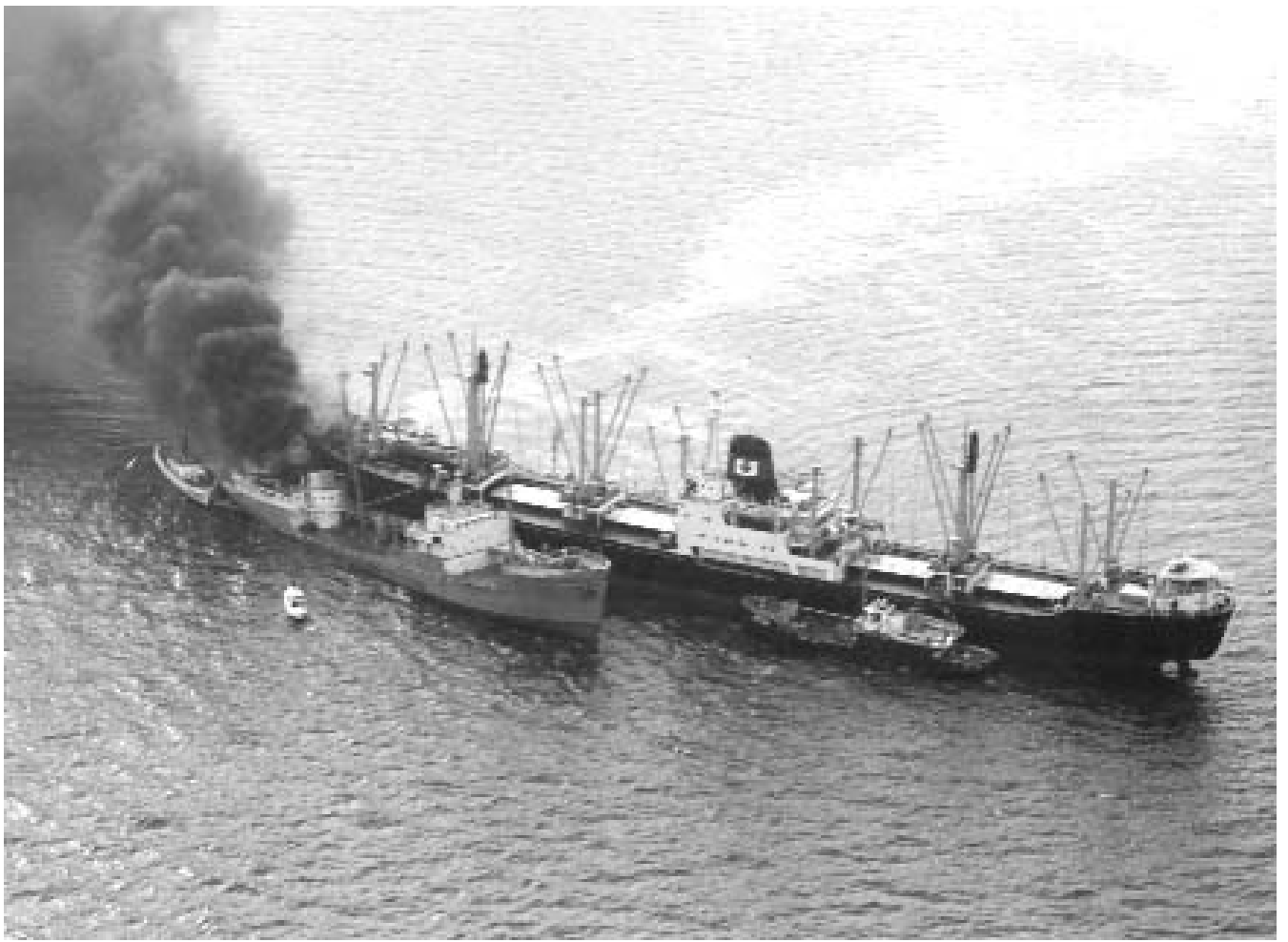
OPERATOR

TIME: _____
INITIALS OF "ACTION" OFFICER



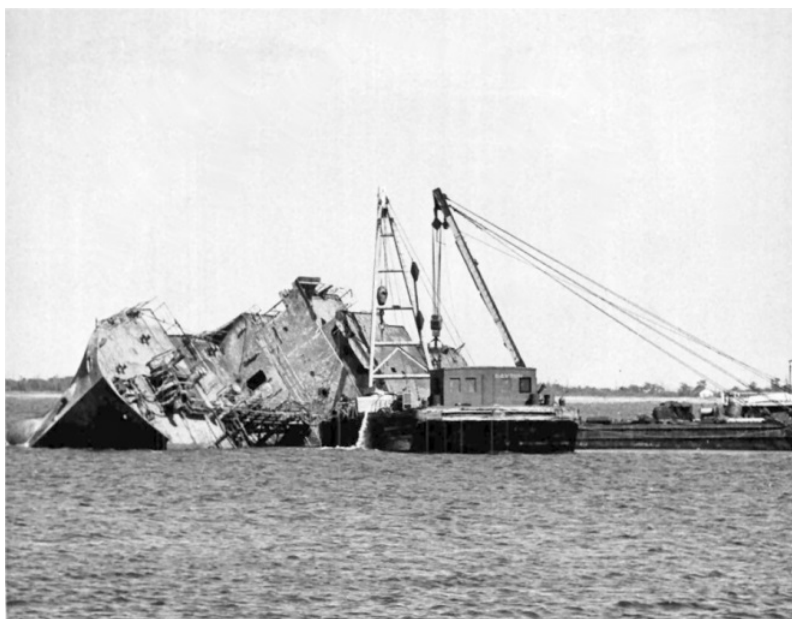
FERNVIEW BOW EMBEDDED IN THE DYNAFUEL







**THE DYNAFUEL
AFTER
SEPARATION
FROM THE
FERNVIEW.**



COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

USCG CONNECTION (IF ANY) _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

ANNUAL DUES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$250 |

GUARDIAN

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTAIN'S CIRCLE | \$500+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADMIRAL'S CIRCLE | \$1,000+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMANDANT'S CIRCLE | \$2,500+ |

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CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: MONTH _____ YEAR _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

GIFT SHOP

COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM

“CHALLENGE COIN”

\$12



FRONT



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___ \$25.00 (Surfman) ___ \$25 (Aviator) ___ Other (\$____)

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Signature _____

___ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO: "THE COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM"

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Please print your name(s) as you wish to be recognized:

Name _____

Street/PO Box# _____

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Total Gift Amount \$ _____

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