

That Other Marine Service

A brief narrative of the history and evolution of this branch of service.
The background intrigued me during a recent research of a particular
vessel that may be a future build!

U.S. Coast Guard

America's Maritime Guardian



June 2010

Today's US Coast Guard Service

- A unique and evolutionary service – *Peace Time*
- Multiple fronts of duty
 - ✓ Search and rescue (SAR)
 - ✓ Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE)
 - ✓ Aid to Navigation (ATON)
 - ✓ Ice Breaking
 - ✓ Environmental Protection
 - ✓ Port Security
 - ✓ *Maintains Military Readiness*
- In this capacity *today, reports to the Director of Homeland Security*

The US Coast Guard Service



Great Lakes Ice Breaker

The US Coast Guard Service



USCG Light Ship
now a historic
landmark (retired
in 1983)

Today's US Coast Guard Service

- A unique and evolutionary service – *War Time*
 - Supports military activities
 - ✓ Home
 - ✓ Abroad
 - ✓ Has participated in almost every major conflict of the US (more later)
 - Carries on its peacetime traditional duties
 - ✓ Incidentally, saves over 3000 lives annually
 - ✓ Incredibly, in 1970s the numbers ranged from 5000 to 7000
- In this capacity *reports to the Navy*

Today's US Coast Guard Service

- Not a large service by human count in peace time
 - 41,00 active men and women
 - 7,000 reservists
 - 31,000 auxiliary personnel performing a myriad of support duties
- A Specialized Fleet/Force
 - 243 coastal and ocean going patrol, ice breaker, tugs and other ships
 - 1,600 small craft primarily rescue and patrol
 - 200 helicopters and fixed wing craft

Today's US Coast Guard Service



Let's not forget others
that serve!

Today's US Coast Guard Service



Organizational Structure

- ✓ 5 Atlantic Districts
- ✓ 4 Pacific Districts

Today's US Coast Guard Service

- Protects more than 100,000 miles of coast and inland waterways
- Atlantic Districts (includes Puerto Rico and???)
 - ✓ 9th Atlantic District (districts not sequentially enumerated)
 - Great Lakes, St Lawrence Seaway, surrounding states and the international border
 - 47 small boat stations on the Great Lakes (21 on Lake Michigan alone)
 - ✓ Districts divided into Sectors
 - Lake Ontario part of Buffalo Sector
 - 6 stations on Lake Ontario; Niagara, Rochester, Sodus Point, Oswego, Sackets Harbor and Alexandria Bay
- Pacific Districts includes Alaska and Hawaii
- 42 Air Stations ringing the US coast, Alaska and Hawaii

Turning to a Brief History of US Coast Guard

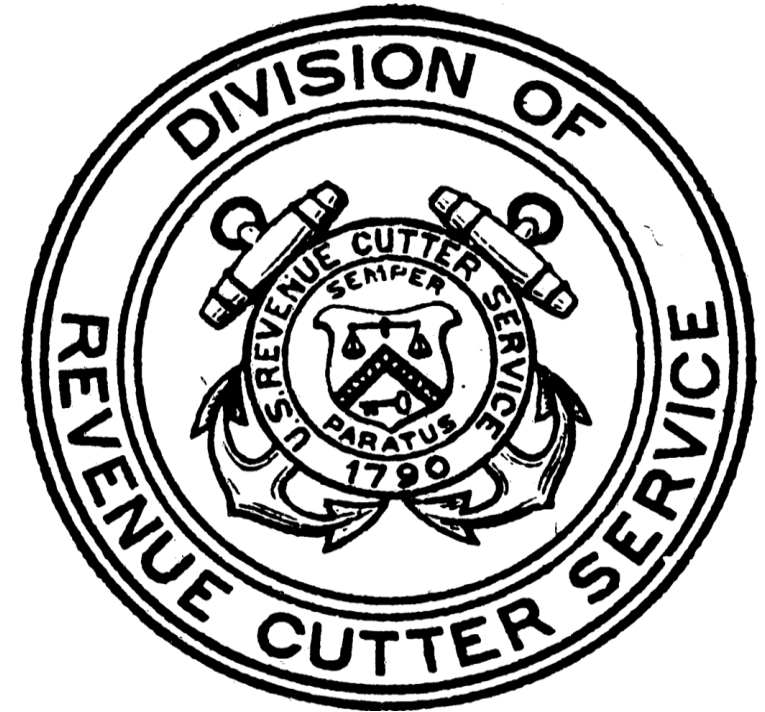


The US Coast Guard History

- After the Revolutionary War the US Treasury was depleted
 - ✓ Disbanded the Continental Navy
 - ✓ Instituted fund raising through commercial tariffs
 - ✓ In turn promoted the rise of commercial smuggling up and down the east coast
- Enter The Revenue Marine
 - ✓ Recommended by Secretary of Treasury (Hamilton) in 1790
 - ✓ Built 10 cutters in select home ports overseen by their captains
 - ✓ Operations plied the waters from New Hampshire to Georgia
 - ✓ Fought alongside the newly formed Navy in the French Quasi War
 - ✓ Maintained this identity until 1798
- Service *reported to the Secretary of the Treasury* in this era

The US Coast Guard History

- In 1798 this service was renamed The Revenue Cutter Service
- The Revenue Cutter Service continued general peacetime service and continued report to the Department of the Treasury.
- From the War of 1812 through modern times the Service has supported 'homeland' responsibilities but grew more involved in wartime activities (convoy escort, invasion support, rescue, material transport etc.)
 - ✓ Engaged in the Mexican-American War
 - ✓ Engaged in the Civil War
 - ✓ Participated in the Spanish-American War
 - ✓ World War I
 - ✓ World War II
 - ✓ The Korean War
 - ✓ Viet Nam
 - ✓ The Desert Storm and Iraq Conflicts



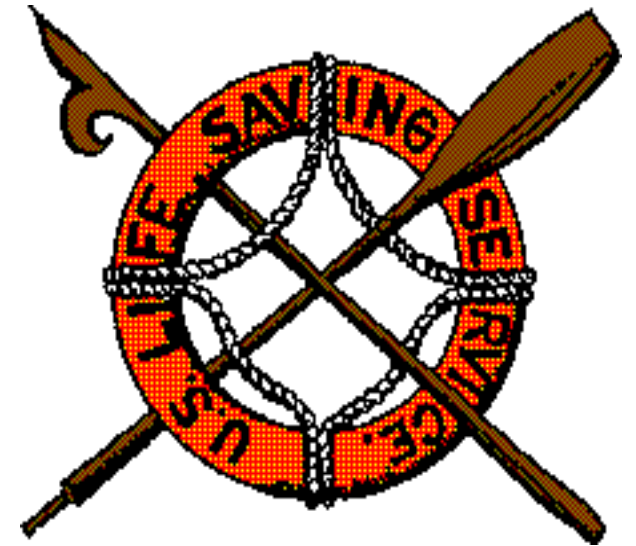
The US Coast Guard History



Coast Guard Patrol: Viet Nam aboard Swift Boats

The US Coast Guard History

- The Life Savings Service
 - ✓ Coastal rescue services formed as early as the 1700s
 - ✓ A voluntary service unfunded until 1848
 - ✓ Utilized open rowing craft (large skiffs) stored close to shore
 - ✓ At this time managed by the Revenue Marine but still maintained as a volunteer service
- The US Life Saving Service formed in 1899
- Ultimately merging with the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915



The US Coast Guard History



North Beach Life Saving
Station built 1897,
Chatham, abandoned in
1947

The US Coast Guard History



Early 1900s picture of a
rescue event on Cape Cod

The Life Saving Motto:

“You have to go out but
you don’t have to come
back”

The US Coast Guard History

- This union of the Revenue Cutter and Life Saving services formed the core of today's US Coast Guard
- The current insignia/markings were first launched and slowly applied to all Coast Guard assets starting in the 1970s under Kennedy's prompting.
- Oddly The Eagle was not so 'adorned' with this insignia until the Bicentennial!
- At some point in this era the US Coast Guard ***reported to the Department of Transportation*** prior to its current report to Homeland Security



A Model Subject – The 36500 MLB



The Restored
Rescue Boat
of the early
1900s at Rock
Harbor

[illegible]

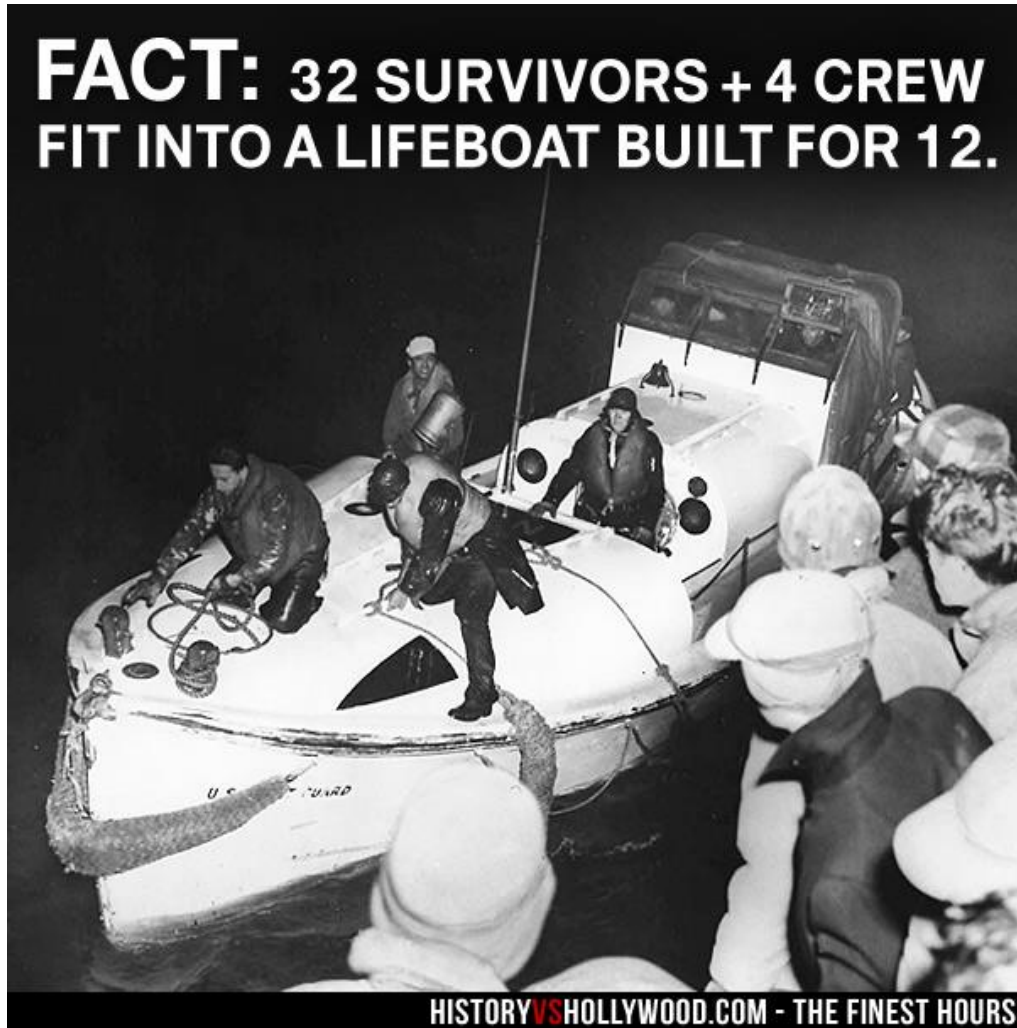
Current Location of CG36500, Rock Harbor Summertime

Original Station of CG36500

Background of the CG36500 MLB Model Subject

- MLB stands for Motorized Life Boat
- Off the Coast of Cape Cod in 1952 a violent nor'easter raged causing two, 500 foot tankers to split apart
- CG36383 MLB (out of Stage Harbor Chatham) went to assist in the rescue of crew of the *Fort Mercer* tanker
- CG36500 MLB (out of Chatham) went out to rescue the crew of the *Pendleton* tanker
- Seventy foot waves made rescue an incredible challenge.
 - Seas reached 70 feet
 - Stranded crew sought refuge on separated bows and sterns on both vessels
- CG36500 MLB was the more successful in its rescue attempt
 - Saved all but one crew member.
 - Approached Pendleton 30 times to pick survivors off, one at a time.

Background of the CG36500 MLB Model Subject



The crew

Background of the CG36500 MLB Model Subject



A Tribute:
The First Sentinel Class Fast Cutter –
Named the Weber after the CG36500
pilot

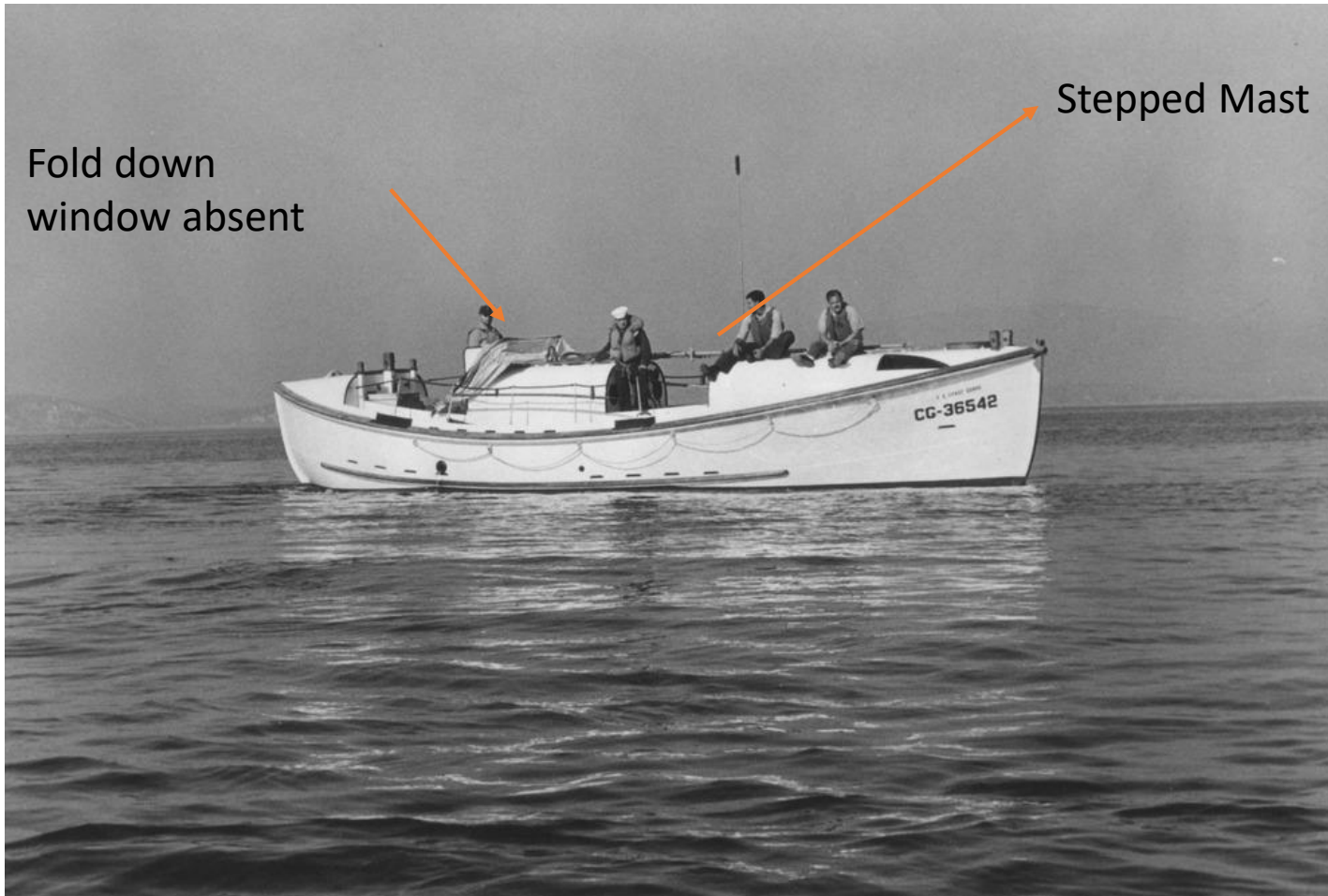
The Model Subject

- Not a unique subject – it has been modeled before in scratch and kit form
- Dumas offers a kit on just this subject
- Special to me for personal and technical reasons
- Recently acquired USCG drawings for the TRS (post 1948) build of this MLB from an MSW member
- CG36500 is a completely restored MLB owned by the Orleans (Mass.) Historical Society. It is usually moored at Rock Harbor in fair weather in Orleans.
- These MLBs were incredibly sea worthy and could be ‘turtled’ and self righted in about 12 seconds.

The Model Subject

- Hundreds of these life boats were built between 1929 and 1956
- There were three versions; the TR and TRS (the 'S' signifying a simplified model) are the only ones I have knowledge of)
- The TR had capability for a sail
- The TRS version was built starting in 1948 dropping the sail, adding the much needed pilot windows and removing some 'bright work' etc.
- They were built at the USCG boat yard; Curtis Bay, Maryland
- All versions were wood and canvas construction
- They were powered by a 90 hp gas engine, giving the boat a top speed of 10 knots

The Model Subject; TR Version



- The Restored CGR 36542 on the west coast
- Housed at Point Reyes Historic Landmark (Part of National Park Service)
- Conflicting data on how many MLBs were built between 1929 and 1956
- The TR had capability for a sail

The Model Subject; TR version

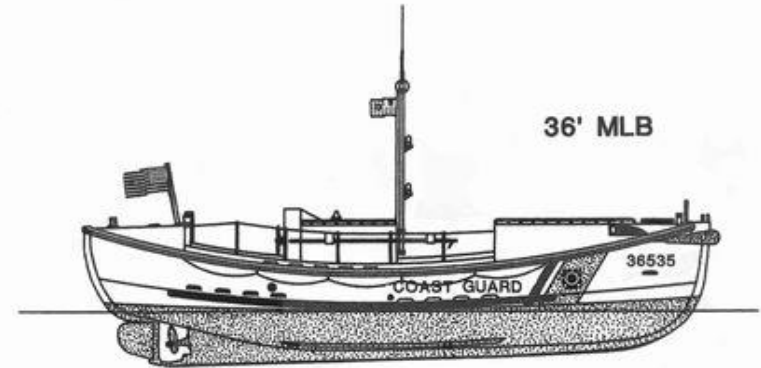


The Model Subject; The TRS Version

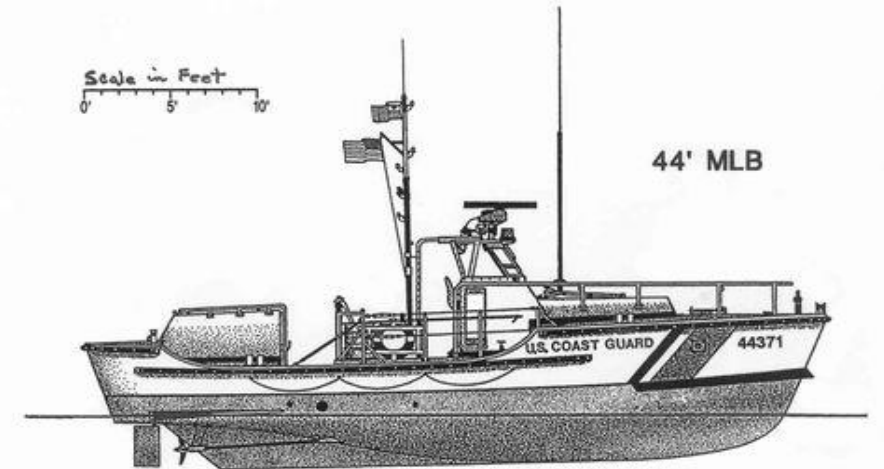
- CG36500 is a TRS MLB. Both versions are 36 feet long
- The 2000 lb bronze keel and the two air tight chambers forward and aft would right these vessels in 12 seconds if 'turtled'
- Some TRSs were constructed with metal sheeting forward and aft at the waterline for ice collision
- Engine cooling was normally through sea water circulation but in extreme cold conditions a recirculating tank was provided to protect the engine cooling system
- A crew of 3 to 4 manned the MLBs in an open cockpit. Crew were in harness
- The enclosed forward and aft compartments were designed to hold just 12 rescued people

The Model Subject

- CG36500 is just one of about a dozen left
- Most were beached and burned and some were sold off to other nations
- One was berthed in the port of Rochester at the Charlotte Coast Guard Station until 1968
- This 36 MLB shown is a TR model
- These were eventually replaced with the 44 foot MLB
- Fascinating to see the many “Coast Guard Services” world wide. They appear very similar to the US Service



Scale in Feet
0' 5' 10'



Questions and Comments?

