

1787      1798      1799      1812      1846      1861      1865

U.S Constitu-  
tion signed on  
September 17th      Quasi-War with  
France authorized  
by Congress  
on May 28th      Quasi-War      War of 1812      Mexican-  
American War      Civil War      Civil War

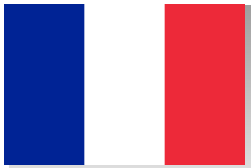
The cutter Pickering captured 10 prizes, one of which carried 44 guns and 200 men, three times her own force.

The Eagle, recaptured the American vessels Nancy and Mehitable in a memorable fight in 1799 with the French privateer, Revenge.

The cutter Jefferson captured the first prize of this war.

After combat skirmishes with American and Mexican troops over the Texas southwestern boundary, Congress declared war with Mexico on May 13, 1846. Mexicos declaration of war with the U.S. occurred on May 23rd.

The cutter Harriet Lane took part in the expedition to Fort Sumter in 1861 to patrol the coast for commerce raiders and provide fire support for troops ashore. The Harriet Lane is credited with firing the first naval shots of the Civil War.



One of the most hotly contested battles was between the cutter Surveyor and the British frigate Narcissis. The Surveyor was eventually captured, but the British captain praised the gallantry of the American crew.



One of the most dramatic engagements was the defense of the cutter Eagle against the attack of the British brig Dispatch and an accompanying sloop.



1898

## Spanish-American War

Spain declared war on the U.S. on April 24, 1898, a consequence of our intervention in the Spain/Cuba crisis.

On May 11, 1898 in Cardenas Bay, Cuba, the cutter Hudson and torpedo boat USS Winslow were engaged in battle with Spanish gunboats and shore batteries. With the massacre of Ensign Bagley, U.S. Navy, and the commanding officer and half the crew wounded, Hudson rescued the craft from destruction while under intense enemy fire.

A peace treaty was signed in Paris, France on December 10, 1898. Once again, the Revenue Cutter Service provided important inshore support to the Navy.

1917

## World War I

After German submarines deliberately sank three American vessels, the U.S. entered World War I on April 2, 1917. The Coast Guard was again put into military service. This time, however, the entire Coast Guard manpower, vessels, and units was transferred to the Navy in April 1917 to fight overseas.

In August and September 1917, six Coast Guard cutters, Ossipee, Seneca, Yamacraw, Algonquin, Manning, and Tampa were deployed to Gibraltar, constituting Squadron 2 of Division 6 of the Atlantic Fleets patrol forces. The cutters escorted hundreds of convoys between Gibraltar and the British Isles, as well as performing escort and patrol duties in the Mediterranean.

1939

## World War II

Following the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, the Coast Guard began carrying out neutrality patrols on September 5, 1939. On June 22, 1940, port security began.

1941

## World War II

### Submarine Patrol

Coast Guard-manned ships sank 11 enemy submarines; Coast Guard aircraft are credited with sinking one enemy submarine.

One of our first successful attacks involved the 165-foot cutter Icarus. Using depth charges, the Icarus forced the surfacing of a German submarine. With just a 3-inch deck gun, the submarine was forced to surrender.

In early 1943, after a sharp gun battle, the cutter Campbell sank an enemy submarine by ramming it, causing severe damage to the Campbell. A small crew kept the ship afloat during the 600-mile tow to port.

In the latter part of 1943, the cutter Spencer tracked a submarine through a convoy. This was accomplished with such skill that the action report became part of antisubmarine force policy.

### Escort Service

Coast Guard cutters and aircraft performed extensive convoy protection duties in the Atlantic arena. These craft are credited with sinking 12 German U-boats.

### Transport Duty

Coast Guard personnel manned over 350 ships and hundreds more amphibious type assault craft...from the largest troop transports to the smallest attack craft. These vessels landed Army and Marine forces in every major amphibious invasion in North Africa, Italy, France, and the Pacific. Amphibious operations in the Pacific theater alone engaged thousands of Coast Guardsmen in situations where small-boat experience was essential.

The Coast Guards only Medal of Honor recipient was posthumously awarded to Douglas Munro, for his extraordinary heroism, outstanding leadership, and gallantry actions. On September 27, 1942, Munro was instrumental in rescuing a group of marines near the Matanikau River. The initial landings were made on Guadalcanal in August 1942.