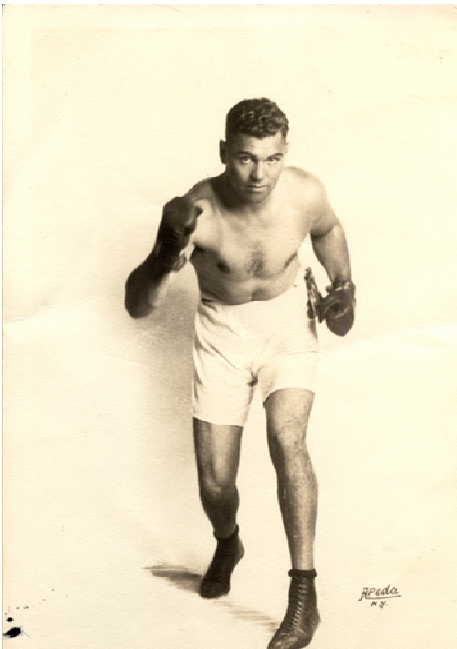


WORLD WAR II Recollections of EM2 Norman Taylor USCGR

Eight months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Norman Taylor enlisted for three years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve on 19 August 1942 at Recruiting Office Boston, MA. Just prior to his enlistment he married the former Emma Hambly of Fall River Massachusetts.



After being shipped to Brooklyn N.Y., Norman attended Boot Camp at Manhattan Beach Training Station. There he had the good fortune to receive physical training from a national celebrity, LT Jack Dempsey who was in charge of the Physical Education Staff. Dempsey left a lasting impression on the recruits by holding an



hour long one on one session jokingly referred to as "Dempsey's Charm School".

THINGS TO REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE COAST GUARD TRAINING STATION, MANHATTAN BEACH

1. A good offense is the best defense.
2. Get off first, hit the enemy before he hits you.
3. Keep your hands up at all times.
4. Always keep your chin down.
5. Always keep your left hand out in your opponents face, don't drop your hands after punching.
6. When you leave here, keep yourself in condition by doing roadwork, shadow boxing, calisthenics and any exercise that will keep you fit. Any competitive sports are fine. This may be the saving of your life as well as thousands of others.
7. Have confidence in yourself, remember when you are tired, your enemy may be more tired, keep on punching. Remember we have but one aim, and that is to win this war, and by keeping yourself in condition, the job will be finished that much sooner.

THIS PICTURE IS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR YOUR
SPLENDID SPIRIT AND TRAINING WHILE HERE AT MAN-
HATTAN BEACH.

Good luck to you

from Lieutenant

and the entire Physical Education Staff.

Jack Dempsey 10-7-42

Upon completion of Boot Camp as an Apprentice Seaman, Norman was transferred to a number of stations in Long Island including Northport, Amagansett, and East Hampton. Most of this time was spent training for Search and Rescue in surf boats and in drilling and standing sentry duty as part of the newly authorized Beach Patrols. Although most of the time was spent patrolling from Ditch



Ditch Plains 43

Plains Station to Montauk Lighthouse walking 8 miles each way telephoning in to the comcenter to report location and sightings and walking the 8 miles back in all weather and hours of the day and night. These routine patrols were usually tedious however one night at the next station down the beach from Ditch Plains, the reality of the threat of war and invasion was brought to national attention:



[SN 2/c John Cullen, who helped foil one of two Nazi sabotage teams that were sent to the United States in 1942. Cullen discovered the saboteurs, who had landed on a Long Island beach from their submarine *U-202*, during his six-mile patrol from Coast Guard Station Amagansett. He immediately reported the incident to his superiors; they then contacted the FBI. Neither sabotage team was successful and all of the Nazi agents were captured.] From www.uscg.mil/history



Pitch Plains 1943
NORMAN

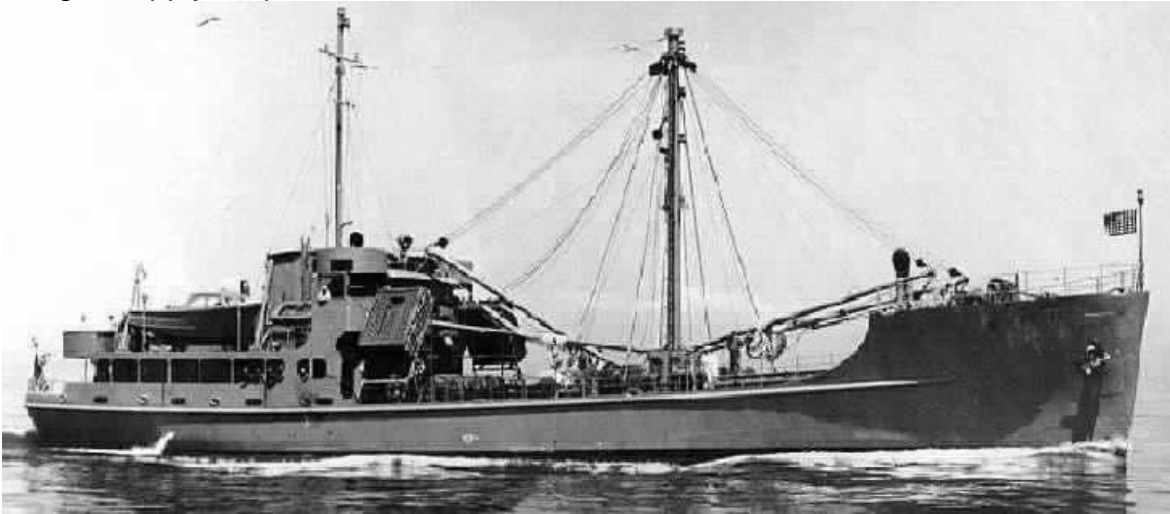


Norman carrying his "Rizon" with 20 round clip and 75 rounds ammo.

There were times however that made the routine worthwhile and the camaraderie went a long way toward making memorable moments.



Norman in an effort to advance in rate accepted an offered to go to Electrician's Mate School which at the time was in Groton, CT. His training lasted 16 weeks and he earned an overall grade of 89.92. After graduation as a Third Class Electrician Mate he was transferred to New Orleans, LA and assigned to Ingalls Ship Yard in Decatur, AL where he worked to complete the wiring of US ARMY Freight Supply Ship FS-395.



FP-343 reclassified as *FS-343* Naval Historical Center Photo Collection, Photo # NH 74691 titled: "U.S. Army ship FP-343 underway, 1944"

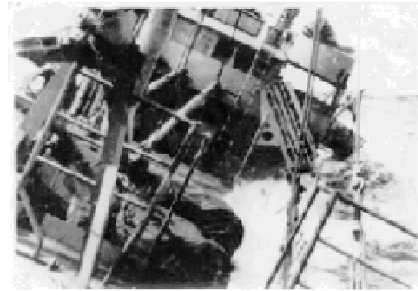
FS-395

The Coast Guard-manned Army vessel FS-395 was commissioned at Ingalls Shipyard, Decatur, AL on 1 January 1945. Her first commanding officer was LT J.R. Baylis, USCGR, who was succeeded on 14 September 1945, by LTJG B.G. Crawford, USCGR. He in turn, was succeeded on 1 October 1945 by LTJG Melvin A. Alvey, USCG. She was assigned to and operated in the Pacific area.

While in the shipyard he was barracked in a rooming house in Decatur. Once the vessel was commissioned they sailed to Long Beach CA via the Panama Canal and prepared for deployment overseas in the Pacific Campaign. While in California Norman and his shipmates took advantage of their liberty time and visited Hollywood.



Leaving home and country behind Norman like many others in the FS Fleet left Long Beach and sailed on into harms way in the Pacific.



Center: Tom Chapele, 1st Engineer of FS-553, ca. 1944-45 Right: Typhoon. Photos: Tom Chapele via his son Ken.

The transit was uneventful with the exception of the traditional crossing of the equator ritual. SHELLBACK's one and all.

Here is Neptune and his court, a motley crew indeed



During the Pacific Campaign FS-395 supplied numerous islands including Leyte, New Guinea, and others around the Philippines with stores and ammo.



Norman received notoriety by being featured in his local hometown newspaper The Fall River Herald when they published a valiant picture of him carrying a captured Japanese Rifle. The Coast Guard Press release reads as follows:

From:
Public Information Division
U.S. Coast Guard
Washington, D. C.

FALL RIVER COAST GUARDSMAN WITH WAR SOUVENIR

Coast Guardsman Norman Taylor, electrician's mate third class, of ~~MM~~ FALL RIVER, Mass., holds a Japanese rifle aboard a Coast Guard-manned supply ship in the Pacific. The ~~Japanese~~ weapon was captured by Filipino guerillas on Mindanao and given to the crew of the vessel which delivers supplies to advanced combat zones. Coast Guardsman Taylor is the son of Mrs. J. Taylor, 1723 South Main St.

FS-395
N-920
TAYLOR



Norman in New Guinea



Swimcall
somewhere in Philippines 1945



Norman featured with captured Japanese Rifle

Upon his return from the Pacific he was posted at CG Receiving Station Mt. Rainer, Ordinance Depot Tacoma WA. From there he had to endure a week long train ride prior to discharge from Separation Center #1 Boston, MA on 24 November 1945 returning home unannounced to his surprised wife Emma on Thanksgiving Day, a truly thankful day for the entire Taylor family.



B29771 Series B

Honorable Discharge

from the
United States Coast Guard

This is to certify that

NORMAN TAYLOR (594-142) *is* ELECTRICIAN'S MATE SECOND CLASS
is **Honorably Discharged** from the SEPARATION CENTER NUMBER ONE
and from the United States Coast Guard
this 24th day of NOVEMBER, 1945
This certificate is awarded as a Testimonial of Fidelity and Obedience.

Hans F. Slade
HANS F. SLADE, COMMANDER U.S.C.G.
Commanding

Enlisted as APPRENTICE SEAMAN on 19 AUGUST, 1942
At BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS for 11022 years
Born 25 FEBRUARY, 1921 at FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS
Qualifications THREE OF RATING
Ratings held FIVE: AS; S2c; S1c; EM3c; EM2c.
Certificates
Service schools completed Electrician's Mate School, CGTS, Groton, Conn.
Special duties for which qualified
Service (vessels and stations served on)
REG. OFF. BOSTON; MAN. BEACH TRUSTA; NORTHPORT STA.; AMAGANETT STA.; NORTHPORT TRSTA;
AMAGANETT STA.; EAST HAMPTON STA.; COTS, GROTON, CT.; ODGOG BND; OGRS, NOLA.; FS-395
CG REGSTA MT. RAINIER, ORD. DEPOT, TACOMA, WASH.; SEP. CEN. #1 BOSTON, MASS.
Reserve (Active Duty) from 19 AUGUST, 1942 to 24 NOVEMBER, 1945
Discharged from RESERVE enlistment.
Rating at discharge ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 2nd CLASS {Permanent/Temporary} Service No. 594-142
Marital Status MARRIED

R. H. Russell LIEUT. COMDR., U.S.C.G.
and Disbursing Officer

Personal marks, etc. ANT: VS1MA. POST: None

I hereby certify that I have examined the man herein named and find that he is physically qualified for reenlistment.
I certify that this is the actual print of the right index finger of the man herein named.

R. H. Russell LIEUT. COMDR. U.S.C.G.
and Disbursing Officer

Monthly rate of pay when discharged ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND EIGHTY CENTS (\$100.80)
I hereby certify that the within named man has been furnished travel allowance amounting to \$ 2.65 at the rate of .05 cents per mile from Boston, Mass. and paid \$ 19.67 in full to date of discharge.
Total net service for pay purposes 2 years 3 months 6 days.

Norman Taylor (Signature of man.) DEPUTY U.S.C.G.
W. E. Sparks W. E. SPARKS, LIEUTENANT and Disbursing Officer



During his three years of Coast Guard service EM2 Norman Taylor received the following Campaign Medals, Decorations and Awards:



American Theater of War Medal



Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal



World War II Victory Medal



Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal



Philippine Liberation Medal



After his separation from the Coast Guard, Norman became a Postal Clerk in Providence, RI, and together with his wife Emma raised two children, Carol Ann and William Norman, eventually retiring in 1986. They currently reside in Tiverton, Rhode Island in a home that overlooks the Sakonnet River, Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean from which he has never drifted far.

In dedication of this memoir "Fair winds and following seas" to Norman and all those who served the Coast Guard and nation so nobly "SEMPER PARATUS".