

7-1-2005

Commander David S. Goddard U.S. Maritime Service Photograph Collection

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.; Schnur, James Anthony; and Fernandez, Robert, "Commander David S. Goddard U.S. Maritime Service Photograph Collection" (2005). *Special Collections and University Archives Finding Aids: All Items*. 57.
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**Commander David S. Goddard
U.S. Maritime Service
Photograph Collection**

A Collection Guide by
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July 2005

Introduction to the Collection

In November 1939, two training ships entered Tampa Bay and moored at the U.S. Coast Guard base along Bayboro Harbor. This event marked the beginning of the United States Maritime Service Training Station (USMSTS) in St. Petersburg, Florida. From late 1939 until 1941, the Maritime Service ships resided at the Coast Guard base while construction of the training station took place. Dedicated in July 1941, the USMSTS became an active training center during the war years. Until decommissioned on 31 March 1950, this site served as one of the largest training facilities for the Merchant Marine in the United States. Thousands of Maritime Service graduates who had trained on ships such as the *Joseph Conrad*, *Tusitala*, *Vigil*, and *American Sailor* later carried supplies to armed forces during the Second World War and played other essential roles in supporting convoys and protecting shipments.

Mariners had served with honor since the earliest days of the United States, with privateers and merchant marines assisting the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. During times of war and peace, these sailors transported cargo, guarded shipments, and assisted members of the Armed Forces with logistical operations. The United States Congress authorized the creation of a United States Maritime Service through the Merchant Marine Act of 1936. Two years later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the U.S. Maritime Service (USMS) in an effort to prepare for possible wartime hostilities.

Approximately 25,000 young adults trained at the Bayboro Harbor facility between early 1940 and 31 March 1950. Many young men between the ages of 17½ and 35 arrived during America's involvement in the Second World War. Along with waves of over 120,000 U.S. Army Air Corps recruits and other service personnel, the USMS trainees stayed at hotels such as the Soreno and Vinoy, as well as in the barracks that later became part of USF St. Petersburg ('B' building) until demolished in March 1992. Cadets faced a rigorous five-week preliminary training session to test their aptitude in seamanship and boat operations. USMS trainees took classes at the station (including swimming and endurance tests in the pool), in outdoor facilities near the area of Demens' Landing, and on the ships docked along the harbor. After the initial training session, the merchant mariners continued their studies in areas such as practical ship training (on the deck, in the engine room, as a steward, etc.) and advanced navigational techniques. A Cooks and Bakers School also began in December 1942.

Commander David S. Goddard arrived at the United States Maritime Training School at Government Island, near Alameda, California, in 1940. He enrolled in one of the first classes at that facility to train licensed officers for the Merchant Marine. He then served aboard the *USMSTS American Sailor* when that vessel was commissioned as a training ship in the summer of 1941. After receiving a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, Goddard also spent time at the Maritime Service Training Station at Port Hueneme, California, during the summer of 1942. This facility, dedicated in August 1941, was modeled on the recently opened maritime campus at Bayboro Harbor. After serving as leading officer on the ship *American Engineer*, he came to St. Petersburg and took on high-level responsibilities at the Bayboro Harbor facility. Goddard returned to Alameda in February 1946 to serve as Executive Officer at Government Island.

Training continued after the end of the Second World War, with Goddard commanding the ship *USMSTS American Mariner* in the Gulf waters during the late 1940s. The ship also paid visits to ports such as Norfolk, Virginia, where its arrival in May 1949 attracted press coverage. During the years following World War II, cadets enrolled for a six-month course in which trainees received three months of experience on the water. The *American Mariner* possessed a complement of fifteen officers, thirty-five seaman administrators, and 100 students during its open-water classes of the late 1940s. The ship had the capability of accommodating over 400 trainees at one time during the war years.

Restrictions/Preservation Note

Many of the clippings, photographs, pamphlets, and ephemeral materials in this collection reside in acid-free viewing sleeves. Photographs constitute a substantial portion of this collection. While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of such items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. Avoid placing any additional stress on the paper fibers by folding or creasing newspapers or other materials, or by exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Commander David S. Goddard Maritime Service Photographic Collection

This collection falls under the Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The contents of the Goddard Collection occupy one document box (approximately 0.25 linear feet). In addition, the collection includes one oversize photograph of the vessel *American Sailor* stored alongside the other materials in the document box. Photographs and clippings constitute the primary materials in the collection. Inclusive dates are from the early 1940s to 1950. The language used on all materials in this collection is English.

Additional Sources of Information

Researchers interested in the Maritime Base should also consult the Donald Saxer USMSTS Bayboro Harbor Collection, located in the Poynter Library's special collections and archives.

Internet resources include web pages created by former members of the United States Merchant Marine/Martime Service. See: <http://www.usmm.org>
See also: <http://www.usmm.net/stpetersburg.html>

Container Listing

Nota Bene: Descriptions below may represent more than a single photograph and are included to provide context for the overall collection.

Box 1, Folder 1 **Clippings and Ephemeral Materials**

Booklet commemorating the deactivation of USMSTS facility at Bayboro Harbor
 Undated correspondence to Goddard from David B. Eisendrath, Jr., of *PM* newspaper
 Assorted clippings, late 1940s, from Norfolk, Virginia, and California newspapers
Neptune (Vol. 4, No. 9), March 1946, newsletter of USMSTS facility in Alameda, Ca.

Box 1, Folder 2 **Portraits and Group Photographs**

Ceremony at front of "A" building, with Goddard as Executive Officer
 Crew of *USMSTS American Mariner*, 6 March 1950, with names on one photograph
 Gathering of USMS officers in front of cenotaph, probably at 22 May 1945 dedication
 (one photo shows cenotaph covered, the other after its unveiling)
 Podium speakers at 22 May 1947 National Maritime Day ceremonies along Bayboro
 Portrait of Goddard
 Unidentified portrait
 Group photographs on ship
 Photographs of Goddard and other officers
 Photographs of Goddard and others on training ship
 Image of Goddard inspecting navigational tools on ship
 Goddard and others at parties or formal dinners, some at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club
 (including the Maritime Officers Club Dance at the Yacht Club in July 1944)
 Goddard and others at a dance, probably held at St. Petersburg's Coliseum

Box 1, Folder 3 **Ships and Waterfront Images along Bayboro Harbor**

View of *USMSTS Joseph Conrad* along the mall area in front of "A" building with crew
 View of *Joseph Conrad* moored along seawall east of "A" building
 View from front of *Joseph Conrad* looking into open waters of Tampa Bay
 Mast of *Lone Jack*, launched into service October 1944
 Training sailboats in Tampa Bay, with plane flying overhead
 Training sailboat in Tampa Bay, with smaller ships in close proximity
 Crew members in rowboats entering Bayboro Harbor
 Crew members in rowboats entering Bayboro Harbor, with view of cadets on peninsula
 Image of waterspout in Tampa Bay, possibly in the area near Coquina Key

Box 1, Folder 4 **Images of *USMSTS American Mariner***

Six photographs of *USMSTS American Mariner*

Box 1, Folder 5 **Images of *USMSTS American Sailor***

Two photographs of *USMSTS American Sailor* in folder, one in oversize folder

Box 1, Folder 6 **Miscellaneous Photographs**

Image of planes landing, possibly at Albert Whitted Airfield, St. Petersburg
 Images from Marine Studios, the Seamens Club of Mobile, and other unknown locations