

SCHUYLER FORBES CUMINGS (1891-1967)

INTRODUCTION

This small collection contains some personal items but a large portion deals with the rescue of the ANDJIK on March 2, 1925, when, as commander of the AMERICAN MERCHANT, he towed the Dutch vessel 500 miles into the Azores. In 1928, rescue of 121 passengers aboard the VESTRIS is recorded in radiograms and other documents.

Schuyler Forbes Cumings was born on February 28, 1891 in Manhattan; his ancestors were among the original settlers on the island. He was a cadet at the New York Nautical School aboard the ST. MARY'S and graduated in 1909. He sailed as deck boy on the three masted barque VON FOONG from New York to the Hawaii Islands, going around the Horn because of adverse winds and tides.

Captain Cumings participated in many major rescue operations. The first, when he was chief officer of the steamship HUDSON, occurred on New Years Day 1922 when he saved six French sailors, a dog and a puppy from a sinking fishing boat. He was awarded a medal by the Life Saving Benevolent Society of New York for directing the rescue work of the steamship VESTRIS in 1928. As commander of the AMERICAN MERCHANT in 1925, he towed the Dutch vessel ANDJIK 500 miles into the Azores and performed a similar rescue of the crew of the EXETER CITY years later.

Cumings died on April 2, 1967.

THE PAPERS OF SCHUYLER F. CUMINGS [1891-1907]

BOX I

1. Personal Mementos including book outside of folder, 8/26/42 - 5/19/45.
2. Miscellaneous papers relating to career. 1918-1940.
3. Letters of recommendation. 1916-1920.
4. Radiograms re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
5. Radiograms re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
6. Reports of rescue from VESTRIS passengers. 1928.
7. Rough timing of rescue; passenger lists. 1928.
8. Letters re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
9. Newsclips re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
10. Newsclips re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
11. Newsclips and magazine articles re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
12. Photographs re: VESTRIS rescue. 1928.
13. Report, services rendered S.S. ANDJIK. 1925.
14. Report, services rendered S.S. ANDJIK/ 1925.
15. Re: ANDJIK. 1925.

BOX II

1. Miscellaneous reports.
2. Letter, 1947; Miscellaneous articles.
3. Mementos. including 1909 Certificate of Graduation & 1921 Certificate of discharge
4. Maps.
5. Miscellaneous pamphlets, articles.
6. Loose pamphlets, Navigation book, Maneuvering Board Manual.
7. Photographs, miscellaneous.
8. Photographs, miscellaneous.
9. Plaque ~~on shelf~~. (in file cabinet drawer)

DRAG PAPERS

BOX 1

Notebook 1 (NYSMMA)

Looseleaf, navigation problems, class notes on shipboard organization/procedures. [Circa Dec. 1938-Jan. 1939]

Notebook 2 (NYSMMA)

Looseleaf, navigation class notes, day's work (navigation computations) for EMPIRE STATE - 1939 Cruise. (Circa June-August, 1939)

Notebook 3 (NYSMMA)

Looseleaf, naval architecture, stowage & trigonometry class notes and some navigation problems. Includes EMPIRE STATE-STOWAGE PLAN, dated March 11, 1940. [Circa March, 1940]

BOX 2

Notebook 4 (NYSMMA)

Looseleaf, day's work (navigation computations) for EMPIRE STATE - 1940 Cruise; class notes for stowage and naval architecture. Contains pen & ink drawing of "inboard profile" and "inner bottom" of EMPIRE STATE, dated 10/1/39. [Circa June-August, 1940]

Notebook 5 (Bath Iron Works)

Looseleaf, class notes on shipbuilding techniques, (Oct.-Dec., 1940); Lesson 1 of Applied Naval Architecture Course (U.S. Coast Guard Institute); drawing of 1930 Bath built ship for Morse High School's Bailey Evening; Log of activities at Bath Iron Works Dec. 23, 1940 - March 3, 1941. [Circa Sept. 1940-March, 1941]

Notebook 6 (M/S WEST HONAKER)

Bound journal (298p.) titled "Workbook - M/S WEST HONAKER - Voyage 2/58" contains navigation computations for the period March 30, 1941 - August 9, 1941. Ship went New York - Australia - Boston. [Circa March 1941 - August 1941]

Box 3

Notebook 7 (U.S. Maritime Service Training School)

Looseleaf, contains class notes, tests, homework assignment for Advanced Navigation Course. Also contains information about

regulations/procedures of the school which was located at Sheepshead Bay. [Circa 1950]

- Folder 1 NAVY - M. Drag appointment as Merchant Marine cadet
(1939: 06/25 & 06/28)
- Folder 2 BATH IRON WORKS: 1) info re espionage (1939: 12/01);
2) info re sabotage (1940: 04/15).
- Folder 3 SELECTIVE SERVICE: bulletin of information for persons
registered (1940).
- Folder 4 MARITIME COMMISSION: correspondence re naval architecture
course (1940: 11/04; 1940: 11/28; 1941: 09/25; 1941:
03/27; 1947: 08/15).
- Folder 5 NYSMMA: letter to M. Drag from C.D. Schutz (Executive
Office) with enclosure on loss of passenger ship VESTRIS
in 1928.