

**A World Wide Web  
Monument**

**Dedicated to Radio Operators**

**who lost their lives**

**during World War 2**

**1939 - 1945**

**In 1915 a monument was established in New York City at Battery Park. In 1928 the Veteran Wireless Operators Association assumed responsibility for this monument.**



**It commemorates radio operators who lost their lives when their vessels became casualties.**



**IN THE TURMOIL OF WAR, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE V.W.O.A. TO TALLY THE DEATHS AND THE SINKINGS OF SHIPS IN ALL THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD. IT WAS RELUCTANTLY DECIDED THAT ONE PLAQUE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE HEROISM THAT BECAME A COMMONPLACE OCCURANCE.**



**AFTER YEARS OF ANNONIMITY, RECORDS HAVE  
FINALLY IDENTIFIED HUNDREDS OF RADIO  
OPERATORS WHO DIED IN THE TRAGIC TORPEDOINGS,  
BOMBINGS, SHELLINGS, AND SHIPWRECKS THAT  
BEFELL AMERICAN MERCHANT VESSELS DURING  
WORLD WAR II.**

**THIS ELECTRONIC RECORD HAS BEEN PREPARED AS  
ADJUNCT TO THE MONUMENT THAT OVERLOOKS  
NEW YORK HARBOR FROM BATTERY PARK.**

**THE NAMES OF RADIO OPERATORS WHO MADE THE  
SUPREME SACRIFICE ARE HERE LISTED.**

**THE MANY YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED  
HAVE NOT DIMMED THEIR GLORY.**

## **Radio Operators on Combatant Aircraft**

**Thousands of aircraft engaged in bombing, torpedoing, observation, search-and-rescue, and other military tasks carried one or more radio operators.**

**The casualty rate among these radiomen was large but has never been tabulated.**

**In tribute to those who were lost in this service, the following is a sample of the recognition that they deserve.**

## **BRISTOL BEAUFORT AIRCRAFT NO.22 SQUADRON, RAF COASTAL COMMAND**

**Shot down while carrying out a successful torpedo attack on the German battle-cruiser Gneisenau in the French port of Brest on 6th April 1941.**

**Wireless Operator Sgt. William Cecil Mullis and three other crewmen were lost.**

**It was just after 6am when the Beaufort launched a torpedo that hit and severely damaged the Gneisenou in Brest harbor, putting the ship out of service for an extended time. The plane was hit repeatedly by the German guns and plunged down into the waters of the harbour, killing all on board. The Beaufort crew had severely affected the sea power of the Kriegsmarine, and in so doing doubtless saved many British and Allied merchant vessels and seamen.**

**The Germans recovered the Beaufort and buried the RAF airmen in a grave of honour at Brest.**



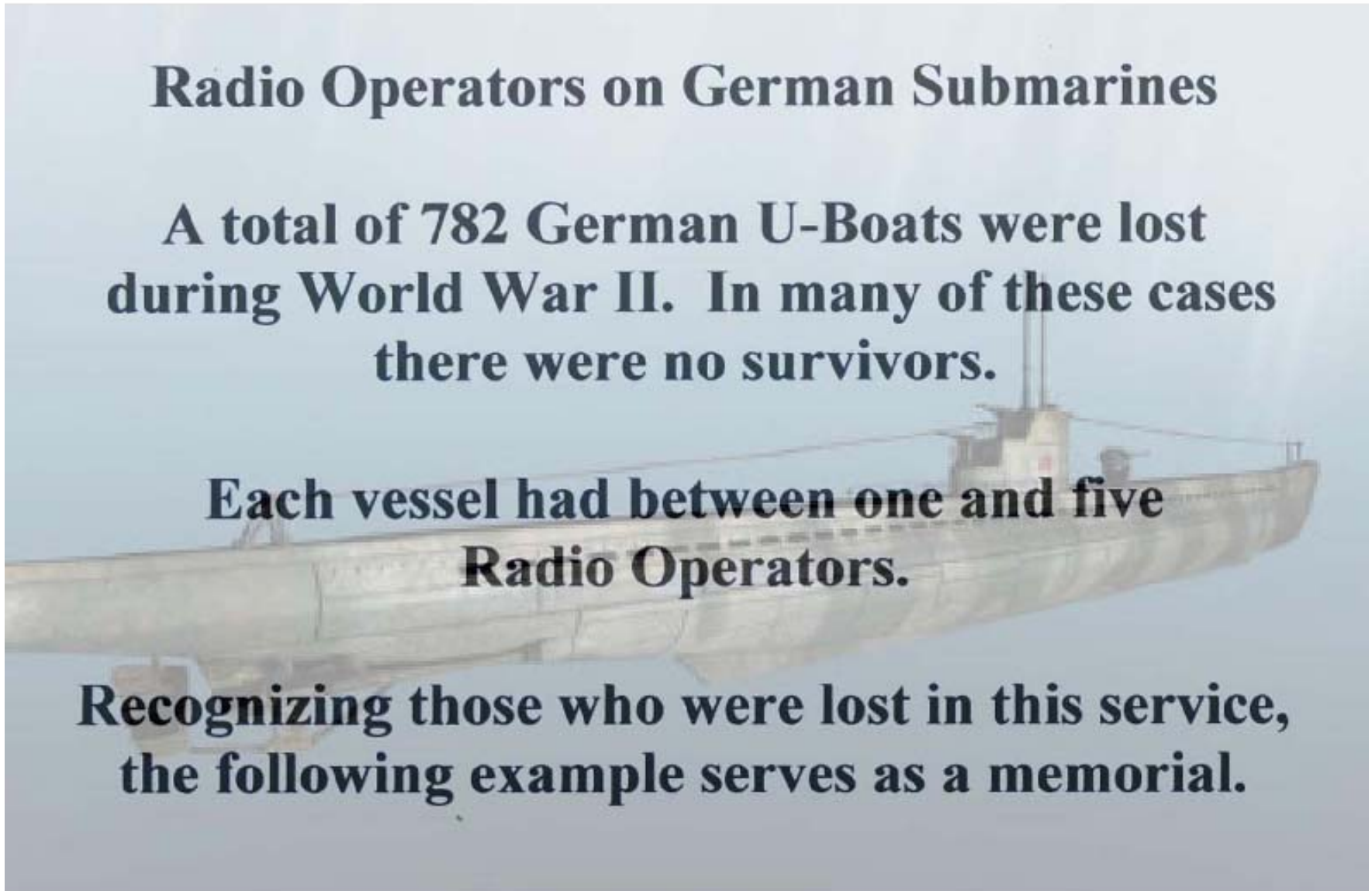


## **Radio Operators on German Submarines**

**A total of 782 German U-Boats were lost during World War II. In many of these cases there were no survivors.**

**Each vessel had between one and five Radio Operators.**

**Recognizing those who were lost in this service, the following example serves as a memorial.**



## **UNDERSEEBOOT 869**

**German Submarine (Type IX)**

**Built: Bremen Commissioned: January 16, 1944**

**Commander: Hellmut Neuerburg (Lost)**

**Destroyed with depth charges on February 11 1945 by USN HOWARD D. CROW and USN KOINER. The destroyer escorts were with Transatlantic Convoy CU-58 when, at 1639 ships time, sonar detected a target at position roughly 39.30N 72.58W. After the attack with hedge-hogs and depth charges, oil and air bursts came to the surface. However, the kill was not confirmed until the wreck was found by divers off New Jersey in 1991 and identified in 1997. None of the 56 crew members had survived.**



**U-869's crew assembles on deck (1944)**

**U-869 departed Kristanstand, Norway on December 8, 1944 to patrol an area off the New Jersey Coast. She found no Allied victims up to the time she was sunk. She carried four radio operators with Martin Horenburg in charge. All died.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>
<b>Horenburg Martin</b>	<b>FkMstr</b>	<b>01.10.1919</b>	<b>28.02.1945</b>
<b>Bienentreu Mathias</b>	<b>FkMt</b>	<b>04.12.1921</b>	<b>28.02.1945</b>
<b>Mehnert Rolf</b>	<b>FkOGfr</b>	<b>19.08.1924</b>	<b>28.02.1945</b>
<b>Uhlarsch Johann</b>	<b>FkOGfr</b>	<b>23.05.1925</b>	<b>00.02.1945</b>



**Martin Horenburg at sea.**

**The story of the U-869 is told in the PBS Nova Broadcast "Hitler's Lost Sub."**



**INFORMATION ABOUT THE RADIO OPERATORS  
LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN COLLECTED BY  
THE VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION.**

**THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES INQUIRES AND  
IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN CONTACTING  
SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS.**

**IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER  
RADIO OPERATOR CASUALTIES OF  
WORLD WAR II, PLEASE CONTACT THE VWOA.**

**THIS ELECTRONIC RECORD WAS INSPIRED AND SUPPORTED BY THE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION. THEY FEEL THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE IN WAR AND PEACE.**

**THIS EXHIBIT WAS CREATED BY DR. MILES D. MACMAHON, VWOA 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT WHO SAILED AS A RADIO OFFICER ON LIBERTY SHIPS AND TANKERS. ALTHOUGH INELIGIBLE FOR GI BENEFITS BECAUSE HE WAS NOT CONSIDERED A VETERAN, HE EARNED THREE COLLEGE DEGREES AND BECAME A PHYSICS PROFESSOR AND COLLEGE DEAN. HE IS RETIRED IN NEW JERSEY**