

From:
Public Information Division
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Washington 25, D. C.

LIEUTENANT EDITH F. MUNRO, USCGR(W) (RETIRED)

Lieutenant Edith Fairey Munro, United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve, Retired, is the mother of the only coast guardsman ever to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. The medal was awarded posthumously to Douglas Munro, signalman first class, who died at Guadalcanal helping to save a battalion of Marines trapped by Japanese gun fire.

Born on April 16, 1895, at Liverpool, Lancashire, England, Lieutenant Munro was educated at St. Mary's School, Liscard, Wallasey Cheshire, Manor Road School, Egremont-Cheshire, England, and attended Fonear Business College, Vancouver, B. C., Canada. She worked as a secretary before her marriage on September 19, 1914, to James Munro, at Vancouver.

Lieutenant Edith Munro entered the U. S. Coast Guard after her son, Coast Guardsman Douglas Munro, lost his life at Guadalcanal. Commissioned a Lieutenant (jg) on May 27, 1943, she was ordered to duty in August of that year, and subsequently served for more than two years on active duty as a SPAR officer.

After training at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn., she was assigned in December to the 13th Coast Guard District, and assumed command of the SPAR Barracks, Assembly Hotel, Seattle, Wash. She also served as Women's Reserve Personnel Officer, from January 1945.

While Seattle was her permanent station, Lieutenant Munro performed temporary duty in various parts of the country, including Long Beach, Cal., Houston, Texas, Philadelphia, Pa., and Washington, D. C.

She was retired on November 1, 1945, in the rank of Lieutenant, a promotion she received on July 1, 1944. For the outstanding manner in which she performed her duties, Lieutenant Munro received a letter of commendation.

Lieutenant Munro has traveled from her home in Renton, Washington, to take part in the dedication ceremony of the U. S. Coast Guard's World War II Memorial to be unveiled on May 30th in Battery Park, New York City.