

East Coast Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission



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The East Coast Memorial

The East Coast Memorial commemorates the service, achievements and sacrifices of America's armed forces and Merchant Marine off the East Coast of North and South America during World War II.

The memorial lists the names of more than 4,600 American servicemen considered missing in action, or lost at sea.

Many died during the Battle of the Atlantic—the fight between the Allies and the Germans to control and secure shipping lanes along the East Coast. German U-boats stalked these waters beginning in 1939 inflicting terrible losses over the next few years.

The tide began to change in 1942 when the Allies had massed manpower and equipment, refined their escorted convoy system, deployed air coverage, and utilized new technologies to track and destroy U-boats. By 1944 the Allies once again had control over these waters, allowing for unimpeded transportation of troops and supplies.



Coast Guardsmen of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Spencer* watch the explosion of a depth charge blasting German submarine U-175, April 17, 1943. (U.S. Coast Guard)



Located in Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan, the memorial was designed by Gehron & Seltzer of New York and consists of eight, gray granite pylons. Four are on each side of the center axis of the memorial.

This axis is aligned with the Statue of Liberty, located just two miles south. The pylons include the name, rank, organization and state of the more than 4,600 American servicemen who were lost at sea or missing in action in the western waters of the Atlantic Ocean during World War II.

Near the landward end of the memorial area is a bronze eagle 18 feet high, symbolically placing a wreath upon the waters of the Atlantic. Designed by Albino Manca of New York, the eagle weighs about five tons and rests upon a black granite base.

The memorial was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy on May 23, 1963.



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2300 Clarendon Blvd.

Suite 500

Arlington, Virginia

Tel 703-696-6900