

DUBLIN: THE FIRST STOP

On the morning of May 24th, USCGC Dallas arrived off the shores of Dublin, Ireland greeted by heavy fog which rolled out to meet her - "Typical for this latitude," the pilot explained in a thick Irish accent. Once moored, Captain Hull was off and running to make scheduled calls on local officials. PA1 Morehead, who accompanied the Captain, observed that the Right Honorable Thomas MacSandberg, Lord Mayor of Dublin, explained the true significance of the Coats of Arms lining the City Council Chamber, each representing a previous Lord Mayor. "The secret," he said with a wink and grin, "is to have a really good Chief Herald to draw it (the Coat of Arms) for you."

Captain Hull also called on the Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission, Dennis A. Sandburg, the U.S. Military Attache, Colonel Michael E. Ryan, USA, the Commander of the Irish Army's Eastern Command, Brigadier General William Dwyer, the Commander of the Irish Naval Forces, Commodore John Cavanaugh, and the Chairman of the Dublin Port Authority, John Bulger. By mid-afternoon Dallas was hosting both a return call luncheon for officials and local dignitaries that Captain Hull had called on earlier in the day and an open house for the general public. All this was done in concert with the crew working behind the scenes preparing Dallas for the following ports where she would participate in ceremonies commemorating D-Day.

Although Dublin was scheduled as a working port to clean Dallas up after her transatlantic crossing, the crew concluded that, during their liberty time, Dublin had a good chance of being rated as one of the best stops of the patrol. Dublinites were extremely hospitable, and their candor and good humor left lasting impressions on the crew. The ship continued to hold tours the following day, accommodating a steady stream of curious Irish citizens eager to learn more about the large white Coast Guard cutter from America that was moored in their city. Dallas' air detachment was also caught up in the flurry of activity, as it became the first Coast Guard HH-65A helicopter to fly in Ireland. The Irish Air Corps presented the aircrew with a plaque to commemorate the event.

One of the highlights for the crew while in Dublin was the arrival of Mr. Jack Campbell, a Coast Guard veteran who participated in the Normandy Invasion. Mr. Campbell was a GM3 assigned aboard an 83 foot patrol boat (USCG 49) whose mission was ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) and SAR (Search And Rescue) in the English Channel. GM3 Seabrand presented Mr. Campbell with a Dallas ballcap and a 3rd class crew which he wore proudly around the ship. He remained with Dallas until Poole, England where he disembarked to join with other fellow veterans.

