



U.S. coast guard to the rescue of crew of the Vazlav Varovsky. Grounded on Peacock Spit April 2, 11:55 PM. Fitzpatrick photo April 3, 1941.

The Vazlav Varovsky 1941: The 374-foot Soviet freighter Vazlav Varovsky ran aground on Peacock Spit on the north side of the Columbia's entrance in 1941 while carrying a mixed cargo including \$1.75 million in heavy machinery for Vladivostok. Its crew of 37 was all rescued but the ship ruptured, spilling tons of goods including lard was used to make local pies throughout the early years of World War II. — MATT WINTERS COLLECTION PHOTO



Life-saving boats: The U.S. Life-Saving Service was formed in 1848, just as the Ship Graveyard of the Pacific was gaining its deadly reputation around the mouth of the Columbia River. The station at Klipsan Beach was established in 1891. The Life-Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service merged to form the U.S. Coast Guard in 1915. — MATT WINTERS COLLECTION PHOTO



Lifeboats in surf: This circa 1900 photo captures some of the drama and difficulty of rowing a rescue boat through the breaking surf near Cape Disappointment. — MATT WINTERS COLLECTION PHOTO



U.S. COAST GUARD PREPARING TO SHOOT LINE - CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT - WASH

Preparing a shooting line at Cape D: Coast Guard personnel shoot a rescue line to the Ray, a trawler stranded on the Long Beach Peninsula's wide shelf of sand on Aug. 31, 1938. The Ray was successfully refloated. — MATT WINTERS COLLECTION PHOTO



World War II Coast Guard beach patrol: During World War II, beach patrols from the boat stations would routinely patrol against "infiltration by saboteurs."