

1941 - 1945

The Lighthouse Goes To War

Can You Spot the Enemy?



I WANT YOU
TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR
U-BOATS NEAR CAPE CANAVERAL

During World War II, watchtowers were constructed all along the Florida coast to watch for German U-boats and potential invasion. While watchers from these towers could see far out to sea, Lighthouse Keepers could see even farther.

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse served as the tallest lookout tower around. Lighthouse Keepers and Civil Defense volunteers spent many long, dark nights, from 1941 through 1945, staring out at the now menacing ocean, looking for any signs of the enemy. The most they ever saw were explosions, fire and debris – evidence of a destructive presence.



Clinton "Buddy" Honeywell and short lookout tower



German U-boat

Can the Enemy Spot You?

Since the enemy could use the beacon of the Lighthouse far out to sea to find the silhouette of Allied ships to attack, the light was dimmed for the duration of the War.



CITIES SERVICE EMPIRE
American Tanker
February 22, 1942



LESLIE
American Merchant Ship
April 13, 1942



KORSHOLM
Swedish Merchant Ship
April 13, 1942



PAN MASSACHUSETTS
Steam Tanker
February 19, 1942



OCEAN VENUS
British Merchant Ship
May 3, 1942



LAERTES
Dutch Merchant Ship
May 3, 1942

Many ships were attacked off Cape Canaveral from February through May 1942, with the 6 above being sunk, leaving 70 dead and 189 survivors from 4 different nations. Along with all coastal residents throughout the US, Cape Canaveral residents also turned off their outside lights and put blackout curtains on their windows so ships at sea or airplanes overhead could not see them and attack.