

United States Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite Investigation Report and Photograph MS-917

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

8/8/2014

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Summary Information

Repository	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator	United States. Coast Guard.
Title	United States Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite Investigation Report and Photograph
Date [inclusive]	1989-1990
Extent	0.18 cubic feet; 1 manuscript box (1/2 letter size)
Language	English
Language of Material	English
Mixed materials [Box]	1
Abstract	Investigation Report and Photograph, 1989-1990, detailing the grounding of the United States Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite, which was grounded near Keweenaw Point in Lake Superior, December 4, 1989.

Preferred Citation

MS-917, United States Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite Investigation Report and Photograph, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Historical

The United States Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite was a 180-foot vessel built by Marine Ironworks and Shipbuilding Corporation in Duluth, Minnesota. The keel laying took place on August 20, 1942 and the vessel was launched on November 14, 1942.

The Mesquite served until December 4, 1989, when it was grounded on a reef in Lake Superior, just offshore from Keweenaw Point in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. The crew tried for several hours to free the vessel, but eventually they abandoned ship. The Coast Guard initially intended to salvage the ship in the spring of 1990, but after the ship attained further damage in harsh winter weather, it was determined that the Mesquite could not be saved. On July 14, 1990 the Mesquite was deliberately sunk just off from the reef where it was grounded. The ship is currently a main attraction for scuba divers visiting the Keweenaw Underwater Preserve, an underwater preservation area that protects the waters that lie offshore Keweenaw County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Scope and Contents

Investigation Report and Photograph, 1989-1990, detailing the grounding of the United States Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite, which was grounded near Keweenaw Point in Lake Superior, December 4, 1989. The report contains the official findings of the investigation into the grounding of the USCGC Mesquite. The report includes witness statements, weather reports and navigation logs. There is also a photograph of when the ship was deliberately sunk on July 14, 1990.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 8/8/2014

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Processing History

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Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Keweenaw County (Mich.)--History
- Superior, Lake

Subject(s)

- Shipwrecks--Great Lakes Region (North America)

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Investigation of the Grounding of the USCGC Mesquite, Keweenaw Point, Lake Superior, December 4, 1989 - Part 1 of 3 1989	1	1
Investigation of the Grounding of the USCGC Mesquite, Keweenaw Point, Lake Superior, December 4, 1989 - Part 2 of 3 1989	1	2
Investigation of the Grounding of the USCGC Mesquite, Keweenaw Point, Lake Superior, December 4, 1989 - Part 3 of 3 1989	1	3
Photograph - Mesquite Sunk July 14, 1990	1	4