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"Did they get off?" These were the last words of Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, who gave his life in an evacuation mission on Guadalcanal September 27th, 1942. Approximately one year later his actions were recognized by his Country when the Nation's highest award - The Congressional Medal of Honor - was presented to his parents by President Roosevelt at the White House.

His bravery did not go unnoticed by the U. S. Coast Guard - in 1971 the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter MUMRO was named in honor of the World War II hero and is distinguished from other Coast Guard vessels by the fact that it is the only ship named after an enlisted man.

The Coast Guardsman died heroically on Guadalcanal after successfully completing an assignment, for which he had volunteered, to evacuate a detachment of marines from a point where enemy opposition developed beyond anticipated dimensions.

Munro had been in charge of the original detachment of ten Higgins boats which had landed the marines on the beaches. After successfully carrying out this mission, he headed his boats back to a previously assigned position. Upon his return, he was advised by the Officer in Charge that conditions had been different than had been anticipated and it was necessary to evacuate the men immediately.

He volunteered for the job of heading up the vessels, and was placed in charge of the rescue expedition. Under heavy fire, the small craft were brought ashore and the evacuation of about 500 marines proceeded. As the evacuation neared completion, complications arose in getting out the last men. MUMRO realized they would be in the greatest danger, so he placed himself and his boats in a position to serve as a cover for the last evacuees.

The Signalman First Class was fatally wounded while protecting the men after the evacuation. He remained conscious long enough to ask did they get off?"

His citation for the posthumously awarded Congression Medal of Honor reads:

"For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action, above and beyond the call of duty as Officer in Charge of a group of Higgins boats, engaged in the evacuation of a battalion of marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on Sepetember 27, 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered marines, Munro, under constant risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signalled the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft with its two small guns as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, Munro was killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had loaded and cleared the beach. By his outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave up his life in defense of his Country.