This Day in History... January 3, 1876 Birth of John McCloy

US Navy Lieutenant Commander John McCloy was born on January 3, 1876, in Brewster, New York. Serving with the Navy for 30 years, he's one of just 19 servicemen to receive two Medals of Honor.

McCloy joined the Merchant Marine when he was 15 years old, and later joined the US Navy on March 7, 1898. During his early career, he served aboard the USS Columbia, USS Monterey, Manila, Gardoqui, Arayat, and Newark.

McCloy was serving aboard the cruiser Newark in June 1900 when he took part in a landing force at Peking, China, during the Boxer Rebellion. He earned a Medal of Honor for his bravery, that stated, "In action with the relief expedition of the Allied forces in China, 13, 20, 21, and 22 June Distinguished Sailors issue 1900. During this period and in the presence of the enemy, Coxswain

McCloy distinguished himself by meritorious conduct." In the years that followed, he often downplayed

A diplomatic incident called the Tampico Affair arose in 1914, leading

his award, saying, "Every man in the company deserved a Medal of Honor." McCloy re-enlisted in 1901 and went on to serve aboard the *Manila*, Alliance, Atlanra, Galveston, Hancock, Franklin, and Lebanon. After a brief term at the Key West, Florida Naval Station, he was posted to the

> to the US invasion of Vera Cruz. McCloy's orders as "Beachmaster" (officer in charge of a beach section) were to set up a signal station to coordinate the landings and evacuate the wounded. On April 22, 1914, McCloy was leading three picket launches (small boats carrying soldiers) onto the shore of Vera Cruz.

Mexican forces concentrated their fire on McClov's position and inflicted heavy casualties. Shot in the thigh and surrounded by the dead and

dying, McCloy held his position for 48 hours commanding his troops while under constant attack. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for "eminent and conspicuous conduct" and "extraordinary heroism" at Vera Cruz. To date, he's one of only 19 servicemen to receive the Medal of Honor twice.

USS Florida in 1913.

McCloy returned to the US to recover from his injuries, but returned to duty McCloy earned the Navy aboard the USS Tennessee and Maine. He served as Assistant to the Captain of Cross for minesweeping

the Yard at the Boston Navy Yard in Massachusetts and was temporarily made an ensign during World War I. During that

conflict, he commanded the tugs *Ontario* and *Favorite*, again being temporarily promoted to lieutenant.

After the war, McCloy commanded the minesweeper Curley, clearing mines in the North Sea, for which he earned a Navy Cross. After receiving a permanent promotion to lieutenant, he commanded the minesweepers Comorant and Lark. His final post was aboard the destroyer tender *Dobbin* before he retired in October 1928.

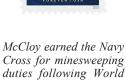
During his career, McCloy served as national commander of the Legion of Valor, was a companion of the Naval Order of the United States, was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and founded the first American Legion post in New Jersey. He was a member of the Military Order of the Dragon and other awards during his career included the Sampson Medal, Spanish Campaign Medal, Philippine Campaign Medal, China Relief Expedition Medal, Mexican Service Medal, World War I Victory Medal, and Conspicuous Service Cross. McCloy died on May 24, 1945. In 1963, a destroyer escort, the USS *McCloy*, was named in his honor.



McCloy earned Medals of Honor for his service during the Boxer Rebellion and Occupation of Vera Cruz.



McCloy stamp from the 2010





McCloy was a founding member of the first American Legion post in New Jersey.

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