



The Officers, Directors and Members of
US SAILING
are pleased to present the
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL
to
The Crew of Black Watch

It was June 22, 2014 during the 2014 Newport Bermuda Race hosted by the Cruising Club of America and the Royal Bermuda yacht club, in mid-Atlantic Ocean, when the crew of the Taylor 41 *Wandrain* put out a mayday call.

The wind was up to 24 knots with 4 feet wave height. The boat had begun to take on water due to a lower rudder bearing failure. It was the fiberglass around the bearing that was cracked and splintered due to side forces on the rudder. If it cracked open the yacht would sink in minutes.

Three boats responded to the VHS call; *Rocket Science*, *Black Watch* and *Dorado*. Black Watch's afterguard—Melvin, navigator Peter Rugg, and the watch captains Jamie Cummiskey and CCA member Lars Forsberg—decided that their larger vessel was best qualified to stand by and escort *Wandrain* to Bermuda. "If the boat has to be evacuated and someone else needs to take eight or nine people aboard, we should be there," Rugg later explained. "This is the stuff that's important to the sport."

Black Watch, a custom S&S yawl of 68 feet, made in 1938, dropped out of the race to go to the assistance of *Wandrain*. When she reached the vessel a plan for short term damage control was transmitted to the crew of *Wandrain* and implemented. Bill Tucker following Lars Forsberg's plan from Black Watch, skillfully put a secondary "dam" in place to hold out the water. The crew cut out the bottom of a bailing bucket, split the remaining bucket in two, secured the two pieces around the rudder post with 4200 adhesive, finished off the dam with silicone to fill remaining the cracks and holes, and taped it up with Duct tape—and crossed their fingers. The fiberglass tube holding the post might well shake so badly that it would crack wide open.

The skipper of *Black Watch*, John Melvin, had made the call to drop out of the race and shepherd *Wandrain* while she made her way to Bermuda. This was a 300-mile-long, three day, assist during which the crew of *Black Watch* had to slow down and often circle the *Wandrain* as she made way. Experimenting with sail combinations, they settled on a full or reefed mainsail, the mizzen, and a forestaysail that could be trimmed to windward to slow the boat by heaving-to. The crew also employed the abrupt slowing maneuver called the “Crazy Ivan,” made famous by the film *The Hunt for Red October*. Under motor *Wandrain* would vibrate too much to proceed. Under sail the constant side pressure on the bearing helped slow the water entry. The crew had to hand pump the entire way to Bermuda.

For the great seamanship exhibited, and the willingness to shepherd a stricken vessel till it reached safety, US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to The Crew of *Black Watch*; Peter Rugg, Kyle Dufur, Phil McDonough, John Melvin, Jamie Cummiskey, Mark Pennington, Jim Volkwein, Jay Cummiskey, Michael Melvin, Lars Forsberg, Chris Fisher, Jessie Terry, Tom Degremont, Jake Kramer, and Peter Forsberg.

Chuck Hawley, Chairman
US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

PRESENTATION

At the Indian Harbor Yacht Club Awards Dinner on November 13, 2015, Dr. Gino Bottino awarded the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to the Crew of *Black Watch*.



Dr. Gino Bottino (US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee Member) and crew of Black Watch, left to right: IHYC Fleet Captain Jamie Cummiskey, John Melvin, Jake Kramer, Lars Forsberg, and IHYC Commodore Martin Jacobson (seated). Photo credit: Mary Alice Fisher



Dr. Gino Bottino (US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee Member) left to right: IHYC Fleet Captain Jamie Cummiskey, John Melvin, Jake Kramer, Lars Forsberg, IHYC Vice Commodore Karin Nye and Commodore Martin Jacobson. Photo credit: Mary Alice Fisher



Congratulating Lars Forsberg. Photo credit: Mary Alice Fisher

NOMINATION

Date of Incident 6/22/2014

What was the nature of this Incident? Escorting a yacht in distress

What Happened? "Please see the Newport Bermuda Race website; specifically the

John Rousmaniere article: "" ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE: A CLASSIC ESCORTS A COMPETITOR TO SAFETY" "BLACK WATCH diverted, stood by and escorted WANDRAIN for more than 300nm to reach safe port in Bermuda."

Event Name Newport Bermuda Race

Sponsoring Yacht Club CCA and Royal Bermuda Yacht Club

Event State Start in Rhode Island

Event City Start in Newport

Body of Water Atlantic Ocean

Air Temperature 58-84 F

Water Temperature 63-85 F

Wind Speed 0-24 kts

Wave Height 0-4 feet

Name (First) William

Name (Last) Tucker

Address (City) Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA

Address (State / Province) Rhode Island

Boat Name WANDRAIN

Boat Length 41'

Boat Make & Model Taylor 41

Name (First) William

Name (Last) Tucker

Address (City) Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA

Address (State / Province) Rhode Island

Address (ZIP / Postal Code) 0

Address (Country) United States

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What Position(s) was/were the victim working before they went in? "There were nine (9) crew members onboard WANDRAIN.

To our knowledge, all remained onboard their vessel until she arrived at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, Hamilton, Bermuda on June 25, 2014."

Skipper's Name (First) John
Skipper's Name (Last) Melvin
Boat Make & Model 1938 Custom S & S 68' yawl
Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "James Cummiskey-Watch
Captain
Lars Forsberg-Watch Captain Peter Rugg-Navigator"
Boat Name BLACK WATCH
Boat Length 68'
Skipper's Name (First) John
Skipper's Name (Last) Melvin
Boat Make & Model 1938 Custom S & S 68' Yawl
Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "James Cummiskey-Watch
Captain
Lars Forsberg-Watch Captain
Peter Rugg-Navigator"
Boat Name BLACK WATCH
Boat Length 68'
What recovery method was used (Quickstop, Reach Method, Figure 8, etc)? Stand
by and escort
Did the victim's boat lose sight of the victim? not applicable
In what way? They performed some damage control to slow down the leakage around
the lower bearing thru-hull structure.
Did a Mayday call go out? yes. over VHF
Who responded? ROCKET SCIENCE, BLACK WATCH and DORADE
ISAF OSR? Yes
If so, which category? 1
Name (First) Lars
Name (Last) Forsberg