



FLEET OBSOLETE

Robert T. Iannucci • 325 Gold St. • Suite 4 • Brooklyn, NY 11201 • Tel: 718-596-0504 • Fax: 718-596-6443

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2008

Heroic WWII Patrol Torpedo Vessel Being Rescued, Headed to Kingston, NY

The last remaining World War II 77 ft. Elco Patrol Torpedo Boat (PT 48) is being rescued and brought to Kingston, N.Y. for restoration by Fleet Obsolete, which also operates and owns PT 728, PT 459 and PT 615. PT 48 has a heroic war record:

- She engaged a Japanese destroyer at 200 yards on her first mission.
 - She was rescued by PT 109, John F. Kennedy's boat, after joining PT 109 in hazardous duty.
 - On patrol with PT 46, she attacked a Japanese transport observing two explosions.
 - A Japanese sub fired a torpedo at PT 48, which luckily missed her.
 - On February 1, 1943, PT 48 was bombed and strafed, fired four torpedoes at Japanese destroyers, and was forced to beach and abandon the boat on Savo Island. Miraculously, the destroyers failed to find her and she was pulled off the beach and put into dry-dock for two weeks of repairs.
- She remained one of the last boats in combat service in the Pacific when she was decommissioned in 1944.

The Fleet Obsolete crew is currently in Fruitland Park, Florida, where they are stabilizing the vessel in order to bring her to New York to join the rest of the Fleet. PT 48 lay on the harbor in Florida for several years in a deteriorating state and was about to be broken up for other uses. Robert Iannucci, patron of Fleet Obsolete, felt it necessary to rescue this important piece of living history. Plans are underway to restore her to her 1942 combat specifications. The boat is 77 ft. long and about 14 ft. tall. The Crew built a 60 ft. long cradle made of steel, which will be used to transport the vessel by truck to Kingston.

"This vessel, although it is in poor condition, has the most heroic WWII combat history of any PT Boat. History required us to save it from the bulldozers," said Iannucci.

Fleet Obsolete is a historic collection of vessels located in Kingston, N.Y. on the Rondout Creek. The Fleet consists of WWII PT Boats as well as historic tugboats.

For more information on the rescue of PT 48 and Fleet Obsolete, please contact Robert Iannucci at (718) 596-0504. Visit us online at www.pt728.com and www.fleetobsolete.org.