

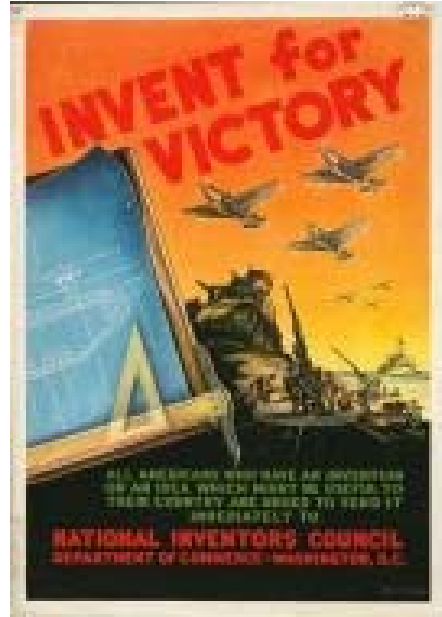
The silent heroes amongst us.... at USS Tampa Post 5

First, let me tell you what Merriam Webster says that the definition of a hero is: *a man admired for his achievements and noble qualities.*

Well ok, I guess that will apply in this case, if I take man to be the generic form meaning man, woman, or child of either sex that has done something that would cause us to admire them for their achievements and noble qualities.

With September 11, 2001 etched in our minds we have many visions of heroes. Let me attempt to paint you a picture of this “silent hero amongst us at Post 5”.

The nation was at war. Those not actively engaged in battle were asked to make many sacrifices for those that were fighting to restore the American way of life and bring peace to the world. Citizens of all walks of life were asked by their government through radio broadcasts, mass media, and poster to do what they could to help in the war efforts. One such poster was placed in schools (picture on opposite column) to inspire our youth.



Our hero was already doing something. He was already a member of the Boy Scouts and also was actively participating as a member of the Ground Observer Corp. This group trained people how to recognize and report enemy aircraft. That was still not enough for our hero.

At the age of thirteen our silent hero saw the poster, got inspired, and then did something quite remarkable for a lad of his age. He actually did something. I don't know about you but when I was thirteen I seldom did anything much less something that could very well have changed the

outcome of the Normandy invasion and saved untold tens of thousands of American troops.

Our silent hero got creative and came up with an idea, got through all of the paperwork and submitted it to the government's Department of Commerce and received a receipt # 20049 from the National Inventors Council.

Please give the Serial Number if you write about this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL INVENTORS COUNCIL	Serial Number 20049 (Second Series)
NAME..... BECKER, ROBERT C.	3/2/42 (Receipt Date)
SUBJECT..... DUMMY PARACHUTE TROOPS	
Mr. Robert C. Becker, R. F. D. #1, Germantown, New York	

(See other side)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
THE NATIONAL INVENTORS COUNCIL

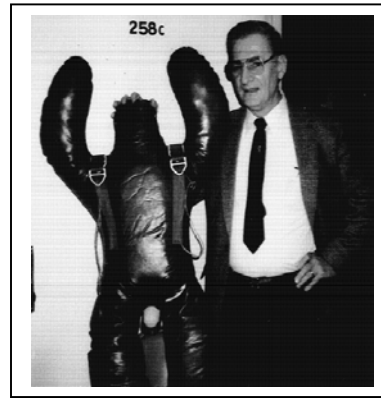
Acknowledgment

Your suggestion will receive full consideration and will be conveyed to such authorities as deemed appropriate, under our regulations.

For reasons of national security it may not be possible to report the progress of the consideration of your suggestion. In some cases such discussion might reveal highly confidential plans or work already in progress.

The patriotic spirit that has prompted you to contribute this suggestion is appreciated.

The above documents now let you know who that silent hero is Bob Becker.



Here is Bob with the dummy. Note: Bob is the one with the tie on.

For many years now, and through many different avenues, proper recognition of Bob's efforts as a youth has been sought. It is remarkable that at age 13 this youth had the vision to design the "parachute dummy", the perseverance to follow the governmental guidelines to submit the idea, and finally the deep rooted desire to make a difference in this world. Post 5 adopted a resolution outlining Bob's story and at this years American Legion Department Convention. It was 1 of 3 resolutions adopted and is being forwarded to National. Perhaps they will adopt it and put the political clout of the entire National American Legion behind the efforts to properly recognize this silent hero of Post 5.

In the mean time, we can express to Bob our appreciation and pray that this hero gets his just rewards!

*Written by: Buz Barbour, Sr. Vice
Research by: Ralph C. Whitley, Sr.*

