Veterans of World War II still have stories to tell 65 years after the end of the war. T. Richardson Miner, Jr. sought out veterans living in Falmouth and interviewed them in order to preserve their stories on video for the Falmouth Historical Society. He has now transformed his interviews into the lead article for this issue of Spritsail. We have chosen additional stories written or told by Falmouth veterans to complement Rich Miner’s article. We thank Rich and join him in honoring both veterans and civilians for their bravery and sacrifice in World War II.

Stories about the impact of World War II in Falmouth have been told in The Book of Falmouth: “Falmouth at War” by Frederick Turkington and “Airport” by Charles Wheeler and Guy Ham. “Wartime Summers” by Nancy Norman Lassalle in Woods Hole Reflections describes a child’s experience of the blackout in Woods Hole, the convoys gathering in Buzzards Bay, and the frightening bombing practice on Weepecket Islands. Spritsail Volume 9, Number 1 (Winter 1995) has one article, “The War Years in Falmouth” by Frederick Turkington and a second article, “Life in Woods Hole Village During World War II” by Susan Fletcher Witzell. Spritsail Volume 24, Number 1 (Winter 2010) has an article, “From Island Ferry to Hospital Ship” by E. Graham Ward. We are pleased to add Rich Miner’s article to the collection.

Woods Hole contributed to the war effort by reorienting its scientific research to a variety of practical problems faced by the Navy. Paul Galtsoff and Roger Revelle describe how much the village changed during the war years. Excerpts from WHOI archives give a more detailed picture of the war effort in Woods Hole.

Panorama of Camp Edwards. Courtesy Falmouth Historical Society