

Impact Statement

Hannah Koerts, Grade 12.

The Higgins Boat, 2018.

Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 16 Inches.

Mill Creek High School, Hoschton, GA

Unsung Hero: Andrew Jackson Higgins

I found Andrew Higgins inspirational because of him the outlook of the war could be very different without him. Andrew Higgins went on to design one of the second wars most famous boat right under our noses. Everyone has seen the famous images of the landing on Normandy, but little did they know it would have been unachievable without the Higgins boat. He was able to build a boat that surpassed the leading navy boat of his time. Because of his design he went on to develop a boat made for both land on water called a landing craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP for short) also known as the Higgins boat. His boats went on to take up the majority the navy's fleet replacing the old and outdated. His boats were what was needed to give us our edge and beat Germany in World War II. President Dwight D. Eisenhower has even been quoted to say that "Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us". Eisenhower claims that America would have never landed in Normandy and the outcome of the war could have been very different. It truly means something when someone who is as high as Dwight d. Eisenhower thinks that without the Higgins boat it would not have ended the same way. I also am grateful for Higgins's invention on a personal level because my great grandfather fought in World War II. He might not have been in the navy but without him who know what chain reaction would have happened without his boats. I find what Andrew Higgins' did to be truly inspirational and I hope my work does this man justice that he duly deserves. For my unsung hero project, I wanted to show Andrew Higgins boats in action. I put two boats side by side riding over crashing waves on the way to Normandy. I stuck waves crashing on rocks in the background to show the choppy waves. I wanted to show the beautiful chaos that came along with the war. His boats might have been smaller than the ones we imagine used in war, but these small boats played such a crucial role for the allies to win the war. It is a shame that we were never taught about how important this man was for the war effort; without this project I don't think I would have ever known how one boat changed the course of the second world war. Andrew Higgins has gone unappreciated for too long and should be properly celebrated. I was able to share my project with the community through twitter; I choose this site since it could potentially reach many people in the grand scheme of things. I hope that my work has a positive effect on the community as well, as teach someone something they did not know. Maybe this will even change the way we look at what happened or inspire someone with Andrew Higgin's story.