



Lined up at the base for inspection are T.U.'s #1--#6

TRAILER UNITS HAVE SHOWN THEIR WORTH

One of the basic reasons why Los Angeles Harbor has been so well protected from disastrous fire lies in the COTP's use of Coast Guard trailer units like those pictured above. Nearly every unit has a station of its own, and they are dotted around the harbor at every major loading terminal for war materiel. Time and again the T.U.'s of the Fire Division were the first fire apparatus to arrive at fire scenes. Time and again they were on hand so quickly that fires which would have become serious conflagrations were stopped short. Again an old Coast Guard idea for enforcement of security has been put into successful practice, the use of many well-trained small units placed in strategic position.

That plan was developed further by the Fire Division. At every dock where loading operations included the handling of explosives or highly volatile liquids, a standby trailer unit stood constant watch. Moreover, hose lines were laid to every ship's hold receiving such cargo, special fire-fighting gear was put aboard such ships and the unit's pump primed for immediate action. It was often a matter of seconds, not minutes, before any fire occurring was under complete control by Fire Division men. Most of these standbys were thankfully monotonous. Trailer Unit men on watch stood four hours, returned to their stations for eight hours, then returned to stand watch another four. Often their standbys would last for weeks. There was not an easy wartime berth. Responsibilities of fire protection and their ability to handle them never once slackened during the war. Trailer unit men have been a real credit to the Fire Division.