

# The Sun

## sets on Ellis Island

When the United States flag which has waved over the Coast Guard receiving station on Ellis Island is lowered for the last time today it will mark the end of a post which, since 1939, trained and equipped 60,000 enlisted men and 3,000 officers, who subsequently comprised the crews of transports, destroyer escorts, cutters and sub-chasers which saw active duty throughout the world during the war.

Today the empty barracks, study halls, library and drill field are unlike the hum of activity which rose daily as 2,000 men went through their training paces on the island.

Before V-J day twelve officers supervised the daily calendar. Now there are four, and their most urgent job is to see that the records are brought up to date, equipment and furniture is packed for moving, and the last man to be processed is safely on his way before the buildings are returned to the Department of Immigration, next-door neighbors. The handful of enlisted men now at the post are mostly veterans awaiting discharge or re-enlistment.

### To Transfer Equipment.

All equipment of the post is being transferred to the operating base at St. George, Staten Island, which will be the new receiving unit.

The duties assumed by the center last June, when it undertook the task of demobilization of the Coast Guard in the Third district, were wide, in that the district covers an area running from Manasquan Inlet, N. J., to the Rhode Island-Connecticut line, including Albany. Rear Admiral Ed H. Smith commands the district and the Eastern area and also is captain of the Port of New York.

Established through the efforts of Commodore John S. Baylis, now on duty at the office of the commander, 42 Broadway, the receiving station and training center has occupied approximately one-third of Ellis Island.

A larger number of men who shipped out from the island became casualties than from any other Coast Guard post in the country. The post boasts of

more than fifty trophies and dozens of medals, won by its individual athletes and teams in softball, basketball, baseball, handball, track, boxing and golf, against service and civilian teams in the East.

Yeoman Bob Haenszel, who holds eight medals in athletics, today packed the trophies which he helped to win for shipment to the U. S. C. G. district office at 42 Broadway where they will be displayed in the trophy room. The trophies were garnered under the coaching of Lieut. Commander Joseph Mazzotta, the station commander, and former Lieut. Hugh A. Doyle, who was the welfare and athletic officer at the post and is now director of American Relief to Austria, 10 East 43d street.

Many famous athletes received their training and assignments on the island, among them being Cy Block, third baseman for the Chicago Cubs; Fuzzy Levane, All-American basketball player from St. John's; Eddie Brems, Fordham basketball player, and fighters Lou Ambers and Marty Servo.

### Had Six Commanders.

The post has had six different commanders since it was opened as a training station in October, 1939. They were Commander Arthur William Davis, who served from October, 1939, to October, 1940; Commander Randolph Ridgely 3d, October, 1940 to December, 1942; Commander Richard Morrison Hoyle, December, 1942, to June, 1944; Commander Herbert Ferris Walsh, June, 1944, to July, 1945, when Mazzotta was appointed commanding officer.

Mazzotta was first assigned to the island as executive officer in 1940 and left in April, 1942, for duty as watch officer and assistant damage control officer aboard the S. S. Wakefield, formerly the old Manhattan, which burned September 3, 1942. As commander of a division of LST's he saw fifteen months' service overseas and took part in landings in Africa, Sicily and Salerno.