

★ FOREWORD

This book was written with the hope that it will give all who read it a picture of duty aboard a Coast Guard-manned troop transport in World War II.

As an organization, the Coast Guard is often misunderstood through its own name. Far-flung and varied are the Coast Guard's endeavors in this war. At the present writing over 90,000 Coast Guardsmen, almost two thirds of the entire service, are on foreign combat duty or the high seas manning vessels varying in size from attack transports to small landing craft. This book merely covers one Coast Guard activity, transport duty. However, someone writing the whole story of this sea-going branch of America's armed might would tell of Coast Guardsmen at Pearl Harbor; of the victories in the battle against U-Boats in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean; and of the hundreds of landings on islands of the Pacific; of the African, Sicilian, Italian, and Normandy invasions. In addition there's the job that is being done on the home front—protecting the ports of America, guarding our country's 8,350 miles of coastline, and carrying out maritime duty connected with naval and merchant shipping.

Of the photographs appearing here, fifty-three were made by Arthur Green, Photographer's Mate, first class, USCGR, who, before coming to the Gordon, distinguished himself by prize winning photos of Coast Guard action taken during battles with German submarines and torpedo-bombers in the Mediterranean area.

Most of the seascapes and all photos of the ship herself were taken by L. M. Liddle, Photographer's Mate, second class, USCGR, whose work speaks for itself. Photos of the GORDON's commissioning ceremonies were made by J. C. Dean, Photographer's