

## The Coast Guard in which we Served

One of the satisfactions which every Temporary Reservist got from his job was the realization that he was making it possible for a much-needed and trained Coast Guardsman to be available for duty other than port security.

While factual information concerning the war records of veterans who formerly did guard duty out of Constitution Base is not avail-

able, they and their shipmates took a full-sized part in this Second World War which reached to nearly all the waters of the globe.

And the Coast Guard didn't miss an invasion!

Swinging into action at the very beginning of the war—on convoy duty, anti-submarine patrol and amphibious operations — Coast Guardsmen promptly manned troop



First Picket Boat taken over by the Temporary Reserve.

and supply ships, and went to work on a job which took them up the beaches of every Axis coast stormed by our forces.

While we of the Temporary Reserve couldn't be in the thick of it on sea and land, ours was a vicarious satisfaction in knowing that we were releasing trained men to do the more important duties they proved well able to perform.

Coast Guardsmen helped take the Marines to Guadalcanal in August of 1942 to establish the first beachhead in the first invasion of the war by United States troops.

From that memorable event, Coast Guard-manned transports and landing craft participated in every landing action on the Pacific island-grabbing route toward Tokyo, and in every amphibious landing which led up to the fall of Berlin.

The Coast Guard had a twofold invasion job. Carrying on its tra-

ditional life-saving service in the midst of battle, fast 83-foot patrol craft, greyhounds of the sea, accompanied the invasion fleets to rescue soldiers, sailors and pilots. Off Normandy alone, more than 1,000 service personnel were hauled to safety from the choppy English Channel by these rescue boats.

Similarly, Coast Guard-manned salvage and fire-fighting craft towed damaged ships to safety and saved valuable equipment from abandoned vessels.

The Coast Guard was there at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and all the rest!

Back on the home front, the Coast Guard continued—with the aid of Temporary Reservists where needed—to watch over the loading of ships, for foreign service, to patrol the coast on foot, in jeeps, on horseback, in cutters and planes.

*Semper Paratus?* Yes, ready for anything!



Ramp at Mystic. What memories to be recalled of hours within and without this old shack! Scope of Mystic post was from Snyder Fuel at Pier 45 (extreme left) to scrap and coal piles on river (far right) to harborfront Piers 46-47, 48-49-50.