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WORLD War II was fought not only on battlefields and invasion beaches, in distant oceans and far off skies, but also on farms and rivers, in mines and factories. Our soldiers and sailors at the battlefronts were supported by production and distribution records of unprecedented magnitude.

Through the seaports of our country poured a mighty flood of war materials to our men overseas. Vast cargoes of inflammables, incendiaries, and high explosives passed over our wharves into the holds of countless ships while acetylene burners and electric welders invited disastrous waterfront conflagrations.

The protection of our commercial harbor facilities and of our merchant ships in port was a wartime function of the Coast Guard. Our duty was to guard against the surreptitious efforts of enemy agents and against the hazardous negligence of our own waterfront workers.

The wartime record of our seaports reveals the success of the Coast Guard's port security program. Losses through fires, explosions or other waterfront disasters dropped far below the normal peace time rate. Here in New England the record was outstandingly good. Not a single waterfront disaster of importance occurred on ships or waterfront facilities guarded by our men.

Starting in the early summer of 1943, the temporary members of the Coast Guard Reserve gradually took over the duties and responsibilities of the Regulars assigned to port security duties. In less than two years, the Temporaries, more than ten thousand strong, had relieved most of the Regulars for duty at sea and overseas. To the end, they maintained the high standard of security required by the Coast Guard.

Now that we have returned to the ways of peace, I hope that the temporary members of the Coast Guard Reserve will always remember with satisfaction their patriotic service. To them I extend the sincere thanks of the Regulars for an important job well done.

## The District Coast Guard Officer Expresses his Appreciation