

Hingham — Afloat and Ashore



The "47," familiar sight to sea-going TRs. Her station was ammunition area off Petlock's.



Fire Boat, proud and potent, shows off.



"Old Baltic" finally abandoned. First patrol craft used by TRs out of Fore River. CGR 116 was cranks, unresponsive, often aground.

Ten residents of the town of Hingham laid the keel of TR Unit 508 early in April 1942. Within a month membership reached 42.

Ordered to active duty, the flotilla's assorted auxiliary craft patrolled Fore and Back Rivers, Hingham Bay and the waterside of the new Bethlehem-Hingham shipyard then under construction.

Boats were secured that winter and the men of 508 responded to a call from the Allerton Coast Guard station to "pound the beaches" from Pemberton Point to Cohasset Harbor.

2 May 1943 and the crews were back on the water, this time in the good (?) ship CGR 14. Later, when the CGR 1027 was assigned, enrollment went to 142.

During the winter the Regulars had established a base at Beth-Hingham, with a ship-shape galley and sacking facilities. This served as a tie-up and communications center.

By this time continuous routine security patrols were being maintained to seaward of the B-H shipyard and approaches to the Am-

munition Depot via Back River.

Ice conditions in the lower bay in the winter of '43-'44 once more caused a cessation of duty afloat. Beach patrol was resumed and TRs teamed up with Regulars to stand tower watches at the Allerton lookout.

In the spring of 1944 CG 38690 was assigned to 508 and continued in operation until October, when the Back River area was secured.

Hingham TRs try to crowd from memory freezing days and nights on wintry beaches, and remember more exciting duty and warmer weather. Many recall mustering at Constitution Base and the Transport Specials; participating in a kidnaping manhunt; discovery and "salvage" of a lost shipyard worker; and many another interesting incidents.

One Hingham TR, a SM 3/c at the time, had the unusual luck to be responsible for obtaining via shortwave radio a fix on a German secret radio station located on this side of the "pond." Turned over to Navy Intelligence, the information resulted in a "kill."



Tide breaks up ice in channel off Hingham yard.