



Reminiscences

In the years to come when you are asked about your hitch in the Coast Guard, you'll probably smile wistfully and then with justifiable pride recall some of those tough days and cold nights out there on post with wind and rain and sleet and snow . . . It all comes back to you now: the mates who sat with you in the shacks, poking the fire until it burned too fiercely or went out . . . Once again you walk the piers or handle lines on a storm-tossed patrol boat, as the salt spray lays a thick coating of ice . . .

Hurry for muster! Got your button? Just time for cigs and a chocolate bar at the canteen. Fifth deck, now. "Fall in! Square those hats! Dress right, dress! Front! At ease!" As posts are assigned you silently say, "Not a bridge again, please! Not White Fuel or McLean's wood yard or Sargent's Wharf or the oil farms!" That's what you think but you answer, "Here!" Then to the Armory for duty belt, side arms,

five shells, stick, whistle, flashlight, lanyard. All hands juggle equipment and minutes later you're in the truck, warming a hard, cold board. Likely as not you join in comments on (if not to) civilians of the opposite sex . . .

It's an oil farm all right! "Let's go. All out. Load up." The Coxswain gives his instructions. You guess this would be a number 1 target if the enemy decided on an action off our coast . . .

Remember the shack at Jenney and the search for wood, the radio at Amoco . . . discussions of old time ball players by the night crew . . . early morning trucking . . . bananas for free at M&M . . . troop transports at Commonwealth Pier loading for overseas — returning after Victory . . . How cold and tired you could be just before dawn. Late relief this morning . . . chow, then hurry to work . . . long day ahead . . .

Seagoing TRs remember other



Guards detailed to Mass Ship are checking at the gate. Note Liberty ship in background. Piers rank with airfields as primary military objectives in time of war. This was a busy post throughout most of the war.



Armory 2nd deck. Insulating equipment following muster. Note S&W .38's, rifles and Reising Submachine guns. Used for guarding prisoners of war, the Reising .45 stub-nose bullet will penetrate six inches of pine at 20 yards.