

# "Your ID Card Please"

Division 5A's big job was the safeguarding of waterfront properties. Fire was a constant threat.

As the war progressed, there was the steadily increasing need of utilizing all port facilities to the utmost and loss of loading facilities could mean a disastrous delay in getting men and munitions overseas.

Piers and wharves on which we were assigned were for the most part old and of combustible types

of construction, with an absence of fire prevention features. Add to this, practices with respect to cargo storage and handling, and the danger from fires on vessels, barges and floating materials.

With access to piers by land difficult, fire fighting facilities poor, and access to the under side of the pier deck next to impossible, fire protection through fire prevention was essential.

The Commandant of the Coast

Guard recognized that the citizens of nations with which our country was at war might "seek admission to our waterfront properties on one pretext or another and with an unfriendly or hostile object in mind cause damage or destruction, and thereby hamper and defeat the plans and purposes of our Government."

Efficient watchstanders and a vigilant patrol service was our COTP's answer to this urgent need. No fire of any serious consequence occurred during Division 5A's tour of duty.

[See story on Page 73 "Millions Saved in Fire Losses."]



Remember this!



Watch secured. Returning gear to Armory.



"What'll you have, Mac, locker or sack?"



Good friends at the "oil farms."