

# V-E Day at Constitution Base — Taken in Stride

No one at Constitution Base was disappointed that V-E Day was without celebration or incident. But, true to their Semper Paratus motto, the Temporary Reservists were "set for any eventuality."

Because to be "always ready" there must be a looking ahead, and plans must be made for that which may occur, a complete and detailed plan was ready for instant operation.

The V-E Day program for the Operating Base, prepared by V-E Day Officer, Ens. R. K. Webber,

called for complete coverage of waterfront piers and facilities as well as maintenance of boat patrols in excess of usual requirements. Principally some 70 piers and facilities were to be manned by over 300 Temporary Reservist Coast Guardsmen.

From the alerting of hundreds of volunteers, and officers with special assignments, to the dispersal of specially equipped details with a stand-by company for relief, no detail was unprovided for.



Standbys awaiting assignment to post on V-E day at Constitution Base 5th Deck. There was no shortage of TR man power on 8 May 1945 as Temporary Reservists were alerted for last time in World War II.



Victory in Europe! Standbys for extra duty 8 May 1945 pose for record shot around newspaper which headlines V-E Day.

Cooks at the Base came in for loud praise from all hands for their V-E (very excellent) mid-day chow. Steak, it was!

Unconditional surrender was a big blow to the Nazis and it recalled a big blow of hurricane proportions which once before loaded the 5th deck with standbys—11 September 1944.

Yeoman service was done by the lads logging in the V-E "specials." Only one question was asked, "Are you on for 16 or 24 hours?"

Combat movies on the 5th deck were a welcome diversion in the early afternoon hours between musters.

Sacks were at a premium until the emergency was officially declared over, around 2300 Monday.

It started to rain in the early evening and many an old shack stove came back into service. Building a fire in the midget pot-bellies required the special technique acquired by TRs through many a trying winter day and night. Effective procedure for ash dumping was: 1) Carry entire stove outside. 2) Invert. 3) All hands turn to, recover pieces and reassemble inside shack.

While 300 men actually reported for extra duty at the Base more than 400 additional TR volunteers "stood by," awaiting a call from their operations officers.