



Rated

were merged to form the U. S. Coast Guard. The Lighthouse Service, which operated under the Department of Commerce, was transferred to the Coast Guard in 1939.

The Coast Guard operates under the U. S. Treasury Department during peace and as a distinctive unit, as part of the Navy, in time of war.

With the exception of the war with Tripoli, the organization has played a distinguished and courageous part in every war where America has fought. Its record of achievements and honors is too lengthy to relate in this narrative.

Coast Guard has won distinction in World War II in keeping sea lanes open, convoying men, munitions and supplies to all parts of the world; in landing troops on beaches; rescuing the shipwrecked; hunting down enemy U-boats, and locating mines. Its personnel has commanded and served, when the war was at its height, on destroyer escorts, frigates, PC's, LST's, LCI's, submarine chasers, tankers, combat cargo ships, transports, and other vessels.

Into the heat of battle her barges, cutters and transports have gone to unload material and men, and to rescue survivors, on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Tulagi, Attu, Gela, Salerno, Makin, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, and other ports under fire.

The USS. WAKEFIELD is Coast Guard operated. The following pages tell the story of its mission.



Seaman