

STORIES of New Jersey

bury Park post office building is the office of the district commander, who heads 13 chief warrant and warrant officers and 303 enlisted men. This does not include the complement of the 300-acre air station at Cold Spring Harbor, near Cape May, which has several air and motor craft and barracks for 250 men. Allotments amounting to \$694,725 have been made by PWA for U. S. Coast Guard improvements in New Jersey. The air base is operated under the commander of the New York division, who also controls the communication lines of the New Jersey district. All larger craft have a base at Pier 18, Staten Island.

The aviation section, which trains its enlisted men in the Naval Air School, at Pensacola, Florida, has furnished several examples of spectacular assistance to seafarers since its establishment in 1919. When the dirigible *Akron* was destroyed off the Jersey coast in 1933, a flying officer in Washington left at night in a Douglas amphibian to aid his colleagues. Driving through rain by compass, he descended in a heavy sea next morning at the scene of the disaster. When he found that the survivors had been rescued by patrol boats and others he recovered two floating bodies and brought them to shore.

An officer in charge, a petty officer and nine surfmen are at each small shore station in time of peace. One of them is always on watch in the lookout tower. They have living quarters here, including a kitchen, rest and recreation room. Their unsinkable surfboat is 26 feet long. The larger stations have motor lifeboats, 36 feet long, which also have a mast, sail and oars. Every station has beach apparatus equipment which include a breeches buoy, the device which has carried thousands from sinking ships to shore, and a small cannon or mortar to shoot the line from shore to the stranded ship. Rockets for night signaling, life preservers and buoys, marine glasses and a beach cart to carry everything needed to the water's edge are standard equipment. Clothes for rescued persons are donated by the Blue Anchor Society, a benevolent association.

In modernizing the Coast Guard emphasis has been put upon the 2,600 miles of telephone lines linking the many stations together and the airplane and cutter patrols, whose greater efficiency has made it possible to do away with many former stations. There are now 51 airplanes in the service. These vary from the long-range amphibians that participate in rescues far out at sea to small land planes used chiefly in border patrol, flood work and in cooperating with the Internal Revenue Bureau in tracking down moonshiners' stills. The coast patrol of the entire United States includes 34 cutters, well-armed modern boats with electric power or steam, 52 sizable harbor vessels, 116 patrol boats, 39 picket boats and 7 special craft. In March 1939 the personnel of the service included 515 commissioned officers, 560 warrant officers, 8,935 enlisted men and at New London 118 cadets learning through study courses how to put into practice the Coast Guard motto: *Semper Paratus* . . . always prepared.