

Elizabeth City Is Now Headquarters For The 7th Division Coast Guard

Captain Edgar Chadwick In Charge of this Important Branch of Coast Guardsmen

Elizabeth City is the headquarters of the Seventh Division of the Coast Guard. Capt. Edgar Chadwick, the superintendent, has recently removed his office here. This city not many months ago entertained the national convention of the surfmen, and it was a great assemblage of heroes. No-where else in the world is the Coast Guardsman so much in evidence as along this almost barren North Carolina beach. He patrols in the night season and keeps a vigilant watch all the day long from his cupola lookout, "constantly on the alert and observing everything within sight and hearing". He is a rich character, the surfman and the bravest of the brave. The records of his service contain no item of any craven deed, and in the service failure even to be prompt or failure to do what was necessary in the face of conditions which would make success seem to the uninitiated incredible, would bring humiliating censure. The Coast Guardsman never fails to do his duty. He thinks in every waking moment, and he is awake a plenty, that his life isn't to count when the occasion arises for him to risk it.

The United States Coast Guard is a new service. Until a few months ago it was the United States Life Saving Service and the United States Revenue Cutter Service. The two were combined by an act of Congress. Both were formerly under the supervision of the Treasury Department, and now as the combined service are still under that department's orders. The Congressional act, however changed the life saving corps, when it combined it with the revenue cutter service, into a semi-military instead of a non-combatant force. There are several scores of the now Coast Guard cutters, stationed in the principal harbors all along the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf and Alaskan coasts and in territorial waters. They are well classified in first, second and third classes, and are in reality gun boats, the larger ones of considerable tonnage. Their crews are similar to those of small

men-of-war, with captains, lieutenants, engineer lieutenants, cadets, boatswains, machinists, carpenters, gunners, masters-at-arms, coxswains, oilers, water tenders, firemen, stockers, buglers, seamen, able-bodied and ordinary stewards, mess attendants, and the like of men. In war these ships would be turned over to the Navy Department to comprise a mosquito fleet and do patrol duty and that of gun boats in general. The surfman is primarily a lifesaver instead of a guardian of the customs and a naval auxiliary, however. He works in groups of eight in isolated "banks" stations, a "keeper" or captain and seven men comprising each outfit.

The surf guards patrol practically every mile of the beach at night. Imagine a winter's night with a cold gale, the surf pounding up on the desert shingle and in lower places, frequently washing clear across the beach to the sounds, and these fellows, miles apart, required to stumble along in the teeth of the wind. Sure, they are warmly clad, but their tramp may be many miles and under difficulties which an ordinary man could not survive. The coast guardsman is not an ordinary man. He stands the stiffest physical examination in the world: must be a sailor of unusual ability to start with, and his physical courage must not be in question. His spiritual courage comes in time if he does not have it at the beginning. Stare your God's most awesome works in the face every night and day and the realization will come in a remarkably short period. He who marks the sparrow's fall holds the life of these men in His hand, teaches them to walk aright, and preserves them that they may succor the victims of storm and shoal and darkness. They are a smiling, healthy, good-natured, religious lot, and the broadest minded of their race. Their vision is limited to nothing short of the horizon, and this is conducive to broad-mindedness.

The Coast Guardsman's home is a substantial, roomy, rather imposing building, of a de-

sign uniform from one end of the coast to the other, erected to withstand wind and tide. It offers him, when the night or day is done, warmth, the cheer of congenial companionship, light, and such amusements as he cares for. He needs these things, because a day's work with him is a day of thorough effort; the day is inevitably well spent. He drills in everything that he is apt to find useful, down to the first aid to the injured. He is a genius at resuscitation. And a night's work is a marvel.

The Coast Guard stations along the Carolina coast are thick as bee hives in an apiary. They are necessary, because this deceiving shore is among the most inhospitable of the whole Western world. Hatteras is

aply termed the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," and on that Cape is a cluster of the stations. Ocracoke has two, Bogue and Core banks have theirs, and further to the South and North of Hatteras to the Virginia Capes they are numerous. Their equipment in ludes fast boats, many of them propelled by motors and all of the self-righting, non-sinkable type; life rope guns, which shoots weights at the end of the light lines over the distressed craft close enough in shore, the light line being used to draw substantial ropes aboard with; breeches-buoys, which slide along the ropes from ship to shore and vice versa, and all other practicable devices so far invented for ship wreck rescue.

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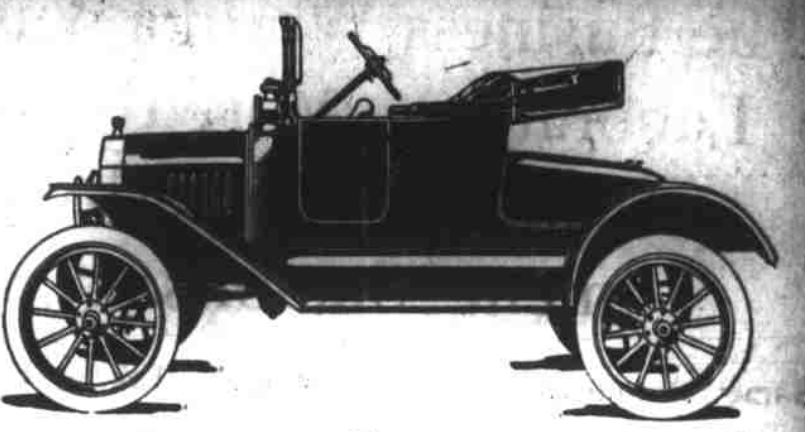
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