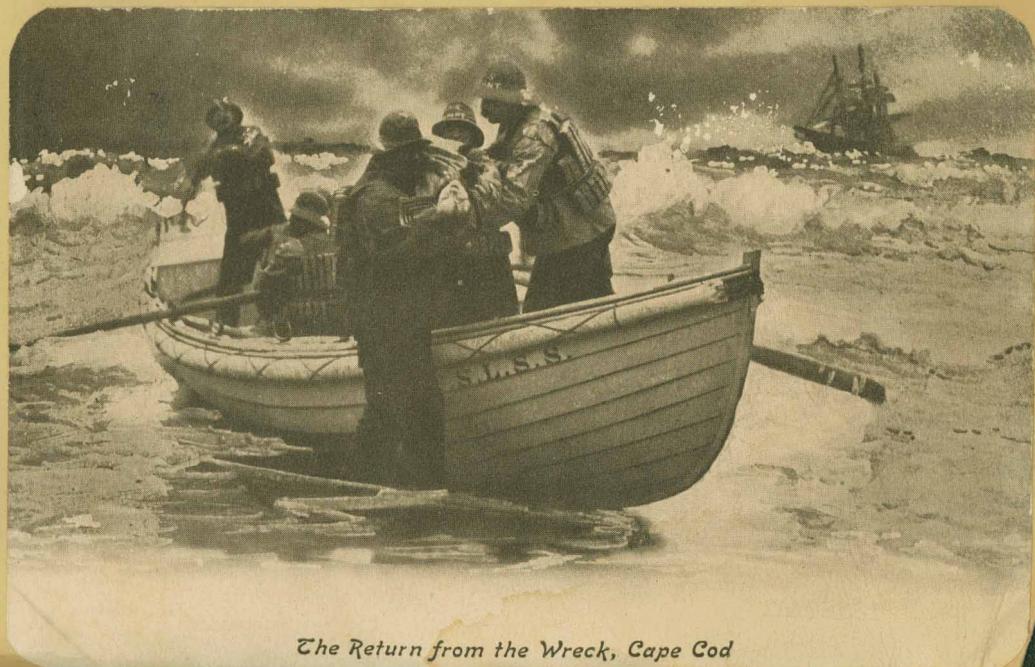


*The Launching of the Life-boat, Cape Cod*



*On the way to the Wreck, Cape Cod*



*The Return from the Wreck, Cape Cod*

More than 100 officers and men staff the 13 Cape Cod coast guard stations. When the service was young, the district headquarters was at East Orleans; in 1904 it was transferred to Provincetown; about 1933 headquarters of the third district were moved to Wakefield, R. I., covering all Cape stations for all save Cape Cod Canal station, which remains in the First District.

Coast Guard along the outer beach, the Cape's backside, have their own telephone line, a 50-mile system from Race Point to Monomoy, and connected to the Bell lines at Provincetown and Chatham. Coast Guard stations are noted for their cleanness and neatness. Each man, save the officer in charge, stands a four-hour watch in the station lookout tower. From sunset to sunrise, a beach patrol is maintained. Between stations is the halfway house. The surfman on beach patrol either exchanges a check with the man from the next station, or records the end of his patrol on a time clock.

Surfmen on patrol carry three red flares—Coston lights—a Coston holder and a flashlight, as well as their time clocks. Stations have for

regular equipment, among other things, tractors to pull their surf-boats along the beach; breeches bouy and mortar. The most strategically located stations, at the Canal, Wood End and Monomoy Point, have power picket boats, life boats and surf-boats; also trucks. The breeches bouy is rarely used these days. Most frequent calls for assistance come from pleasure yachts and fishermen, rather than the larger craft.

Several of the Cape stations are equipped with radio, and maintain communication with their district headquarters over the ether. Upward of 2,000 calls for assistance come each year to Cape Coast Guard stations, they range from trips many miles offshore, to trips in which the life-savers never leave shore, but extricate some auto from the sand, or aid in a shore search for missing persons. The duties vary from day to day, and new kinds of assistance pop up frequently. Yet the day of serious shipwreck is not over, and rarely a winter passes without some marine disaster in which there is some loss of life, some urgent need for our Coast Guards.