1939-1940s

June 23, 1939: Congressional legislation establishes the Coast Guard Reserve as a volunteer civilian organization the purpose of which is to promote recreational boating safety and to facilitate the operations of the Coast Guard.

February 19, 1941: Congressional legislation changes the name of the Reserve to the Auxiliary and in addition, creates a military Coast Guard Reserve under which enrollees are subject to military law and the Articles of War.

December 7th, 1941: Honolulu CG Auxiliary conducted harbor patrols, San Francico Flotillas began day and night patrols; Seattle Flotillas provided the Navy picket boats for minesweepers in Puget Sound. For the first six weeks the Auxiliary largely took over harbor patrols nationwide.

As a patriotic fervor swept the country following Pearl Harbor, hundreds of yachtsmen and other recreational boat owners flooded into existing Auxiliary flotillas and many new ones were created. Large numbers of men and women enrolled in order to qualify for commissions or ratings in the active-duty Coast Guard. “Flotilla Commanders suddenly found themselves snowed under with work, day and night: patrolling, enlisting, organizing, teaching.”

June 1942: Congressional legislation allows Auxiliarists to enroll as part-time or intermittent members of the Coast Guard Reserve. Thousands of Auxiliarists enroll themselves and their vessels in the Reserve. Over fifty thousand temporary Reservists served during the war patrolling harbors, factories, bridges, and docks; fighting fires, providing emergency and disaster assistance; conducting search and rescue and anti submarine warfare; training; giving blood; selling war bonds; recruiting SPARs (CG women reservists). (An equal number of Auxiliarists served, but many held both titles simultaneously, so the 50,000 figure is used for both the number of Auxiliarists and temporary Reservists.)

July 1942: Coastal Picket Force is formed; Auxiliary enrolls large sailboats and motor cruisers and mans a number along with newly recruited yachtsmen for anti-submarine work along the 50-fathom curve of the Atlantic Coast. Integrated Army-Navy-Coast Guard coastal and beach patrol system established consisting of mounted, foot, canine, and afloat units.

November 1942: Congressional legislation allows women to enroll as temporary Reservists. This included Auxiliary members who numbered approximately 100, as of March 1943.

December 1942: Temporary reservists required to transfer to full-time active duty, if physically fit or serve part- or full-time on a volunteer basis or resign from service.

1943: By the spring and summer of 1943, the Army was becoming increasingly short of not only boats, but crews, to supply MacArthur. Hence U.S. boatmen and mariners were recruited as civilian contract employees in the Army's Small Ships Branch of its Transportation Corps. This force would serve as the major lifeline for MacArthur's forces on the island. These craft brought in everything from canned and powered food, to ammunition, airstrip matting, to medical supplies. Crews also evacuated the sick, wounded, and dead. In total approximately 1,300 Auxiliarists and other American mariners served in the Army's navy during the war in the Pacific.

1944: Congressional legislation allows aircraft and marine radios to be used as facilities to assist with search and rescue operations.

As the war went on and the Coast Guard's resources were stretched thinner, Auxiliarists and TRs were called upon to fill gaps wherever active-duty Coast Guardsmen left them. Auxiliarists' boats patrolled the waterfronts and inlets looking for saboteurs, enemy agents, and fires. At least one unit of temporary Reservists, recruited from the Auxiliary, patrolled east coast beaches on horseback. Other Auxiliarists manned lookout and lifesaving stations near their homes, freeing regular Coast Guardsmen for sea duty. When a flood struck St. Louis in the spring of 1943, Coast Guard Auxiliarists and Reservists evacuated seven thousand people and thousands of livestock.

1946: Flotillas established in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. July CG-170, "Instruction to Coast Guard Auxiliary," first Auxiliary manual issued.

July 23 1947:. A US Coast Guard amphibious plane made a 900-mile (round trip) instrument flight in heavy fog. The plane landed in a rough sea some 450 miles NE by E of Argentia, Newfoundland to pick up a 18-year old seaman, in need of an emergency appendectomy, on USCGC *Bibb*. Long-range amphibian flights of this type were the hallmark of Coast Guard aviation between the1930s and late-1950s.

1948: Public Education program launched at the New York National Boat Show.

1949: Auxiliary established a unit in Nashville Tennessee.