



## COASTLINE

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### Our Cover

A major fire aboard the 549 foot British tanker *Mobile Apex* was thwarted by the continuous efforts of Coast Guard units under Commander, Greater Antilles Section. The steam tanker had taken on about 150,000 barrels of gasoline and naphtha at the fuel docks at Limetree Bay, St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands, when, in the early morning hours of April 29, a fire started in her engine room.

Receiving the report, Coast Guard San Juan dispatched aircraft and cutters to the scene. At the same time, a tug towed the burning tanker about a mile offshore where the danger to property would be minimized. Cutters *Courageous* and *Pt. Warde* arrived from San Juan. *Pt. Whitehorn* came from St. Thomas, and a helo and fixed-wing from San Juan were soon on scene.

The initial report indicated there were no injuries to personnel but it was later determined that one man was missing. As the fire began to burn out of control, the charred vessel was towed some 35 miles out to sea where efforts continued to keep the cargo from exploding. On the second day of the fire, CW02 Peter J. Anderson, and a representative of the ship's owners, made an extensive survey of the damage. On the first of May, the battle was nearly over. Having used brain and brawn, and hundreds of gallons of foam, the Coast Guard again came out victorious. Another job well done!