

## Maryland Main Street, 1945

When World War II ended in 1945, millions of American G.I.'s headed home to reclaim old jobs or look for new work. One of the 200,000 Maryland veterans who returned to re-energize the war-weary state and nation was a 32-year-old U.S. Marine lieutenant (and future Comptroller of Maryland) named Louis L. Goldstein.

Education was a key goal for many vets. Student enrollment at the University of Maryland at College Park nearly doubled within a year after war's end, planting the seeds for Maryland's future harvest of skilled labor. Some graduates joined the growing ranks of nearly 25,000 certified public accountants employed in America by the mid-Forties.

Thanks to war-related research and technology, Maryland business and industry prospered in the postwar years. The federal government tapped Maryland to help complete one of the biggest postwar projects - mothballing the surface combat fleet. Companies like Bendix and Westinghouse expanded their horizons by transforming wartime devices, such as two-way radios, into desirable consumer items.

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Nearly 200,000 Maryland veterans among the millions of Americans who served in World War II eventually returned home after 1945 to mobilize a war-weary economy towards new heights of prosperity. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.