

1st and 2nd DIVISIONS

The 1st and 2nd Divisions, known as the deck force, were composed of the seamen, coxswains, and boatswain's mates. Gone are the days of sail when a seaman spent his entire time with his eyes on the sail and a line in his hand. Nevertheless, the need for good seamanship is just as acute today as it was 100 years ago. There are anchors to be hauled, cargo booms to be rigged and manned, the boat boom to be swung out, the accommodation ladder to be lowered, boats to be hoisted, mooring lines to be tended and a host of other details that the layman is prone to forget. All of these require a thorough knowledge of seamanship in order that the various lines may be handled smartly and with a minimum of verbal commands.

Occasionally such jobs must be done as fuelling at sea or towing another ship. When performing tasks of this nature, the



Washing down the deck



The foretop lookout

unexpected is almost certain to occur and it is then that a thorough knowledge of marlinespike seamanship is needed. Men's lives are frequently at stake during such maneuvers. Events call for rapid intelligent action leaving no room for the lackadaisical sailor who believes that marlinespike seamanship is a thing of the past.

On the other hand, in contrast to these action filled moments, are days and weeks of nothing but painting, scraping, soogying, cleaning details, and miscellaneous unpleasant jobs too numerous to mention. All of this is necessary to a well maintained ship. Corrosion, the sailor's greatest enemy, must be held to a minimum. To do this every rust spot on the ship must be scraped or chipped,