

1st and 2nd DIVISIONS



A seaman stands the helmman watch

painted with an anticorrosive paint, and then painted with a color to conform to the surrounding areas. Cleaning too is necessary to a well run ship. Although dirt itself produces little material damage, the damage to the crew's morale due to a dirty ship produces a far greater effect.

Another job falling to the lot of the deck force was the loading and storing of supplies. Almost from the very minute they came aboard, the seamen "turned to" loading commissary stores, general stores, mail, and military cargo. This is a tiresome job ending only when a ship is decommissioned.

In addition to the work about ship, the members of the deck force were required to stand watches as lookouts, messengers, helmmen, and gun crews. Each of the above was just as im-

portant and vital to the ship as the "day work". Most important of all were the general quarters stations occupied by the deck force. It is they who manned most of the guns. The seamen loaded the guns while the coxswain's and boatswain's mates took their places as pointers, trainers and gun captains.

It is evident that the seaman is the most versatile of all rates. This versatility required of the deck force did not lead to mediocre performance as might be expected. Whether fighting off the enemy, mooring the ship or washing down the topsides, the deck force of the Admiral Capps always did the best possible job.



Scraping the deck before painting