

N DIVISION

Did it concern the safe navigation or communications of the ship? Then, N Division had the men and material. Quartermasters, radiomen, signalmen, yeomen, electronic technician mates, radarmen, mailmen, and stokers. This division usually had the "hot slope" on where we are going, when, why, etc.

The "bridge gang" was responsible for an alert topside watch. Quartermasters supervised the work for the helmsmen and messengers, maintained a log in the bridge book and assisted the Officer-of-the-Deck in his function as a direct representative of the Captain in the safe navigation of a vessel. In this latter capacity he assumed a great deal of responsibility; performing such duties as taking bearings, keeping charts up-to-date, etc. This relieved the Officer-of-the-Deck of all such details allowing him to get a



A Quartermaster takes a bearing.



Signaling an aerial escort.

better perspective of the existing situation and thereby making for safer handling of the ship.

Radarmen on watch supplied much needed information, especially in wartime. Radar, as much as any other single piece of equipment, was responsible for the success of our Navy in the war. This equipment enabled us to beat the enemy to the punch by giving us advance knowledge of their position, course, speed and friendliness. However, radar gear, without the intelligent use of the equipment, could be worse than nothing at all. It could lead us to erroneous and perhaps fatal conclusions. It was the radarmen's job to interpret the meaning of the splotchy, pale, or greezy screen on which he kept watch. His eyes were kept riveted to