



*Loading Casualties in Espirito Santo*

We sailed for Espirito Santo, New Hebrides Islands, on the 14th of December and arrived there in the afternoon of the 19th. Unloading of mail and embarking of passengers was completed that night and the next morning, and we sailed for San Francisco on the afternoon of the 16th. We were diverted to San Diego on the 23rd and arrived there in the evening of the 26th. Thus we had sailed on Thanksgiving Day and arrived back on the day after Christmas. All of the casualties and most of the passengers were unloaded at San Diego and in less than 24 hours we were on our way to San Francisco again.

We arrived in San Francisco late in the evening of the 28th of December, 1944, completing the maiden voyage. It was discovered in the inspections of the ship during the following week that at some time or other, (probably in the crash stop tests



*Navy Barracks on ESPIRITO SANTO*



*The casualties get their first look at the states — San Diego, Calif.*