



*Relieving the foretop*

would still be fighting at Hollandia. We were sadly disappointed. No submarines attacked us, we ran into no mines, no airplanes strafed us and no surface raiders shelled us. As a matter of fact, we found that the closer we got to the fighting, the brighter the lights burned at night. Los Angeles harbor was better blacked out than Hollandia or any of the other bases we later visited.

We arrived in Hollandia in the early morning fog of 21 February. There we waited for a convoy to form so that we could proceed to Leyte, but the convoy of three ships and two escorts took a week to form and in the meantime we picked up 647 passengers, 157 tons of hold cargo and 27 tons of deck cargo. We

would have had more had we been willing to take it. They seemed to be trying to move all of Hollandia up to Leyte.

In the late afternoon of 28 February our convoy formed. We were convoy commodore, the USS RIXEY (APH-3) and the S.S. BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPRESS were the other members and the destroyers YOUNG and STEVENS were the escorts. We and the RIXEY were going to Leyte and the others were going to Manila. Distinguished passengers aboard the BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPRESS (a Norwegian ship) were General Douglas Mac Arthur's wife and family. That is why she rated two destroyers for escorts.

Being in a convoy was new to us—let alone being convoy commodore. The O.D.'s and the signalmen really had a work-



*Dawn Alert on the way to Leyte*