

shoot at them. Those of the five alerts were the result of our own planes approaching the soil with their recognition apparatus out of order. The other two were probably of Japanese origin because Yap Island was only about 60 miles away and they had bombed Guam while we were at Utihi, (indicating that they still had some planes.)



*Balcony seats at the Hot Air Theatre*

Finally, fifty-five days after leaving Seattle, the ADMIRAL CAPPS joined a convoy on 28 June and sailed for Okinawa. This was an 11.5 knot convoy and didn't arrive there until the afternoon of 1 July. The disembarking of troops and unloading of cargo commenced immediately. (A brigadier general of the Army Medical Corps came aboard to take the nurses ashore.) All of the passengers were off early the next morning but the cargo took four days, in which the crew worked day and night operating winches. Our was the largest auxiliary vessel to enter the Okinawa area up to that time, and it was greatly desired to get us out before the Kamikaze Corps spotted us. There had been suicide attacks in the area just before we arrived and there were some just after we left,

but while we were there, only one enemy plane entered (but did not leave) the area. There were three "Flash Red" alerts in the six days but no action resulted for the ADMIRAL CAPPS.

We loaded about 3000 Marines on the 7th of July and sailed in convoy on the 8th for Saipan. This convoy made 19 knots and we arrived there in the morning of the 23rd. It was in entering Saipan harbor that the ADMIRAL CAPPS had her closest approach to tragedy. We stopped to pick up the pilot in the channel with the wind blowing on our starboard beam. On our port side were anchored a number of destroyers and destroyer es-



*The skipper gives Mog-Mog a brief tour*

coers in a line parallel with the channel. While the pilot was coming aboard, we began to drift down on a destroyer escort and in order to avoid it we had to come ahead quickly with left rudder while the DE veered her anchor chain. This maneuver brought us directly between the destroyer escort we had just missed and the destroyer next in the line — with quite a bit of headway on and