



*Our first look at the Panama Canal*

The only interruption in our trip to Panama was a little diversion on 19 July to give medical aid to a member of the armed guard crew of the S.S. JASPER CROPSY. We received our orders to rendezvous with her from the Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier and then made radio contact with her to learn the details about the sick man. It was decided to transfer him to our ship using the JASPER CROPSY'S boat (naturally assuming that their's would be better than ours.) When we met them they had trouble lowering their boat. Then they had trouble lowering the sick man. Then they brought along two other men for "our patient" treatment — one with a toothache and the other with "general pains." To top everything off, when their boat came alongside, one of our seamen tossed

them a heaving line which hit one of their boat crew on the head, cutting it open, thus creating another patient.

As soon as all of the patients were treated, they shoved off in their boat which promptly broke down. We then had to lower one of our boats and tow them back to their ship. The whole operation required three hours with both ships lying dead in supposedly dangerous waters.

We arrived at the Canal Zone early in the morning of 22 July and made the transit the same day. We arrived at Cristobal late that evening and tied up to a pier. The next day we remained at the pier to take on fuel and supplies. In the meantime the crew got their first real liberty in almost three months — four whole hours for each section. The city of Colon wel-



*Everybody cheered when he saw this headline*