

HONG KONG . . .

"PEARL OF THE ORIENT"

Our three week stay in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong will not soon be forgotten. The first view of Hong Kong as we threaded our way through the Lei U Man Channel and the sampan, junk, barge, freighter, sailboat and "Walla Walla" infested harbor was a far cry from what most of us had expected. Hong Kong is a very modern city with tall buildings, neon marquees, and roof-top heliports. It is built on the hillsides of the ranges that surround this beautiful and busy harbor.



Another job while in Hong Kong was to supervise the Shore Patrol. Several of Wachuset men were picked as permanent Shore Patrolmen for this job, the remainder of the Shore Patrol being supplied by the other ships in port according to their size.

The rest of the crew took advantage of our stay for needed maintenance and upkeep. At right, BM2 Liufau talks with Mary Soo, the remarkable Chinese lady who ran a virtual army of painters and ship workers who painted our entire hull and many of the living areas within a week.

While in Hong Kong we acted as the Senior Officer Present Afloat, Administrative, or simply "SOPA ADMIN" or more easily referred to as the "Station Ship." A large portion of our duties fell on the CIC Gang, whose job was basically that of a post office. They distributed all official mail, saw to it that the other visiting U.S. ships in port received fuel, water, taxi service, and other harbor facilities. They did a multitude of small jobs.

