



ABOVE: The lifeboat and crew are lowered away. BELOW: Men hold on to the "monkey lines," an added safety precaution in case of capsizing.



AWAY THE LIFEBOAT

"Man overboard! Man overboard!"

At this sound, approximately 20 men from 2nd Division rush to man their stations. There is no confusion, no delay, only precision teamwork; the reason.....their station is the lifeboat.

Six men man the 26 foot motor whale boat located amidships, port side, O1 level. Ten men lower the boat into the water, and within 3 minutes the boat is on its way to the rescue.

To see a bobbing head, less than 90% of the entire body, in a vast sea, is not an easy job. But the lifeboat crew is well prepared for it's difficult mission. Lt. Okey Cole,

who is in charge of the lifeboat crew, is at the launching to insure speed and efficiency. Five lifeboat crews, standing different watches, enable the lifeboat to be ready 24 hours a day.

The six men in the whale boat are: the coxswain, in command of the boat; an engineman, there in case of engine trouble; the bowhook, to help pull the man from the water; a corpsman, provides needed emergency first-aid; a signalman, keeps the ship informed of the situation; and a marine is on hand with a carbine to ward off sharks.

"Oscar," the dummy who is thrown over the side in man overboard drills, was rescued