



December 20 . . . **BEIRUT**

. . . the eastern extremity of our trip, and the substitute for home for the holidays. If some of us didn't mind being away from home as much as we had expected to, it was only because it didn't really seem like Christmas. No snow, few lights, no street-corner Santas, and no journeys to swap gifts, or to share the special cheer of the season. Christmas day passed quietly. Many of us spent part of it as guests of some of the Americans who live in Beirut. Top: Addressing a gun salute to the nation of Lebanon. Left: An employee of the American Embassy of Beirut with Marine Captain O'Brien. Right: The Fleet Canteen, set up in a local hotel, was sponsored mainly by the American Community of Beirut. It was utilized thoroughly, and appreciated very much by the men of the BOSTON and other ships in company. BOSTON's "ad-ventures" provided much of the entertainment.