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***MISTER ROBERTS (WB) CinemaScope**
(WarnerColor)

Producer: Leland Hayward. Directors: John Ford and Mervyn LeRoy. Photography: Winton Hoch. Music: Franz Waxman. Source: Screenplay by Frank Nugent and Joshua Logan. Based on the play by Thomas Heggen and Joshua Logan. From the novel by Thomas Heggen as produced on the stage by Leland Hayward. Leading Players: Henry Fonda, James Cagney, William Powell, Jack Lemmon, Betsy Palmer, Ward Bond, Phil Carey. 123 min.

PLOT: A lieutenant, serving on a decrepit cargo ship in Pacific waters during World War II, tries to get a transfer to combat duty but is constantly blocked by the petty intolerance of the ship's captain.

ESTIMATES AGREE WITH FOUR EXCEPTIONS:

The monotony of wartime duty on a grimy cargo ship is enlivened by a running feud between the Captain and Mr. Roberts, Lieut. JG., backed by an adoring crew. Seldom has there been a happier translation from stage to screen. Like Thomas Heggen's classic novel, this comedy-drama points up with sensitivity, leavened by raffish episodes, the contribution of the service men who do the dull but necessary jobs in war. The ship's "journey from Tedium to Apathy, with side trips to Monotony", is broken up by such hi-jinx as the squad focusing their telescope on a female nurses' island quarters, the concoction of a bottle of Scotch from hair tonic and iodine, an abortive attempt to set off a giant firecracker under the captain's bunk, and the return of the sailors from a long-postponed and rowdy shore liberty. The play's serious theme, that they also serve who do so in near oblivion without glory, is made heartbreakingly clear in the final scene. This outstanding film is at times moving, at times hilarious, always a well-acted, well-directed and stimulating picture of life aboard ship in the backwaters of war. A-YP

DAR, FMC, GSA: Although acted in high spirits by the entire cast, the film play loses some of its impact because of the removal in time from World War II.

FMC withholds star rating from this picture.

PTA: Lively, colorful scenes aboard the U.S.S. Reluctant communicate little of the tedium and frustration which supposedly motivate the crew's wild-man shennanigans on shore leave. **The GREEN SHEET-June 15, '55 A.**