**THE FORGOTTEN WAR**

February, 1955 found the USS Frank Knox with the US Seventh Fleet standing by a group of islands off the coast of mainland China known as the Tachen Island Group. In the latter part of 1954 and early 1955 the islands held troops and civilians loyal to the Chinese National Forces led by Chang Kai-shek. Communist forces, known as the Peoples Republic of China, placed the islands

under attack from sea and air. Following repeated and heavy air attacks the Chinese National Government announced on February 6th that the islands would be evacuated. Frank Knox and others destroyers assisted LSD-18 USS Colonial in the evacuation. The US Seventh Fleet announced that 132 ships and 400 aircraft covered the evacuation of 10,000 troops, 4,000 guerillas, 14,500 civilians and 40,000 tons of supplies. Two US aircraft were struck by enemy fire; both crews were rescued by US destroyers. The crisis simmered until 1958 when the islands of Quemoy and Matsu sparked the next crisis.