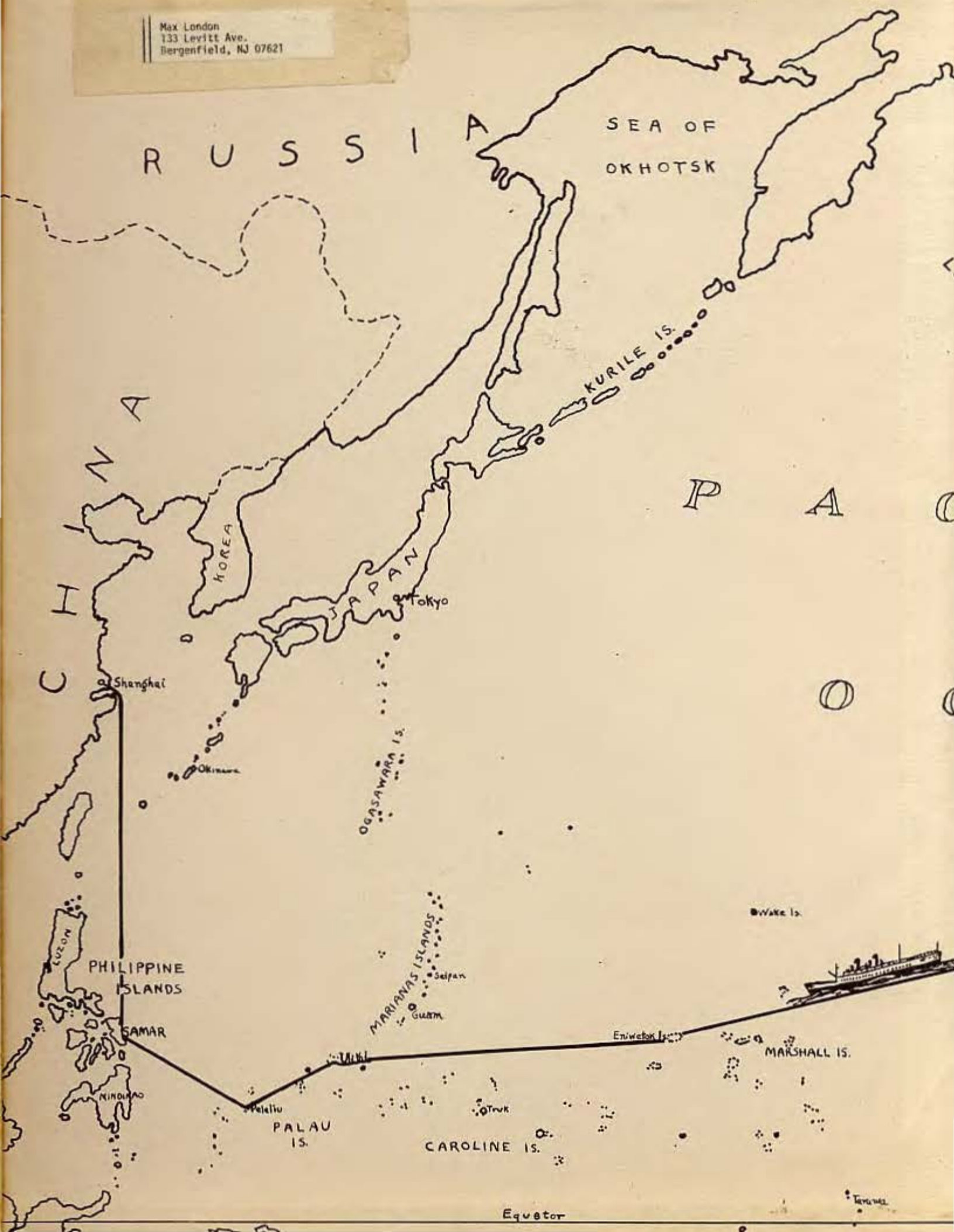




*THE* **42** *ND*  
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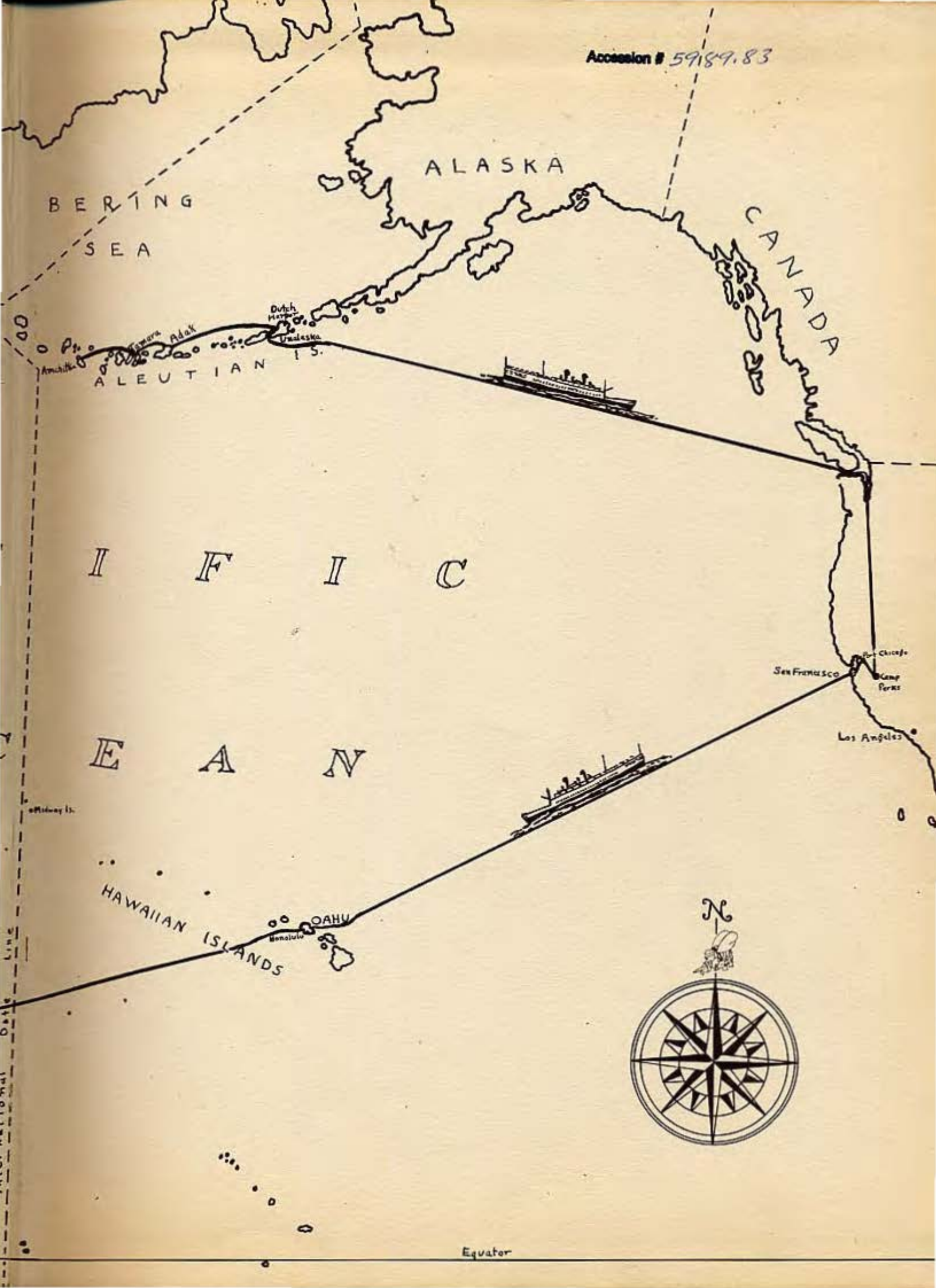
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1944

*42nd Naval Construction Battalion*

YEAR BOOK

1945

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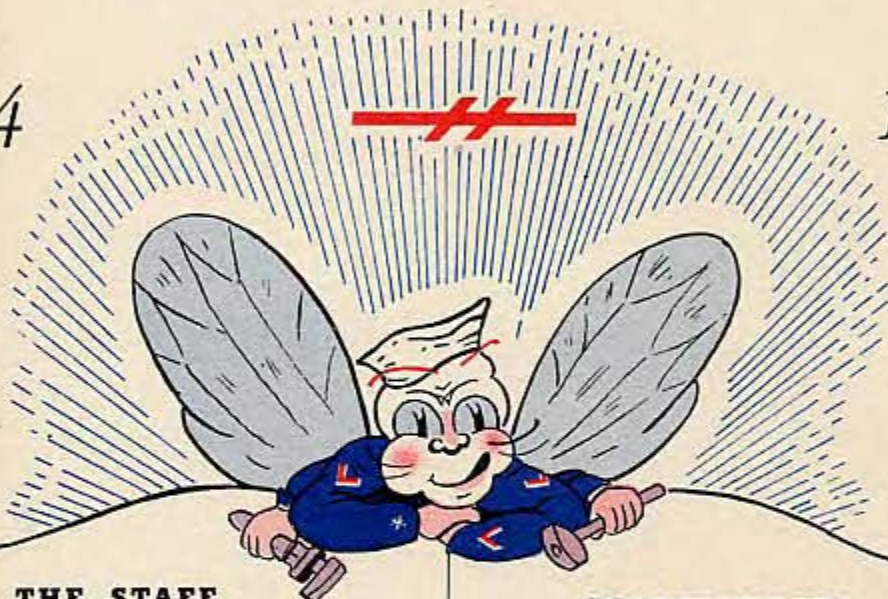
# 42<sup>ND</sup>

## Naval Construction Battalion

# YEAR BOOK

1944

1945



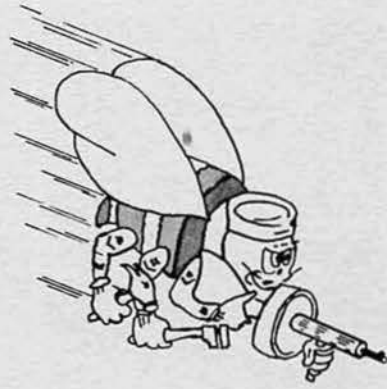
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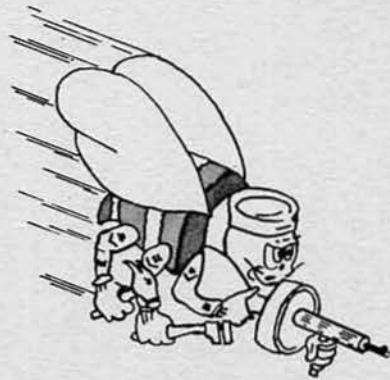
As Officer-in-Charge I wish to commend the staff members for their work on this book. I also want to thank each contributor, without whose ideas, pictures and suggestions the book would be incomplete. — C. E. TACKELS



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Dedication - - - - -	5
Introduction - - - - -	7
Executive Officers - - - - -	8 and 9
Staff Officers - - - - -	10 and 11
Headquarters Company - - - - -	13 to 22
Company "A" - - - - -	23 to 34
Company "B" - - - - -	35 to 46
Company "C" - - - - -	47 to 58
Company "D" - - - - -	59 to 70
Battalion History - - - - -	73
California - - - - -	75 to 89
Hawaii - - - - -	91 to 107
Philippine Campaign - - - - -	109 to 153
Letters of Commendation - - - - -	120
A Story of Construction - - - - -	121
Construction of a Fleet Hospital - - - - -	130 and 131
People of the Philippines - - - - -	142 to 148
Victory - - - - -	151
The Chapel - - - - -	152
Conclusion - - - - -	155

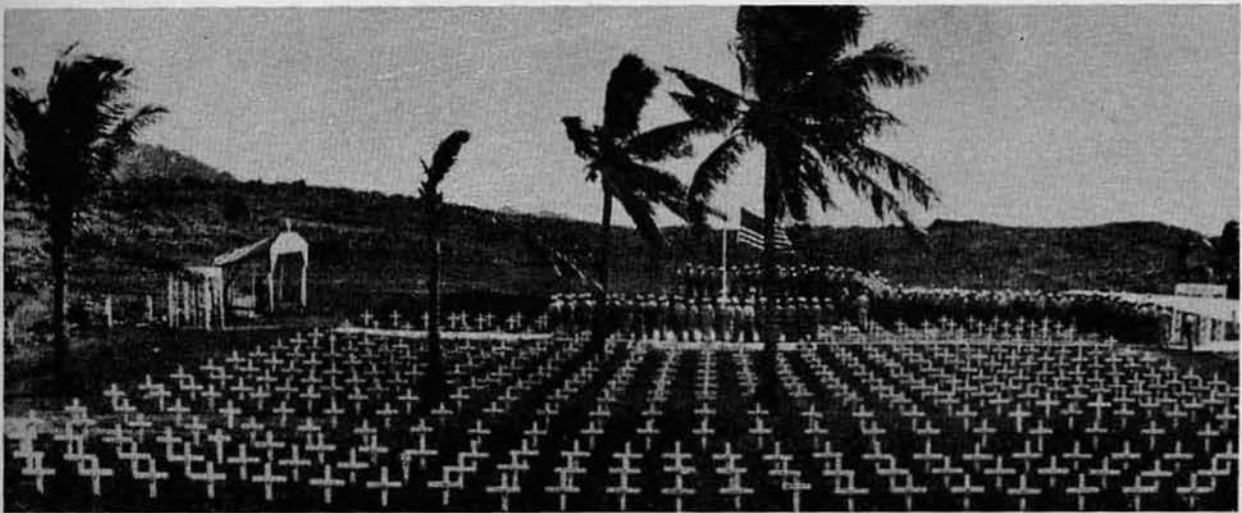


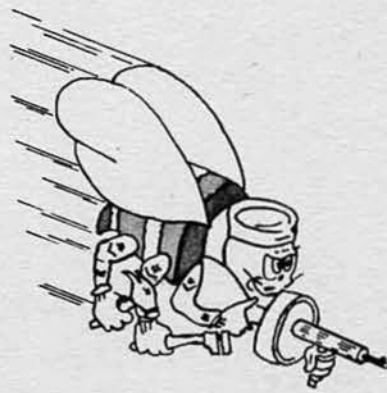


Blow softly, bugles, for our honored dead,  
And tell them, where they sleep through sun and rain,  
The secret of their rest can now be read  
By us who know they have not died in vain.

— *Arthur Stringer*

TO ALL MEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED  
FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY  
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED  
WITH RESPECT AND HUMILITY.





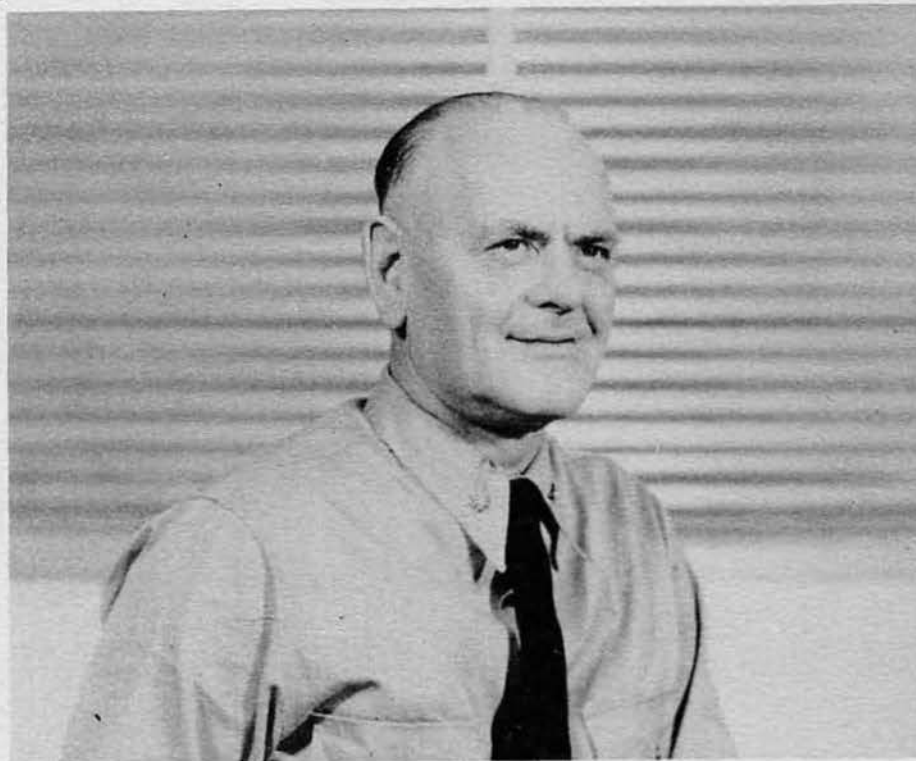
## INTRODUCTION

THIS, the second year book of the 42nd Battalion, was composed immediately after the "cease firing" command had been given. The war with Japan is won. Our job is ended. It is earnestly hoped that this book will reach every member of the Battalion at his home with his family.

The first book dealt completely with the initial tour of duty which reached along the Aleutian chain as far west as Amchitka, then the American held island closest to Tokyo. This book continues from there. It covers a period of more than eighteen months and a distance of over 7,000 miles, stretching from California to China.

This book is merely a scrap book . . . a collection of pictures. We have tried to arrange these pictures in some form approximately a chronology. There may be omissions . . . no apologies are offered. There may be shortcomings . . . no apologies will help.

It is hoped that the book meets the approval of the members of the Battalion. It is their personal history and it is their personal property.



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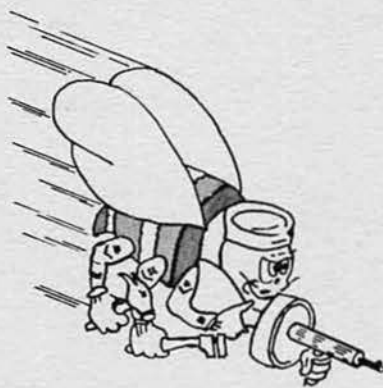


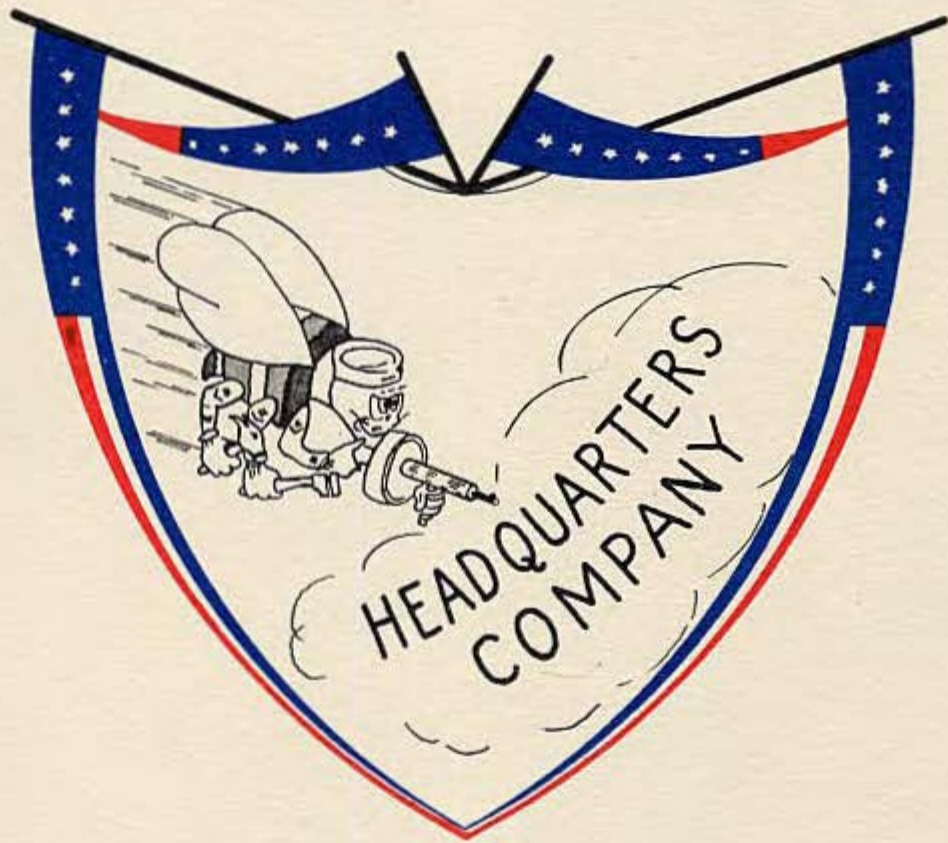
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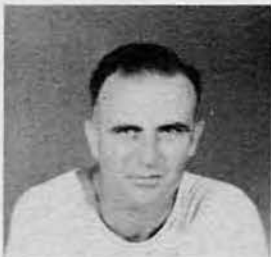
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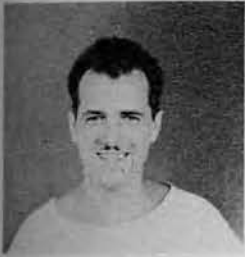
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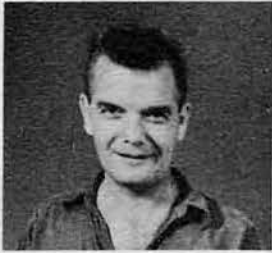
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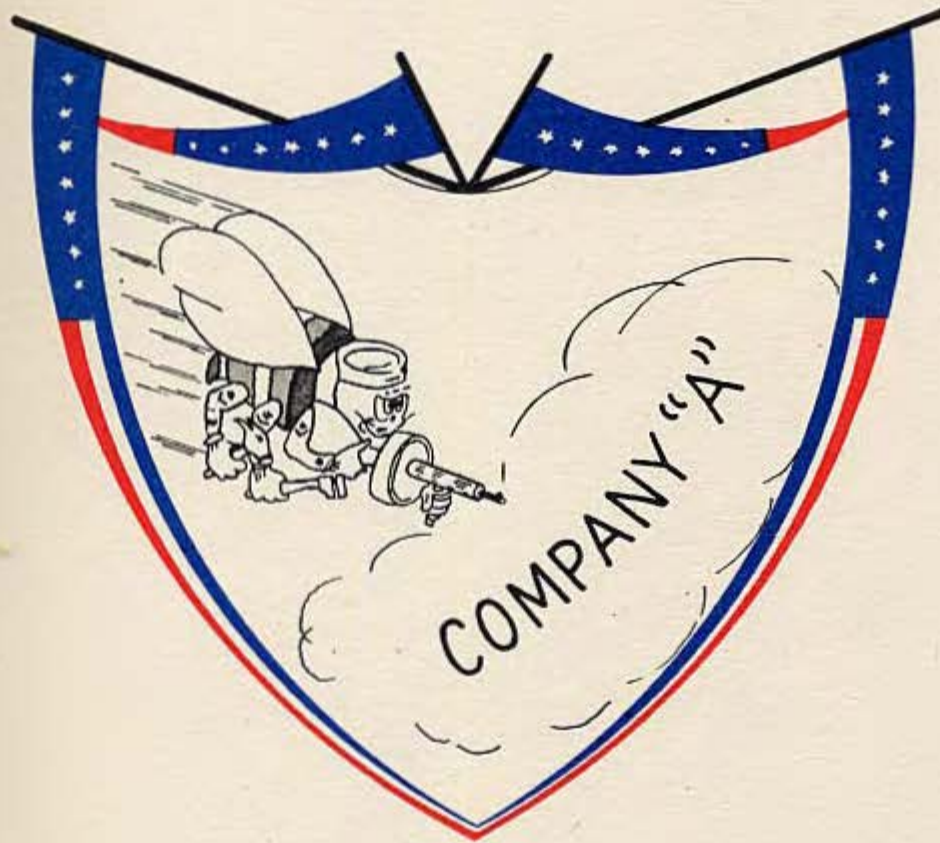
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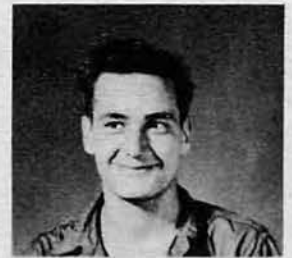
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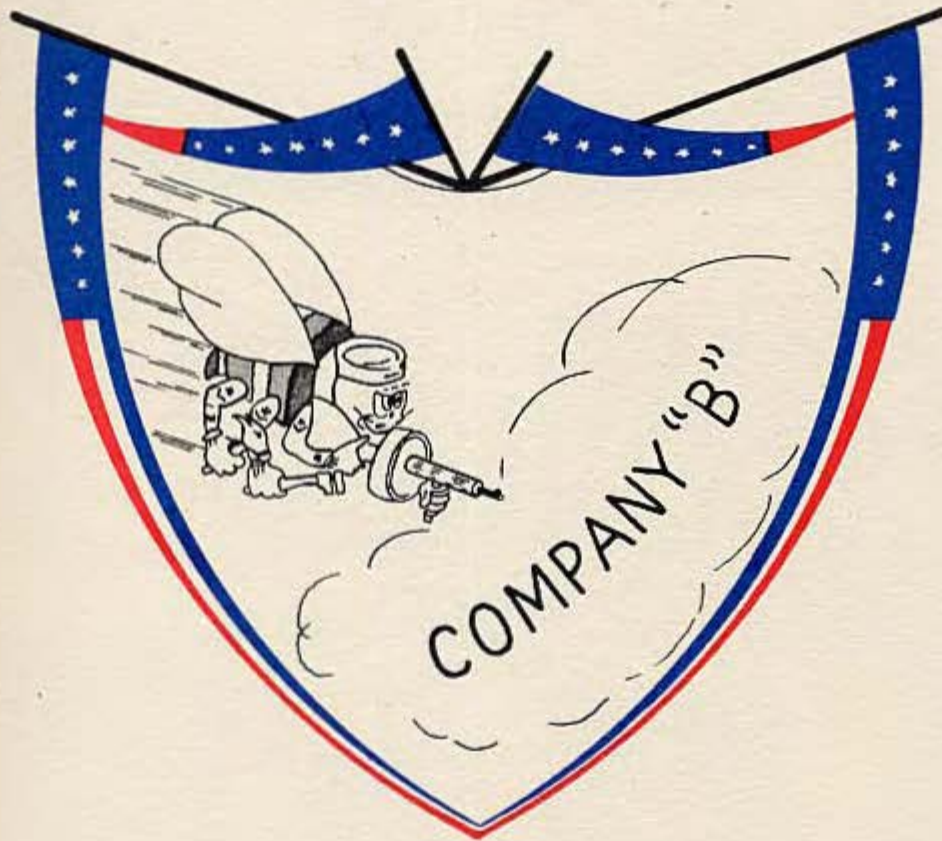
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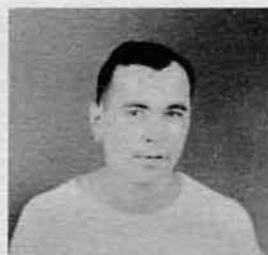
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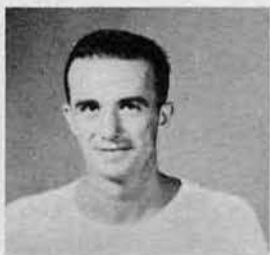
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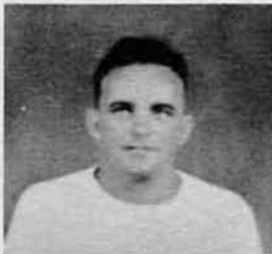
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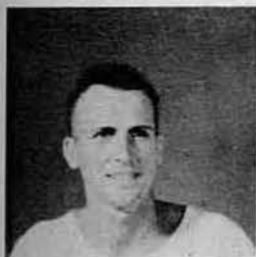
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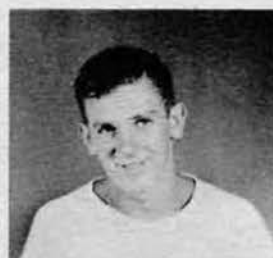
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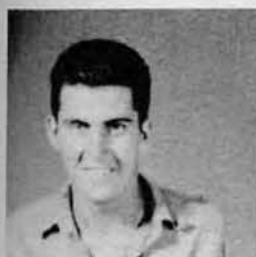
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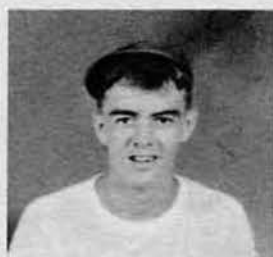
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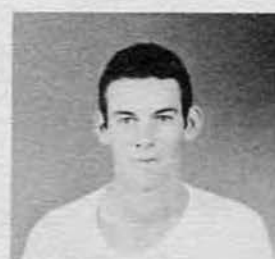
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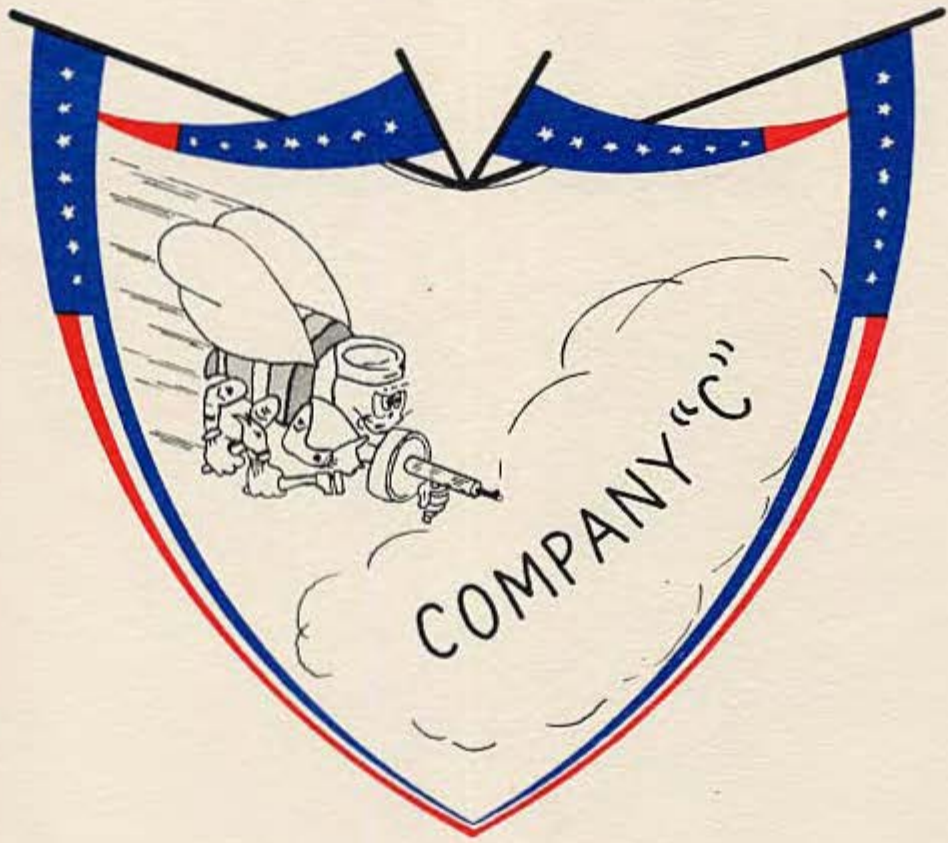
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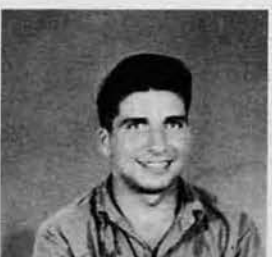
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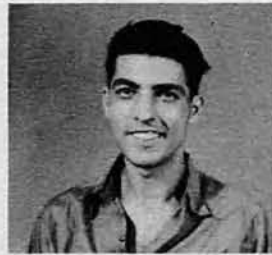
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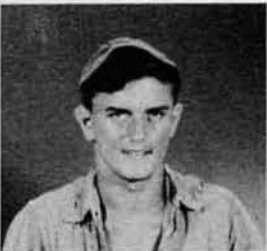
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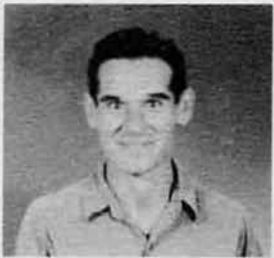
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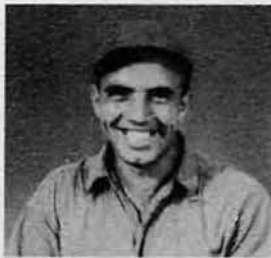
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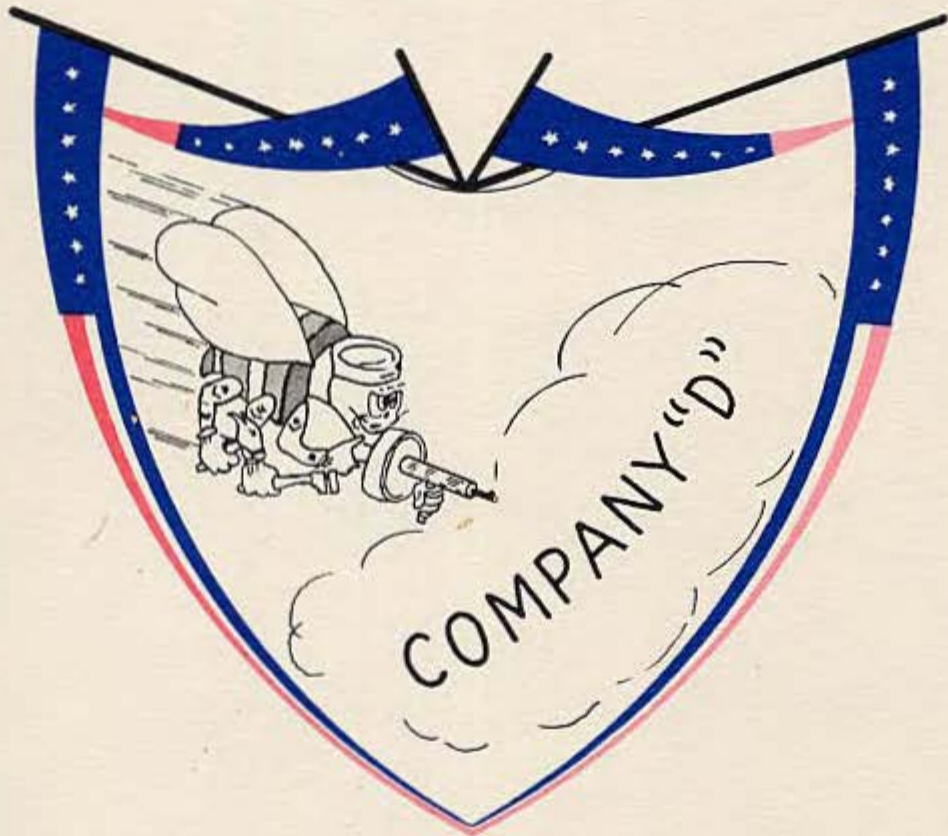
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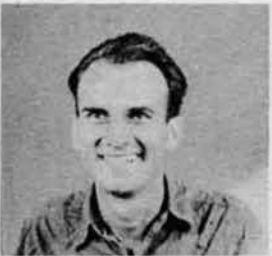
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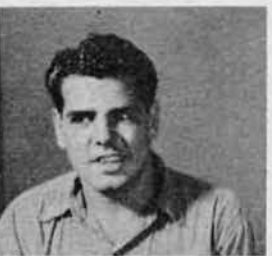
JOSEPH CUBA  
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CLARENCE W. DUTTON  
Route 1  
Nauvoo, Alabama



DAVID L. EDGE  
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Minneapolis 13, Minn.



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MARK P. McCANN  
37 Princeton Avenue  
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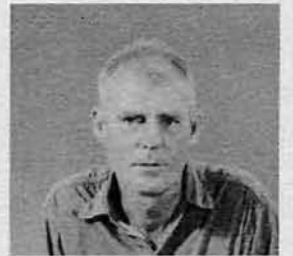
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McKETRICK  
No Other Information Available



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ARMEN A. PAPAZIAN  
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West Somerville, Massachusetts

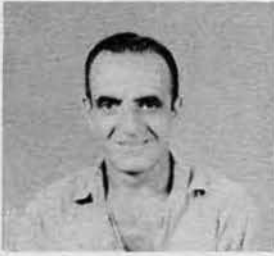


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Willow Grove, Pennsylvania





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Detroit 1, Michigan



HUGH G. WILLIAMS  
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Charleston, West Virginia



JOHN G. WILSON  
Box 148  
Lindenwold, New Jersey



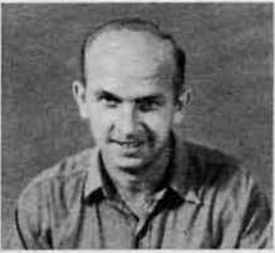
ROWLAND B. WILSON  
1016 E. San Rafael Street  
Colorado Springs, Colorado



ALVA RAY WITT  
5008 S. 34th W. Avenue  
Tulsa 7, Oklahoma



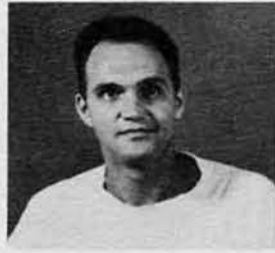
GEORGE R. WOLFE, JR.  
729 Johnston Street  
Philadelphia 48, Pennsylvania



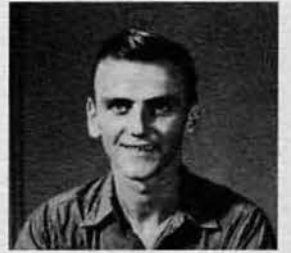
LEO A. WREST  
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Buffalo 20, New York



ROGER G. WRIGHT  
64 Hill Street  
South Portland, Maine



EDWARD YAGER  
164 W. Woodside Avenue  
Buffalo 20, New York



ANDREW E. YANOK  
66 Park Avenue  
Torrington, Connecticut



WALTER R. YORK  
Coopers Mills, Maine



J. K. YOUNT  
Route 3  
Senatobia, Mississippi



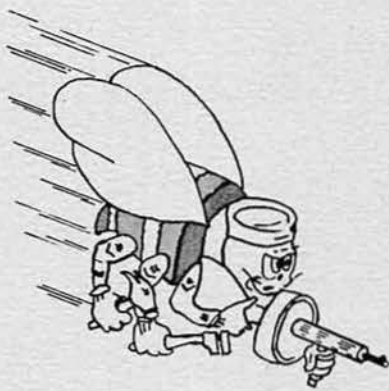
DAVID ZAGURSKI  
Williston, North Dakota

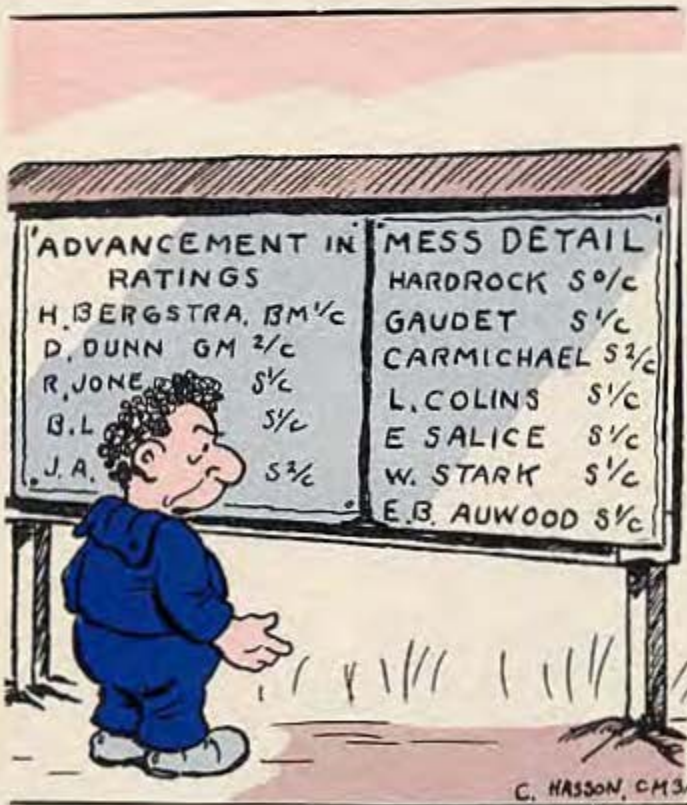


HAROLD ZIER  
315 Durland Avenue  
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GILBERT G. ZWICK  
2115 W. Van Buren  
Phoenix, Arizona



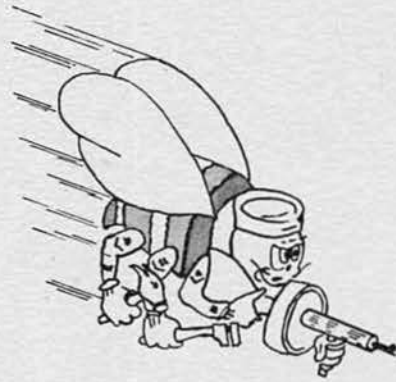


# 42ND CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

# HISTORY

DUTCH HARBOR  
UNALASKA  
AMCHITKA  
ADAK  
TANAGA  
PORT CHICAGO  
OAHU  
SAMAR  
CHINA







# CALIFORNIA



## WORLD CHRONOLOGY

April	22	Allies land at Hollandia.
	29	U. S. Pacific task forces batter Truk, Satawan, and Ponape.
May	9	Red Army retakes Sevastopol.
	18	Cassino falls to Allied push in Italy.
	27	Allies land on Biak.
June	4	5th Army takes Rome.
	6	Yanks invade France.
	14	U. S. Forces land on Saipan.
	16	Army B-29's bomb Japan.
	23	Red Army unleashes gigantic offensive.
July	19	Russians drive across 1941 German-Soviet border.
Aug.	2-3	Nazis make heaviest flying bomb attack on London.
	15	Allies land on Riviera.
Sept.	11	U. S. 1st Army invades Germany.
Oct.	20	Americans land in Philippines.



## BATTALION ACTIVITIES

WHAT better way is there to begin this story than with a return to the states and a visit home?

The Battalion turned its back on the once barren Aleutians aboard the converted liberty ship, Carl Shurz. After a rough voyage through Unimak Pass — it was learned later that another liberty ship had cracked in two in these same waters at that time—seven days of anxiety ended when the ship cruised into Puget Sound. Two days and one train ride later, the men were at Camp Parks and within three more days, everyone was enroute home. Then ensued thirty days of bliss.

One month later a sad group of Seabees returned to Camp Parks. Liberties began at once and so did military training. After pounding the "black top" all day, it took a brave man to march his aching feet around the neighboring towns. The liberties proved to be worth the trouble. The men moved in all directions. San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda, San Jose, Stockton, Santa Cruz . . . all fell before the onslaught. Towards the end of the summer two four-day leaves enabled the men to occupy the entire state of California. Spearheads raced south to Los Angeles, west to Yosemite, and north to Oregon. The natives surrendered unconditionally and willingly.

But the stay in California was not all vacation and revelry. Before a month had passed, the Battalion marched from Camp Parks, to the top of Mt. Diablo for military training. It is a distance of more than 14 miles and although the spirit was willing, in many cases the flesh of

the soles of the feet was weak. Trucks followed the parade and picked up those who fell by the wayside. Mt. Diablo consisted of one week of military maneuvers . . . Cowboys and Indians played at all times of the day. One night an entire company became lost and skidded all over the slippery slopes until rescue came.

Back in camp the next week, shoes were polished and hands rubbed together in anticipation of more liberties. There were some until the disastrous explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Ammunition Depot. The Battalion was alerted and was moved by truck to Camp Stoneman, an Army camp at Pittsburg, a few miles from the wreckage. Salvage and reconstruction work began immediately. Although work in California was not exactly met with rousing cheers, the unexpected duty had its compensation. The town of Pittsburg was ideal. Liberties blended into one continuous party. The Army had been in town for such a long time that Naval personnel were a welcome change. Another aid to morale was the friendliness of the WACs stationed in the same camp. Pittsburg and the Stoneman WACs will never be forgotten.

The job was completed in a little more than a month, and after a few weeks at Parks, news of another overseas tour sent the men home again on an Embarkation Leave. Goodbyes were said and before you could say, "no cameras, flashlights, or electric razors," the Battalion was on Treasure Island waiting to board another ship for another trip. Within three days, the SS General Collins and the 42nd Battalion were enroute to Hawaii.



**THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE** is the largest in the world —  $8\frac{1}{4}$  miles long;  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles over navigable water. The view is toward San Francisco from Yerba Buena Island in mid-bay.



**CABLE CAR** in San Francisco. The view is taken from Nob Hill. The cars pass through the financial district and Chinatown and westward to and beyond Nob Hill.



Street Scene — San Jose



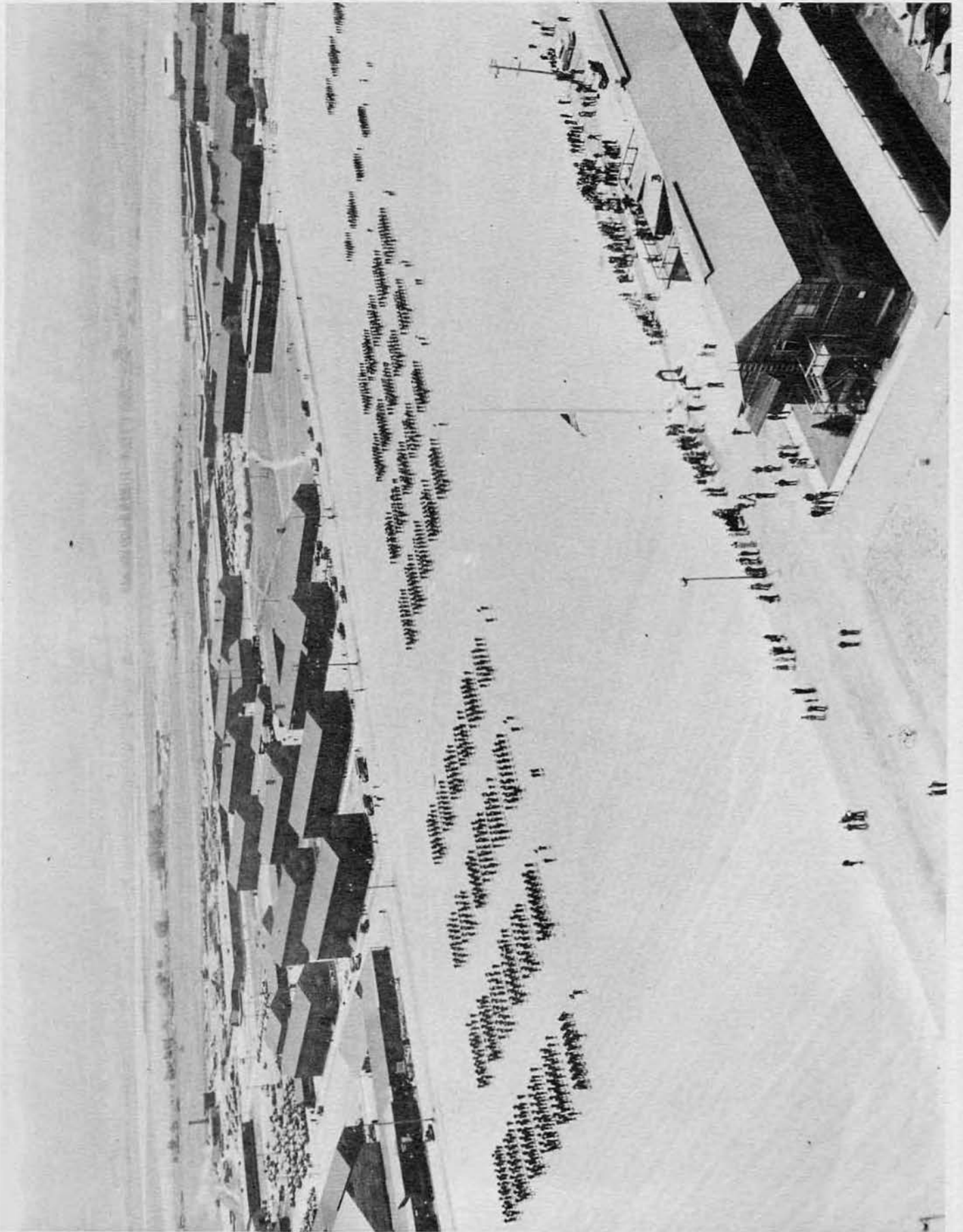
Airview of University of California Campus — Berkeley



Lake Merritt — Oakland. The main business district is located beyond the lake; in the foreground are the residential areas.



Douglas MacArthur Park looking east toward Los Angeles.







C  
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M  
P



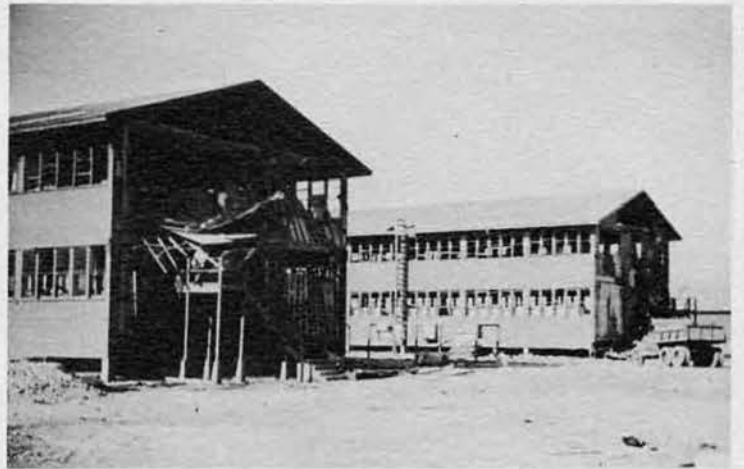
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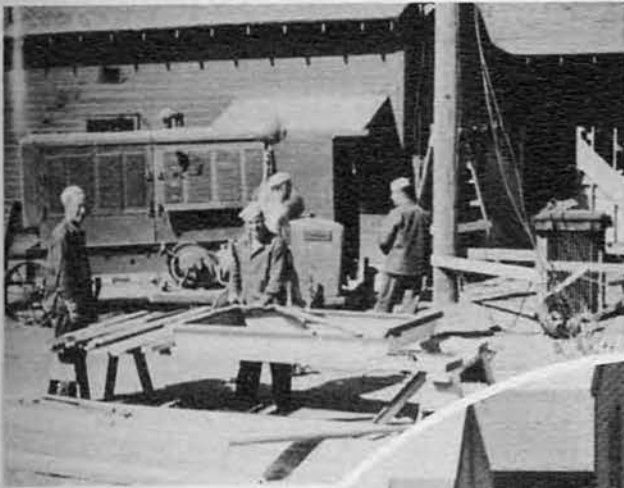
# MOUNT DIABLO





# PORT CHICAGO

The 42nd Battalion was en route to Port Chicago immediately after the explosion of July 17, 1944. The Naval Ammunition Depot was wrecked. Windows were broken within a radius of 7 miles and heavy pieces of steel from the exploded ammunition ships were found a mile away. The battalion worked there for more than a month, earning the commendation of Captain M. T. Kinne for its job of reconstruction.



**CAMP STONEMAN** was the temporary home of the battalion. The WACs stationed there become very friendly and helped to make the proper mixture of work and play necessary for good morale.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Donohue



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Walker



Mr. and Mrs. James Folan

**ADDITIONS  
TO THE**



Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hines



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Albanese



Mr. and Mrs. John Steinhardt



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Romanow



Mr. and Mrs. Francis St. Germain



Mr. and Mrs. James Delmonaco



Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkie



Mrs. Norman Myers and Norman, Jr.



Mrs. Wilbur Knick

## BATTALION FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fitzgerald and Patricia Ann



Mrs. Hugh Jordan and Hugh, Jr.



Mrs. Waldo Bowman and Jeffrey Steven



Mrs. Robert Sharp and Robert, Jr.



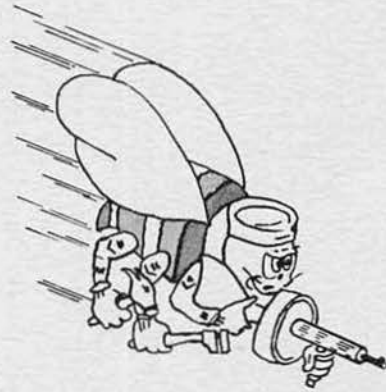
Troy Wayne Crabtree

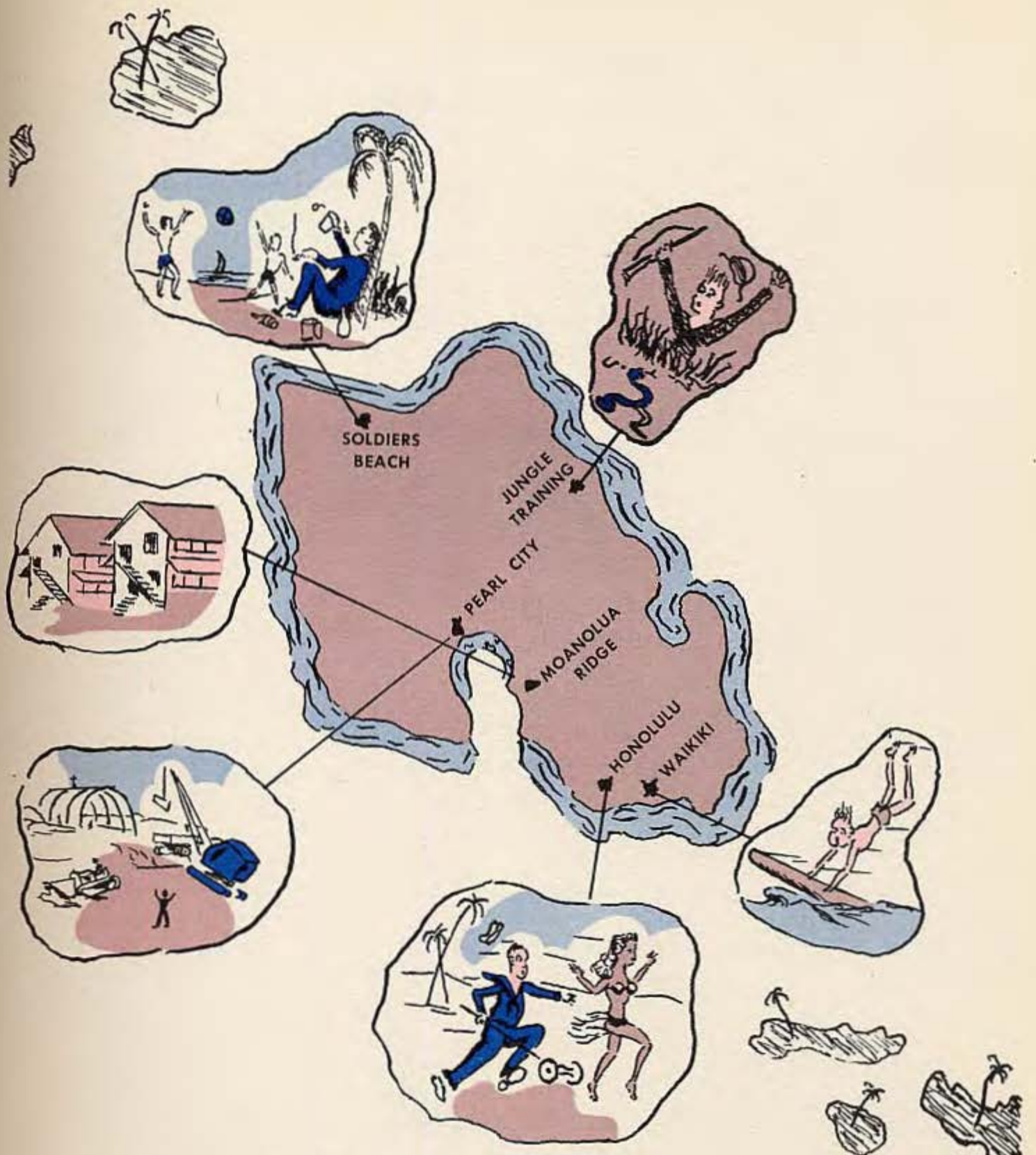


Norma Margarite Arnold



Francis Michael McCullough





# HAWAII



## WORLD CHRONOLOGY

- October 23 U. S. 3rd and 7th Fleets sink or damage 60 Jap Warships in Second Battle of Philippines
- 25 U. S. troops cross to Samar from Leyte.
- November 2 German rear guard pulls out of Greece.
- 10 Japs announce capture of Kweilin and Liuchow, U. S. air bases in China.
- 12 Tirpitz sunk.
- 28 U. S. 3rd Army breaks into Saar basin.
- December 9 3rd Army crashes through Maginot Line.
- 14 U. S. forces invade Mindoro.
- 16-20 Nazis counterattack on 50 mile front, drive more than 30 miles into Belgium.
- 28 Allies halt Nazi offensive in Belgium.
- January 8 U. S. troops land from 800 ships at four points in Lingayan Gulf.
- 11 3rd Fleet planes attack Jap convoys in Indo-China area, sinking or damaging 69 ships, 162 planes.
- 17 Red Army captures Warsaw.
- 22 Ledo-Burma Road opened.



## BATTALION ACTIVITIES

OUR arrival in Hawaii caused no furore.

There were no native girls present to throw leis around our necks. In front of us was not the Aloha Tower, but the tower of Hickam Field. We were not surrounded by a luxuriant expanse of tropical beauty. Instead we saw all about us an immense job of modern war construction — probably the most powerful Naval Base ever built.

Upon arrival, however, we were not over interested in viewing man's work. We wanted to see some of nature's work — scenery and hula girls. Moanalua Ridge Seabee Camp became our home for the duration of our stay on Oahu. Work began immediately, but in a few days we were given the opportunity to see places whose names had become synonymous with beauty and romance. Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, Diamond Head, the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, the Aloha Tower — all underwent the close scrutiny of discriminating Seabees. Opinions varied. It was easy to see that the War had caused many changes. War workers and servicemen crowded the island to overflowing. Honolulu was merely a small city trying hard to keep confusion from becoming chaos. Romance was definitely out. The only hula girls around were local girls, who put on grass skirts and posed for pictures with servicemen for a small fee. There were *some* girls on the island . . . approximately one for every ten officers. Local girls were referred to as "kanakis", war

workers as "stateside". Nevertheless, much of the island's pristine beauty still remained. Swaying palms, soft, cool breezes, lucid blue waters lined with white surf . . . these were the remains of peaceful, pre-war Hawaii.

Oahu and Moanalua Ridge saw the 42nd Battalion's Orchestra become a reality. The Battalion's first Ship's Service Store was opened, and Draglines, a weekly newspaper, was born in the same place.

Six days of every week were work days. Work ranged from Naval Supply Warehouses to a swimming pool for the Admirals and included a detachment sent to work on Army tank flame-throwers. There were military reviews and training. The latter consisted of jungle training, one week of simulated war under conditions similar to actual jungle warfare. Live ammunition was fired; field mines and booby traps were exploded. The object was to capture a well-defended Japanese village. Sprained ankles, bruised bodies, scratched faces and hands, and sometimes a dangerous wound proved the seriousness of the training. But we were preparing to move towards the War itself so the training was welcomed.

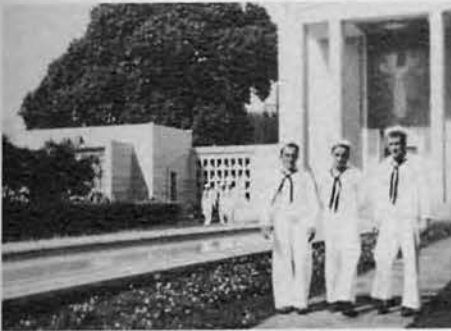
At about that time servicewomen began to arrive in Hawaii. That was the cue to leave. We loaded our cargo, outfitted ourselves, and burdened with enough ordnance gear to worry an atomic bomb, we boarded ship. Hawaii was behind us; the Philippines lay dead ahead.



# LIBERTY



Soldier's Beach



Church of Latter Day Saints



Downtown Honolulu



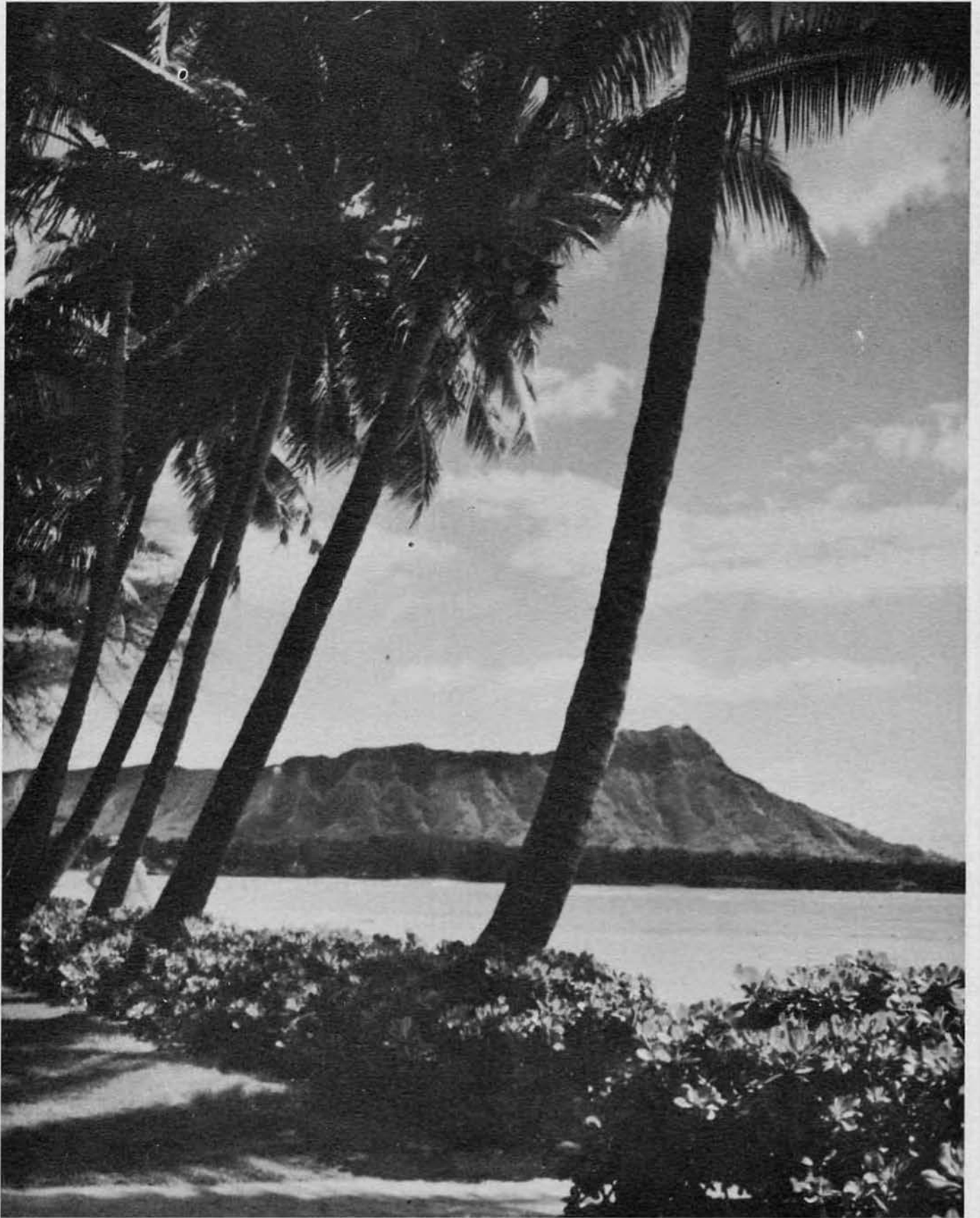
Church of the Crossroads



Waikiki



Mormon Temple



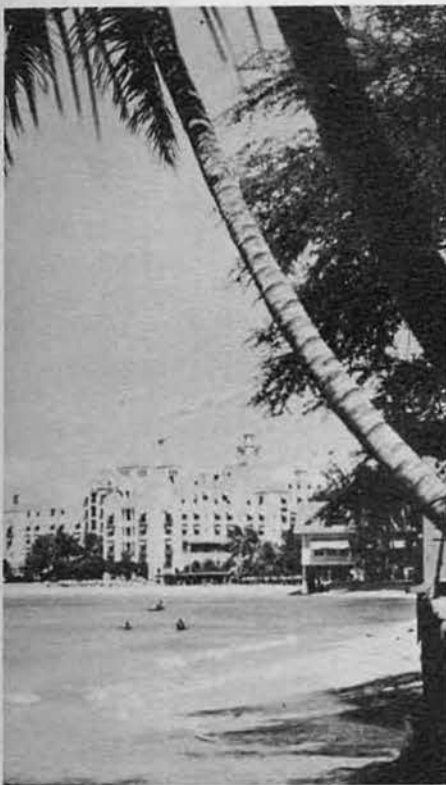
Diamond Head from Waikiki



King Kamehameha



Girl at Waikiki



Royal Hawaiian Hotel

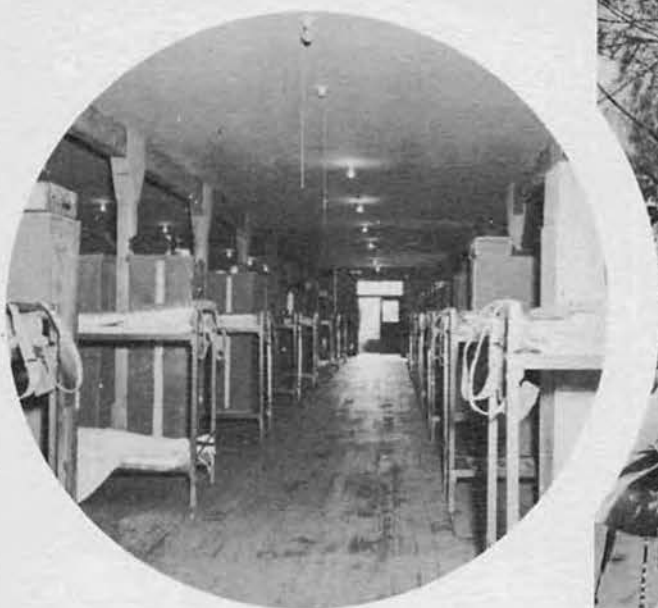
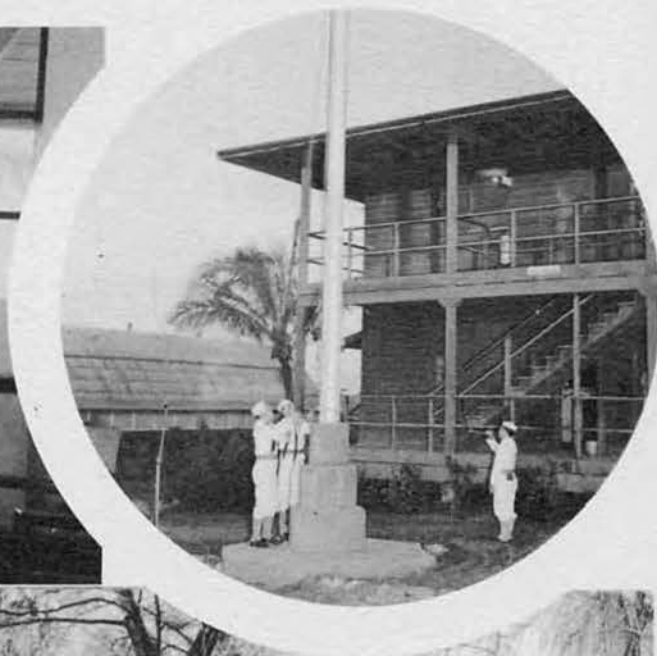


Memorial



Outdoor Corridor, Federal Building

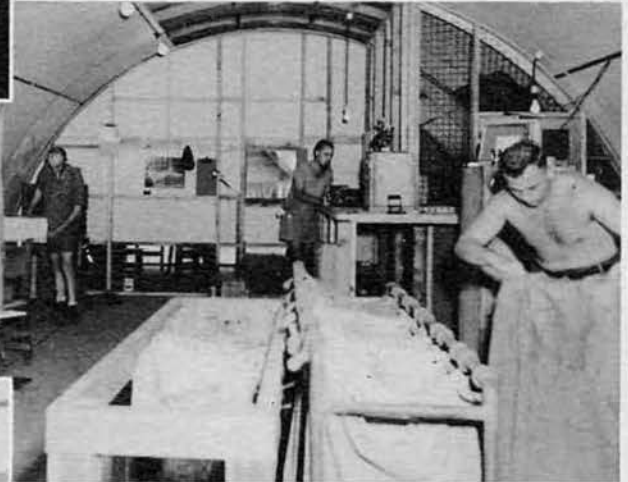
# MOANALUA RIDGE SEABEE CAMP



# OFFICES



Censors



Post Office



Disbursing



Supply and Procurement



Personnel





Recreation Hall and Theater



Gertie and Pups



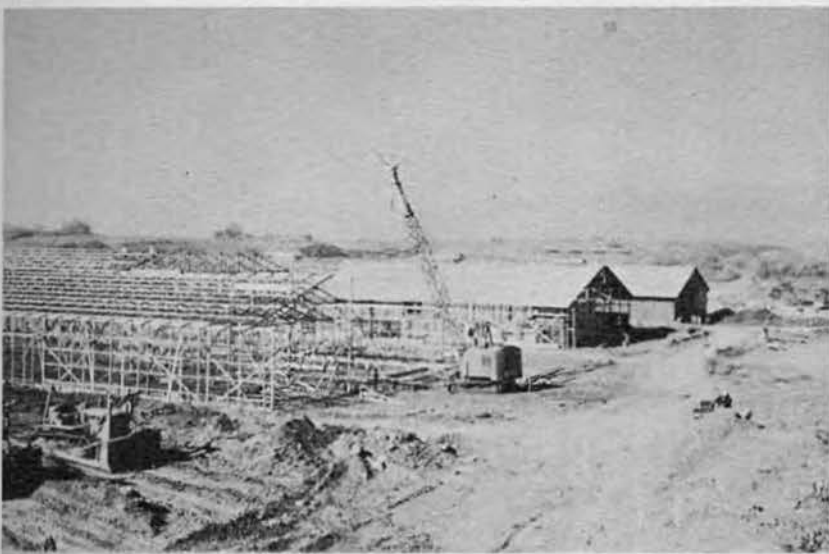
Classes in Steel Square and English Grammar



Armory

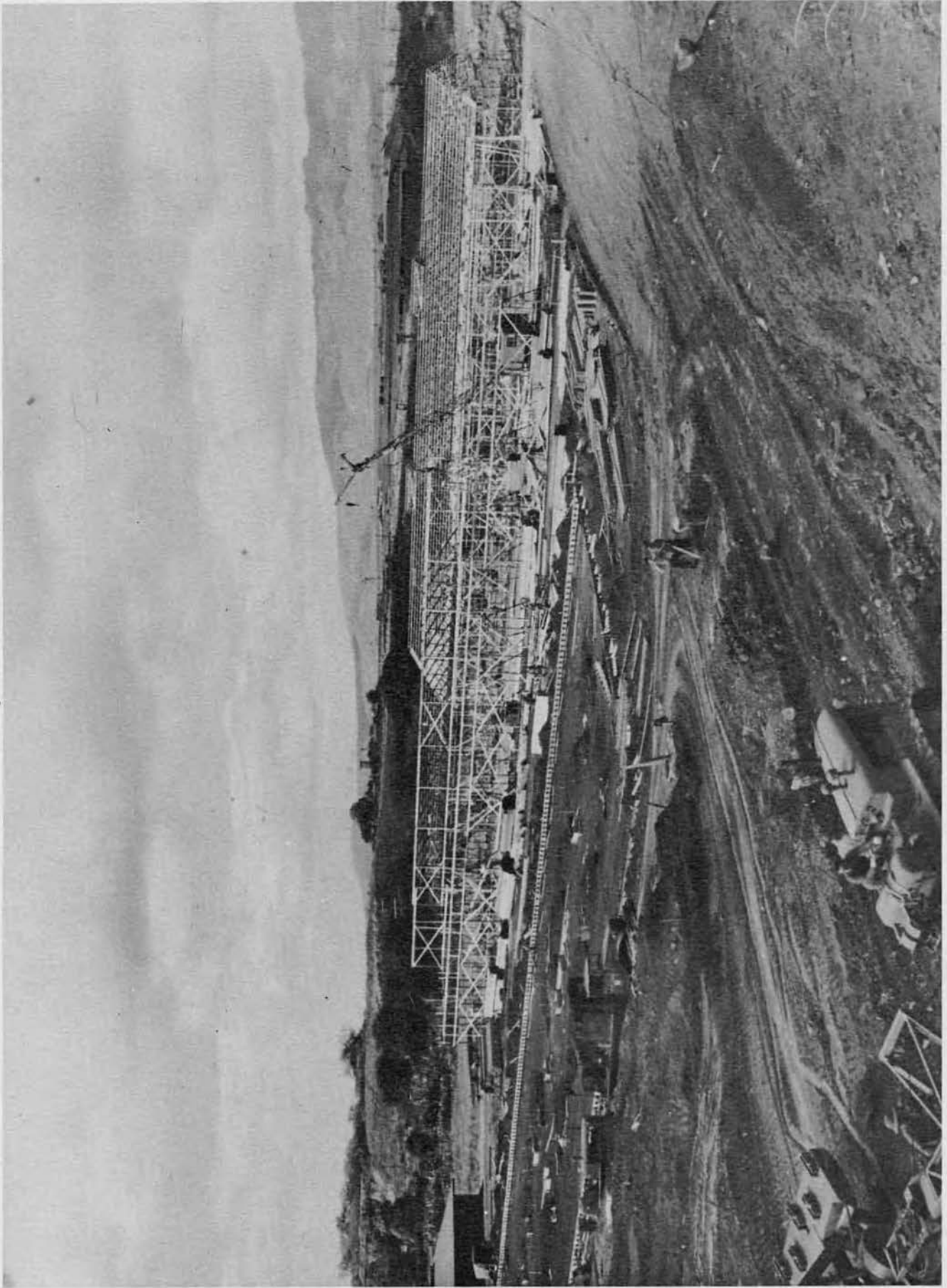


Ships' Service

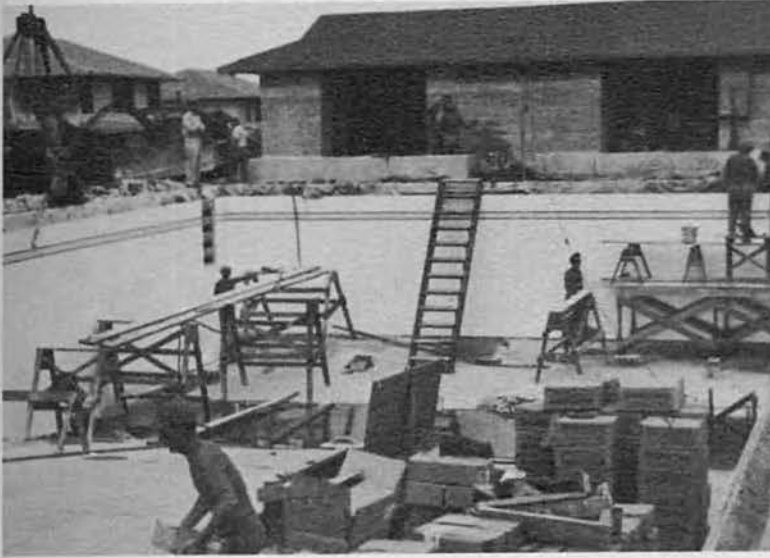


### **CONSTRUCTION ON OAHU**

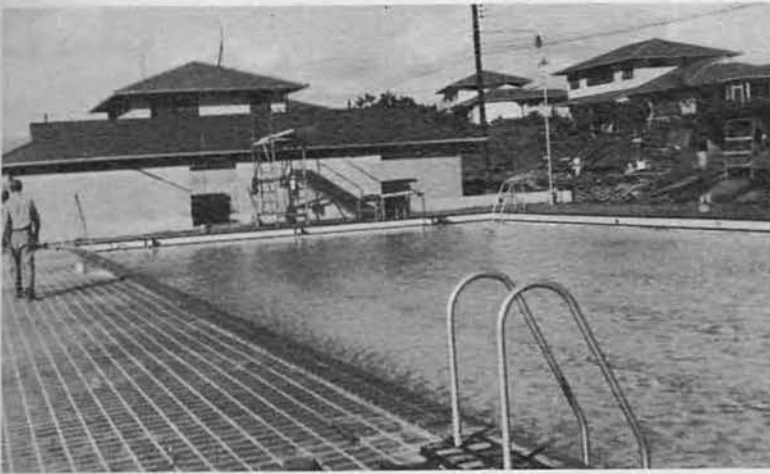
centered at Pearl City. The largest project consisted of completing a Naval Supply Depot started by another battalion. There were many smaller but equally important projects.



Pearl City Junction



**ADMIRALS'  
SWIMMING  
POOL**



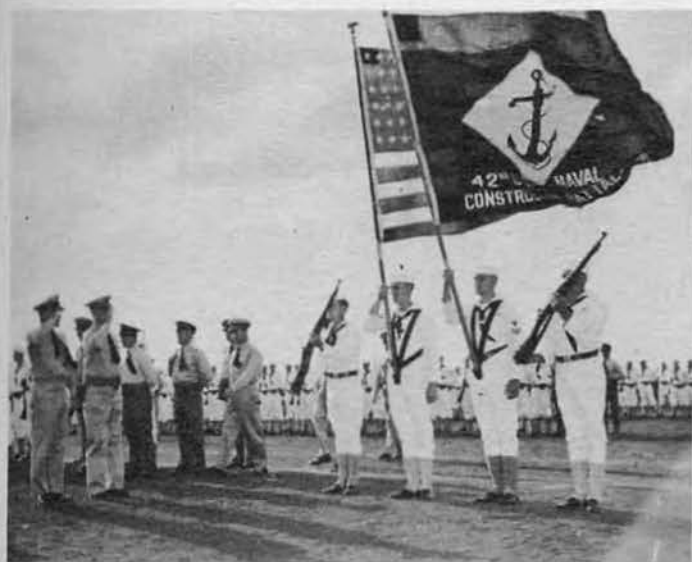
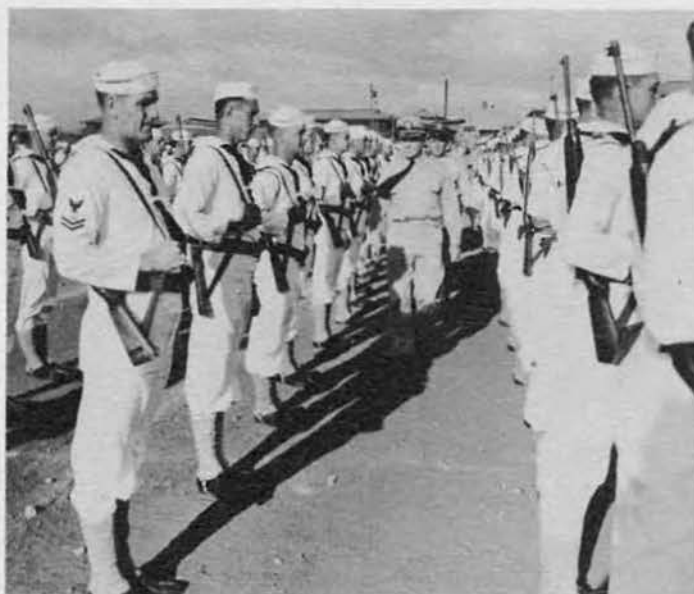
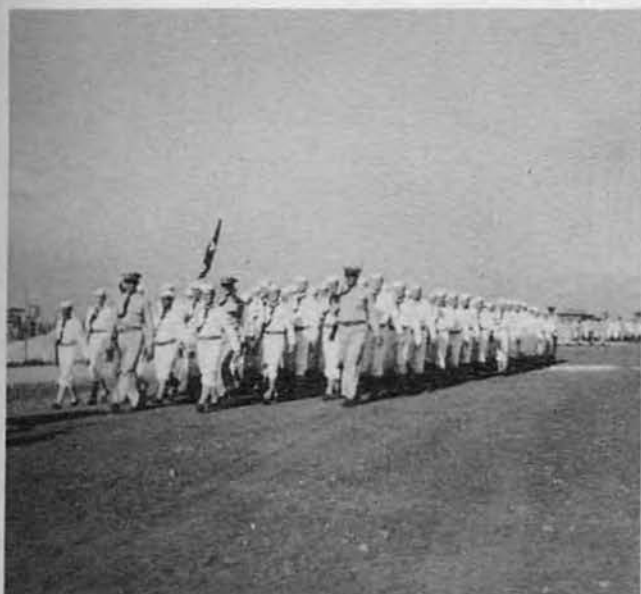
**CONFUSED BUSTER** — an Army tank named for the detachment of Seabees who helped to outfit the tanks with new type flame throwers.



Brig

**ENTERTAINMENT** in Hawaii was plentiful. There were a number of theaters in camp from which to choose a moving picture. The main theater, Perry Bowl, showed a variety of shows including service talent, local talent and U. S. O. troupes.

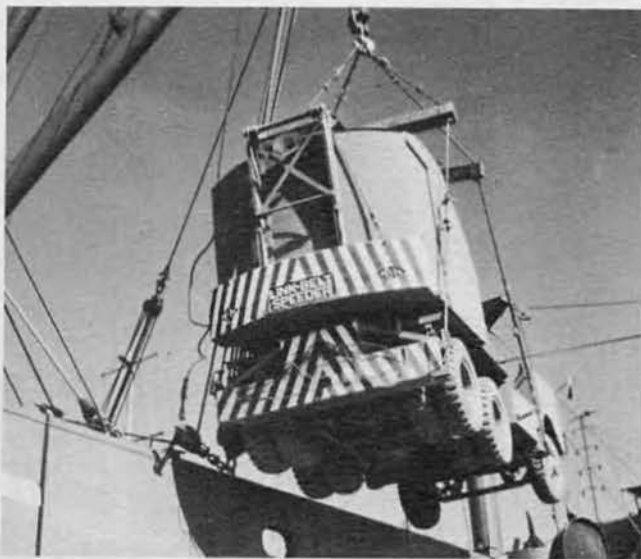
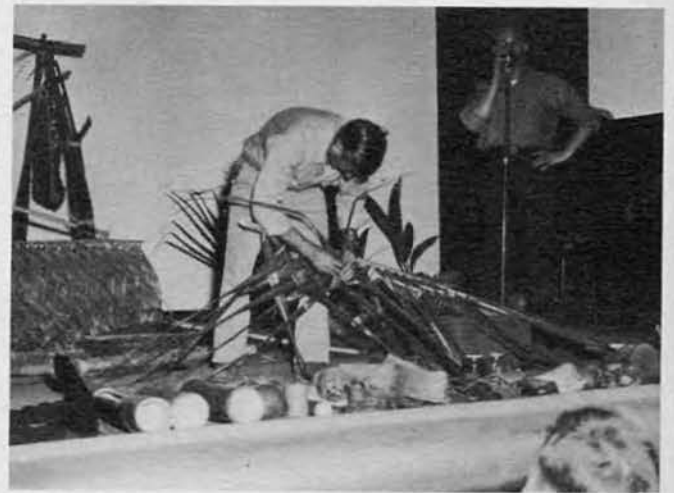




## INSPECTION AND REVIEW



**PREPARATION** for the move to a forward area included inoculations, lectures on jungle living, goodbyes to the recently arrived service-women and the loading of supplies and equipment aboard ship.





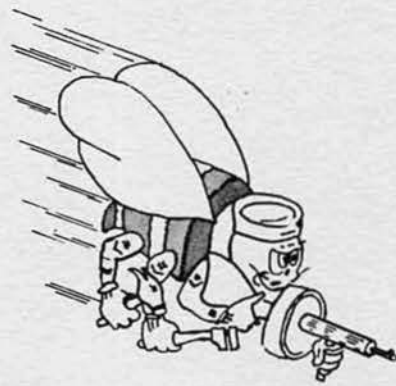
**WHAT NOW?** Everyone relaxed on the dock pondering the answer to that question.

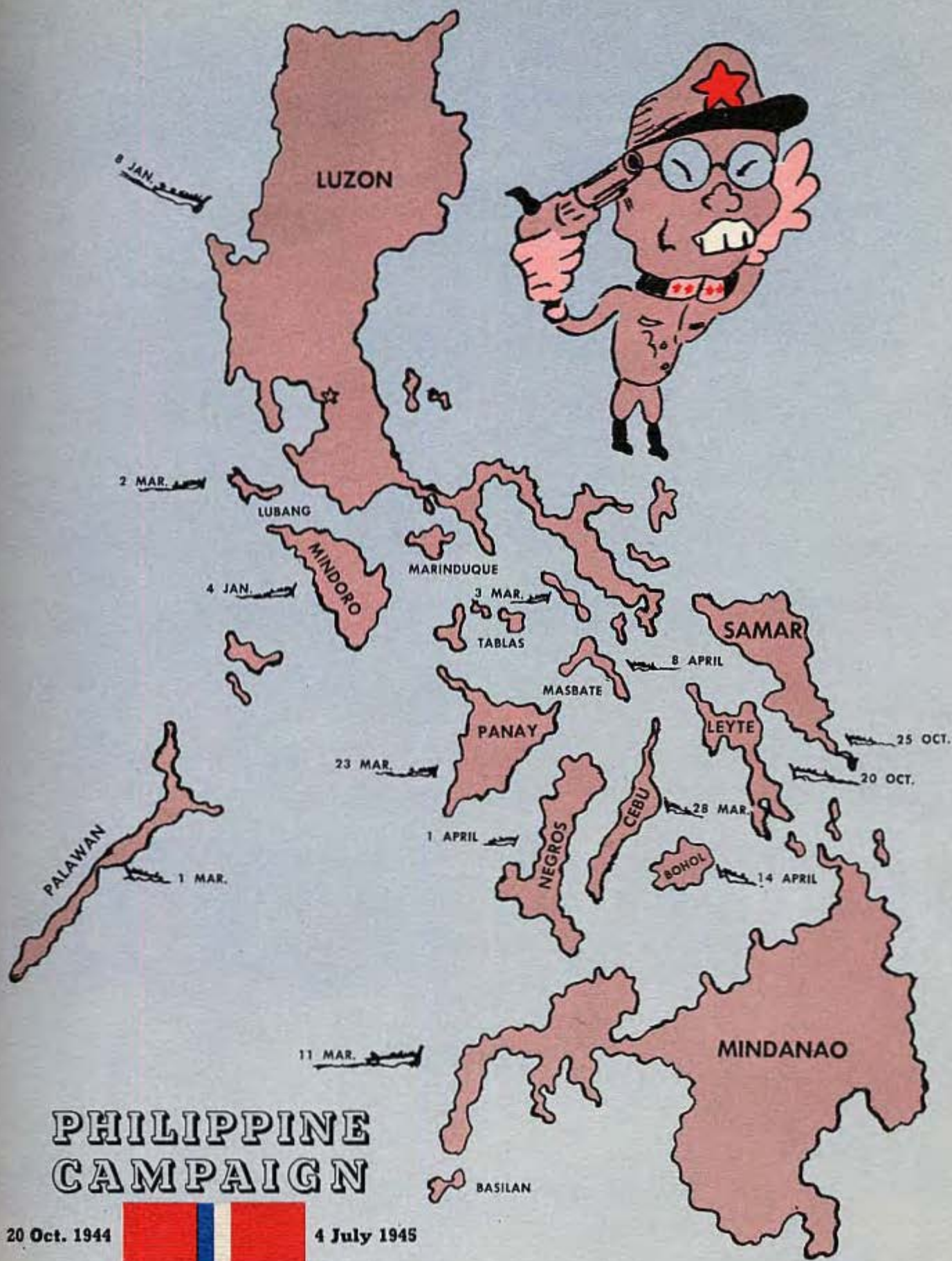


**AFTER** the usual delay the men, looking like pack mules, climbed aboard the transport.









20 Oct. 1944



4 July 1945

## WORLD CHRONOLOGY

January	29	U. S. 3rd Army reinvades Germany.
February	4	U. S. troops enter Manila.
	6	Russians cross Oder River near Breslau.
	16	Paratroopers land on Corregidor.
	15-16	Fleet carrier planes attack Tokyo, destroy shipping, 509 aircraft.
	18	Marines land on Iwo Jima.
February to March	21	Round the clock bombing of Germany by up to 8,000
	20	Allied planes a day.
March	7	Americans cross Rhine.
April	1	U. S. forces invade Okinawa.
	12	U. S. Army 50 miles from Berlin.
	20	Russians drive within 7 miles of Berlin.
May	9	V-E Day.
August	6	Atomic Bomb obliterates Hiroshima.
	9	Russia declares war on Japan.
	14	Japanese accept Potsdam terms.



## BATTALION ACTIVITIES

THE Battalion reached the Philippines in three sections. Along the route from Hawaii, stops were made in the Marshalls, the Carolines, the Palaus, and the Marianas. Each section went through the usual initiations upon crossing the International Date Line. All men reached the Philippines without mishap.

The first detachment to reach Samar spent a few weeks on the beach under anything but favorable conditions. Before pup-tents could be secured a young typhoon struck. The first night became a nightmare. Land crabs, centipedes, lizards, and every thing movable floated through the shelters. Within a short while many of the tents had blown down. It was foolish to fight so the men decided to use the pup tent as a blanket and the soft oozy mud as a mattress.

A few months — or did it just seem like months — later it stopped raining. Improvements were made. Pyramidal tents replaced the pup tents. Work on a mess hall began. The outlook began to brighten. But the men had been out of touch with the world. News was needed. This demand started a new daily newspaper, the Beachhead Bulletin, which expanded a while later by adding the weekly Draglines as a Sunday Supplement.

Within due time the other two sections arrived and set up on the beach. The Mess Hall had just been completed. So the Battalion moved again.

This time the move was into the jungle. Surveyors laid out roads and plotted housing areas. Bulldozers began to clear the trees and shrubbery. Sanitation crews burned out the area and placed rat poison and disinfectant in strategic places. Work was started on water supply and water purification. Then one day . . . and a Sunday at that . . . the Battalion moved.

In twelve hours a new Seabee camp was established. And work began on another mess hall.

All during this time vital war work continued. And so did the trading. The natives needed clothes, soap, and cigarettes. They took in laundry or traded bolos, hats, shells, mats, canes, etc. Business flourished, and the desire for souvenirs forced many men to sleep many nights without mattress covers. Sheets and mattress covers were extremely valuable because the women could make dresses from the material.

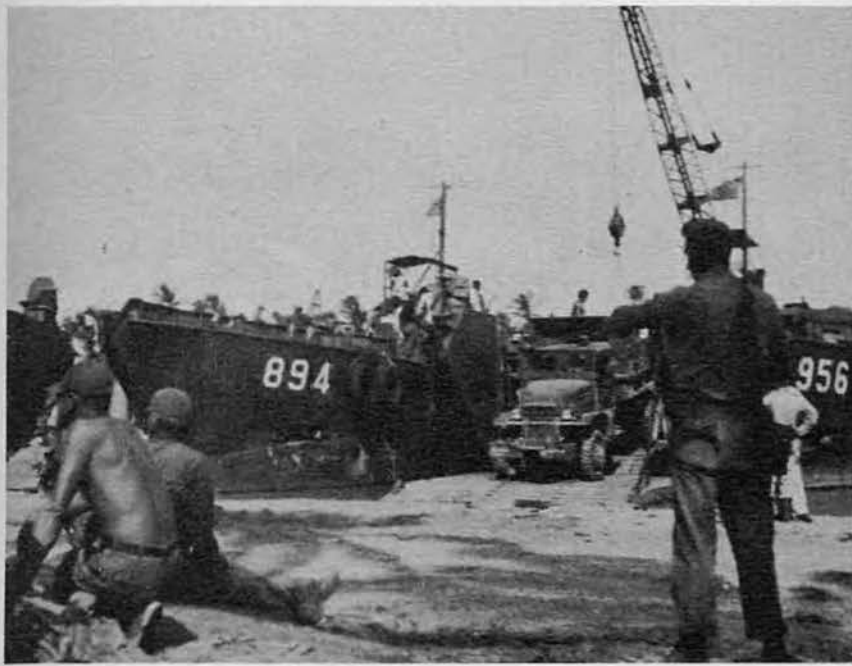
Finally, routine set in. Reveille at 0515, breakfast from 0530 to 0615, work from 0630 to 1130, noon chow from 1130 to 1230, work again from 1300 to 1600, evening chow 1730 to 1830, movies at 1930, and then to bed. Letters were received; letters were written. It was extremely hot. The men turned a pale brown — a combination of suntan and atabrine pallor. Then it happened. Excitement struck in one, two, three fashion. First, the Atomic bomb; second, Russia's declaration of War; third, Japan's acceptance of the terms of the Potsdam ultimatum.

The men didn't wait for the exchange of notes. The news arrived at about 9:00 P.M., Friday, the 10th of August. Everyone raced for the mess hall where ensued the most riotous night in Battalion history. The Band played, the men cheered, and all the beer on hand was given away free. It was truly a gala affair.

At the time this book was being assembled the Battalion was crumbling. Men were being discharged in groups. Others were being transferred to different outfits. Everyone was waiting his turn for discharge. It is now time, while cheers of the night of August 10th can still be heard, for us to conclude this, the history of the 42nd Naval Construction Battalion . . . commissioned November 9, 1942.

**ABOARD SHIP** en route to the Philippines the trip was no different from any other ride aboard a transport. Crowded quarters, long winding chow lines and the excessive heat helped to make conditions disagreeable. An attempt was made to break the monotony and discontent by putting together some entertainment. It worked . . . temporarily.



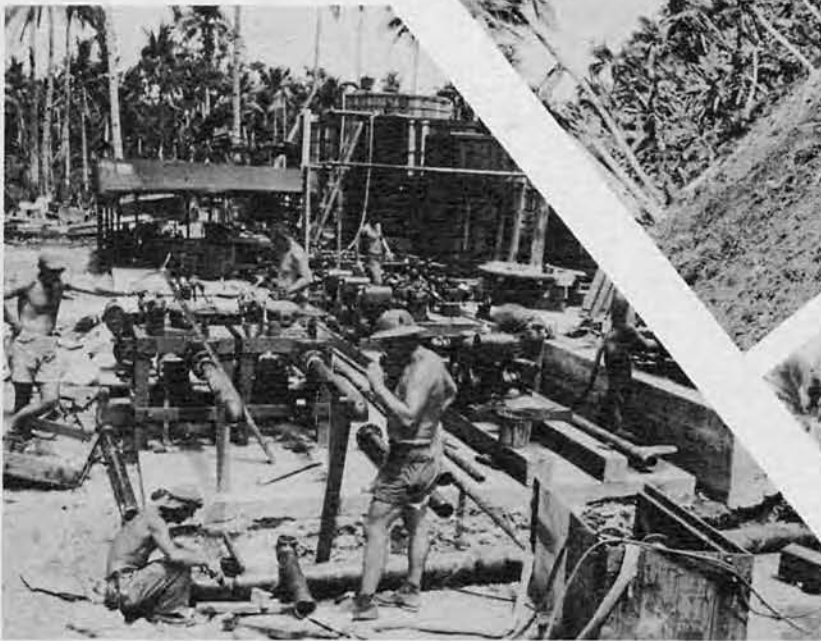
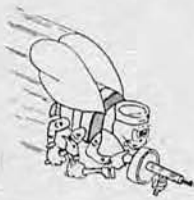


**THE FIRST DETACHMENT** arrived in the Philippines to find a nice barren beach waiting to be called home. Equipment was unloaded and the men pitched their pup tents. Showers were improvised and all sorts of home-made washing machines sprang into existence.





**IN ORDER** to get closer to the work project a new camp site was chosen. After the land was surveyed, flame throwers were used to rid the area of vermin and disease. Dozers cleared the ground and a water purification plant was immediately installed. The men moved, set up their own tents and started work on necessary camp structures. All this was done without interfering with the regular work assignments.





Mess Hall



Chapel



Administration Building



Sick Bay



Post Office, Library, Public Relations, Education



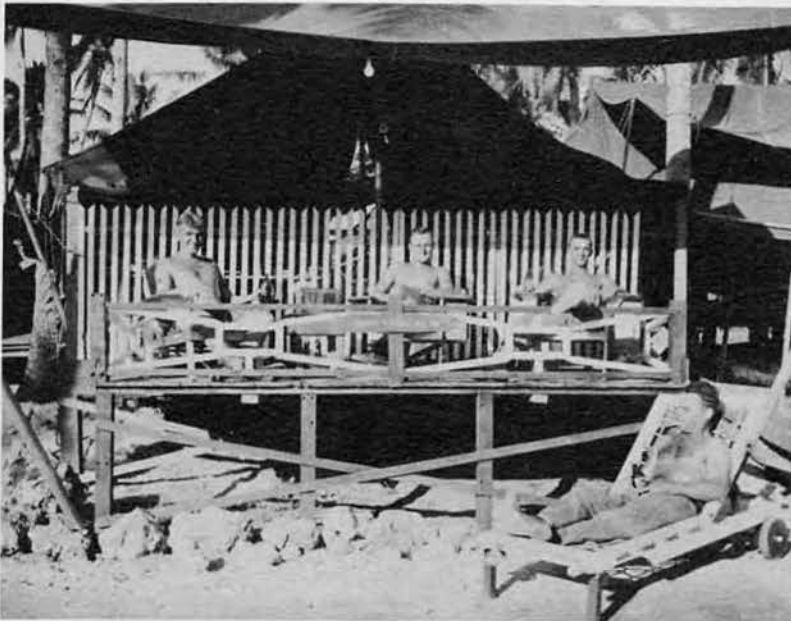
Theater

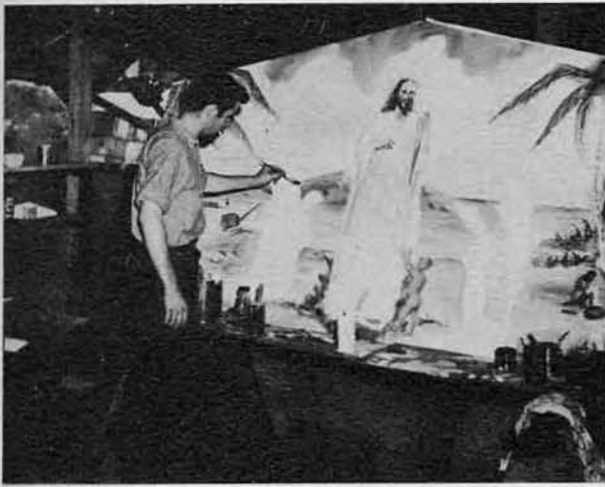




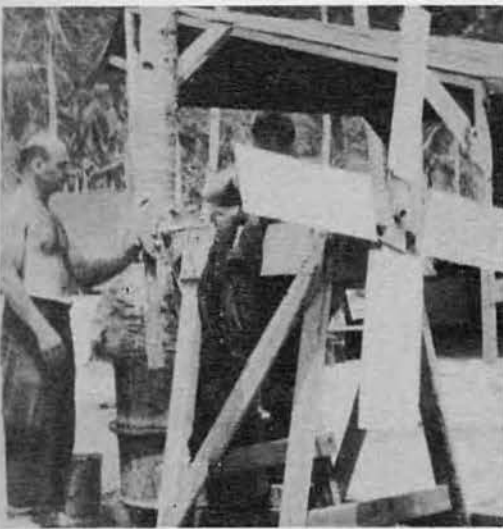
## CAMP BECOMES COMFORTABLE

Slowly the camp began to take shape. The mess hall was completed. Tent areas became as comfortable as conditions permitted. Ship's Service opened. The theater went on a one-a-day movie schedule. The library opened and except for the steady diet of C-rations conditions in camp were not uncomfortable. Work continued on a seven-day week schedule. A hospital had to be built . . . and speedily.

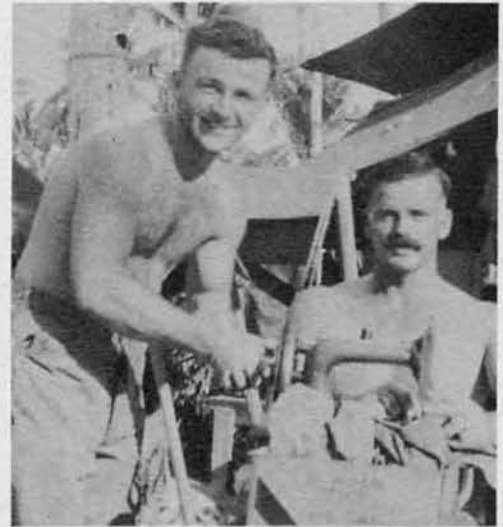




**ARTIST GEORGE MUTH** works on mural for the chapel using ordinary house paints.



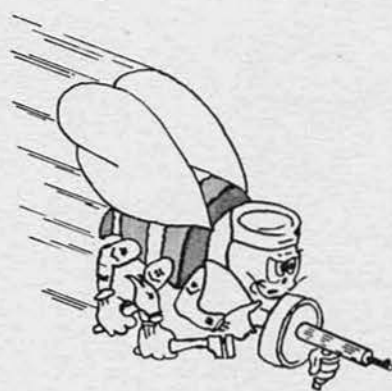
**SEABEE** ingenuity devises windmill washing machine and revitalizes fifty year old sewing machine.



**NATIVE LABORERS** help to make camp more livable.



**HALF-STARVED JAP** liked camp better than the hills. He was caught trying to get some food.





# CONSTRUCTION



## A STORY OF CONSTRUCTION

THE importance of construction in modern warfare can be attested to by men whose business it is to win wars. General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz, and other high ranking officers have heaped words of praise upon the Seabees. It is not our intention to extol the accomplishments of the men of the Naval Construction Battalions. Personally, we believe we've had more than our share of publicity. The War was won by millions of soldiers, sailors, and marines . . . each doing the job assigned to him. The job of constructing air-fields, forward bases, and facilities was assigned to the Seabees.

We did not hunt the enemy. We followed him step by step as he retreated, building where his footprints still remained, always prepared to defend whatever we built against any counter attacks the enemy might muster. Many Seabees died; that was inevitable. The many bases all over the Pacific stand as monuments to these men.

We offer the following pages of pictures as a story of construction . . . a story showing how a Battalion goes about the business of building. It is a complicated affair. From beginning to end every man in the Battalion is a part of each project. As soon as the request reaches the Officer-in-Charge, the machinery is set in motion. Timing and coordination become prime factors in the swift completion of the project. Every department is subordinate to the job of construction. But no department is less important than any other. The working man is the machine that must be kept in the best of

condition. Personnel must see that each man is assigned to a specific detail. Disbursing must see that he is paid and that his dependents are taken care of. The Commissary Department feeds him; the Laundry keeps his clothes clean; the Garage keeps his equipment serviced; guards and sentinels protect his work; Procurement and Supply keep the materials moving smoothly and sufficiently in advance of the work progress.

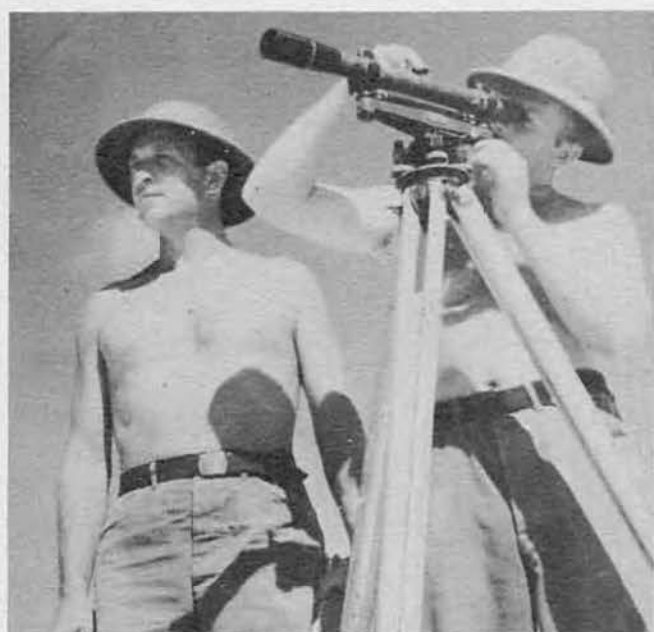
And, of course, there's the tremendous problem of morale. The Welfare and Recreation Department must supply the working man with entertainment, books to read and study, and the opportunity to indulge in competitive sports. The Post Office must supply him with mail. Public Relations and War Information Department keeps him informed of current events and relays news of him to the folks at home. Every department plays a specific part in the overall work project. Actually, this only begins to describe the complexity of construction. The actual work itself must be handled by an intricate arrangement of work crews, equipment operators, plumbers, electricians, painters, truck drivers, mechanics, carpenters, and many others.

Multiply this outline by a few thousand; add the problem of logistics; throw in a change of pace caused by the changing tempo of war; and there you have the work of one Construction Battalion. There were hundreds of thousands of men in many Battalions all over the world going through the same routine . . . a routine which has produced the largest construction projects in the history of war.



## WORK BEGINS

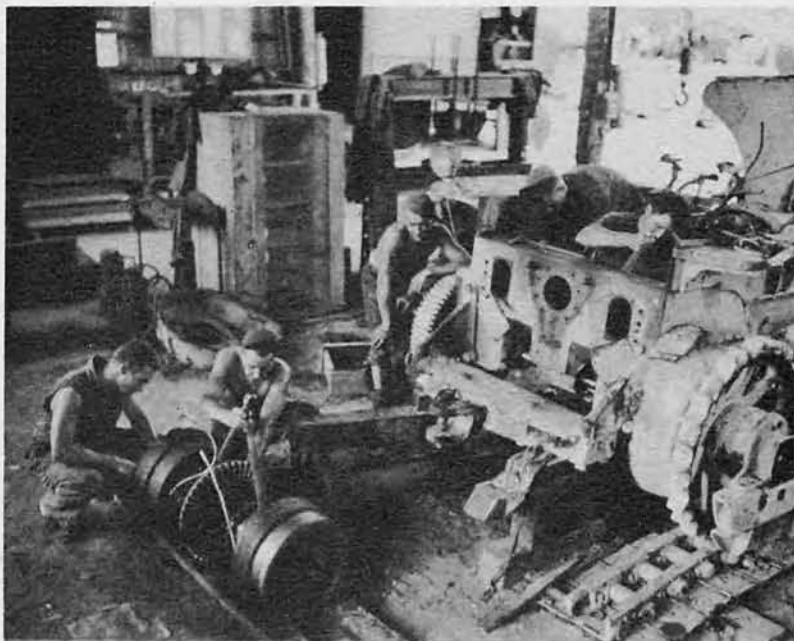
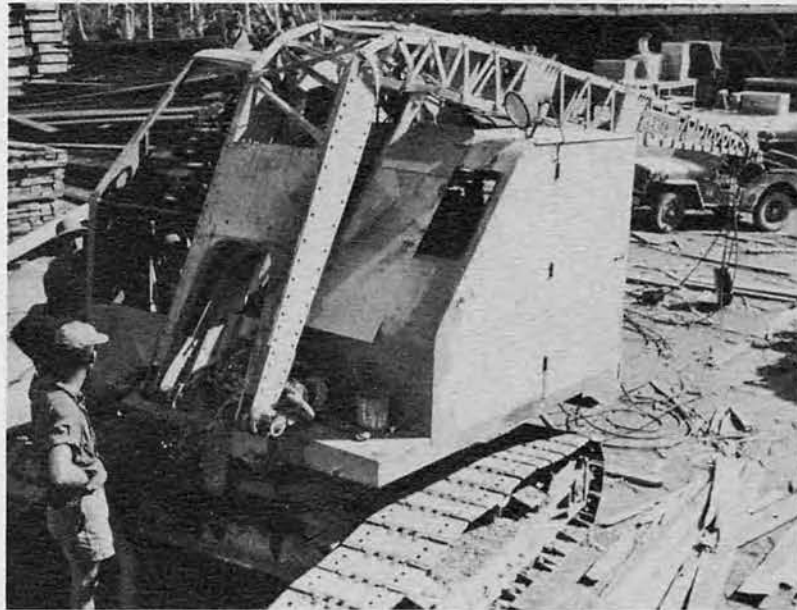
After the plans for a project are approved by the Officer-in-Charge, the Operations Office checks the blueprints and lays out the work. Surveyors move into the locality of the job and precision measurements are taken. Bulldozers prepare a clearing, and heavy equipment is moved in so that road and excavation work can begin. Supplies are then moved along these roads throughout the duration of the work, always keeping sufficiently in advance of the work to insure smoothness in construction.



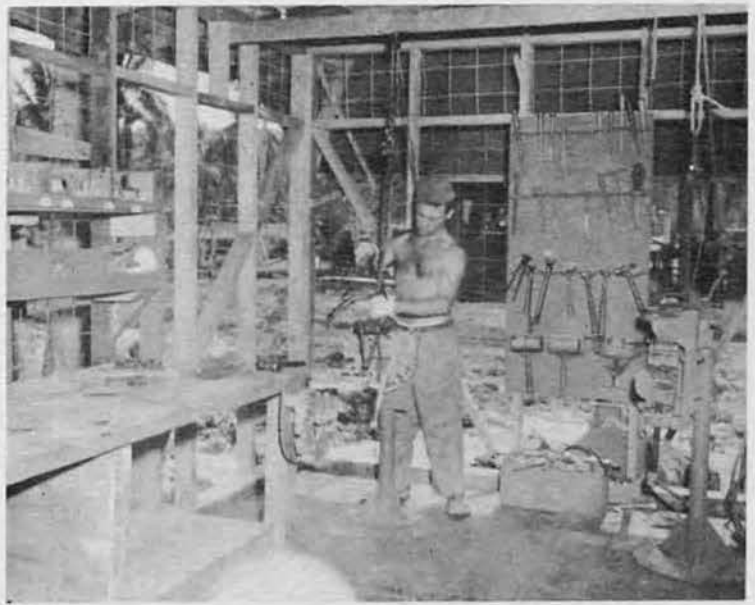
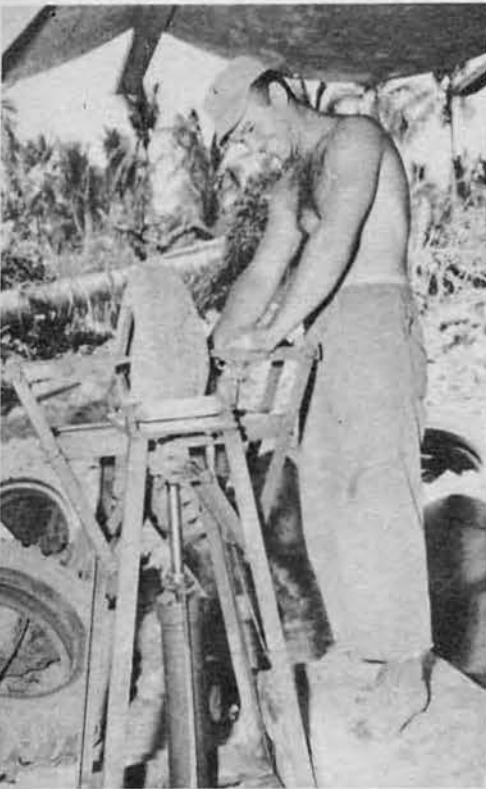
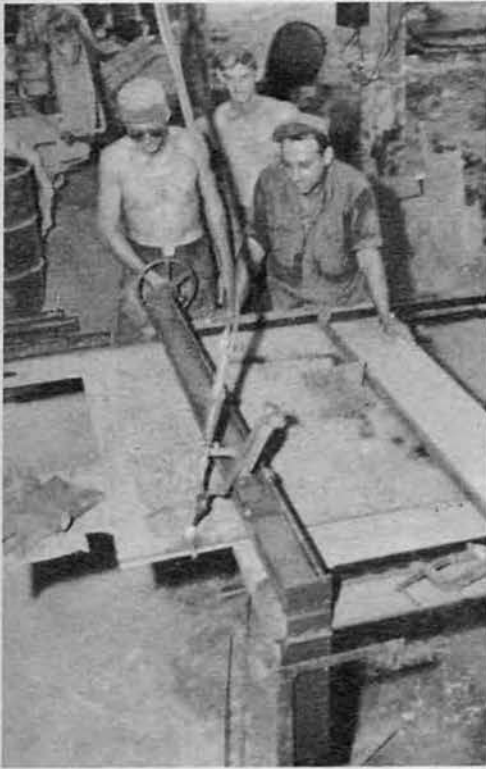


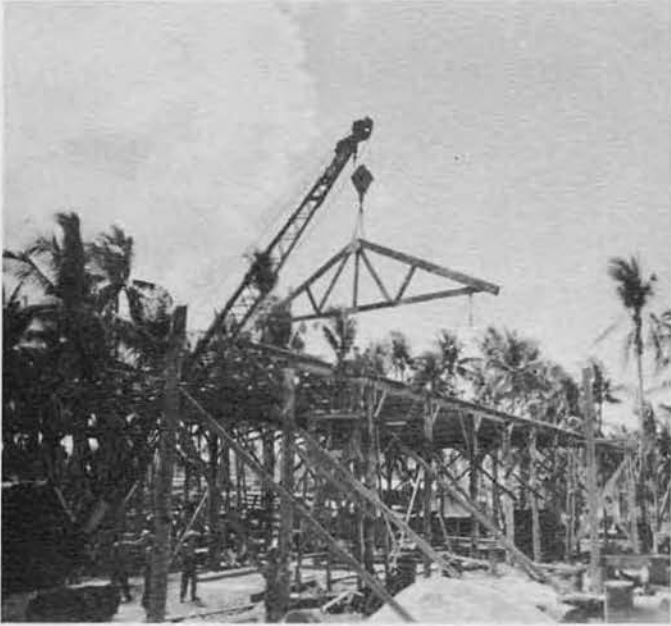


## TRANSPORTATION *and* FACILITIES

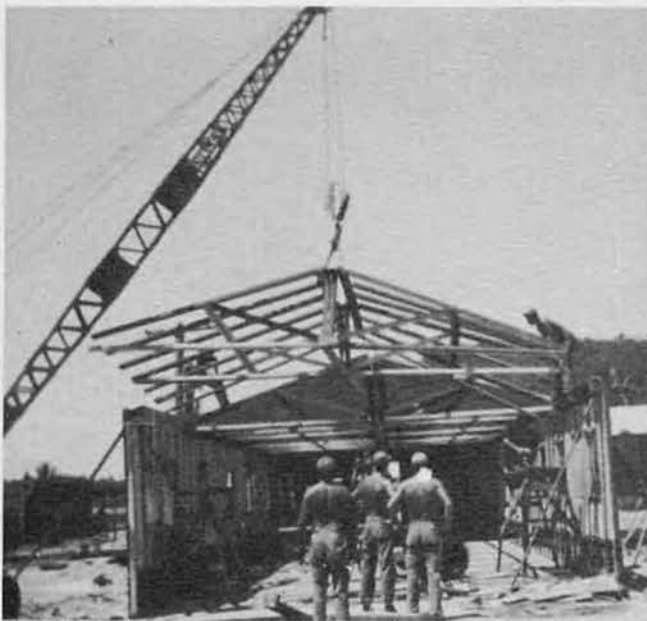


Transportation must be supplied when necessary. Heavy equipment and rolling stock must be serviced and repaired. These pages show the heavy equipment repair men, the welding shop, grease pit, a sea-bee designed machine for spreading tires, and the rigging loft. The picture in the upper right hand corner of the opposite page was taken when a fire broke out in the garage.

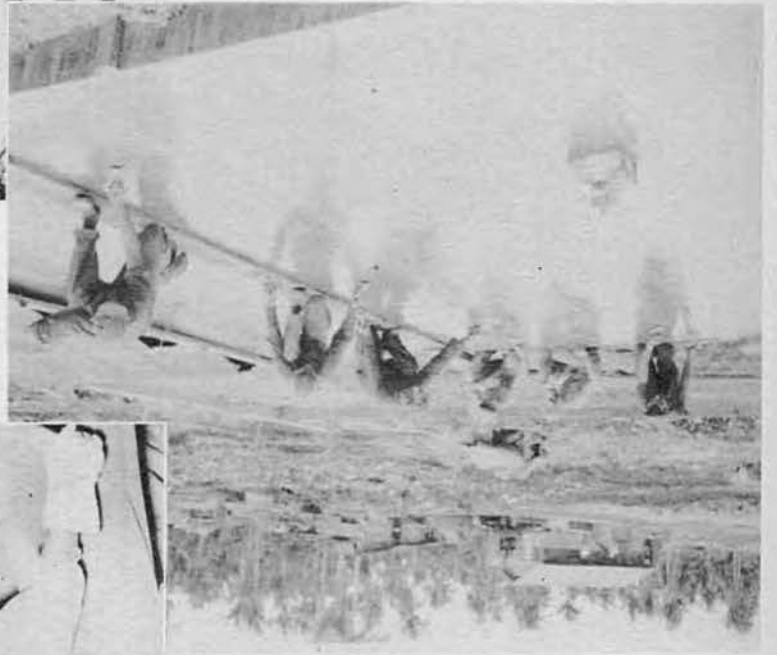
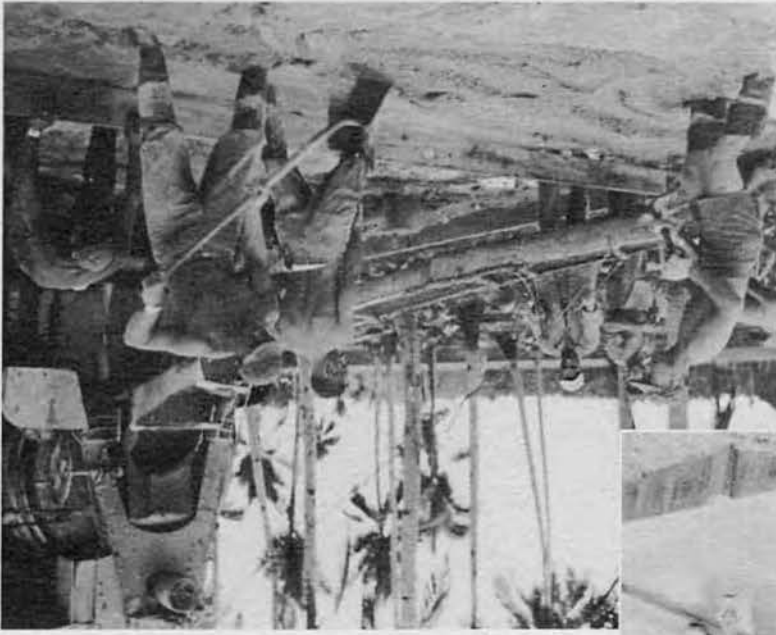




As soon as the grading and surveying are completed, work crews of all types move in to do the bulk of the construction work. Too much credit cannot be given to the workmen who sweat as many as eight hours per day, seven days per week in the excessive, enervating heat of the tropics. These are the men who make or break a construction outfit. The workman is the most important man in any construction set-up.

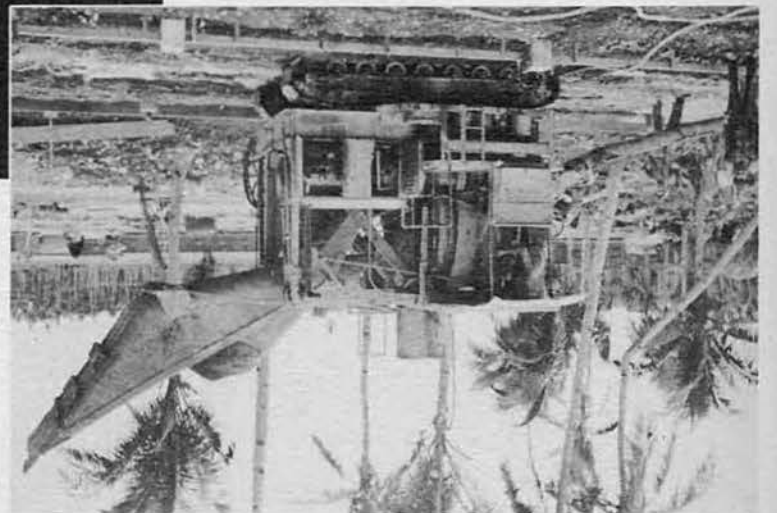
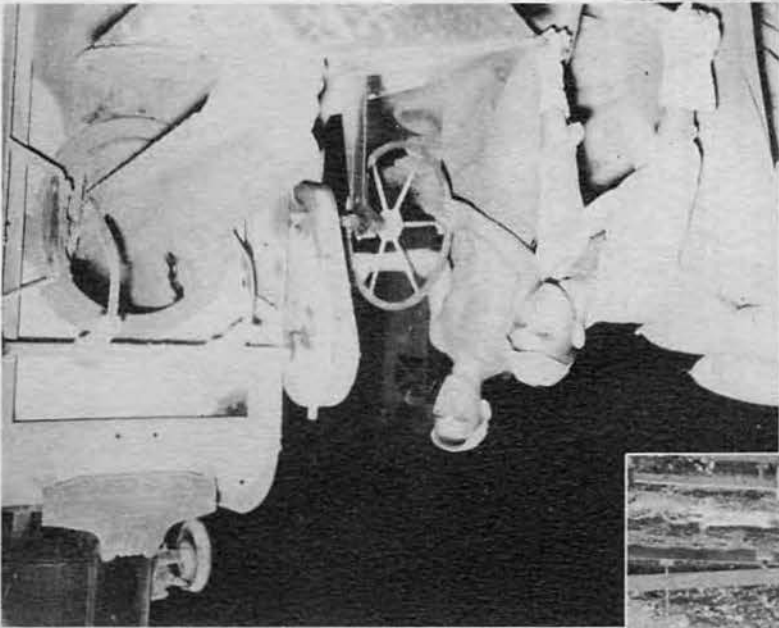


**It's Still  
HARD  
WORK**



**→ OR DAY**

**← NIGHT**



**CONCRETE**

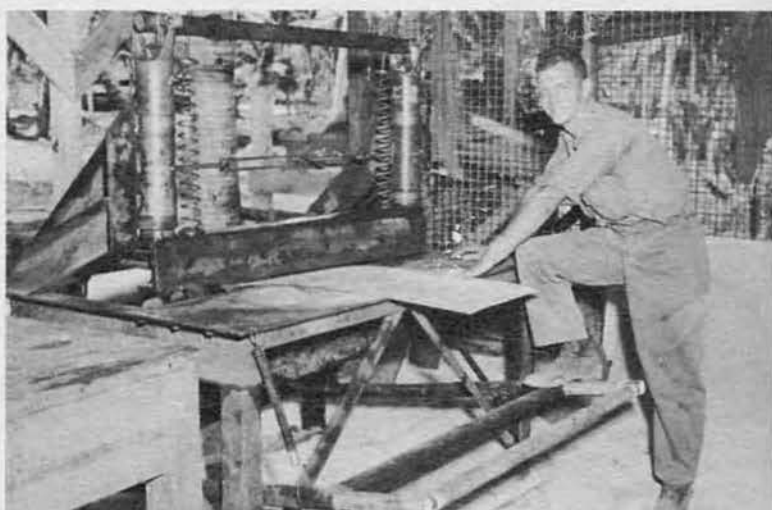
## BATTALION SHOPS FINISH UP



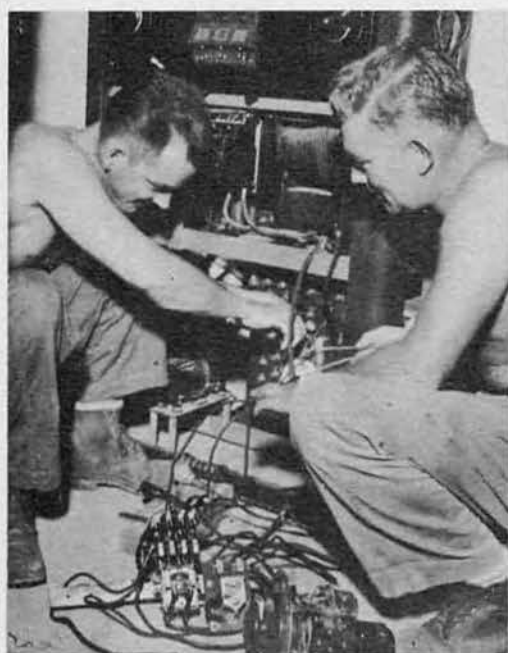
Motor Winding



Carpenter Shop



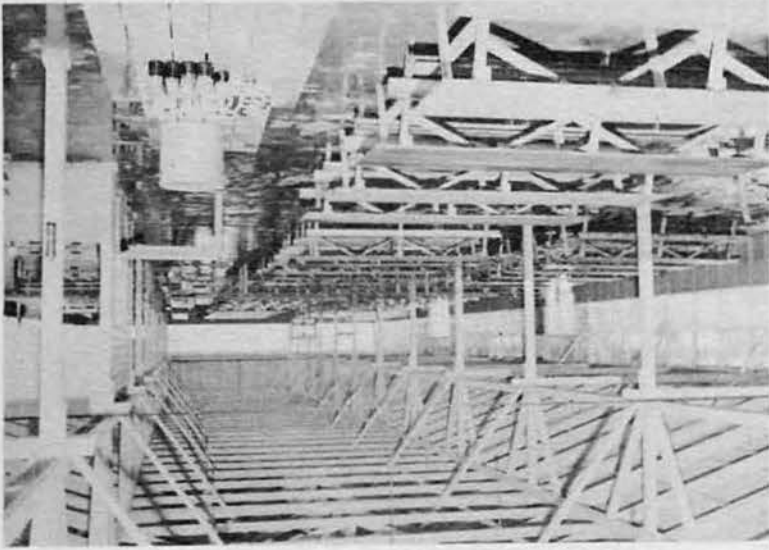
Sheet Metal



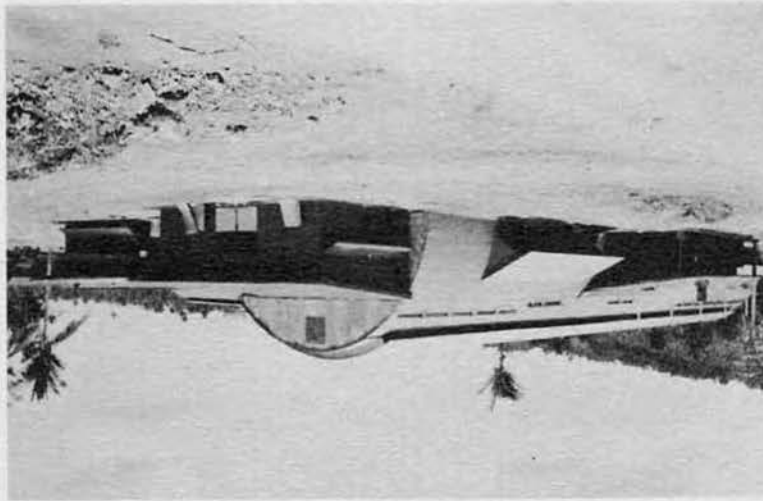
Inside Electricians



Paint Shop



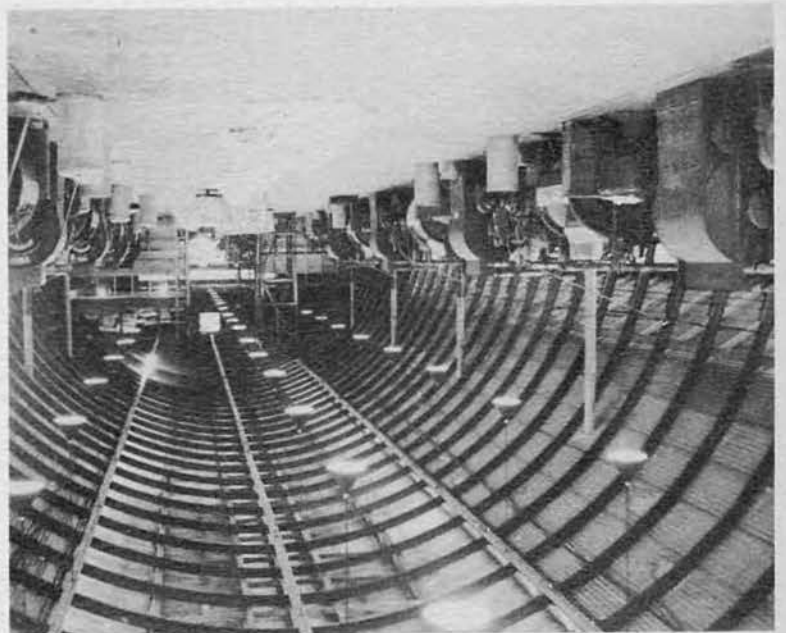
Hospital  
Mess Hall



↑ EXTERIOR  
→ INTERIOR

*A Triumph  
for the  
Plumbing Department*

# HOSPITAL LAUNDRY



**THREE STAGES**  
*in the*  
**CONSTRUCTION**  
*of a*  
**FLEET**  
**HOSPITAL**



**MAY 10**



**JUNE 6**

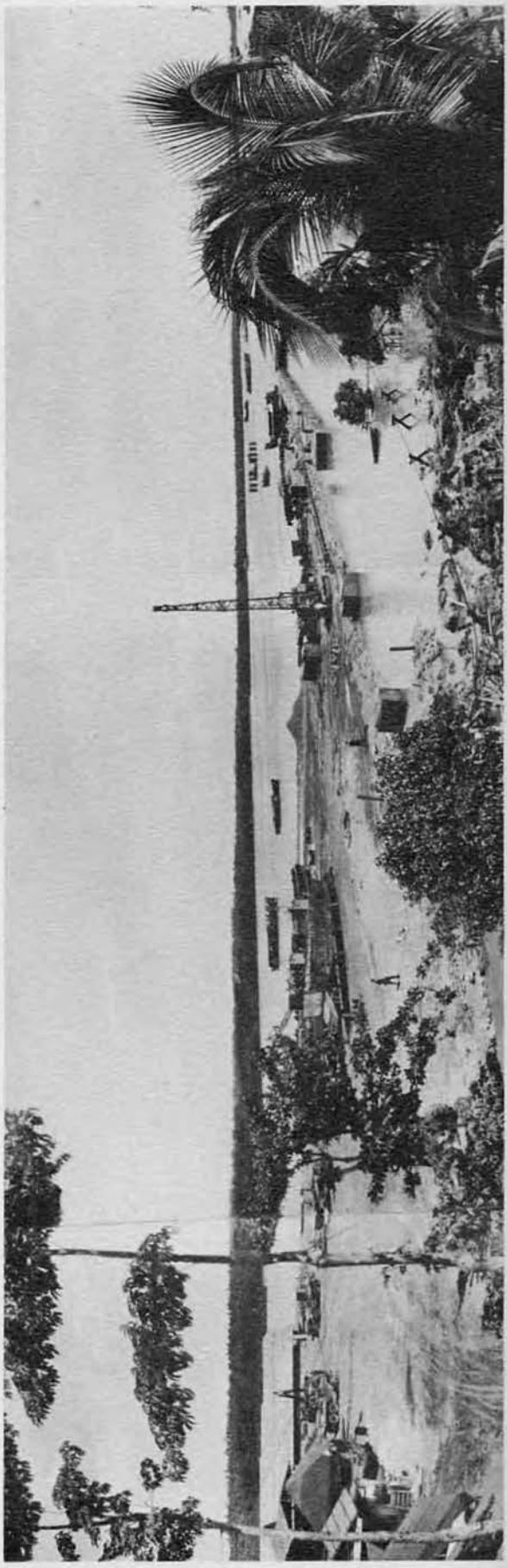
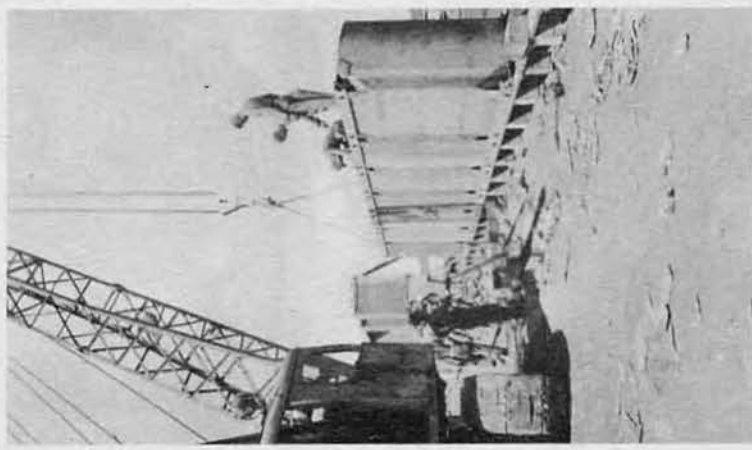
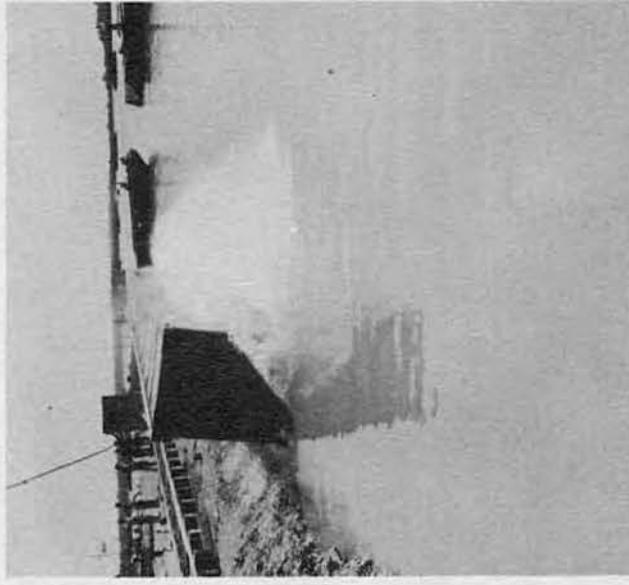
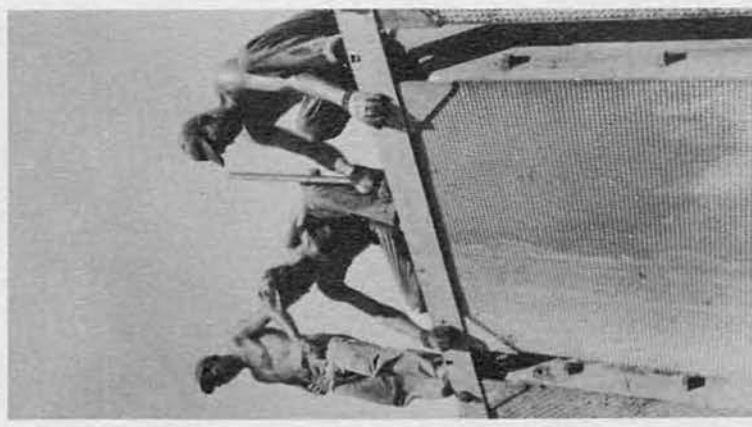


**JULY 1**





**SMALL LANDING  
CRAFT UNIT**

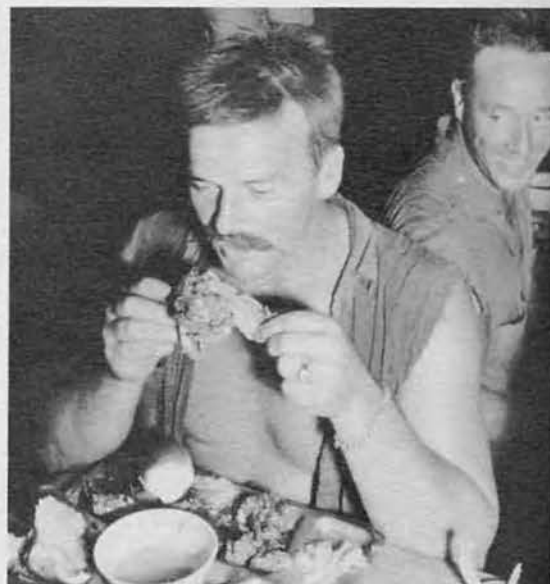


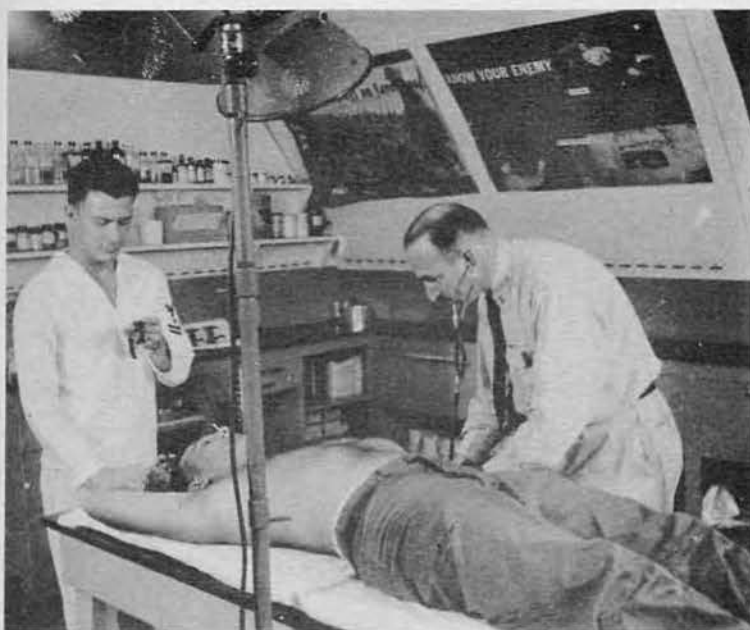
# AIR STRIP BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE





**WORKMEN**, like machines, must be serviced. It was the duty of the commissary department to see that the men were fed amply. Truthfully, although the food was ample, the quality of it was not always the best. Canned food, Spam, etc. will keep a man alive but not exactly satisfied. Here is photographic proof, however, that the men did get chicken and other tasty foods once in a while.





**THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT**

was in operation 24 hours every day. Injuries must be treated immediately. Diseases were plentiful and dangerous — and many were completely new to medical science. Sick call was held



twice each day so that men could have a check-up. Atabrine pills were distributed and a careful eye kept focused on the sanitary conditions of the camp.

**DENTAL CARE** was also given to the men as the need arose.





Ships Service



Ice Cream



Cobbler Shop



Barber Shop



Laundry

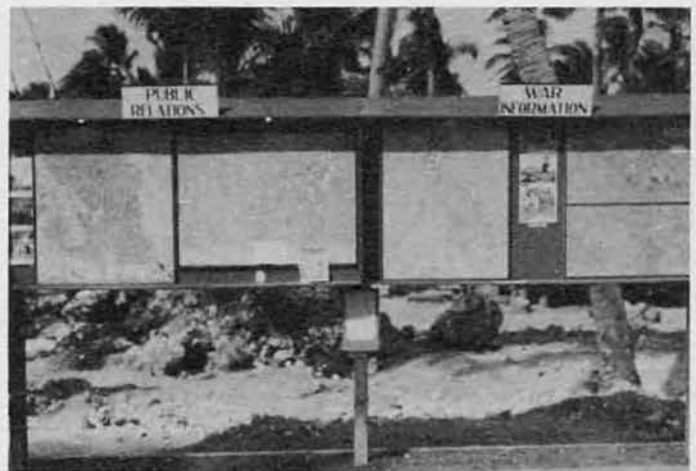


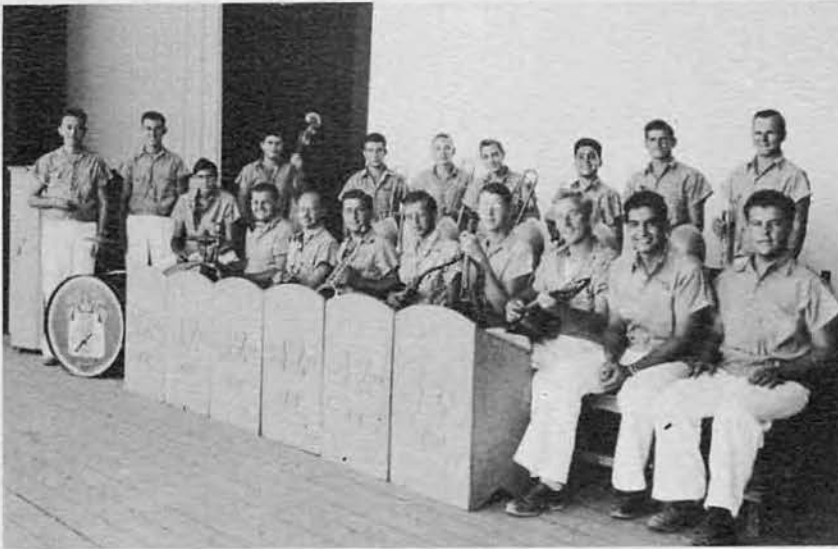
Tailor Shop

**WELFARE and RECREATION DEPARTMENT** assumed the responsibility of taking care of what few spare hours the men had.



**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND WAR INFORMATION** kept the men informed of current events and acted as liaison between civilians and servicemen.





**MUCH OF THE ENTERTAINMENT**

was given by the 42nd's own unit. This unit was organized Sept. 7, 1944 with funds provided by the Recreation Department plus donations by battalion members. Neil Neilson, conductor, pianist, and accordionist, was the man chiefly responsible for the success of the military band, dance band, and the show, "Musical Modes of '44". The organization has the following record to be proud of:

Military concert at Treasure Island; daily concerts aboard ship; two months' booking at the Honolulu Warrant Officers' Club; opening of Perry Bowl before 8,000 servicemen; selected as best service band at Pearl Harbor Day celebration; acclaimed by 21 different outfits before which it entertained.



# USO

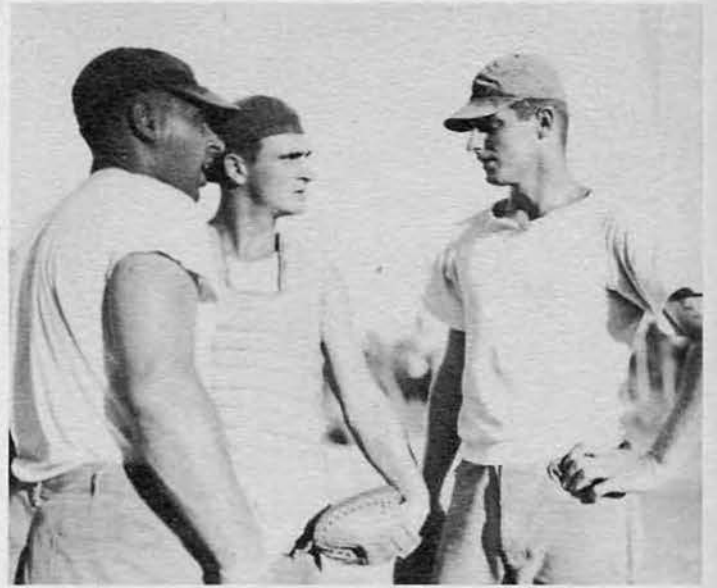


← ON STAGE ↑

↓ OFF STAGE →





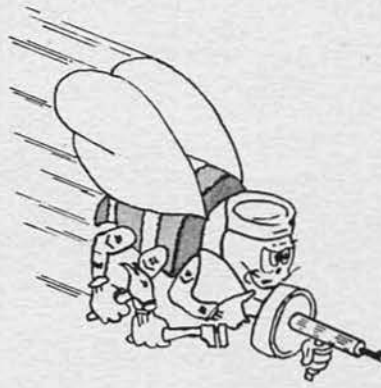


**B  
A  
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E**



**B  
A  
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L**



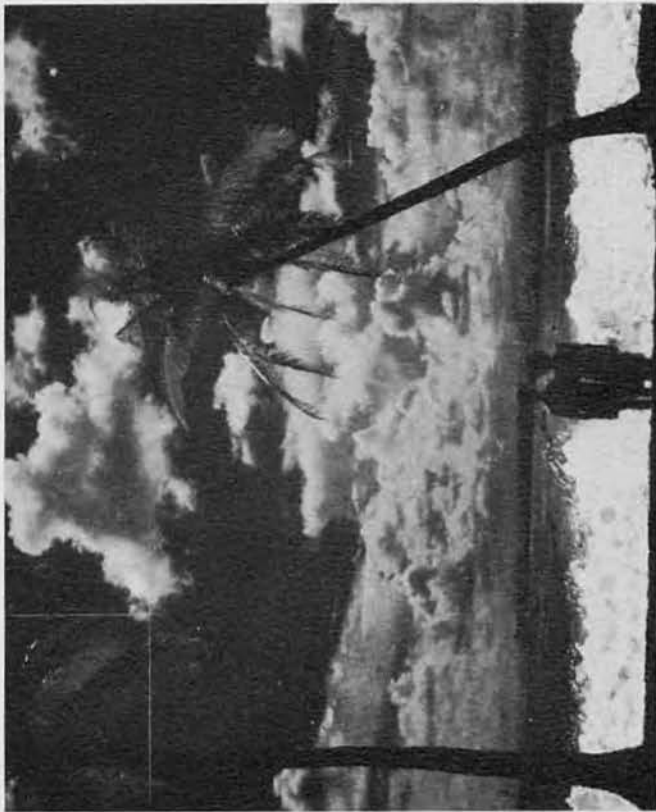


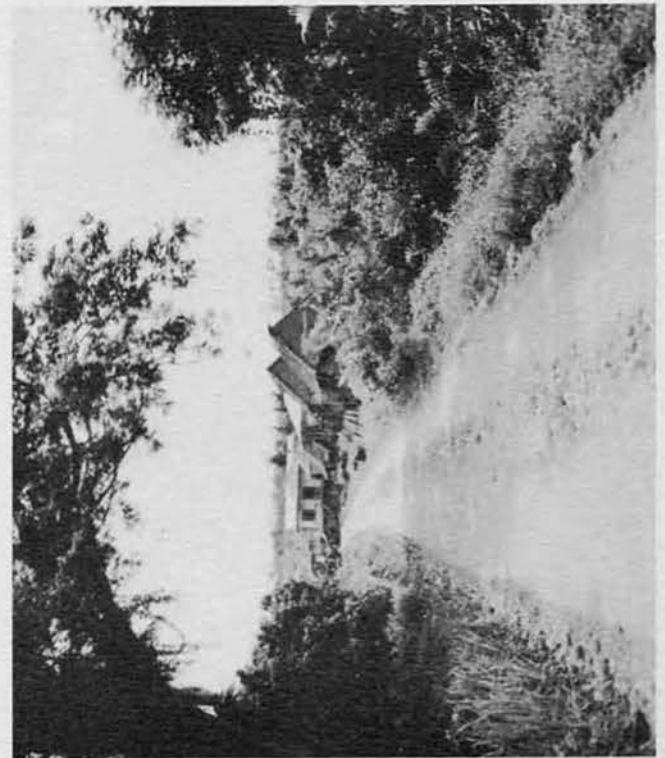
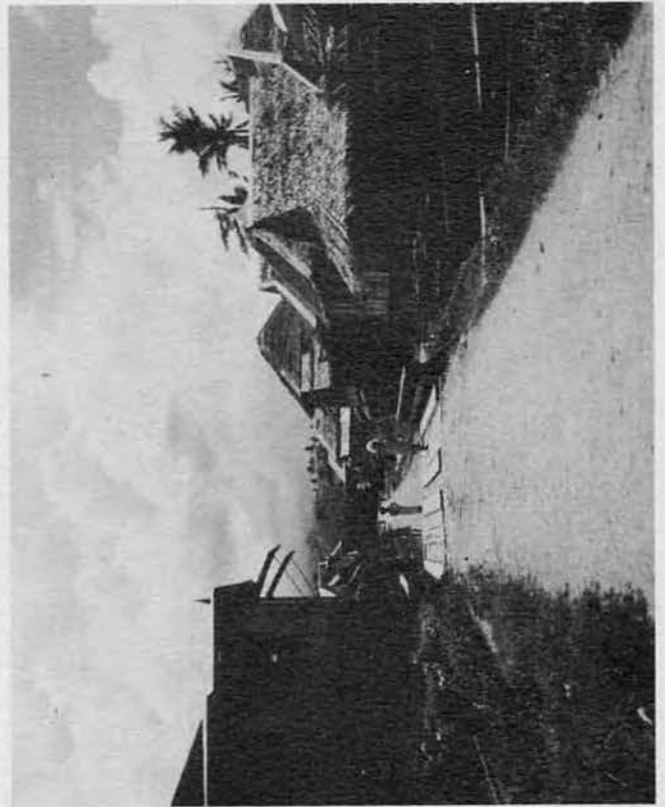
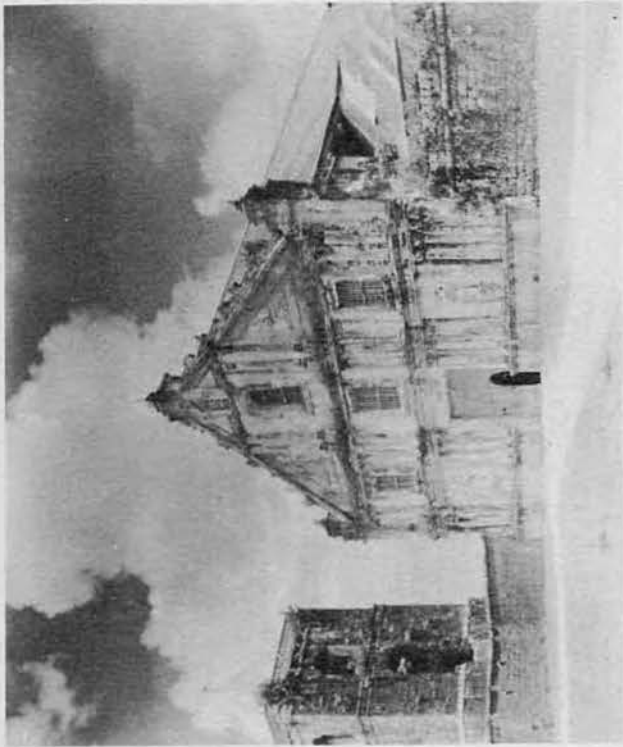


**PEOPLE**  
*of the*  
**PHILIPPINES**











**MUCH CREDIT** must be given to the Philippine people. For many years before the Japanese occupation of their islands the Filipinos had been paving the way for the day when they would be given their independence. Modern western ideas including popular education were introduced. Now, having seen the Japs ousted from the Philippines, they are taking greater strides towards a better civilization. It will be a long hard road. Many people will continue to use the carabao for transportation, cook over an open fire, and wash clothes by pounding them with sticks and rocks. But these people are looking beyond the horizon. They are looking into a period of prosperity and education. And we are earnestly rooting for them.



**THE NATIVES** are great gamblers, and their favorite sport is cock-fighting. This event takes place every Sunday at 2:00 P. M.

**WITHIN A FEW WEEKS**

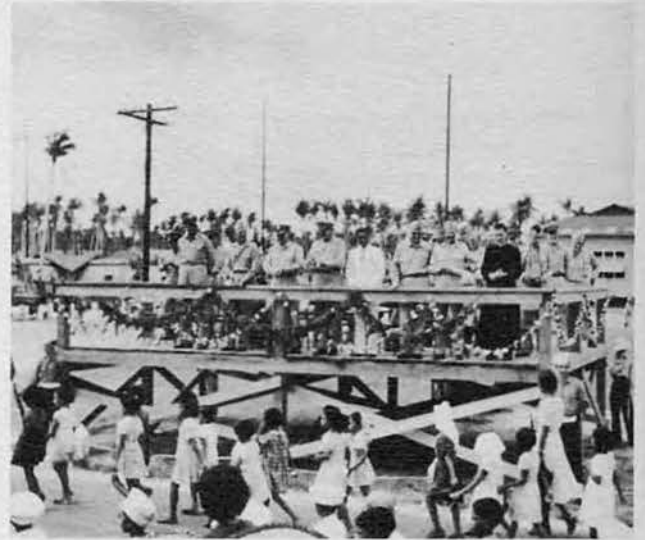
after American troops arrived, the servicemen attendance was greater than the native turnout. Servicemen bought cocks and entered them in the contests. Many a peso changed hands.



**THIS HAPPY GROUP**

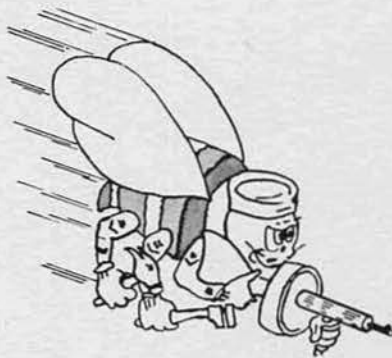
is gathered for a wedding feast. When chinaware is used and suits make an appearance, you can bet it's a rare occasion.

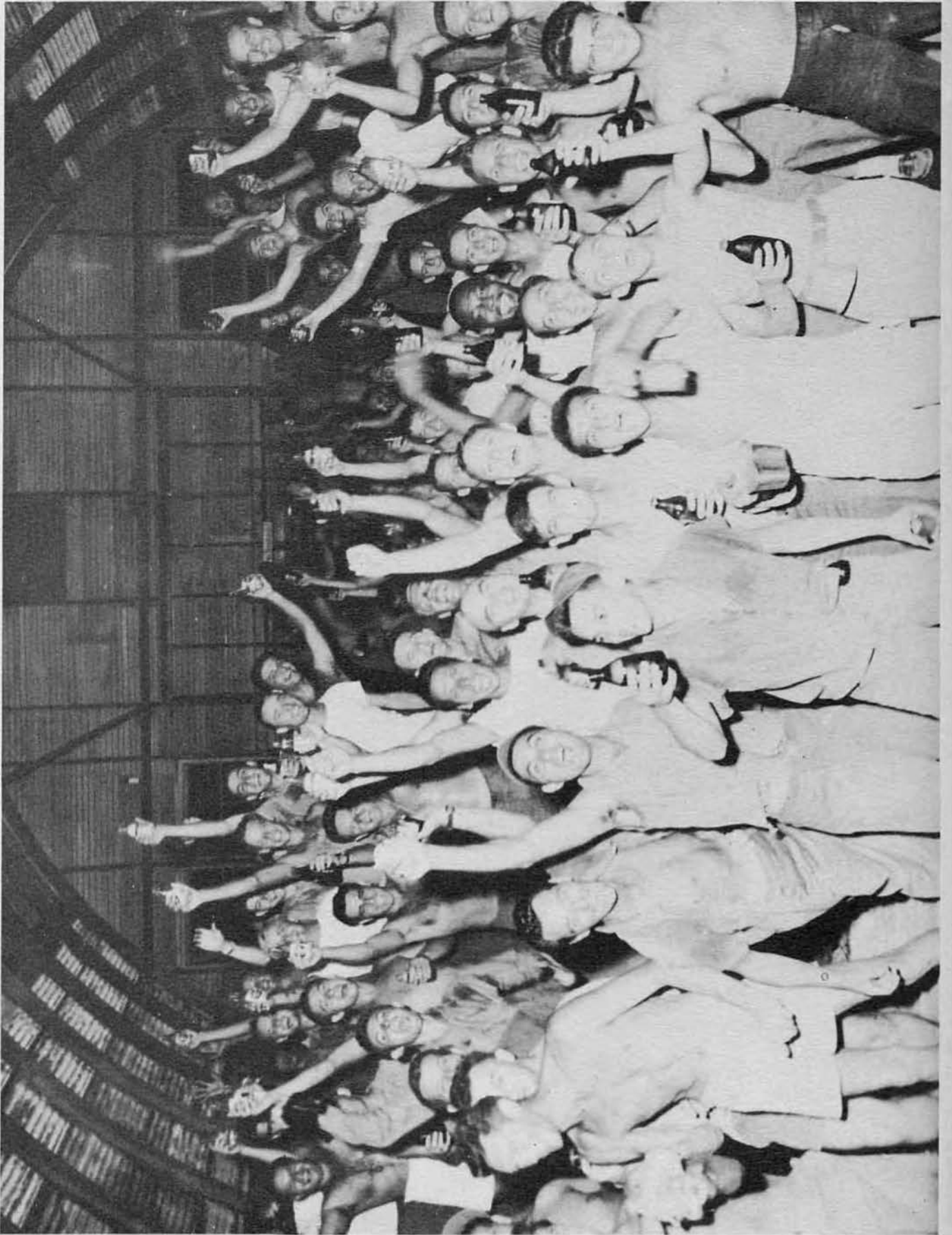




**TO FILIPINOS** the 4th of July has a double significance. It is not only the anniversary of the American signing of the Declaration of Independence, but it is also the day on which the Filipinos were granted their freedom in 1946. These pictures were taken during the celebration in Guiuan, Samar on July 4, 1945.



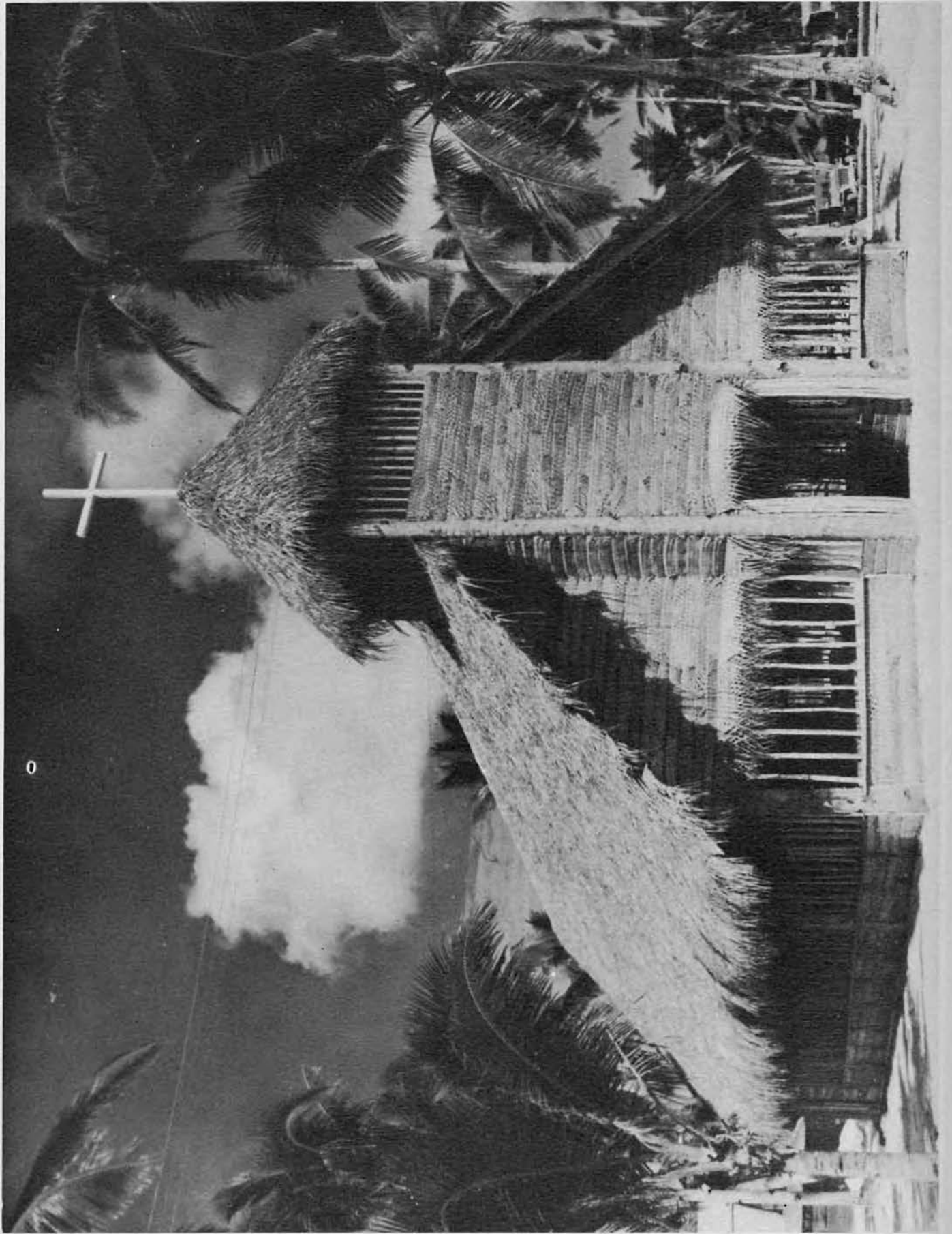




VICTORY

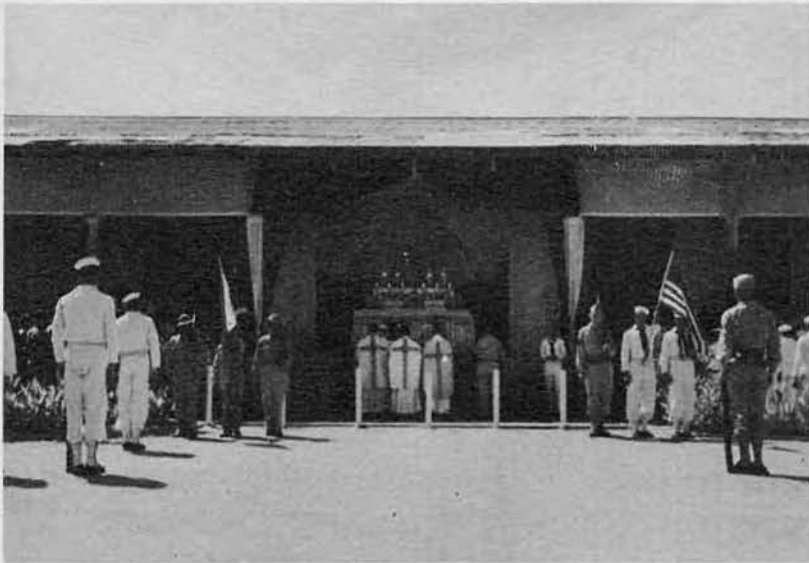


JAPS ACCEPT POTSDAM TERMS



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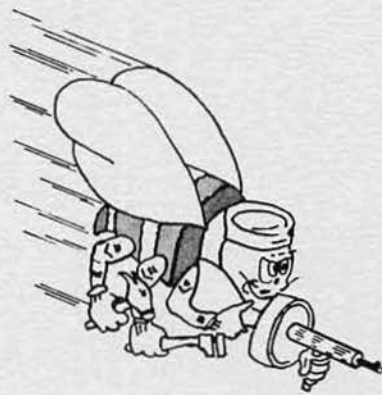
**THERE WERE OTHER** than riotous results following the Japanese offer of surrender. Religious services were held in all chapels thanking God for the conclusion of the war and offering prayers for those who paid the cost of victory with their lives.



**THE SILVER ALTAR** from the church in Guiuan was moved outdoors where services were held for the civilians and servicemen.

**CHAPLAIN BURT** celebrated services in the 42nd chapel, pictured on the opposite page.





## CONCLUSION

As this book goes to press, the 42nd Battalion is a thing of the past, for, with the exception of a few who are still in the service, its members have put away their dress blues and dungarees and once more taken their places as good American civilians.

This book is not meant to be a complete history of the activities of the battalion since its tour of duty in the Aleutians, but consists of some of the high lights of its tour of duty in the Pacific.

It is regrettable that this book contains nothing about the last unit of the 42nd Battalion that went to Shanghai, China, but material was not available and space was limited.

In years to come this book may revive some of the memories of the years spent in the service. Some memories may be pleasant, some may be unpleasant. The Aleutian campaign was one of continuous winter, while the Philippine campaign consisted of nothing but summer. Thus the battalion saw extremes in everything. There were many bright moments and many dark moments during those three years, but let us hope that the memory of the brighter moments remain with each man, while the disagreeable episodes slowly fade away. In time many will forget most of the men who were in the battalion but this book will always serve as a reminder that as a whole they were a fine group of fellows.

This closes a chapter in the lives of the men of the 42nd Naval Construction Battalion, a chapter that will never be forgotten, but which we pray to God will never be reenacted. Good luck and God speed.







1ST ANNUAL REUNION DINNER  
42ND NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION  
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