

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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IN BRIEF VETS TO GET HOME-BUILDING PRIORITY (P.1)...SEABEE-BUILT HOSPITALS CUT COMBAT FATALITIES (P.3)...SEABEE INFLATES RAFT WITH TEETH; SAVES THREE (P.3)...IWO JIMA CALLED "FURY OF CONSTRUCTION" (P.4)...NEW REGULATIONS FOR SEABEE PAPERS (P.8).

WASHINGTON REPORTS

FLOATING DRYDOCKS which have handled 176 fleet units in eight months, among them two light cruisers docked in a single ABSD (advance base sectional dock) were pulled out from under security wraps in a national radio address by Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of BuDocks. He described how the giant drydocks, developed by BuDocks in 1940 not only have docked our largest fleet units but also as many as a half dozen smaller units simultaneously.

"Most heart-warming service, however," the Admiral declared, "was that given three battleships which participated in the battle for Leyte Gulf. Had it not been for the ABSDs in the forward areas, those ships could not have taken part in this battle. They would have been enroute to the mainland for repairs."

TOP PRIORITY, AA3, will be granted to honorably discharged veterans seeking to build their "dream house" despite shortage of critical building materials. All the veteran, or his builder, has to do is go to Federal Housing Agency office and file an application showing he is honorably discharged or on inactive status.

READY FOR ACTION is the Navy's first twin-engine fighter plane, Grumman's new P7F "Tiger-cat," swiftest and most powerful ever built for the fleet. Although number and size of its guns were not revealed, Navy officials said its full firepower volume could smash a big Jap bomber in a single burst. Other highlights: climbs steeply at better than a mile-a-minute; carries a 4,000-pound bomb load--greater than any other fighter--or a full size torpedo; has longer range than any previous fighter plane.

PURPLE HEARTS may now be awarded by COs of hospital ships on-the-spot. The ruling was made because numerous instances have occurred where an undue period of time elapsed between the time a man is wounded in action and when he receives his Purple Heart.

CIGARET RATIONING (six packs a week) came to the Stateside Navy, Coast Guard and Marines this month. The ration plan, based on a card issued officially, is established at two ration points weekly, each of which is good for three packs of cigarettes, or 12 cigars or one package of smoking tobacco of two ounces. The card is required only at military or naval activities.

Uniformed personnel who are patients in naval hospitals or assigned to rest or recuperation centers or who are in redistribution centers, may get five packs of cigarettes or 16 cigars or four ounces of tobacco weekly with each point.

No general ration system is being put into effect overseas or afloat.

CENSORSHIP RULES have been modified to allow messages concerning death, serious illness, accidents, birth notices and other important, personal matters, to be forwarded to fleet and overseas shore-based personnel via Navy communications when commercial facilities are not available. Heretofore, only messages concerning death in the immediate family could be forwarded.

METHYL ALCOHOL is NOT the drinking kind, BuMed has warned in a statement directed mainly to the Pacific where deaths and blindness have occurred as a result of drinking Japanese wood alcohol. Methyl alcohol is "wood alcohol"---one and one-half to two ounces of which taken internally, can cause blindness; one to five ounces can cause death. Personnel are warned by BuMed that in handling wood alcohol, they should avoid breathing heavy concentrations of the vapor and permitting contact with the skin.

THE TAILORING will still be different, but the material in officer and CPO gray summer uniforms is going to be the same as the enlisted man's. Because of a shortage of 8.2 ounce chino cloth, the 7.7 cotton twill has been approved for use in making the officer and CPO grays.

COMBAT ZONES

OKINAWA MUD compares unfavorably with any yet experienced in the Pacific, according to dispatches from the field. It is so heavy and the suction is so great, one correspondent reported, that a shovelful cannot be lifted out. It clings to the shovel like glue.

After standing in one place for a few minutes, the same reporter continued, it is impossible to get one's feet free without weaving and pulling.

"Great flowing rivers of mud," he said, "have slowed to one-fifth of a mile an hour the speed of trucks supplying combat troops on the island.

"A three-mile trip last night took sixteen hours..... On the flatland the mud is either soupy and deep or semi-dry with the consistency of cold grease. On the hillsides, it flows and drools down the banks.

"In bad spots trucks move with cables tied to each other. They pull and push each other until the entire column reaches drier ground. A column often is headed by a huge tractor, acting as an engine for a whole train of mud-splattered trucks."

NO ROAD-HOG is Robert R. Shanks, MMlc, of the 133rd Battalion, who from now on will pull over even farther to the side of the road when an amtrack wants to pass him. He learned the hard way when he was driving a bulldozer over a temporary road across an invasion beach. An amtrack came from behind and he pulled over just enough to let it pass. It hit a mine, killed several in the vicinity and blew Shanks off the bulldozer. Shanks suffered a broken wrist and minor shrapnel wounds from which he has now recovered.

TEN AIRFIELDS ON OKINAWA and its neighboring island of Ie are being used as bases for Liberators, two-engined B-25 Mitchell bombers and B-26 Marauders attacking Japan, the Tokyo radio declared sourly.

Recalling American promises of 1,000-plane Superfortress raids, the Japs said 700 to 800 of the giant bombers already have been massed in the Marianas.

In a remarkable understatement, the Japanese radio declared, "The enemy, by repeatedly bombing over cities and spreading propaganda by air, is attempting to disrupt the lives of the Japanese people."

"WHAT'S COOKIN'?" is an expression that brings sad recollections to Raymond P. Jeske, S2c and John R. Russell, COX. It reminds them of one morning meal they didn't have on Iwo. The two spent a cramped and stormy night in a beach-side foxhole while mortars rattled. The least they could expect for breakfast was their own version of coffee and rations.

Russell pulled his mess kit out of the pack he had dropped by the foxhole. The cup had a jagged hole in both sides. Jeske fished for rations in his pack, found shrapnel had riddled blankets, and pack, made hash of shaving cream, tooth paste, soap and two candy bars.

HEAVY TOLL was exacted from Japanese stragglers who fired on and killed two unarmed Seabees on Tinian. Seabees and members of a Marine anti-aircraft unit moved in on the Japs' ocean-side cave, killed at least 25 and captured 10 others in a five-day siege marked by dynamite blasts set off in a hole drilled through the hill down into the cave.

Victims of the ambush were Homer W. Cameron, CCM, Port Townsend, Wash., and Charles A. Schroeder, EMlc, of Bayside, L.I.

The two, with three other members of the battalion, were climbing along the coral cliffs when Schroeder spotted the mouth of a large cave. He called Cameron and as both approached the entrance, a volley of shots roared out of the cave. Schroeder was killed instantly and Cameron died several hours later.

Even then the trapped Japanese were given opportunity to surrender, but when they refused, Marines and Seabees moved in. Guards posted the cave, shot several, grenades got a few more, then dynamiting was started. The Seabees used a well drill to sink a hole into the cave from the top, set off their charges in it. Just before the final, closing blast was to have been set off, a young Japanese civilian crawled out of the cave, gave up and later induced the survivors, eight soldiers and a sailor, to surrender.

Edgar C. Ferguson, CMlc, one of the party with Cameron and Schroeder, had braved the Jap fire immediately after the first volley which felled the two men. Ferguson climbed down the cliff and was attempting to carry Cameron to safety when the Japs fired again, hitting Cameron in the back. Unable to get him up the cliff alone, Ferguson went for help.

Memorial services were held by the battalion for the two victims.

SERVICE BASES

ICE MAN of the far north country is Chief Carpenter W.H. Burgess, oldtime oil driller.

When the Seabees landed at Point Barrow, Alaska, they immediately sought fresh water. A small lake was discovered near by. Tests showed that it had not frozen to the bottom, but it was only eight feet deep and would soon freeze completely. Carp. Burgess took a detail of men and began sawing out huge chunks of ice. They stored 100,000 cubic feet of it to be melted down for water when the lake freezes tightly.

FRESH PINEAPPLES --the eating kind--soon will become a regular part of the daily mess for servicemen in the Marianas. Successful transplanting of young plants by farm units of the Foreign Economic Administration, manned by enlisted Navy personnel and supervised by civilian specialists of the FEA, is expected to yield bountiful crop.

CORPSMAN CHAPEL-BUILDER, - a Pharmacist's Mate by Navy decision, an architect by schooling and a funeral director by civilian occupation, is leaving a trail of attractive chapels in his wake as he moves about the Pacific.

Francis X. Muska, PhMlc, Perth Amboy, N.J., suddenly found opportunity to put three years of architectural training to use after having written it off as a waste of time.

While acting as overseer of a crew of Papuan natives on a malaria control project, Muska answered when a battalion OinC asked for a chapel at Milne Bay. The chapel was completed after his transfer to Manus, but he built one there and moved on again.

Now in another location, he has just completed his fourth one for the 118th Battalion called the "Chapel of the Palms."

Described as the "most beautiful chapel in the Pacific" by travelers, the Muska creation is 30 by 80 feet with a steeple, nipa thatch roof and walls of split bamboo. Its dedication saw a capacity congregation, of both servicemen and civilians. Lt. Herman Inley, (ChC), is the 118th's chaplain.

CRIPPLED BULLDOZER in the 48th Battalion's stable, is rolling again after Jap 259 mm shell cases were turned into thrust-washers for a worn-out track-roller. When no new roller was available, most of the equipment was turned out in the machine shop. Machinists used the Jap shell cases turned down to proper size to complete the assembly job.

A RECREATION PROGRAM so effective it's called the "Marianas Country Club" has been operating in the Sixth Brigade under the guidance of Robert M. Allison, CSp(A) who used to do it for the Y.M.C.A. at Huntington, W.Va.

Allison came ashore and had a musical variety show going a week after the Marines landed and has built his program up from there. The show's still operating and has played to 26 different audiences in as many different locations on the island. By now, Allison is in charge of the full brigade's recreation program--which started out with a few captured Jap baseball bats and gloves.

AFTER MENDING JEEPS and cargo trucks for 12 months in the Solomons, A.J. Carey, MoMmlc, and a crew of his mechanics, while awaiting transfer to a new assignment, went to work for the U. S. Marine Corps, helping to repair and check a squadron of C-47 cargo planes operating to the Philippines.

SOLAR SHOWER SYSTEMS, whereby a tub of water warms all day under the sun is primitive, but the one built by the 94th Battalion is a modern version. Members of the maintenance crew linked 18 fifty-gallon oil drums together, improvised a pipe-bending device to eliminate need for elbows and let the sun do the rest while they work. The unit, of 990-gallons capacity, provides warm water for showers for 1100 men -- providing the sun has been out. Otherwise, they shower cold--and appreciate the sunny days. The system is the brain-child of Lt. (jg) C. L. Fenwick, CEC, maintenance officer.

HOSPITALS IN THE MARIANAS, built by the Seabees, have been "the factor that pulled many men through when serious wounds hung their lives in the balance," testified Captain David S. Bowman, MC, USN, a senior medical officer on duty in the Marianas.

"Our casualties now can beat the time element in getting to fully equipped hospitals," he said, referring particularly to the Iwo campaign in which more than 4,000 wounded men were flown to the Marianas for further medical attention. Some of the injured men arrived within six hours of the time they were wounded.

The new hospitals, averaging 1,800 bed capacity each, are completely equipped with the best facilities medical science can provide. Constructed of pre-fabricated material, the buildings nevertheless are as large as those of conventional design and contain the same conveniences.

Speed with which the units are erected is typified by the performance of a battalion under leadership of Comdr. J.T. Davis, CEC, USNR. Site was 105 acres of dense jungle.

After the heavy growth had been cleared, the Seabees discovered the coral under the brush was so hard they couldn't use regular trenching machines to dig foundations. They had to blast their way through.

Five miles of two-lane roads had to be cut from the main highways to the hospital site. Sewers, wells, water storage, power, and all the other utility services required by a fair-sized city had to be provided. Yet 41 days after the men went to work, the hospital was ready for 500 Iwo patients.

During that time the builders had erected 231 Task Force buildings, each measuring 20 by 50 feet. Altogether they constructed 11,000 lineal feet of hospital -- enough to accommodate 2,700 patients, or 1,200 over capacity if double-decker beds were used.

WELDING JOB THAT COULDN'T BE DONE was accomplished by men of the 121st Battalion after an HD-14 caterpillar came off second best in a bout with a huge coral boulder. Supports for the clutch bell housing were broken and there wasn't time to obtain replacements. So, CSF Floyd H. Faust and welders Leo B. Stewart, Jr., CMLc, and Gerald L. Felsing, SFlc, went to work.

One of the supports, the casting split open, was braised with an acetylene torch then preheated despite the lack of a furnace and finally built up with brass welding element. It showed no sign of warpage and was pronounced good as new. The opposite support, broken clean off, was replaced with one made out of 8" steel shafting. The job of electric welding this new part to the cast iron housing took two weeks as the welders worked on a three-inch section at a time to prevent overheating while the weld was gradually built up solid.

To prove they hadn't been simply lucky, the welders performed a similar job on the snapped casting of a hoist clutch flange on a Northwest #6 shovel.

SEABEE OF THE WEEK

SYLVESTER G. JIMINEZ-RAMIREZ, S2c, of the 33rd Special.

Jiminez-Ramirez rescued three soldiers from drowning by hauling them aboard a rubber raft he had inflated by opening its valve with his teeth. His fingers were so numb at the time they refused to function.

The Seabee had kept the three Army men afloat in a heavy sea for an hour until the pilot of a search plane spotted them and dropped the raft.

While they were in the water, Jiminez-Ramirez supported one soldier who couldn't swim, shouted encouragement to the others, and led the group in singing and praying.

WHAT THEY SAY

INVASION OF JAP HOME LAND will call for at least 500,000 men, said Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, chief of Army ground forces, on an inspection tour of Okinawa. He warned also that even after Tokyo falls, "we still may have to fight a long war against the Japs in Manchuria and China.

Gen. Stilwell said the war against Japan "could easily last two more years."

JAP AIR FORCE "appears to have lost the capability for large-scale, sustained offensive action of even effectively sustained defensive action," the Office of War Information has announced. The OWI issued a 14-page report dealing with Jap planes and fliers. Enemy plane losses are estimated at more than 1,000 a month, production at from 1250 to 1500.

JAP HOMELAND and war-making potential rapidly is becoming a hollow shell, Lt. Gen. Barney Giles, commanding the Army Air Force in the Pacific declared, in announcing that American planes would soon bomb Japan with twice the monthly tonnage dropped on Germany. Pertinent point in the general's statement was that "the Nips aren't repairing damage as quickly as the Germans did. That makes a big difference. So do the high winds. They are bad for our fliers, but good for the fires we start."

Furthermore, he said he was "not impressed" by the Japs' chance of waging a prolonged war on the Asiatic mainland. "They cannot stand and neither can they run in the face of American air-power."

ECONOMIST ROGER W. BABSON in his nationally syndicated column this week declared, "I feel certain that their (Japan's) collapse will be only a question of months.

"The global war will be over before most people expect it. It will be over before all the boys in Europe have a chance to get to the Pacific. Except in special departments, the casualties will be light. Most of the boys may be home before Christmas."

Babson bases his opinions on his belief that the Japanese are unable to adapt themselves quickly to the changing fortunes of war. "They prosper on success," he explained, "but cannot stand failure."

"FOR SHEER, CONCENTRATED FURY of construction, there is nothing like Iwo," says Gilbert Cant, in a recent roundup review of U.S. Pacific bases. Cant made an air tour of the bases for the first time since 1943. Some of his pertinent comment:

"Arriving at Guam, Saipan or Tinian, U.S. aircraft land on airfields such as the Japanese could not even conceive; much less construct, while they were there.

"With U. S. forces holding it, Iwo still has combat troops, but they are inconspicuous. They are lost in a legion of builders; the Navy's Construction Battalions (Seabees) who will fight, if need be, for what they build, and the Army's aviation engineers.

"Nowhere in the world has so much construction machinery been turned loose in so tiny a compass."

AERIAL PINNACLES on Japan is predicted by the British aviation magazine, Aeroplane, which sees the possibility of attacks being launched from bases in eastern Siberia. "Russia may grant bases for heavy bomber attacks," the article said. Division of allied air power in the Orient into two main zones of operation is considered likely by the magazine. "U. S. heavy bombers will operate from islands to the south of the Japanese mainland and British aircraft from bases in India, Burma and further south as more territory is freed.

10,000-MILE NONSTOP FLIGHTS by Army Air Forces planes may be a reality before the end of the war with Japan, forecasts Alexander de Seversky, noted aircraft designer. De Seversky also said that on the eve of Allied victory in Europe, the Germans had developed a four-engined jet bomber capable of conducting transatlantic round-trip bombing raids on the Eastern Seaboard.

IMPROVISATION IS A BYWORD in the Seabees says an article in the June issue of "Construction" magazine. The story deals largely with improvised sand-blasting equipment used by the 94th Battalion to clean two 150,000 barrel steel tanks for water storage.

"This ability to make the best of the materials at hand has been one of the main reasons for the Seabees' reputation for ingenuity," the article says.

ENTHUSIASTIC ADMIRER of the Seabees is Philippine President Osmena's pretty granddaughter, Estefanie. She told a Seabee correspondent: "I think the Seabees are wonderful people. I watched those buildings (around her home) grow out of the ground like mushrooms."

To this her father, Adilberto, who is President Osmena's son added: "If the job of rebuilding the Philippines were given to the Seabees, it would take little time indeed to accomplish."

SEABEE ARTICLES get a big play in the June issue of "Civil Engineering"--from the Normandy beaches to several points of the Pa-

cific.

With five pages of type and 14 pictures, Rear Admiral William H. Smith, CEC, director of BuDocks' Planning and Design Department, tells the Seabees' part in the artificial harbor exploit in the English channel.

"From the earliest beginning of this operation to its conclusion, the Seabees, by their versatility, have been a continuously active force and have demonstrated their ability to justify their popular and well-deserved motto, 'Can Do,'" the Admiral concluded.

Work of the Pontoon Assembly Detachment which "pioneered" the Pacific field from New Caledonia is told in two-page, six-photo article written from the field by Sam Barash, SK3c.

A third article, written by Lt. W. A. Lawrence, CEC, describes the work of re-building Guam's war-torn water supply. The editor's preface says: "By utilizing battle-damaged reservoirs and water lines, and salvaging other materials both from prewar American installations and from captured Jap construction dumps, Naval Construction battalions on Guam rebuilt a water system in record time."

The June issue also carries a letter written from Okinawa by Lt. Walter A. Brown, CEC, personnel officer of a battalion which went into the Jap island. "Our function has been, and is primarily, the maintenance and construction of roads to supply the front. We also had a hand in repairing the airfield," he wrote.

SCRAP PICKER-UPPER designed by Lt. (jg) James R. Harriett, CEC, for a battalion in the Pacific is pictured in the April issue of "U. S. Navy Magazine." The photo shows Roy R. Brown, WMLc, at the controls.

"WELL DONE"

members of the 42nd Battalion. The commendation, made by the Commanding General, U. S. Army Forces in the Pacific ocean area and endorsed by Fleet Admiral Simitis, cited the "invaluable assistant in the design, manufacture and installation of periscope-mount flame throwers. The knowledge that these weapons have made and will continue to make an immeasurable contribution to the war effort in operations against the enemy should repay a hundred fold the tremendous cost in effort of their production," the general's letter said. Those commended were:

Robert J. Hamill, SF2c, Harold L. Solomon, SF2c, Milton E. McCullough, S1c, Stanley Cluch, SF2c, James E. Han, WMLc, Martin Smith, WMLc, Evner M. Lemmon, WMLc.

ARMY BRONZE STAR for his work as engineer officer of the U.S. Military North African Mission has been awarded Capt. Charles T. Dickeman, CEC, USN, director of the Bureau of Yards and Docks Advance Base Section. The Army's citation lauded Captain Dickeman's "outstanding engineering work" and "tact, perseverance, efficiency and devotion to duty."

DOUBLE RESCUE of drowning shipmates has won a commendation for Vernon E. Conner, SF3c, of the 42nd Battalion. Conner pulled the two men, Alex C. Freeland, S2c, and William N. Keener, S1c, from a strong undertow after Freeland had made an unsuccessful effort to rescue the struggling Keener. Help arrived after Conner had brought the first man into safety and gone after the second.

THE FLEET NAVY

ONE U-BOAT EVERY THREE DAYS had to be chalked up by the Germans as "lost," official Allied records disclose.

The Allies sunk 713 Nazi submarines between September 3, 1939 and May 8, 1945, and, in addition, at least 100 are known to have been destroyed by mines and other causes.

LOSS OF TWO DESTROYERS, one auxiliary high speed transport and one LSM in action in the Okinawa area increased to 314 the total number of Naval vessels lost from December 7, 1941 through June 11, 1945. Total, which includes ships sunk, overdue and presumed lost, and destroyed to prevent capture, lists one battleship, 11 aircraft carriers, 6 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, 64 destroyers, 8 destroyer-escorts, 43 submarines and 178 miscellaneous craft.

NOT ENOUGH TARGETS FOR SUBS LEFT, Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, commander of submarines in the Pacific, jestingly complained as he presented citations to a group of submarine officers and men. He said Japanese shipping has been battered so badly "the enemy has practically nothing left to send to sea."

GUNS WILL BE OBSOLETE in the next war, predicts Swedish inventor Sven Lindequist. He believes that in future conflicts, rocket-propelled shells weighing up to ten tons will be hurled against adversaries with minute precision -- almost to the point where it will be possible to hit a dime at a range of several hundred miles.

Fighting fronts will not be dependent on transport and supply lines, the inventor declares, because the huge shells will be fired directly from underground factories some 400 miles in the rear into area just behind the front, where their explosive charges will be fitted before they are fired on enemy targets.

Blank shells fired from the rear also can be used to supply fronts with urgent material of all kinds, he says. Of the future wartime factory, he suggests the only part visible from above will be a camouflaged small diagonal hole in the ground through which the blanks will be shot to the front.

NAZI TROOPSHIP, the 49,700-ton Europa, once slated to carry German invasion troops to England, is being overhauled and will soon be serving the United States. The \$16,000,000 prize will be ready for service in three months.

MILK FOR WOUNDED SERVICEMEN is now being shipped in quick-frozen form, and, when thawed, is said to taste as fresh and appetizing as the product left by the milkman in the morning.

Current quotations already call for about 30,000 pints a month for use on hospital ships, 400,000 pints a month for soldiers in virtually cowless Alaska, plus an undetermined amount for hospitals overseas.

According to "Business Week," the product was adopted by the Navy in 1942, accepted by the Army two years later.

Keeping-qualities of frozen fresh milk depend upon the degree to which it is not condensed before freezing, whole milk being good for about three months, and milk condensed to a third of original volume being good for only a month.

BILLION BULLETS and more than 48 million artillery shells were fired at the Germans by U. S. troops in 11 months, the Army has disclosed to reveal the terrific firepower of the European operations. The report also showed that combat troops hurled more than four million hand grenades.

GERMAN JET SECRETS AND AIRCRAFT designs have been offered to the U.S. Army by Heinrich Bernhard Gelerich, inventor, designer and producer of German jet-planes and other military aircraft.

A QUARTER-MILLION BRITISH FLIERS will be sent against the Japs, the British Air Ministry has announced.

The RAF's present strength of approximately 1,000,000 men and women will be cut by one-third. Of the remaining personnel, 40 per cent will be sent overseas, while 60 per cent will be retained in the United Kingdom.

NAZI WAR CRIMINALS number at least 437,000, an authoritative Army observer estimates. Considered a conservative figure, the total includes 10,000 Gestapo officers, at least 25,000 general SS, 310,000 Waffen SS, 37,000 SS police and 5000 German general staff officers. In addition there are at least 50,000 civilian officials and Nazi Party members, including wives of the SS, who may have committed deeds and are guilty of crimes calling for punishment.

YANK GUNS, HELMETS, organization will be used by the Canadian Army's Pacific force, Canada's Department of National Defense has announced. The force will include the Sixth Division. It will adopt American terminology for its battalions and regiments, use American weapons and equipment, but uniforms will be Canadian. The bucket-type helmet has proved the most adaptable to conditions in the Pacific.

700 GERMAN SUBS or more were sunk during the course of the European war, a joint Anglo-American announcement has disclosed. The statement said "German U-boats have ceased to operate and are now proceeding under Allied orders."

GOLD \$40,000 AN OUNCE in China, as country's Ministry of Finance fights to control inflation. The price (in Chinese currency) has doubled itself since March 28th, when an ounce of gold was valued at \$20,000 in Chinese money.

The black market value of American currency now is \$1,150 in Chinese dollars for one United States greenback.

FOR THE BOOK

ON GUARD DUTY AND JUMPY. Donald C. Brubaker, S1c, whirled about, carbine at the ready, as he heard a rustle in the grass.

He challenged, relaxed as his straining ears recognized the password.

The object moved on.

At the next outpost, the challenge was repeated. This time, the guard didn't hear the reply. A shot rang out, followed by a dull thud.

A few minutes later a star shell illuminated the area. On the ground lay a dead bull.

Brubaker still swears a native bull gave him the correct password.

MARITAL CUP of Franklin Ray Cox, S1c, and his wife, Beula Isabelle Valine, isn't exactly brimming over. In fact, Cox is spending his honeymoon alone--in a Navy hospital in the Pacific and his wife is 5,000 miles away--Lima, Ohio to be exact. It is reported they were married by proxy May 16 by a judge of the Civil registry in Juarez, Mexico, although Cox has not seen her in 16 months.

FORMER BARRACKS MAA of an Aleutian battalion was a dog--and that's no woofin'. "Tundra," an adopted puppy found in an Attu foxhole, was trained right out of the Blue-jackets Manual and eventually became adept at closing doors, picking up waste paper and unsacking the crew. The dog was brought back with the battalion and currently is living with civilian friends of Adrian J. Wilen, now at Camp Parks--who vouches for the story.

PELELIU ANTS are enough to drive a man into machine gun fire, Monroe G. Marx, recalls. Now stationed at Camp Parks, Marx tells of being pinned down by machine gun fire and battling vicious black ants who were hungrier than an isolated Jap. Their attack finally became so carnivorous Marx took off, but he had to seek shelter again when mortars opened up. Then the mortars were preferred.

Marx escaped with ant bites.

PRESSING BUSINESS didn't come up to his wife's standards when Battalion Laundryman John W. Blevins, Jr., P1r3c, came back to the States with the 37th and tried out the family wash. "When I was home on leave," Blevins admitted ruefully, "she tried me out on the family laundry. I must have done okeh there, but she called me a flop when it came to ironing. I didn't have much practice ironing in the Pacific."

A NEW WAY TO TOUCH HOME SOIL was worked out by sixteen Seabees on Guam. The sixteen, all South Carolinians, had one of their friends send them a box containing genuine South Carolina red earth. When it arrived they took off their shoes and shuffled luxuriously through home state earth. Then, returning the compliment, they mailed a box of Guam's soil home so that their friends could have it tested "and see what kind of gumbo we wade through out here."

AILS DROPPED BY SEABEES are not lost in the Philippines. Youngsters eagerly pick them up, then get together for a noisy crap game, with the winner carting enough nails away to start his father to work on a new house.

JAP RIFLES are bad business from either end. John F. Curley, now assigned to Camp Parks, tells of using captured Jap rifles and ammunition to shoot snakes in New Guinea. Distinctive crack of the Jap piece brought an Australian patrol into the area in a hurry, but Curley was recognized as a "Yank" before the Aussies started to open fire.

THE CROCODILE ARGUMENT - whether any Seabee unit ever ran into a sizeable number of them -- has run hot and cold over the months. Now CPO Sam Coley, who was in the Russells with the 15th, adds his voice to the affirmative. He says the 15th had more trouble with the crocodiles than with the Japs.

The Seabees got rid of the reptiles by hunting them at night from rubber life-rafts. They would use small spotlights, the Chief said, and the glare seemingly would hypnotize the crocodiles, enabling the men on the raft to draw up reasonably close before firing.

"It was ticklish work," he said. "Even after you pump a bullet right through its skull, a crocodile doesn't die for several minutes. And when its tail is thrashing around it's really dangerous."

"CURLEY THE TERN" may be a regular customer in the 117th Battalion's chow line-especially on fish days. The young bird, found by a bulldozer operator while working on a waterfront project, would be a voracious fish-eater if it knew how to do its own fishing. The tern was given to Norvil M. Manning, PhMlc, who has shouldered the responsibility.

Now he's training the tern to fish for minnows in a tub of shallow water.

BETTER THAN MONEY for bartering with Filipinos in Tacloban, Seabees have learned, is "hair oil"--any liquid that smells reasonably good. According to CPhM A. B. Roth, some Seabees started to trade shaving lotion for souvenirs.

"The natives smell the lotion and say: 'hmm, sweet...good hair oil,'" Roth says, "and soon a deal is made to the satisfaction of all concerned."

STATESIDE

INTERNATIONAL VETERANS' ORGANIZATION has been proposed by U.S. State Dept. consultant Alfred M. Lillienthal.

Lillienthal, formerly attached to the Army's civil affairs division, said the council could be established under the Economic and Social Council of the international peace charter being drafted at San Francisco.

LARGEST WHEAT CROP in United States history is indicated on the basis of June 1 reports, with prospects of 1,085,000,000 bushels. As an answer to wartime needs, total volume of all crops is expected to be well above average, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

60,000 DEFERMENTS heretofore given to key industrial workers 26 through 29, will be lifted within the next few months, the Associated Press reported. The 60,000 will come from an estimated 350,000 men of that age classification now classed as "irreplaceable."

IT'S NEWS AT HOME...that war needs have reduced the supply of beans in BOSTON, MASS., to the point where commission merchants say there isn't a bean to be bought....that in SPOKANE, WASH., they're building a high pitched whistle that will drive the pigeons out of the county court house. First whistle built drove dogs and cats frantic, but pigeons were unaffected....that somebody near MARSHALL, TEXAS, has been tying oiled rags to buzzards' tails, touching matches to them, and making flying fire bombs out of them...that a photographer in IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, couldn't mail out pictures to a client in FORT HALL because of a poorly written address, so he pasted the guy's picture on the letter. It reached himthat after 17 years in college, 66-year old Mrs. H.J. Hartzell of CLEVELAND, OHIO, was graduated from Cleveland College of Western Reserve University... that more than 800 Missouri families hurried to high ground when flood waters swept over their residences at VALLEY PARK, PACIFIC, POPLAR BLUFF and areas of BUTLER county.....

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS..that at WHITE PLAINS N.Y., a proposal has been made to supplement the \$4,000,000 Westchester County airport with a system of eleven municipal fields...that the hotel room shortage in NEW YORK CITY has reached the critical stage, and that some hotels have been forced to discontinue giving discounts to men in uniform.....that in ROCHESTER, N.Y., 30-year-old Sally, an elephant, became bored with zoo life, reached her trunk through her cage, and turned on water taps that flooded the joint.....Mrs. Grace Polski of MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., is waiting for a set of silverware with the initials "A.H." on each piece -- from her G.I. husband who got it from Hitler's home in Munich..... that James Augustus Cooper was married in RACINE, WIS. for the third time -- He's 101, and his bride is 62.....Governor Earl Warren signed a law in SACRAMENTO that will enable CALIFORNIA businessmen who go broke to draw, under certain conditions, unemployment insurance up to \$20 a week.....

AND IT'S STILL MORE NEWS....that Melvin Martynn Jr., 5-year-old son of a Seabee, wrote his newspaper in PHILADELPHIA, PA., that "my father is fighting overseas for justice and peace. My mother put a tent up for me to play in, but somebody stole it. Whoever took it please bring it back and make me happy again."and that out in DES MOINES, IOWA, the police department is investigating to learn if one of its patrolman sold snake meat for eel. One of his customers complained: "I boiled it for a long time, and it would not get done, so I tried to fry it. It bounced all over the pan."

SHOP TALK

IMPORTANT NEW REGULATIONS governing the publication of all Navy newspapers and periodicals appear in the 31 May issue of the Navy Department Semi-monthly Bulletin.

These regulations may affect your publication and should be carefully studied. They cover authorization, content, cost, size, production, and distribution and establish specific standards which must be observed.

See pages 7-11 of the Bulletin, letter 45-526, "Ship and Station Newspapers, Publication of."

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF 25th Special's "Stevie Seabee" carried a reprint of paper's first page one, a collection of news headlines of the year, and a page of congratulations from everyone on the base, from the captain down. From the SNS, comes another.

MORE NEWS FOR PACIFIC SERVICEMEN, is plea of 118th's "Pillar News."

"We are out of touch," paper says. "The one thing we don't get enough of, not nearly enough of, is news - just plain up-to-date news about what is happening elsewhere."

"For information about developments in the States, on the war fronts, in all the countries of the world, we haven't seen anything as good as "Guinea Gold,"...4-page tabloid put out by the Australian Army for their men in New Guinea....It is flown from Port Moresby daily to bases in New Guinea and near by islands.

"The amount of paper used thereby is a tiny fraction of that in the three-month-old newspapers which arrive here from the States by individual subscription and are discarded after a hasty glance at the ancient history entombed in their columns. The staff which puts out "Guinea Gold" is ridiculously small, but it serves troops within a thousand-mile radius.

"If the Aussies can do it, we can do it better. Why don't we?"

(Editor's Note: A new Navy paper, to be published on Guam, is now under consideration. This might be the answer.)

"ALL HANDS" is the new name of the long established BuPers Information Bulletin, monthly magazine. Re-naming came as a move to impress on all hands that the familiar blue-titled magazine is actually for all hands.

THE BULLPEN

INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL is the goal of Ray Dumont, president of the National Baseball Congress. If Ray has his way, America's national pastime will become the world's favorite sport. Godfather and sponsor for the nation's sandlot and semipro teams, Dumont's NBC is the mouthpiece for all non-pro baseball, staging 48 yearly state tournaments, capped by a national wind-up at Wichita, Kansas.

At present, Dumont's world campaign calls for a congress of 32 national, republic and territorial champions, all to battle in the United States annually for the world's non-pro title.

BASEBALL FIRED from 75-mm cannon was caught by Ian Brokaw, billed on War Loan show at Shibe Park as "the most courageous man in the world".

A six-man gun crew aimed the field piece directly at a small target just over the head of the stunt man, 110 feet away. Although a light charge was used, officer in charge of gun crew estimated the ball traveled twice as fast as the best pitcher could throw it.

FLAT ON HIS BACK and being counted out, Tommy Keene, Connecticut welterweight, still emerged as the victor. The referee gave him the duke over his opponent when the bell at the end of the sixth and final round interrupted the count.

IN THE ARMY NOW is Yankee outfielder Johnny Lindell. Johnny will always be remembered as the Yankee whose play was the turning point in the 1943 World Series--when he kicked the ball out of the glove of Third Baseman Whitey Kurovski of the Cardinals in a slide into the bag, reminding the Cards that the Yankees always play the game for keeps.

DISA AND DATA:...Bringing Hoop Jr., home first in the Kentucky Derby gave Jockey Eddie Arcaro his third winner in the annual Run for the Roses. Only two other jockeys, Earl Sande and Issac Murphy, have scored triples in the 70-year history of the race...."Loyal" Dodger fan accused Lippy Durocher of slugging him because he "chided" the Dodger's manager for the way he ran team. Fan said he became disgusted when "the Bums" permitted the last-place Phillies to score four runs in the ninth inning, almost tying the score in game eventually won by Brooklyn, 8 to 7. Fan is in hospital; Durocher, and special patrolman accused of helping him, out on bail....First pitcher in the AL to become 10-game winner is Russ Christopher of last-place Athletics.... Yankees stopped Dave Ferris, cking out 3 to 2 victory to snap Red Sox's rookie star hurler's 8-game winning streak....Byron Nelson took Canadian Golf Open, worth \$2,000, with a 72-hole score of 268, 20 under par for the 4-day affair....The first triple dead heat for place in New England racing and the eleventh in the history of the sport occurred in the seventh race at Suffolk Downs. June 12..... Jeff Heath, husky Indians' outfielder, ended his holdout status by signing his '45 contract with the Tribe....