

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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WASHINGTON REPORTS

**JAPS ARE DEAD BUT
THEY WON'T LIE DOWN,**
is consensus of military leaders in discussing progress of war. Prognosticators are squeamish about going on the record with probable time limits, but six to sixteen months as a rough estimate appears to find approval with all but the most pessimistic. Important reservation, made by all except strongest exponents of air power, is that Japs won't curl up except under actual invasion of home islands.

Marine Lt. Gen. Roy S. Geiger declared last week:

"We could invade Japan anytime we want to. It is just a question of wading in and finishing this war."

It would be necessary to go into Japan, he said, but overwhelming superiority of American personnel and equipment would make it impossible for the Japanese to repulse an invasion.

Seventh Fleet's commander, Vice Adm. T.C. Kinkaid, agreed the Nips are all washed up. "The Japs already have been licked," he said. "It is simply a matter of closing it out."

The pay-off is going to be an explosion of Allied military power on the Japanese homeland, he indicated. "I've got a one-track mind: get ahead of Tokyo and keep going," he declared. "We don't want bases any farther away from Japan than those we now possess. We've got the Japanese under heavy pressure now, and if we keep that pressure on so that they cannot regain their balance, the war will end sooner than it would otherwise."

Slightly more conservative, but still far more optimistic than have been most Navy estimates in the past, was Vice Adm. Mark Mitscher's summary of the outlook. He said the Japs are crippled, but he doubts that they'll quit. Their Navy has been virtually eliminated as a

fighting unit, he stated, and their naval air power is now almost no-existent. Fly in the ointment, he mused, is that the Japanese "show no indication that they will give up, even though they are being burned day after day..."

"Six months to a year"... and no "buts" about it... was strongly-worded belief of Rear Adm. Frederick C. Sherman, commander of an aircraft carrier task group. He was not in sympathy, he said, with estimates that the war might continue for 10 or 20 years. "If they don't surrender," he said, "we are going to exterminate them."

And Brig. Gen. William J. Flood, chief of staff of the Seventh Air Force, went all the way out on the limb, circling 15 months as the time to go.

"I expect the war to be over a year from next September he said, with the satisfaction of a man whose assignment is well along towards completion. Of enemy air strength, he declared:

"If they have an air force, they are hiding it."

Lt. Gen. Geiger summed up many military men's opinion of the Japanese as fighters. "They are not supermen," he told newsmen. "At heart they are cowards with an inferiority complex. They haven't nearly the stamina that we have and we can outlast them anytime. They haven't the brains we have and can't change their plans to meet changing situations.

"They have weak characters. When they get in a tight spot they commit suicide."

JAPAN'S SEAS ARE OURS, SecNav Forrestal told the nation in a radio address this week. The Navy now controls the sea right up to Japan, he announced, and in winning that control has sunk more than 250 major enemy warships and hundreds of merchant vessels and destroyed thousands of planes.

He also revealed that submarines alone had sent to the bottom of the Pacific 4,500,000 tons of Jap shipping -- the equivalent of

1,150 enemy vessels.

Speaking of the current carrier-borne strikes against Tokyo, he said:

"Remember that one thing alone makes these strikes possible -- seapower, overwhelming seapower."

"HOME OFFICE" has moved. Due to a shortage of space in the main Navy building, 18th and Constitution Avenue, BuDocks has moved into new quarters in Arlington. The new building, of three main wings (820 feet long, 620 feet long and 420 feet long) provides 265,000 square feet, of which 160,000 is work space. The new building is almost directly across the Potomac from the main Navy building.

COMBAT ZONES

A MONTH OF HELL off Okinawa is down on CBD 1060's logbook. The small unit, assigned to an attack transport, went through almost 100 hours of general quarters during 75 alerts or attacks by bombers and suicide planes, battled flames and damage after one suicide boat struck the ship, then remained aboard after the order was given for all unnecessary personnel to abandon ship.

The ship was saved. Detachment 1060 came out without casualty and with an "exemplary conduct" under fire citation by their OinC, Lt. L. E. West, CEC. Six men received commendations.

In the words of the OinC--"during the month there were seventy-five separate alarms, which totaled nearly 100 hours at general quarters. During the day, a 15 minute attack meant the loss of about an hour. At night, the loss of sleep caused by incessant air attacks became a serious problem. The men would work all day and spend most of the night at general quarters or catching cat naps in cramped positions under gun platforms. Near the end of the operation, several men were suffering from combat fatigue."

Twenty-three action-filled days after the suicide boat struck the ship, a Kamikaze was shot down 40 yards off the starboard beam and its wreckage showered the transport. Wing of the plane crashed over the gunwale and the motor crashed into a pontoon warping tug alongside the ship, setting it afire.

Maurice Waling, CCM and Trilby H. Butler, SF1c, went overside to battle the flames.

Through all of it, three men from 1060 were on duty each night on small boat patrols guarding against suicide boats and suicide swimmers. Other members of the unit were assigned to damage control stations.

Those commended by Lt. West at the conclusion of the operation were: Thomas J. Crowther, MoMM1c, Charles Grimm, MoMM1c, Homer L. Hampton, CM2c, Gregory H. Fitz, MM2c, Ladislaus Tomozewski, SF2c, Trilby H. Butler, SF1c and Chief Waling.

SIXTY-FOUR ALERTS in a single month were endured by the 20th Battalion. Six were daytime affairs, 58 came at night; shortest was 15 minutes. Battalion perimeter guard also had its hands full driving off Japs infiltrating bivouac and dump areas at night. To complete a busy 30 days, members of the outfit who were unloading a transport when it was hit by a suicide plane manned fire fighting apparatus and, according to an official report, "saved the ship from destruction by fire."

40TH BATTALION emerged from attacks by Jap knee mortars, an effort at sabotage and a Kamikaze hit on a ship carrying battalion personnel and equipment.

The transportation area apparently was a high-priority target for the mortars. Four men were slightly injured and some equipment slightly damaged. Short time later, an effort at sabotage was made on a shovel and tractor, but the damage was repaired within two hours.

Greatest over-all escape was when the suicide plane crashed the ship. Not a man was injured.

EX-POLICEMAN James L. Jackson, CM2c, of the 21st Battalion, still is on the beat, first man in his unit to capture a Jap, Jackson did it with a rock and a wrist-lock after catching the enemy soldier off guard as he made his way through the brush.

44TH ENCOUNTERED ENEMY ACTION, with personnel being subjected to bombing, strafing, shelling and airborne attack that cost the life of one officer and seriously wounded another.

Lt. G. W. Rasque, CEC, was killed and Lt. G. T. Dean, CEC, was wounded when they went to the aid of wounded Marines during a shelling attack that ripped into an area where a survey and reconnaissance party was taking topography from an airfield site.

JAP STRAGGLERS have kept life from becoming monotonous for the 90th Battalion. One enemy soldier was killed by a member of the 90th's demolition crew while searching for duds and land mines. He found the Jap hiding between empty oil drums. Two were killed by sentries near guard posts, another surrendered from behind a pile of boxes by waving a white rag. Three escaped gunfire of sentries.

SERVICE BASES

SEARCH FOR ARCTIC OIL has written one of the most dramatic chapters in Seabee history. First detailed report on the achievements of 200 men and officers, handpicked for hardiness and oil drilling experience, was given by Capt. Bart W. Gillespie, CEC, USNR, to a U. S. Senate committee investigating national oil reserves.

The Seabees, mostly Aleutian campaign vets, explored Naval Petroleum Reserve No. Four, a bleak, windswept, snow-laden area of 35,000 square miles at north tip of Alaska.

After readying the expedition (for a

year's stay) in the phenomenal time of six weeks, the Seabees set out in July 1944 aboard two ships which also carried 8,200 long tons of freight, eight times the weight required by a standard polar exploration expedition. The goal was a vital one -- to find oil for the U. S. to replenish diminishing resources.

With Point Barrow as a primary base, the Seabees moved on into treacherous ice fields. PBY's flying above signalled the best passages. When the expedition arrived, ice floes prevented building of docks or use of ramps. Instead, LCM's and pontoon barges unloaded the ships as they lay three and four miles off-shore. Meanwhile air communications were established as soon as "beacons could clear runways. Warehouses, shelter, and galley followed. More cargo, from down flakes to a B-8 tractor, arrived by air.

Cape Simpson, 80 miles from Point Barrow, and Umiat, 180 miles by air and 301 as the expedition had to travel, were the real oil objectives.

Results: (1) oil reserves Seabees are now unearthing may prove of immense value, (2) with help of Army and Navy aerial support and Alaska Communications System, the area now has strategically located airfields, (3) not a man was killed or seriously injured during the entire exploration! And not a single piece of machinery was seriously damaged, lost or abandoned.

SUICIDE PLANE AND LIVE BOMB were twin objectives of volunteers who boarded the Liberty ship Josiah Spelling as she rode at anchor in San Francisco Bay this week.

The plane and its unexploded 800-pound bomb had plunged into a cargo of lumber and cement when the ship was hit at Chinawa a few weeks earlier. The vessel returned home for repairs without knowing it was carrying a live bomb. The missile was discovered by an inspection party in San Francisco and was removed by a naval bomb disposal squad and a volunteer crew of 15 Seabees. Seabees' names have not yet been disclosed.

ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT STILL USABLE AND INTACT, after two years of hard usage from Guadalcanal to the Philippines, is part of the achievement record of the 52nd Battalion. In that time it had seen service at Guadalcanal, Emirau Island in the St. Matthias Group, Manus and the Philippines.

The battalion performed duties ranging from a remarkable job of malaria control on Guadalcanal on a major scale to the establishment on Emirau of camps, shops and warehouses for aviation personnel and highway and taxiways, together with port facilities and other installations. On Manus the battalion, says an official report, "engaged in the widest variety of construction and maintenance in its history." The battalion's equipment was so cared for during these travels, and against every caprice of tropical climate, that throughout, the official report goes on, there was only "nominal equipment loss."

"The original equipment was kept in ser-

vice from the first landing on Guadalcanal until the battalion left Manus for the Philippines."

For example at Manus, the battalion's sawmill equipment, milled more than a million board feet of lumber in six months.

In Manila on 8 April the battalion began erection of a camp between Nichols and Nielson Fields near the South Manila suburb of Pasay. Another major project was construction of Seventh Fleet Headquarters on a 40 mile site.

FISH, PIGS, AND HOMING PIGEONS are a few of the varied interests of CBMU's 536 and 537. The two maintenance units operate a "fish camp" fifty miles from their main base which supplies them with from 800 to 1,000 pounds of fresh fish weekly during the "off" season, own 16 homing pigeons they use for communications between the fish camp and the base, and, in addition, operate a farm project which includes 24 head of hogs. Farm's produce also makes a welcome addition to the standard menu: last month's harvest included 5,680 ears of fresh sweet corn, 700 pounds of cucumbers, and 800 pounds of radishes.

GUAM'S PITI POWER PLANT, after a four-year interruption, including three years in Japanese possession, is being completed by Seabees. Shell of the big (74 x 84) concrete, bomb-proof building was about in same condition as it was when 100 or more workers for the Pacific Naval Air Base contractors left it when they were captured by the invading Japs early in December 1941. All equipment--bulldozers, cranes, shovels and compressors, was shipped off to help build other Jap bases. They even stripped lumber from the forms to help build pillboxes, but did virtually nothing on the building itself using it for ammunition storage.

Investigation shortly after American re-occupation in July of 1944 disclosed completion of the plant would be far less difficult than to start a new one. Engineers under Commodore W.O. Hiltabidle's Fifth Seabee Brigade, Pearl Harbor was contacted for generators; BuDocks was asked for complete plans on the plant--drawn up five years before.

The bomb proof design was abandoned in the interest of time and economy. Forty-five ton diesels came from Hawaii by LST, were dragged along by bulldozers in tandem, and finally placed with a 20-ton overhead crane.

As now completed, the plant consists of two 500-kw diesel engine generators with provision for two more 700-kw units in the immediate future.

SODA POP comes to the 107th Battalion through the courtesy -- and ability -- of CSF John E. Lerch who assembled a dispensing unit after he discovered a supply of carbon dioxide gas.

Lerch got a speed reducer from a Jap searchlight, two oxygen tanks from a grounded B-24, hosing from a beached landing craft, a power unit from a damaged electric saw, and improvised a piston pump from scrap brass.

His plant carbonates 60 gallons of water per hour. Plus syrup, that provides an hourly drink production of 768 ten ounce glasses.

FIFTEEN CHAPELS built mostly by volunteer Seabee labor now serve religious needs of Navy men in the Admiralties. Construction of first chapel--dedicated exactly one year after invasion--was directed by Cmdr. Richard F. Armknecht, CEC, USN, and designed by Seabee engineers who also supervised work of volunteer construction crews, including many native Melanesians.

THE FLEET NAVY

U.S. DESTROYERS have "established an impressive war record for their endurance, versatility and fighting ability," according to a resume of destroyer activity compiled by International News Service. Cited specifically was the record of the Fletcher, which has covered more than 200,000 miles in two and a half years of war. The article tabulated U. S. destroyer losses in this war at 65.

FAST FLIGHT DEPARTMENT: The Navy's new Corsair, going into Pacific action for the first time, downed a Jap plane in two minutes. The gullwinged Chance Vought F-4U-4 is capable of 450 miles an hour and is described by Marine pilots as "one of the most powerful single-seated fighters in the world."

And across the world in Germany, Americans have found a new German plane with propellers fore and aft which "easily runs away from our fastest fighters." It did not see action and was nearing the production line stage when the war ended. U. S. pilots, flight-testing it, said it showed 350 miles an hour at 19,000 feet using only the nose engine.

UNHARMED SECTIONS of two torpedo-blasted ships were welded together to form a complete new fighting unit which already is back in service, Navy has revealed.

Two destroyer escorts, the Menges and the Molder, were hit in separate actions, the Menges in the stern and the Holder amidships. Emergency repairs permitted both to be towed to the New York Navy Yard where the two keels were aligned. After correcting a difference of 1½ inches in the two hulls, the two "half ships" were joined together to form the new Menges.

NAVY PBM MARINER won surface engagement with Jap tug and barge off Borneo. Pilot spotted camouflaged Jap craft at water's edge, hidden under tall jungle trees which prevented successful low-level bombing and strafing attacks. Landing his flying boat, the pilot taxied back and forth, allowing his gunners to work over the Jap ships. Barge and tug were sunk and the PBM took off to continue its mission.

RIDDLED BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE over Singapore, a crippled Navy B-24 Liberator search plane set a new record for three-engine over-water flight by struggling more than 1000 miles to its home base. The plane, piloted by Lt. Frank H. Cutaiar, of Kennett Square, Pa., sank a Jap transport before being hit.

WHAT THEY SAY

LONG HOURS, MONOTONY AND ISOLATION constitute another enemy the Seabees have overcome, says Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, CEC, USN, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, in a signed article in the current Cleveland Building Trades Journal.

"Not all Seabees are in front line Construction Battalions," the Admiral explains to the building trades craftsmen. "Some are at work on rear bases which, though essential to the flow of supplies to the fighting front, do not provide much excitement or stimulus to the men who enlarge and maintain them."

The "tough battle" the maintenance units fight, the Admiral says, "is one for which there is far too little applause."

TSUSHIMA, a 40-mile-long island "ten times as strong a Gibraltar," was identified as one of the Allies' next objectives by Lt. Col. Timothy A. McNery, speaking in New York City as the personal representative of Undersecretary of War Patterson.

The island would provide a jumping-off place in the Strait of Korea, Col. McNery said, about 60 miles from either the Korean mainland or the Japanese island of Kyushu.

MORE AIRFIELDS ON OKINAWA "than ever were squeezed on any patch of land its size in the world" were promised by Commodore Andrew Bisset, CEC, USN, Commander of Seabee and Army Engineer Construction forces on the island, according to an article copyrighted by the N.Y. Tribune.

Although hampered by a lack of supplies and equipment plus three weeks of rain during the early stages, construction work now is progressing rapidly.

"We have built over 200 miles of permanent coral-surfaced highways," reported Commodore Bisset. "We are improving and dredging anchorages and harbors and building airfields at a swift pace, working 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

"The men have been told of the urgency of their task, know we've got to get this work done as soon as possible. They are going 'all out.'"

More praise for the builders came from Army Major Gen. Fred C. Wallace, Island Commander, who expressed confidence that all construction deadlines will be met despite the fact that plans have been changed and the size of the job has been magnified as the possibilities of the island became more apparent.

"GOODBY, SURIBACHI" is Seabee theme song on Iwo Jima, according to Gordon Cobbledick, press association newsman. "The summit isn't there anymore," he wired home, explaining how the Seabees had cut off the peak's top to create a flat plateau on which military installations could be erected.

"No mountain and no valley is safe when the Seabees are around, and the Seabees are

around here in force," he said. "Aided and abetted by a group of aviation engineers, they had transformed this bleak, barren rock in the space of a few weeks into one of the most useful American bases in the Pacific."

Cobbledick described how the Seabees had lengthened, widened, and resurfaced the three air strips originally built by the Japanese. One strip, he said, "the one on which most of the B-29 traffic lands, is 2 miles long."

TWENTY-FIVE MILES OF RUNWAYS on Okinawa will speed final all-out air assault on Japan, Col. George Mayo, Air Engineer, Army Air Forces, stated this week. Airfield construction on Okinawa, he declared, would be "the greatest concentration of military engineering effort ever seen in the world."

Smallest of the airfields will handle twice as much traffic as New York's LaGuardia Field.

Plans call for enough heavy duty roads paved with coral to equal a highway from Boston to Richmond, Va.

Soon "we shall see twice as many aviation engineers in the Pacific as ever served in the European and Mediterranean theaters combined," Mayo said.

BELITTLING JAPS' ABILITY to create so-called "super weapons," Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher said Japan's much-vaunted super weapon probably is a gun that shoots men instead of bullets. The commander of famed Task Force 58 also said the Jap suicide-bombing was nothing new in bombing technique and asserted that the Marines could land on Japan proper any time the signal was given.

HORROR OF FILARIASIS, dreaded disease of tropical warfare, has been exploded by research, according to a press release issued by the Navy's Department of Public Information. Early in the war, filariasis was confused generally with the more fearful, disfiguring disease of elephantiasis. Now, through research conducted at the Marine Barracks, Klamath Falls, Ore., fears have been proved for the most part a myth, the release says. Findings are based on a total of 2,219 of the "worst" filariasis patients. Ninety-two per cent have been returned to full active duty.

Research showed filariasis will impair a man's health for as much as a week at a time; it produces an uncomfortable feeling and low spirits. It cannot be caught from another person. It will not permanently impair health. It does not produce sterility. It offers no danger of epidemic to families in this country.

BRITAIN'S EXISTENCE and its alliances in the Far East are at stake in the war against Japan, warns the London Times.

While pointing out that "no one could be much blamed" for the lack of attention in the Far East because of the war against Germany and the recent election issues, the newspaper said:

".....the time has come to make amends. The war in the Far East is a trial test for our Empire and for our alliances."

"WELL DONE"

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION was awarded to twenty-one Seabee members of Navy Combat Demolition Units

Assault Force "U", for "outstanding heroism in action against enemy German forces during the landing on the coast of Normandy, 6 June 1944 (D-Day).

Among those authorized to wear the unit commendation ribbon were: CEM John E. Flynn and CSF Virgil A. Hartshorn, now with the 148th Battalion; Daniel S. Tillman, Jr., BM2c, now with the 128th Battalion; Walter A. Beggs, CM2c, now with the 25th Battalion; Paul E. Thomas, SF1c, now with the 18th Battalion; and Edward Reinle, CM1c, Dennis W. Shryock, GM2c, and Richard R. Welch, SF2c, all at NCTC, Davisville.

Of the others, nine are attached to USNATB Ft. Pierce, three are with an Underwater Demolition Unit, and one is at Jacksonville (Fla) Naval Hospital.

THE 115TH AND 122ND BATTALIONS have had the "well done" signal from Commodore W. M. Angus, of the Commander Service Force, Seventh Fleet.

To the 115th, he said: "Ability to meet target dates in constructing important facilities under adverse conditions and whole-hearted spirit of cooperation have distinguished this unit."

To the 122nd: "Projects assigned to this battalion during the construction of advance bases in New Guinea and the Philippines have been marked by excellent workmanship."

BRAVERY, EFFICIENCY AND COOPERATION during recent assault operations earned officers and men of the 70th Pontoon Battalion commendations and praise from various Army and Navy officers.

Among those commended were Lt. Matthew B. Jamin, CEC, USNR; Lt. Joseph S. Dorfman, CEC, USNR; Ensign Paul W. Cameron, CEC, USNR; Chief Carp. Howard J. Hicks and his detachment of 24 Seabees, assigned duty aboard a repair ship; Carp. Lester O. Larson; H.L. Williams, SF2c, and M. E. Young, S1c.

Another officer, Ensign Edward F. Lobacz, CEC, USNR, received a commendation for action during the Iwo Jima operation. The officer was aboard the first and only LST to beach on D-Day plus one.

FROM 8TH FLEET COMMANDER has come a commendation to Chief Carp. Lyonel V. Margolies, CEC, USNR, for "resourcefulness and unremitting efforts (which) ... were in large measure responsible for making available to aircraft ... the base from which an intensive and successful campaign was conducted against enemy submarine activities off the coast of French Morocco and in the approaches to the straits of Gibraltar." He was OinC of a unit of the 120th at the time.

LT. ANDREW J. RILEY, CEC, now a member of the 128th Battalion, returned from a successful Pacific operation to be presented with a Bronze Star for heroic performance of duty in Sicily. He already holds the Legion of Merit for action in the ETO.

Also decorated by Rear Admiral Carl H. Cotter as a result of Normandy operations was Edward E. Weston, BM1c, who received the Presidential Unit citation ribbon with star for underwater demolition.

THREE CORPSMEN attached to the 67th Battalion have been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism by entering "an area where heavy explosions were occurring and rescued and rendered first aid to wounded."

The three were: Wesley Barr, CPhM, Carmine Frank Malanka, HAlc, and Forrest Richard Weekley, PhM2c.

SATH CONTRIBUTED TWO YEARS of "outstanding performance," including two operations in the forward areas which "were carried out under continued enemy attacks during the early stages of construction" Captain W. Mack Angas, CEC, USN, stated in a commendation given at the time he was serving as Commander Construction Forces, "X" Fleet.

DECORATIONS AND A CITATION came to officers formerly attached to the 302nd Battalion for action in four Pacific operations. The Legion of Merit went to Lt. Comdr. J. J. McGaraghan, Bronze Stars to Lt. J.A. Bold and Lt. Kent MacDonald and a citation to Lt. Comdr. E. P. Littlejohn.

"INITIATIVE, INDUSTRY, and desire to perform helpful work for the benefit of the ship has been exemplary," said the CO of an LST, commending a Seabee team assigned to his vessel on temporary duty.

"My respect for the Seabees and the excellent job they are doing has been even further increased by my association with these men," he said.

The team comprised 22 enlisted men and one chief carpenter from the 128th Battalion.

"FYI"

V-BOMBS WOULD NOT PROFIT JAPS, even if Nazis had turned over secrets to them, in opinion of German research workers who developed V weapons. Japs don't have technical ability to put them to use, they say.

Enemy research men revealed Germans had nine V weapons, in various stages of development. They were: V-1, the buzz bomb; V-2, the rocket; V-3, artillery rocket shell; V-4, long range torpedo; V-5, jet-propelled helicopter; V-6, rocket-firing submarines; V-7, atomic bombs; V-8, rocket or buzz bomb to be fired from submarine; V-9, not a weapon, but an instrument used in Nazi jet research. Said to have been one of the most valuable Nazi devices, it has been captured intact by the Allies.

BORNEO INVASION is drive for oil to help fuel an "estimated 11,000 planes" which the Allies have hurled into the air war against Japan, Radio Tokyo broadcast.

Other enemy broadcasts said manufacture of special weapons for the civilian corps, including "special-attack (suicide) weapons," had been started and reported that cabinet members had sampled a new "rice cake" delicacy made of sweet potato peels.

NEWEST AND MOST DESTRUCTIVE of the Army's incendiary bombs is the "ball o' fire"-- a 1100-pound missile which leaves in its wake a charred and devastated area approximately 100 yards long and 40 yards wide. Ten feet long and 28 inches in diameter, it consists of a 165-gallon tank filled with jellied gasoline and has tail fins to increase its accuracy on small area, high priority targets.

NORWAY DECLARED WAR on Japan by unanimous vote of the Norwegian parliament July 6. The declaration was made following the loss of numerous Norwegian ships in the Pacific.

UNDERSEAS WEATHER STATIONS, most ingenious of Germany's wartime inventions, defeated elaborate British censorship of weather reports all through the war. Lifting of censorship restrictions in Eire revealed ring of secret robot meteorological stations submerged in the sea at strategic points around Britain's coast flashed daily reports by short-wave to Germany permitting Nazis to plan air raids on Britain and U-boat attacks on shipping convoys.

45 PER CENT OF WORLD'S MUNITIONS was produced by U. S. in 1944 even while keeping American the "best fed--the best housed--the best clothed civilians in the world," reported WPB Chairman J.A. Krug in WPB's first annual report.

"The nation has supplied the best equipment to the largest Navy, the largest Air Force, and one of the largest Armies in the world," the report declared.

"In 1944 alone the country produced 96,-359 planes, including 16,048 heavy bombers, built 30,889 ships, 17,565 tanks, 595,330 Army trucks, and produced 3284 heavy field guns and howitzers and 7454 light ones, 152,000 Army aircraft rocket launchers, 215,177 bazookas and 1,146,774 tons of ground artillery ammunition."

Also revealed was fact arms production had climbed from 500 million dollars in 1940 to a volume ten times as great in 1944.

SEABEE OF THE WEEK

WALTER C. CASTELLO, BM2c, of the 20th Battalion.

His face and arms burned and his side peppered with shrapnel when his ship was hit by a suicide plane, Castello nevertheless dove overboard to rescue a fellow Seabee who had been blown off the deck by the blast.

He has been recommended for an appropriate award.

FOR THE BOOK

WHALE-FISHING PARTY in which he was the only white man among 200 Eskimos provided exciting sport for

Dennis E. Shanahan, MM2c.

"We set out in about 50 kayaks," Shanahan recalled, "and everyone had a twelve-foot harpoon. Attached to each harpoon by a short line was a walrus bladder."

"We'd sneak up on an unsuspecting whale and then everyone in the armada would let go with his spear. The whale, looking like a pin-cushion with about 150 harpoons imbedded in his hide, would immediately sound. The attached inflated bladders set up a tremendous resistance, which gradually weakened him. After about twelve hours he'd surface--dead.

When a whale was towed back to the Eskimos' camp, Shanahan said, winds sometimes would drive the hulk ashore before it reached its destination. It was an almost impossible job floating the carcass once it had been grounded. "So," the Seabee declared, "Mr. Joe Eskimo went home and, instead of breaking out pipe and slippers, he had the Missus pack up the family belongings and they moved down the beach to the whale."

TOO MUCH OF A TARGET, in the opinion of some Seabees, to offer much protection during an air raid, a bulldozer nevertheless got the nod over a foxhole from at least six mates during the invasion of Mindoro.

"We were under constant air attack," recalled Carlisle C. Madison, MM1c, "and we found a cot was better than a foxhole for sleeping out the night raids. For 21 consecutive nights five mates and myself slept under my machine.

"There was only a foot of clearance above us and we were packed so tightly between the treads we had to time our breathing cooperatively. When three inhaled, the other three had to exhale. And on particularly rough nights, we got eight men underneath!"

USA BOMBED--and by American bombs But the USA means a spot on the north coast of the island of Kyushu. Most pilots and air crewmen who made the attack recalled that some years ago when the American people became indignant over the flood of cheap Japanese trinkets pouring into the American market; took steps to halt the practice. But the Japs merely changed the trademark--made it read "made in USA"--but they meant USA, Kyushu.

NAVY SHORE PATROLMAN Howard D. Whitescarver has been traveling 400,000 miles for the Navy since November of 1942, but he hasn't been aboard a ship or even seen the ocean.

The most-traveled SP came to Washington to receive a special citation along with a group of other SPs and MPs for their work in aiding the nation's transportation on trains.

Sgt. Albert Rose, the Army's most-traveled MP, has 341,000 miles to his credit, and has yet to make his first arrest of a soldier for violence.

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME... that in PORTLAND, ME., Mrs. Edwina Hammond asked a divorce because her husband

made her live in a chicken coop... that in SEATTLE, WASH., the Chamber of Commerce has started a politeness campaign among cab drivers, policemen, waiters, hotel clerks and others who are the first to greet travelers... that in ST. MARY'S, VA., a deer recently hove into town, nipped at the hedge in a physician's front yard, strolled two blocks along Main St. and then hit for the timber again... that in BOSTON, MASS., thieves broke into a Boston tailor shop, stole only the trousers belonging to 40 suits....

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS... that in DETROIT, MICH., a judge gave Adam Rozewicz 30 days to catch up on his sleep. Rozewicz was sleeping in the middle of Michigan Ave., and complained on being awakened that he was a taxpayer and could sleep there if he liked... that in YONKERS, N. Y., a cafe owner hoisted a sign: "Out of meat, out of sugar, out of points, out of patience and out of town. See you July 9." ... that in NIAGARA FALLS, William "Red" Hill made his trip through the falls in a barrel to get money for a memorial to his dad, who performed the feat years ago. The take was \$301.04 from a crowd of from 100,000 to 300,000... that at WILLIAMSTOWN, N. J., James Amarosa started to the beach, was fined \$20 for speeding on the way out and \$50 for speeding on the way back... that in BUFFALO, N. Y., William F. O'Brien was arrested for impersonating an FBI agent in an effort to get a railroad travel permit....

AND IT'S STILL MORE NEWS... that in HOLYOKE, MASS., Mrs. Eric Reed lost a diamond from her ring and found it four months later imbedded in the heel of her shoe... that in BANGOR, ME., 15-year-old Paul Jaffarian arrived after hitchhiking 4000 miles across country on \$4.51 because he was homesick... that in WASHINGTON, D. C., the War Department named Cpl. Chester J. Barrett of CONCORD, N. H., as the soldier with the most children--12, so the family draws \$300 a month; the Navy came forward with 50-year-old Roman L. Springer, S1c, WINONA, MINN., who has 14 children....

SHOP TALK

"GO AHEAD" FOR NAVY PAPER has been given by SecNav Forrestal.

New daily, "Navy News," will be published in the Marianas and the Philippines at first, other editions as approved by BuPers.

In an A1Nav to officers and men assigned to the newspaper Sec. Forrestal said, in part:

"You should seek to answer three questions: 'How are the folks back home?' 'What's going on in the rest of the world?' 'What's going on around here?' Answer them honestly.

"In doing so, be original. Listen to what your readers talk about... Find out what they want in a newspaper and give it to them."

Not bad advice for any editor.

SPEED IN GETTING THE NEWS HOME is being stressed by Navy Office of Public Information. Pictures of the landing at Iwo were in print in papers in the U. S. 17½ hours after H-Hour. The now famous picture of the American flag being raised on Mount Suribachi was transmitted to the States in seven minutes' time after it had been flown from Iwo to Guam and processed.

Radio photo transmission direct from shipboard at the scene of a landing is well along in the development stage. Mobile units on beachheads ashore give press and radio direct contact with communication ships off shore. This service is expected to be available direct from beaches in the Japanese home islands when the invasion takes place.

Guam is the hub of press communications activities. Four Navy teletype circuits are kept open for the exclusive use of newsmen. A radio photo circuit is also in operation.

The Navy also is providing service where commercial facilities are not available. Broadcasts were made during the bombardments of Iwo and Okinawa, as were on-the-spot accounts of aerial actions over Tokyo.

PRESS SECTION in the Navy magazine, "All Hands," singing praises of the Navy's newspapers, leads off with a half-page photo of CBMU 550's one-man circulation department at his chores. It also mentions several other Seabee publications.

"Wherever men of the Navy work and fight, commanding officers find their morale problems lightened by editors or would-be editors who willingly translate to the printed page the humor, the common experiences, the news releases radioed or airmailed to Americans hungry for some word from home," the article says.

Also pictured is a contrast---CBMU 559's well-known "The X-Isle" in process of production on a big flat-bed press manned by native printers and the 101st's "Bolts and Bullets" mechanical staff setting type by hand for multigraph cylinders.

Says "All Hands": "The Marine Corps 'Chevron' and the 'Sea Bee,' whose editorial opinion aims it at the 'guy in the double-decker bunk,' have all the punch of the metropolitan tabloids, and their staffs boast newspaper talent that would put a gleam in any editor's eye."

For the "X-Isle," the magazine had this: "But out on the lonely island in the Pacific where nine enlisted men of the CBMU 559 got out the 'X-Isle,' only one (member of the staff) had even a nodding acquaintance with a by-line."

ARMY NEWSPAPERS are being published for German civilians in the Army-occupied section of the Reich. Col. Albert L. Warner, chief of the War Department's Intelligence Division, disclosed this week that 8 to 10 anti-Nazi news sheets now are appearing regularly under Uncle Sam's sponsorship.

CANCELLATION OF HORSE RACING programs, at least until Army's redeployment is completed, may result

THE BULLPEN

from Government order prohibiting the transportation of racing animals by railroad and common or contract truck carriers.

Effective until July 1, 1946 unless modified or lifted in the meantime, the edict was issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission at the request of the Office of Defense Transportation "in order to expedite the movement of troops, materials and civilian supplies needed for the successful prosecution of the war."

Earlier ODT order forbidding civilians use of sleeping car space on trips 450 miles or less is not expected to work many hardships on sports.

Major league teams have been riding the day coaches on the short jumps for more than a year with many of the long overnight journeys eliminated by the schedule makers. Similarly the majority of minor league clubs will not be affected since most travel via bus or short-line.

Hardest hit will be the college football teams, especially those having naval trainees on the roster. The trainees are allowed from their campuses for only 48 hours at a time and usually spend Friday night traveling to the site of Saturday's game.

GAME CALLED--not on account of rain, snow, sleet, wind or darkness--but because of sunshine! It's the truth, too, reports Sgt. Red O'Donnell, a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, who witnessed the game between the 3rd Marine Division and Seabees which was called in the 9th inning with the score tied at 1-all.

It seems that the glaring sun, shining out of center field, made it impossible for the batter, catcher, and more important, the umpire, to see the ball.

The game will be continued--on the first cloudy day.

DISA AND DATA:..... The ORIGINAL CELTICS averaged 125 basketball games a season from 1921 through 1927... and carried only one sub who seldom saw service..... Toughest fight of his career, recalls Cmdr. JACK DEMPSEY, was his bout with Johnny Sudenberg in 1916. Sudenberg had Jack on the canvas nine times before Jack won by a KO in the 10th..... PETE GRAY'S success with the Browns doesn't surprise old-time baseball fans. Back in the '80s Chicago had a one-armed pitcher, HUGH DAILEY, who not only pitched a no-hitter but struck out 19 men in one game to set a record that still stands.... FRANKIE HAYES, Cleveland catcher, caught his 218th consecutive game to set a new major league record and RICK FERRELL, Senators' backstop, broke Ray Schalk's American League record when he buckled on the pads for the 1722nd time in 17 years of major league play.