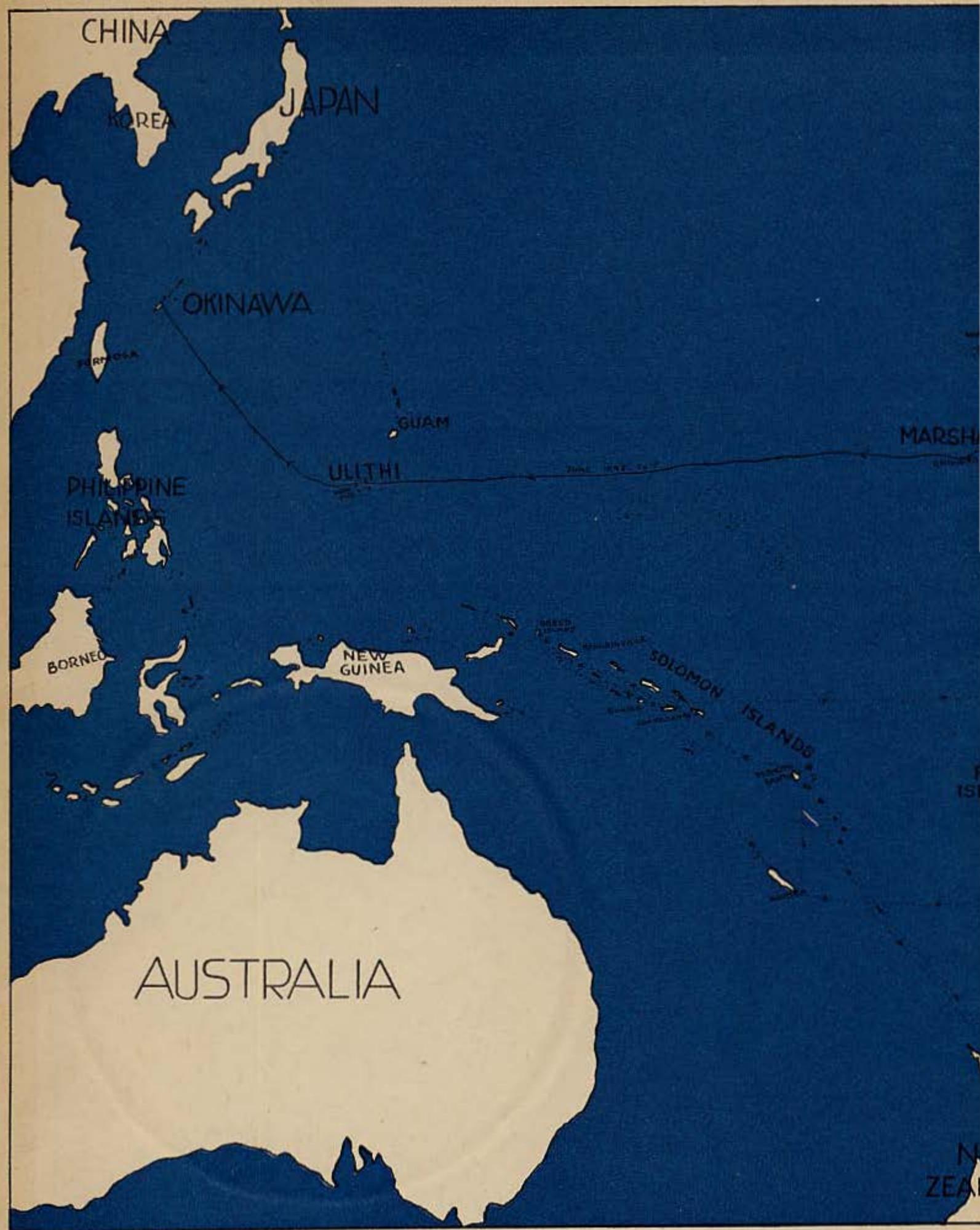


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Thomas

U.S.A.

SAN  
FRANCISCO

PALAU  
REPUBLIC

HAWAIIAN  
ISLANDS

TONGA TONGA TONGA

ANDS

RT ISLANDS

SAMOA

N

15-C.B.



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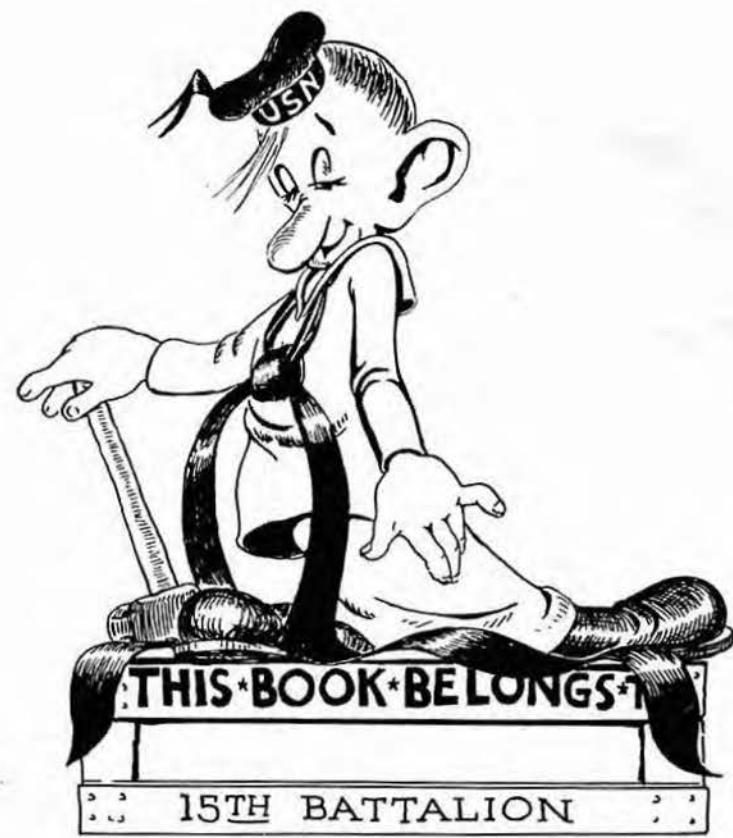
Ralph Sparks

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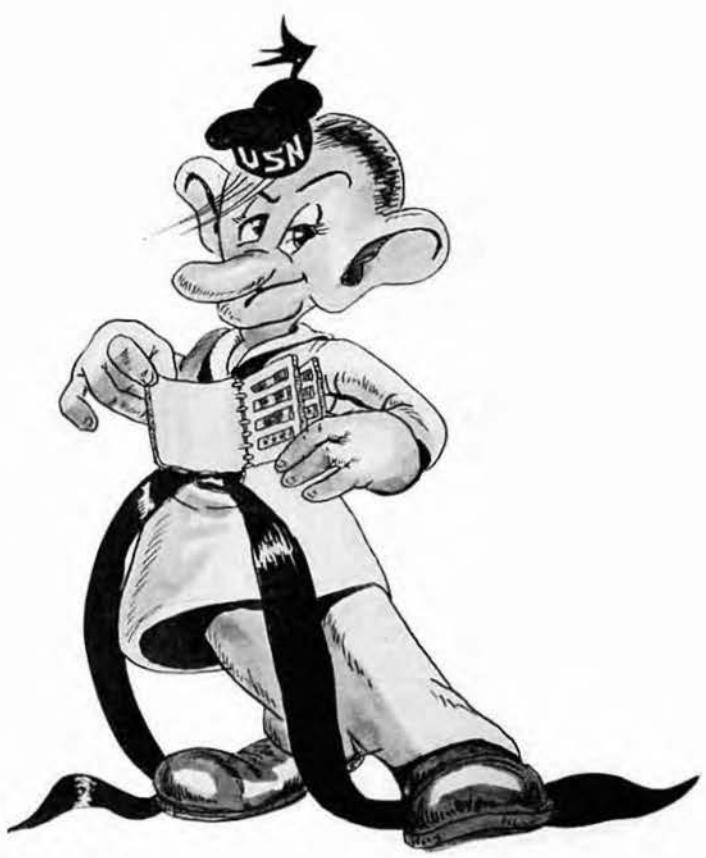
6011 AMBASSADOR DR.

TAMPA, FL. 33615

813 (884-4520)



**JUST A STONE'S THROW  
FROM  
TOKYO**



# **JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM TOKYO**

**A Pictorial Story of the 15th U. S.  
Naval Construction Battalion's Second Tour  
of Duty in the Pacific**

**Compiled and Edited By  
HOWARD A. FRIEDMAN**

**Art By  
BERGER S. FAGENSTROM**

**Photography By  
HOWARD A. FRIEDMAN  
MERRITT D. HADLEY**

# **JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM TOKYO**

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**Circulation . . . . . S. L. GRONSETH  
Advisor . . . . . CHAPLAIN F. C. FOWLER**



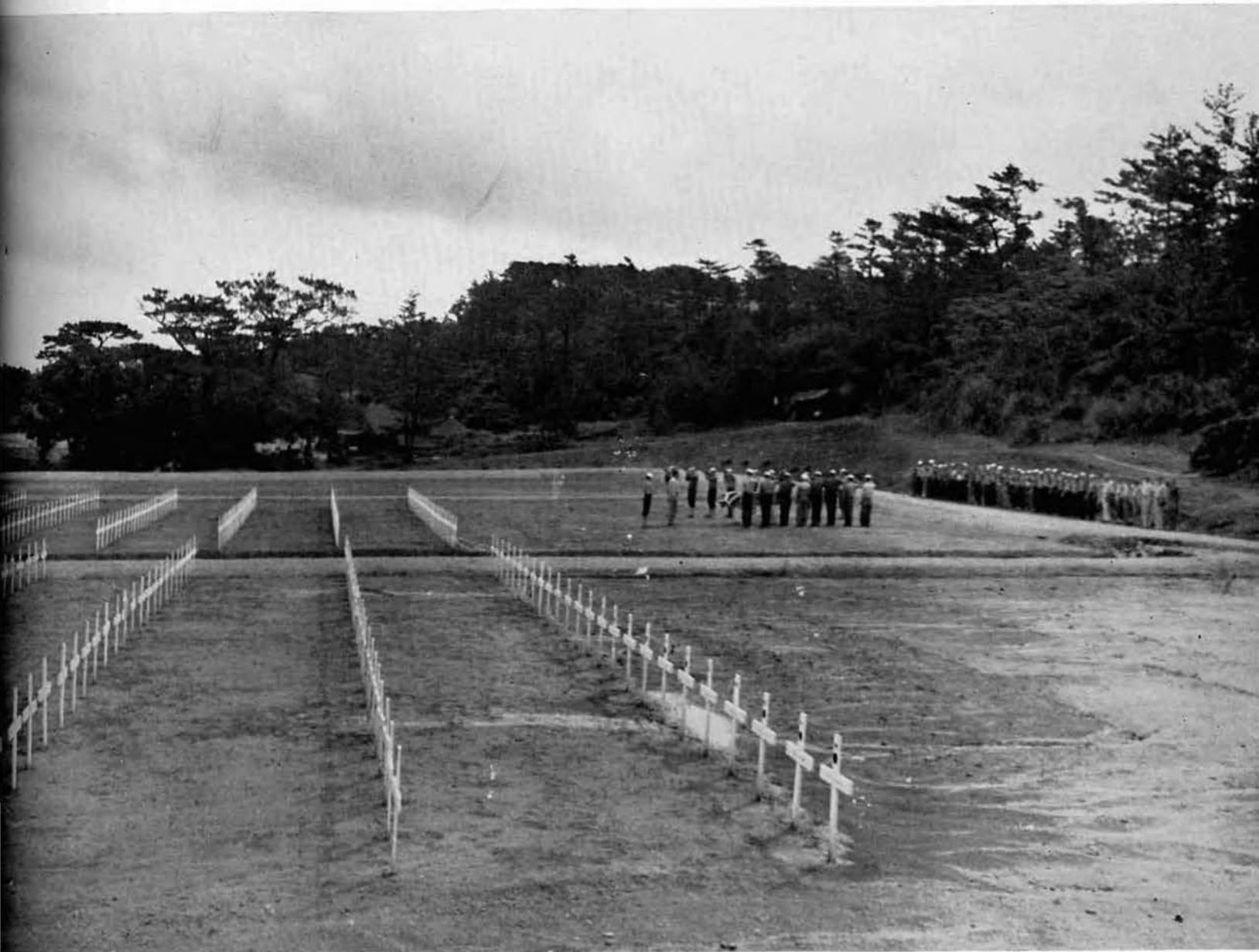
# FOREWORD

As "A Stone's Throw From Tokyo" goes to press it finds the 15th Sea Bees with many of the old faces missing from its ranks but with many new ones carrying on the tradition of a job well done on this, our last mile of the road to Tokyo.

Brief in comparison with the Battalion's first tour of duty in the South Pacific, and in a different setting; scrub pines and rice paddies instead of coconuts and jungles; Okinawans instead of Melanesians and Tonkenese, the work performed has been similar in detail and importance, and I have but the highest praise to offer for the skill and perseverance of every man in rushing this work to a gratifying conclusion.

Now, with the merciful advent of Peace and the impending de-commissioning of the 15th USNCB, may I wish "All Hands" the greatest of success in your chosen fields of endeavor and of happiness in your home lives, both of which you so richly deserve after this long period of herculean effort and of separation from families and friends. God be with you and may many of us meet again during the years to come—

T. H. BUTLER  
Lt. Comdr. CEC USNR  
Officer in Charge



*In Memoriam . . .*

**WING LIT WONG**

SEAMAN FIRST CLASS  
BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Map of Southwest Pacific.....	Inside front cover Inside back cover
INTRODUCTION .....	I-XVI
Foreword, Our Skippers, In Memorium, etc.	
CAMP PARKS, CALIFORNIA.....	1-6
CAMP ROUSSEAU, PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA.....	7-18
ENROUTE WESTWARD .....	19-44
We head for Island X once again	
HAWAII.....	32
GOLDEN DRAGON INITIATION.....	33-35
CHINA.....	45-99
The 15th C.B. at work	
PICTURE FOLIO OF OKINAWA AND TOKYO.....	100-126
BATTALION MUSTER.....	127-135
THE FINAL WORD.....	136

## ★ OUR SKIPPER ★

T. H. BUTLER

Lieutenant Commander, C.E.C., USNR



When Lieutenant Commander Butler was detached from the 15th C. B.'s just a week before the Battalion's de-activation, it was a sad day for both the Skipper and his men; for it marked the end of a memorable association that had lasted 40 months. As far as all personnel were concerned, it meant not only losing their officer in charge, but also a good friend and counselor who had acquired the fond admiration and respect of every man and officer under his command. Mr. Butler, a native of Marblehead, Mass., and educated via the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, joined the 15th C. B.'s July 1st, 1942, and became its Executive Officer. In this post, he was in charge of all construction, telephone, electrical, and refrigeration work in addition to his duties as Exec.

In November of 1943, when Commander W. S. Lee was detached due to ill health, Mr. Butler took over the reins of the Battalion and remained as Officer in Charge until September, 1945, when he was transferred to the 101st C. B.'s in a similar capacity.

Upon discharge, Lieutenant Commander Butler expects to return to his native New England and resume his position as engineer and general manager of the Granite State Electric Light and Power Company.

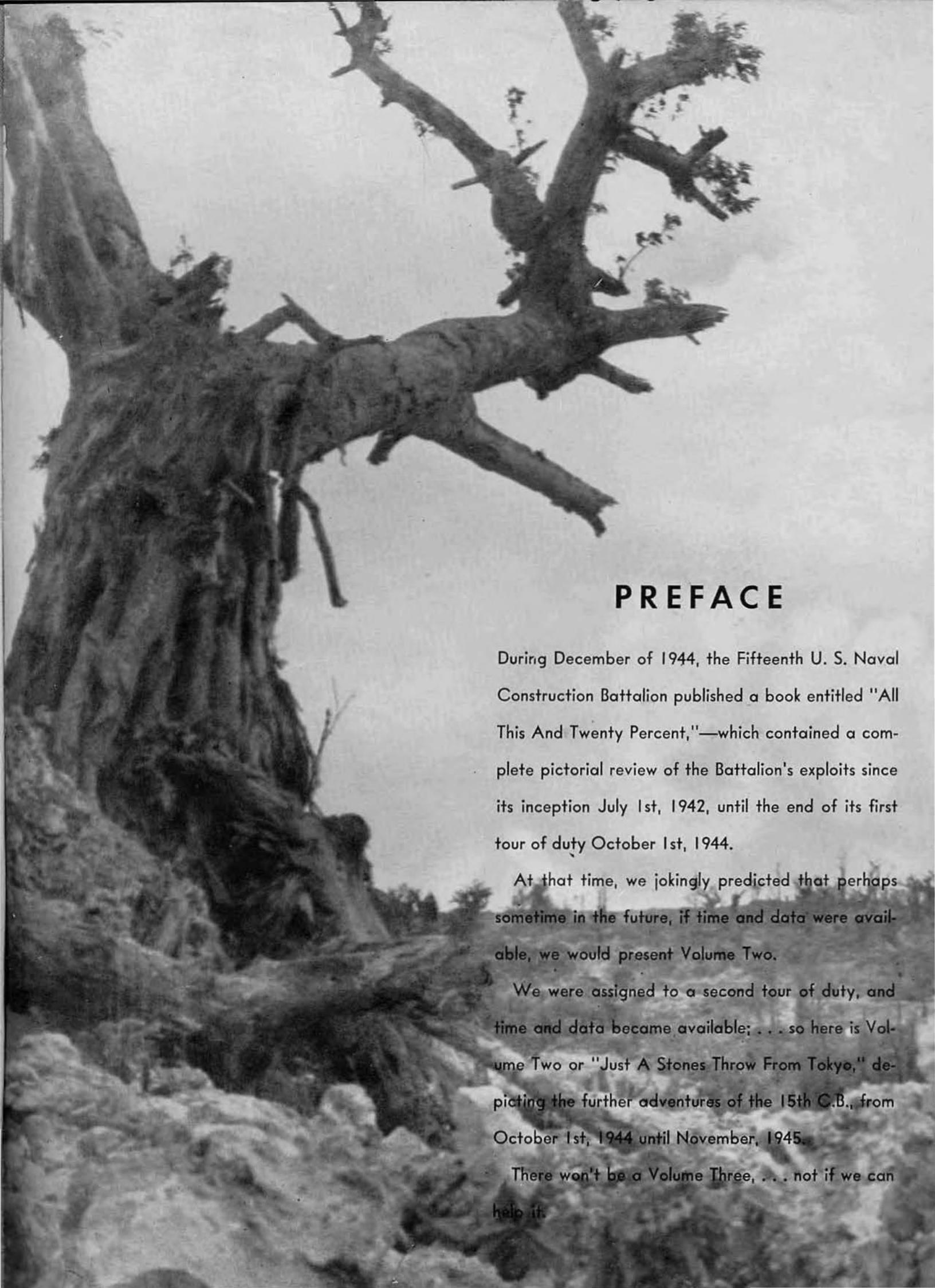
## ★ OUR EXEC ★

JOHN A. WALKER

Lieutenant Commander, C.E.C., USNR

To Mr. Walker goes the distinction of being the only officer of the original group who left the states with the 15th C. B.'s in 1942 and who was still with the Battalion when it was de-activated in October, 1945. Our well-liked, smiling, Executive Officer has held an assortment of jobs in the Fifteenth, ranging from Company A Commander in 1942 to the Commanding Officer of the Battalion during its last few weeks of activity. Graduated from Texas University, and an architect in civilian life, Mr. Walker was equipped with a practical perspective of all types of construction; hence under his supervision 15th C. B. crews erected structures that displayed good design and planning despite the barriers set up by the exigencies of war. During the Battalion's first tour of duty, Mr. Walker was Officer in Charge of the Engineering Office, First Lieutenant, Executive Officer of the Green Island detachment, and returned to the U. S. as Executive Officer to Commander Butler.





## PREFACE

During December of 1944, the Fifteenth U. S. Naval Construction Battalion published a book entitled "All This And Twenty Percent,"—which contained a complete pictorial review of the Battalion's exploits since its inception July 1st, 1942, until the end of its first tour of duty October 1st, 1944.

At that time, we jokingly predicted that perhaps sometime in the future, if time and data were available, we would present Volume Two.

We were assigned to a second tour of duty, and time and data became available; . . . so here is Volume Two or "Just A Stones Throw From Tokyo," depicting the further adventures of the 15th C.B., from October 1st, 1944 until November, 1945.

There won't be a Volume Three, . . . not if we can help it.

# FIRST TOUR OF OVERSEAS DUTY

Sept. 13th, 1942—Oct. 1st, 1944

Boarded M.S. Island Mail and departed from Oakland, Calif., Sept. 13th, 1942.  
Arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia, Oct. 5th, 1942.  
Arrived Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides Group, Oct. 13th, 1942.  
Boarded U.S.S. Pinckney and departed from Espiritu Santo, Nov. 23rd, 1943.  
Arrived Aukland, New Zealand, Nov. 28th, 1943.  
Boarded U.S.S. Rixie and departed from New Zealand, Jan. 2nd, 1944.  
Arrived Banika Island, Russells Group, Jan. 8th, 1944.  
Boarded L.S.T.'s and departed from Banika, Feb. 22nd, 1944.  
Arrived Nissan Island, Green Islands Group, Feb. 25th, 1944.  
Boarded L.S.T.'s and departed from Nissan Island, April 1st, 1944.  
Arrived Pavuvu Island, Russells Group, April 3rd, 1944.  
Boarded U.S.S. Cape Bon and departed from Russells, Sept. 9th, 1944.  
Arrived Tulagi, Florida Island, Sept. 11th, 1944.  
Arrived Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, Sept. 12th, 1944.  
Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian Islands, Sept. 25th, 1944.  
Arrived San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 1st, 1944.



# SECOND TOUR OF OVERSEAS DUTY

Boarded U.S.S. Comet and departed from Port Hueneme, Calif., June 4th, 1945.  
Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian Islands, June 12th, 1945.  
Departed from Pearl Harbor, June 20th, 1945.  
Arrived Eniwetok, Marshall Islands Group, June 28th, 1945.  
Departed from Eniwetok, June 30th, 1945.  
Arrived Ulithi Islands, Western Carolines Group, July 5th, 1945.  
Departed from Ulithi, July 10th, 1945.  
Arrived Buckner Bay, Okinawa, July 14th, 1945.  
Battalion De-Activated October 29th, 1945, on Okinawa.





. . . They'll never send us out again. Not after "sweat-in-out" 25 long months on the New Hebrides, Solomons, and Green Islands . . . After all that's a pretty long stretch of foreign duty.

. . . And so on October 1st, 1944, a weary and travel-worn Fifteenth Construction Battalion, after covering a network of some 25,000 miles and minus about 350 men, who were detached somewhere along the line due to malaria, psycho-neurosis, emergencies, etc., returned to Uncle Sugar. From now on, it would be rest, rehabilitation, good food, a few refresher courses . . . and most important, a 30-day leave.

As an Army band blared forth a medley of homecoming tunes, we packed ourselves into a fleet of plush-lined buses, and were off to Camp Parks, nestled in the

heart of the Livermore Valley, approximately 40 miles from San Francisco and Oakland. It was a thrilling and memorable ride, what with our first glimpse of stateside femininity, which was immediately greeted with a series of catcalls, hubba-hubbabs, and several other forms of modern salutations which can only be acquired during a long isolated stay on the "Islands." Parks looked like a nice camp, especially when we saw the huge sign—"Welcome 15th C. B." But, at the moment nobody cared—the "Thirty-Day Leave" was the most important event.

Three days later, on October 4th, 1944, personnel of the 15th were off to all corners of the U. S., . . . to the home they had not seen for almost two and one-half years; to children they had never seen; to wives who had

## LIVES!



## MORE LINES



enjoyed but a few scant weeks of marital bliss.

The middle of November found the Battalion reunited. Many had become espoused during the 30-day interim, while many found "Dear John" notes waiting for them at home. Already, changes had taken place at Camp Parks. Many of the veteran officers of the 15th C. B. were replaced with new and younger goldbraid. Commander Butler still remained at the helm, flanked by Lt. Walker as his Executive Officer. A group of 300 sea-

men were attached, bringing the Battalion back to full complement. The "Scuttlebutt" was hot and heavy. It seemed we were being readied for another tour of foreign duty; perhaps China or Japan.

Many of the men were sent to various schools for new up-to-date instruction on demolition, land mines, fire-fighting, heavy equipment operation, etc.

There were lighter moments too. Liberty was good if you could get to San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland,





MR. AND MRS. MAX McGREW



MR. AND MRS. RAY HARDIN

or San Mateo. More time was spent waiting in line to get a bus to town and then waiting again to get a bus back to camp, than was actually spent absorbing some of the finer things a metropolitan city can offer.

There were also work assignments. Fifteenth C. B. details were assigned to camp maintenance, road construction, warehouse erection, etc.

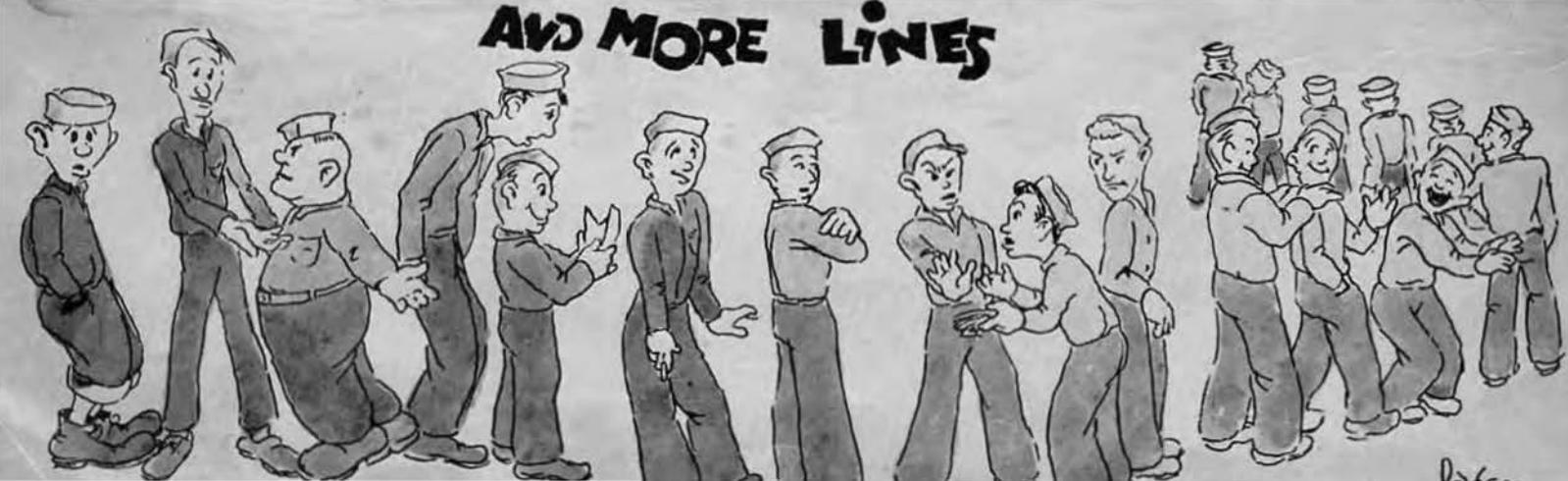
The Camp Parks radio station even dedicated one of its world wide broadcasts to the 15th C. B., and related the story about the time mechanics from the battalion came to the rescue of the U.S.S. Cape Bon while we were enroute to the U. S. The boilers broke down, and

when it became known that parts to repair the ship were not available, the 15th applied some of its "Can-Do" and ingenuity, and in 24 hours, despite heat reaching 140-150 degrees, repaired the damage and set the Cape Bon underway again.

The 15th C. B. basketball team, seeded about tenth, entered the Camp Parks Invitation Tournament and reached the finals, where it came within one point, in two overtime periods, of winning the championship.

Much of the aforesaid may be forgotten, but who will ever forget those practically nocturnal trips to the "black top" to help raise the flag.

## AND MORE LINES







AND THEN, AMID MUSIC AND TEARS, WE LEFT CAMP PARKS FOR CAMP ROUSSEAU,  
LOCATED AT PORT HUENEME, CALIF.



# MEMORIES

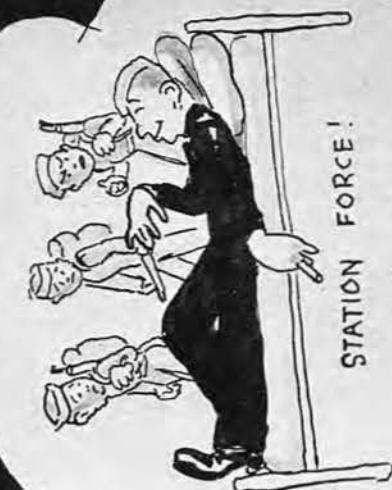


1



THE GREEN MILL

FLORENTINE  
GARDENS,



STATION FORCE!





PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA

## PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA

February 22, 1945—June 4, 1945

We were all glad to return to Hueneme, having indulged in some of that Southern California liberty back in '42. There is only one Hueneme, . . . second only to Auckland, New Zealand.

SOME CRAVED LIBERTY



OTHERS WERE TIRED





SOME WORKED . . . AT THE HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN, WHERE A 15TH C. B. DETAIL OF FIFTY CARPENTERS BUILT AN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING BUILDING





THERE WAS OXNARD WITH ITS "OYSTER LOAF" AND ...





VENTURA AND ITS "GREEN MILL" ... AND ...





THE "CASTLE" . . . AND "FERGUSONS" . . .  
AND OF COURSE . . .





SANTA MONICA





"BOY! LOOK AT THE BABES"

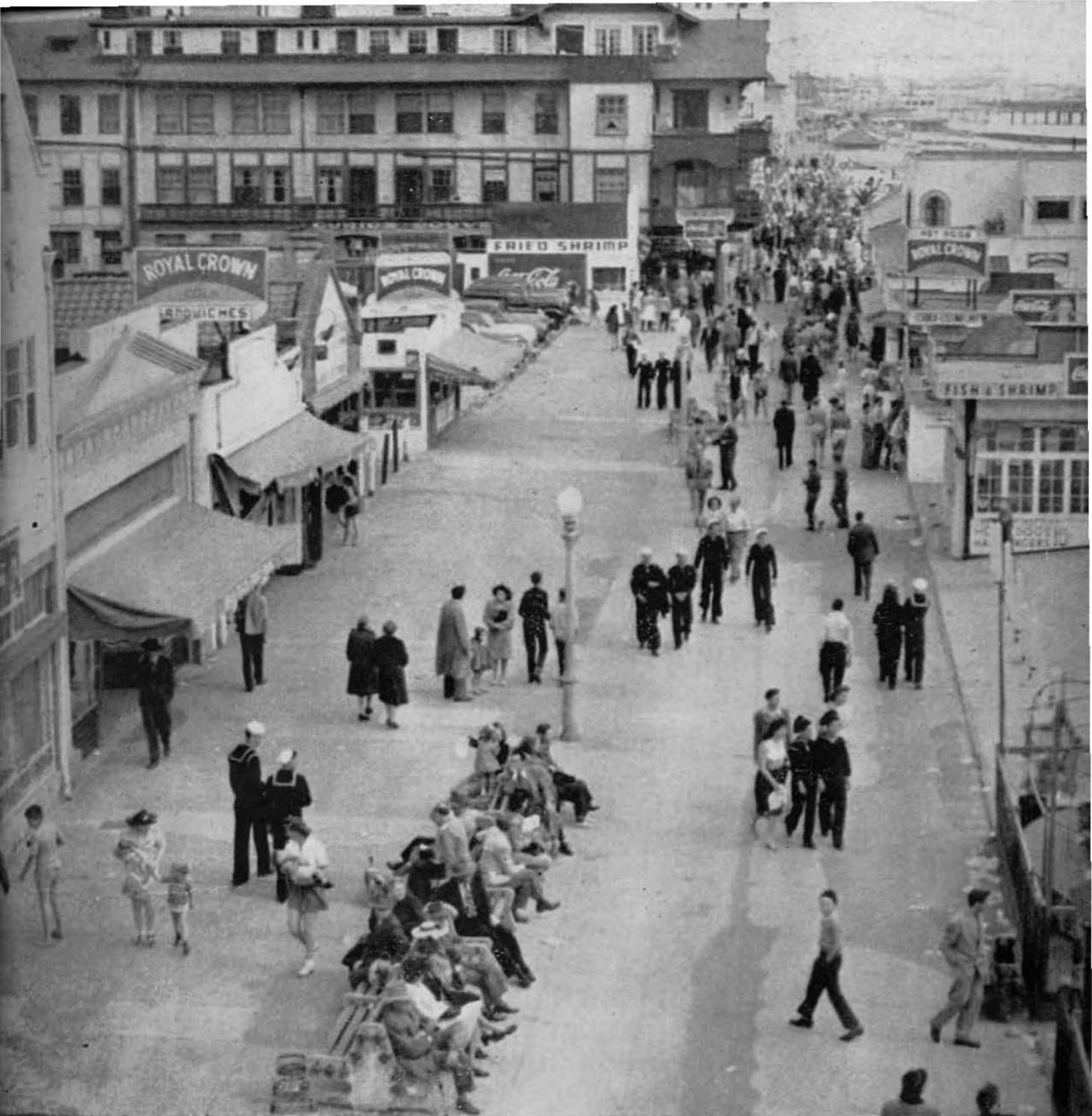


FOR THE MARRIED MEN



YOU DON'T NEED A BATHING SUIT





THE ARAGON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER





MILITARY TRAINING



GEAR ISSUE



WAITING FOR THE SQUARE NEEDLE

**THEN, SUDDENLY, THE PARTY WAS OVER . . .**



IT'S ALL OVER NOW



GETTING PAID



CLEARING THROUGH PERSONNEL

**THE 42 YEAR OLDS ARE DISCHARGED**





... COMMANDOS! ...



"WHAT'S THE CHAIR FOR, MATE?"



LOOKING THE CROP OVER

# THE SECOND TOUR OF DUTY BEGINS

JUNE 4, 1945



PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

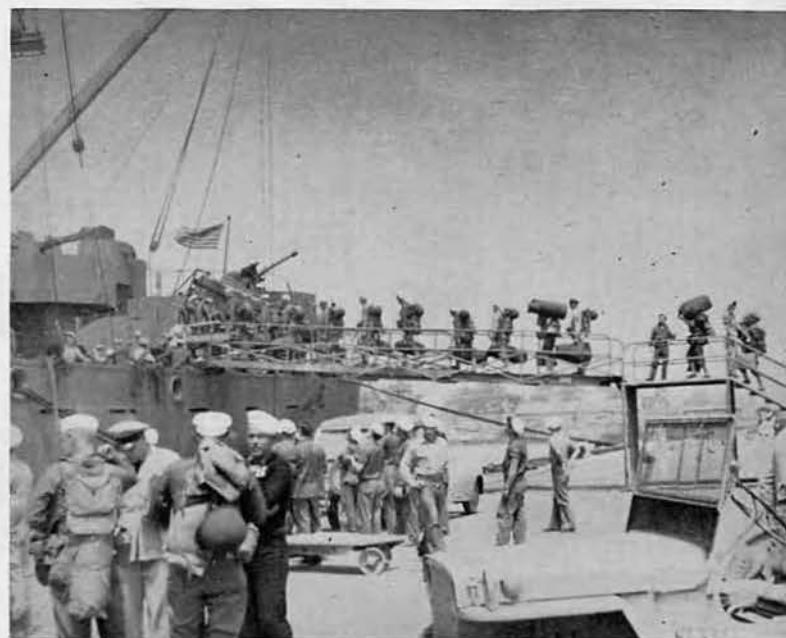
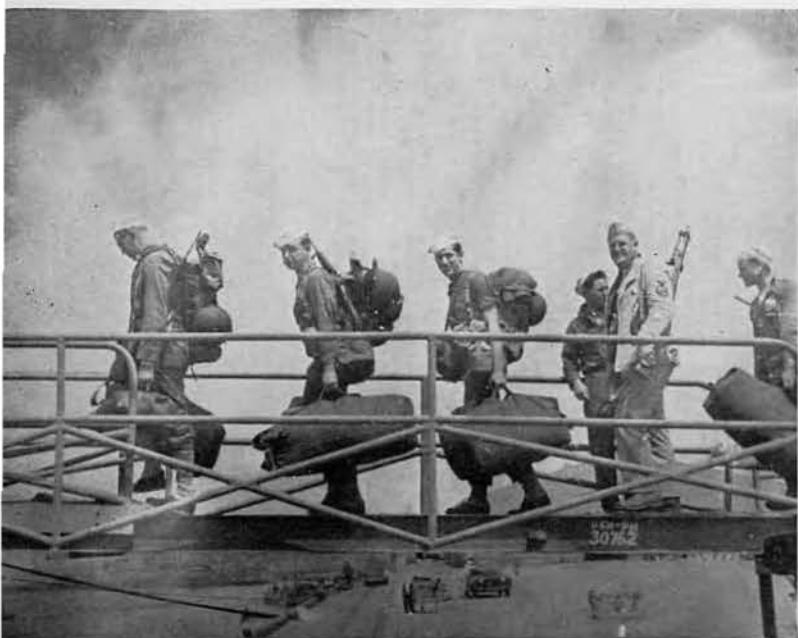
# EMBARKATION

OFF FOR THE DOCKS





E M B A R K A T I O N



# WE BOARD THE "U.S.S. COMET"





BON VOYAGE



OUR HOME FOR THE NEXT FORTY DAYS





## EACH MAN WAS ASSIGNED TO INDIVIDUAL QUARTERS

SPACIOUS! . . . AIRY!





COMFY . . . WELL-VENTILATED





# THE NEVER-ENDING CHOW LINE

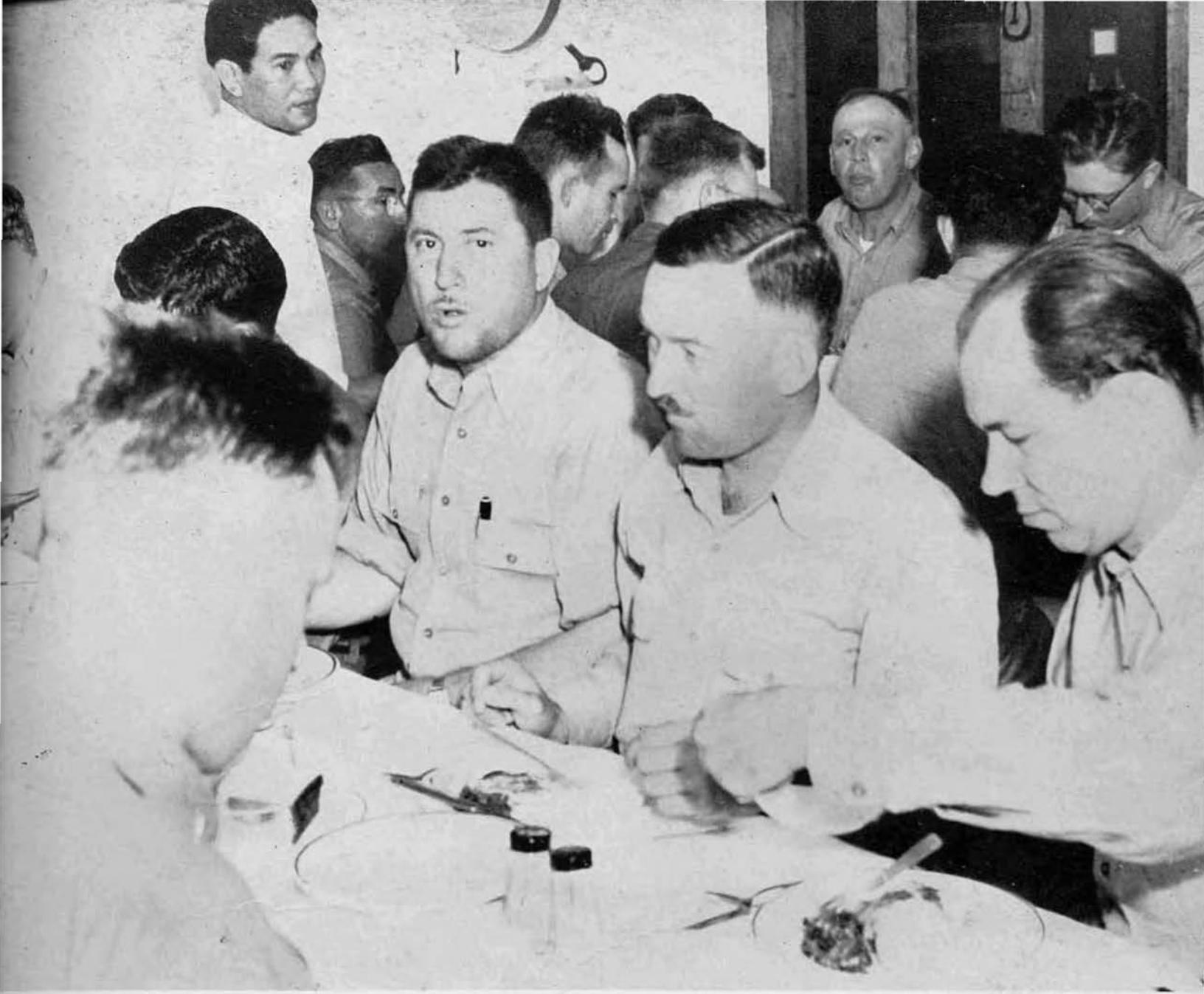


OH, WELL . . . IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU'RE HUNGRY



JUST A SHORT WAIT FOR SEATS





OFFICERS EAT, TOO

THE BAKERS

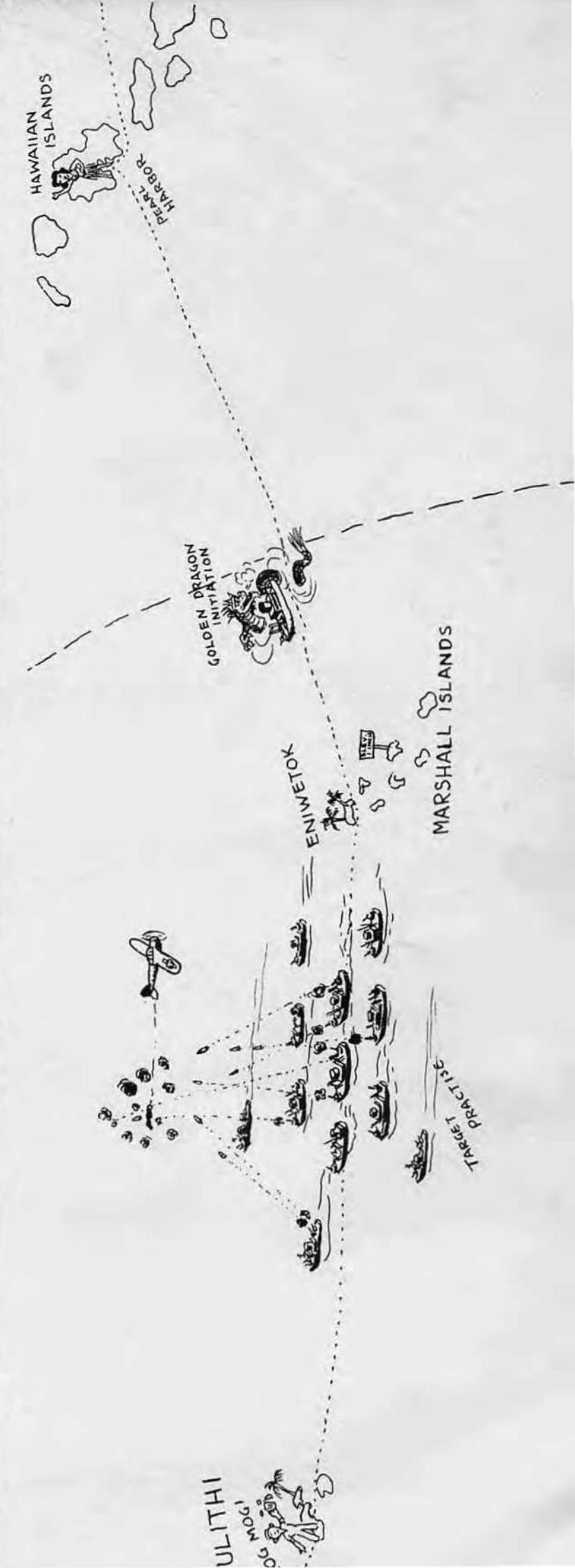
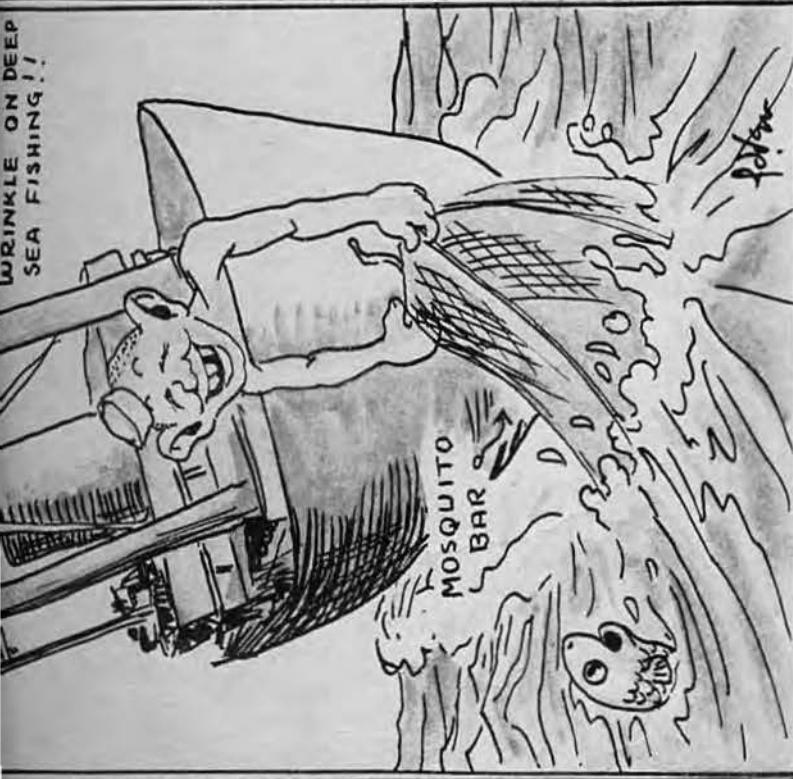


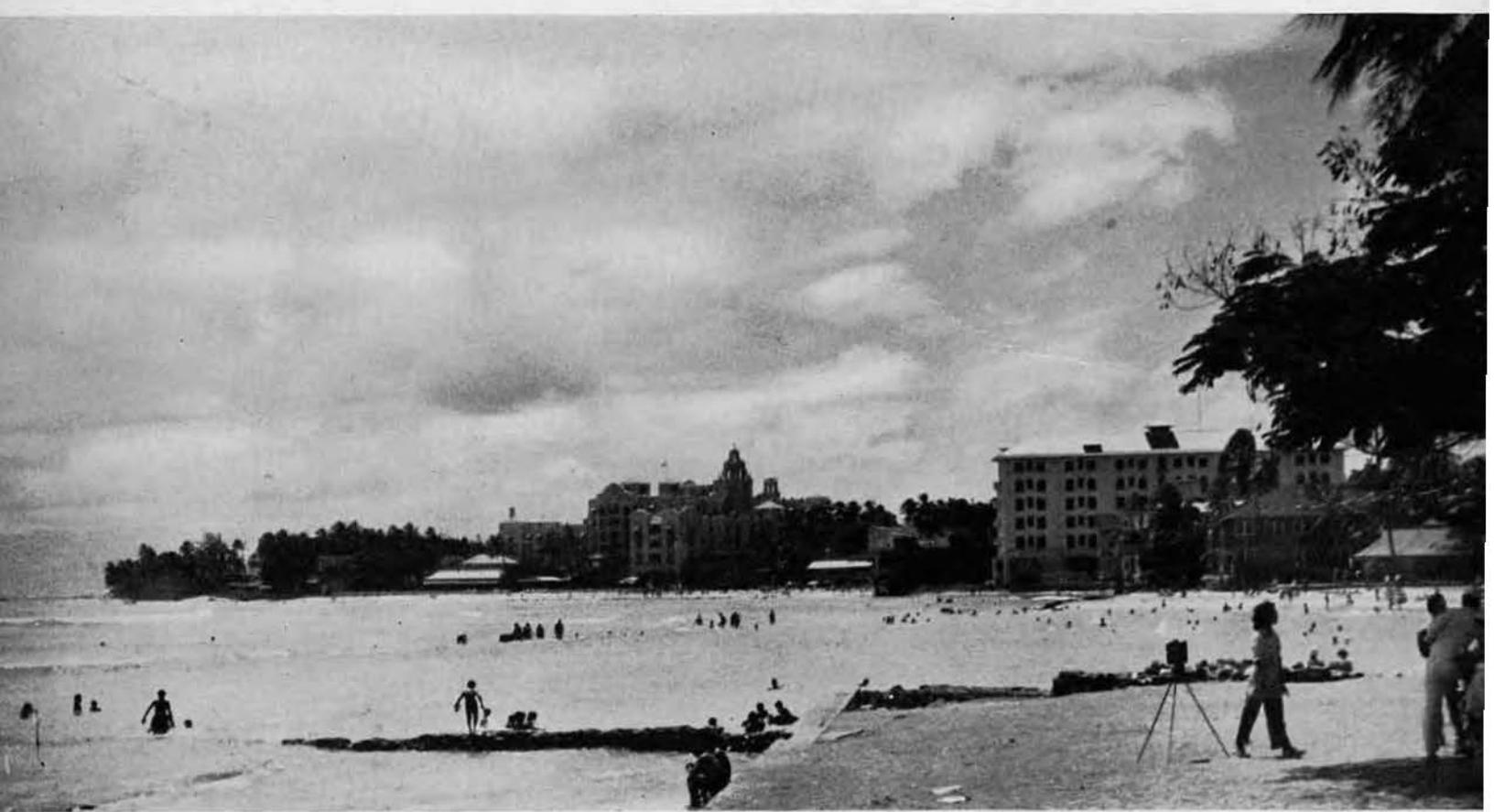
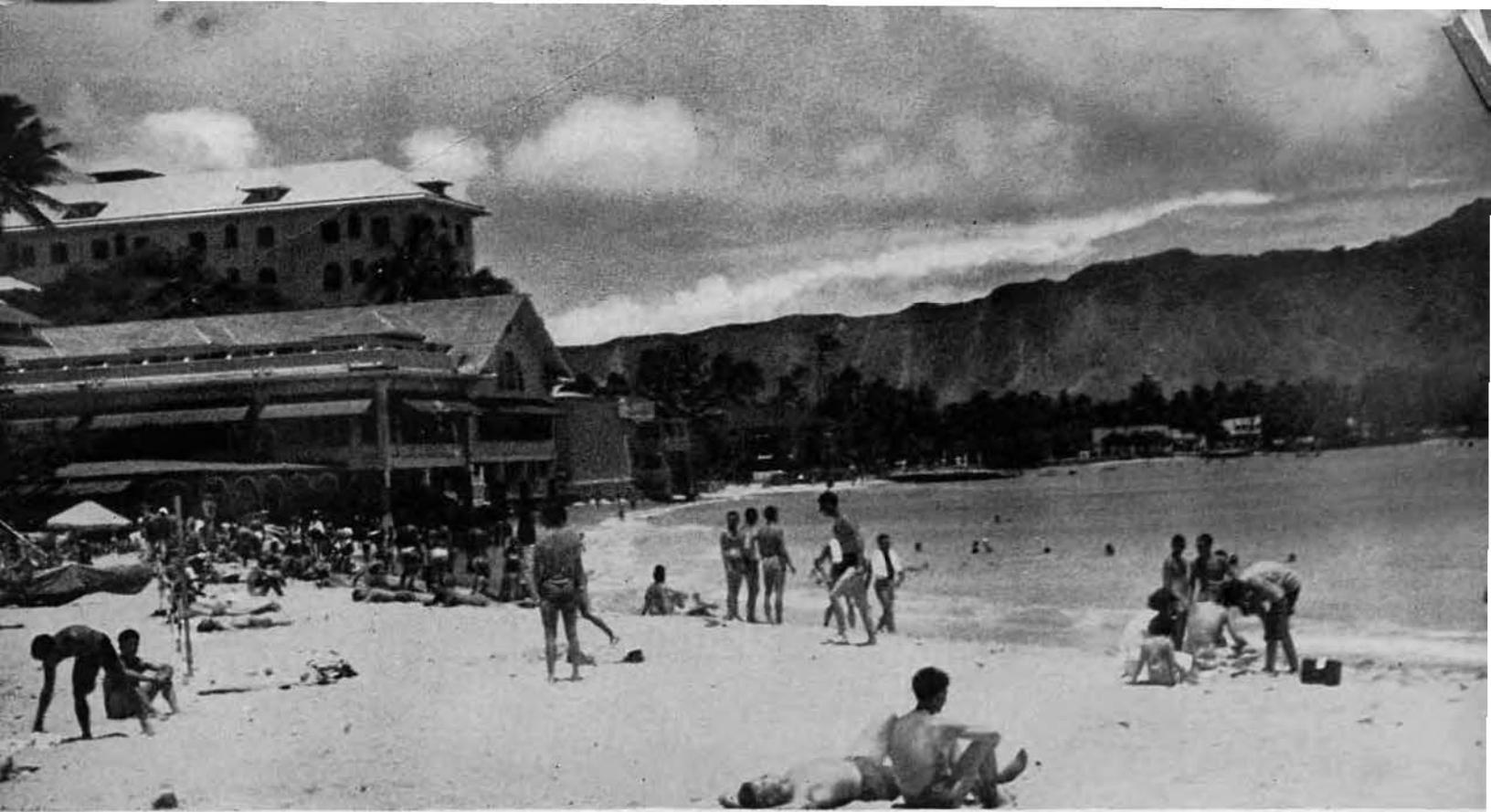
THE COOKS





CHOW IS OVER—BUT THE FISH HAVE TO EAT, TOO!!!





# HAWAII

Our stop at Hawaii turned out to be a stroke of fate, and a lucky one at that. Boiler trouble seemed to be a constant plague to any ship carrying the 15th C. B. This time, three days out of Hueneme, the boiler blew up and became completely useless. The ship drifted along at four knots and finally managed to crawl into Pearl Harbor four days later for repairs. While the vessel re-

ceived a once-over-lightly, we managed to see the Island of Oahu, via Navy sponsored sightseeing tours. Also managed to cool our increasingly parched throats with some stateside brew. But alas, we had to say "aloha" without observing any of the intricate forms of that fine Hawaiian pastime . . . hula dancing.



THE MEDICAL EXAM

# GOLDEN DRAGON INITIATION

JUNE 24, 1945

THE BUCKET TREATMENT

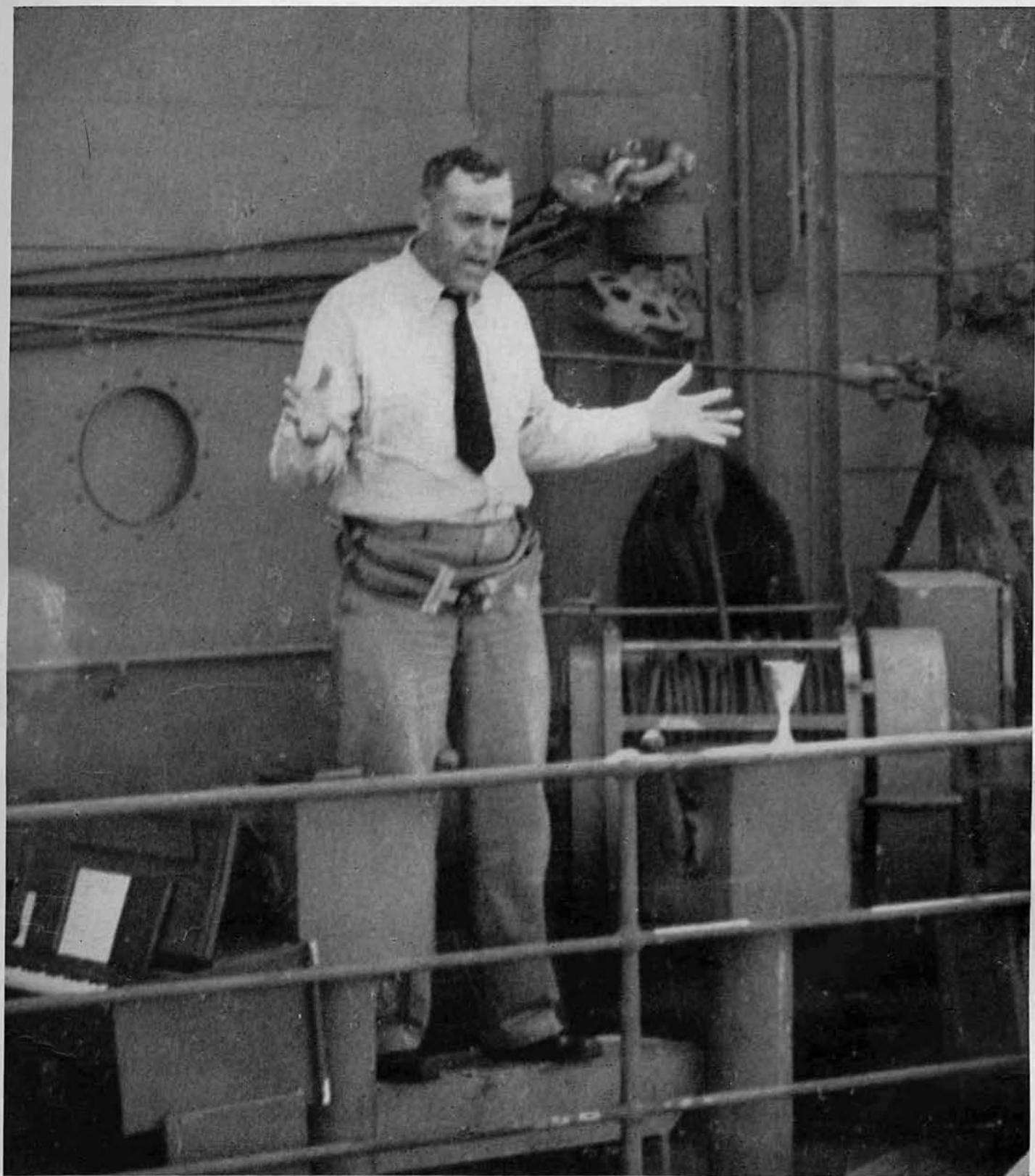


THE HOSE TREATMENT



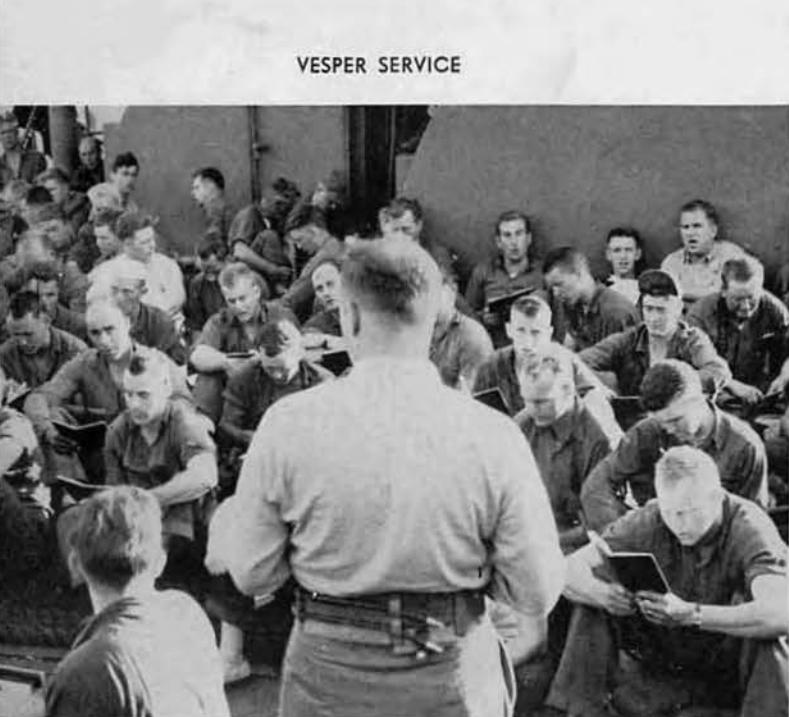


# CHURCH SERVICES





THE CONGREGATION



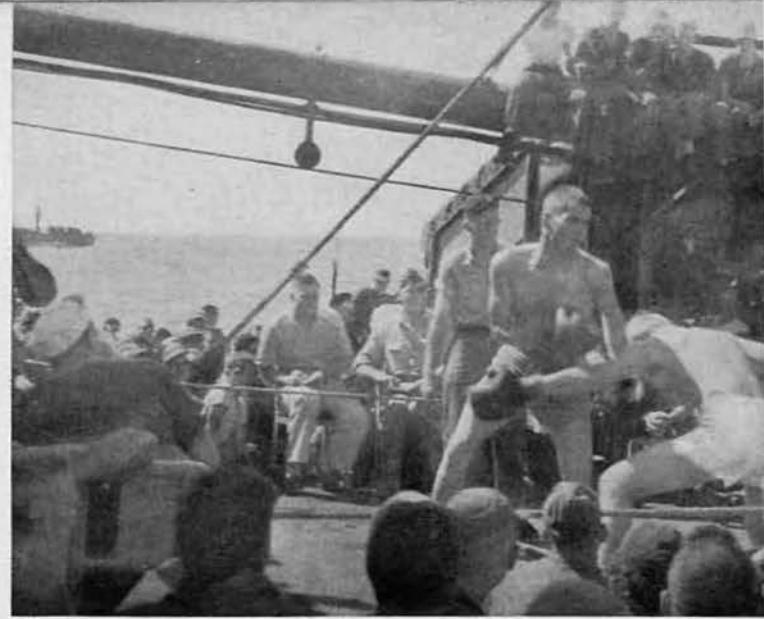
VESPER SERVICE



BAPTISM ON THE HIGH SEAS



SOME SANG



SOME BOXED

# R E C R E A T I O N

SOME ATE





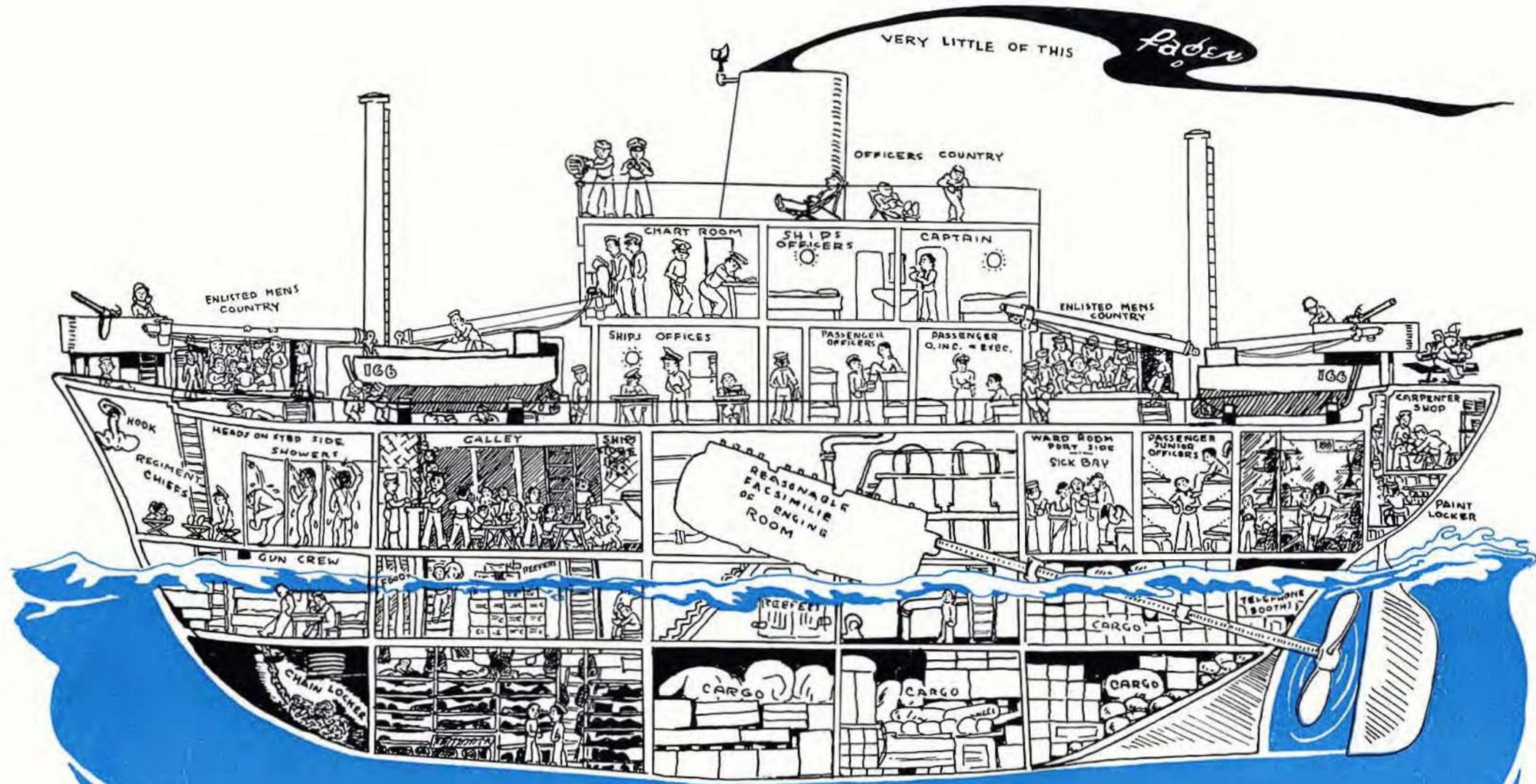
SOME PLAYED CARDS





SOME SLEPT  
AND SOME JUST LISTENED TO "SCUTTLEBUTT"







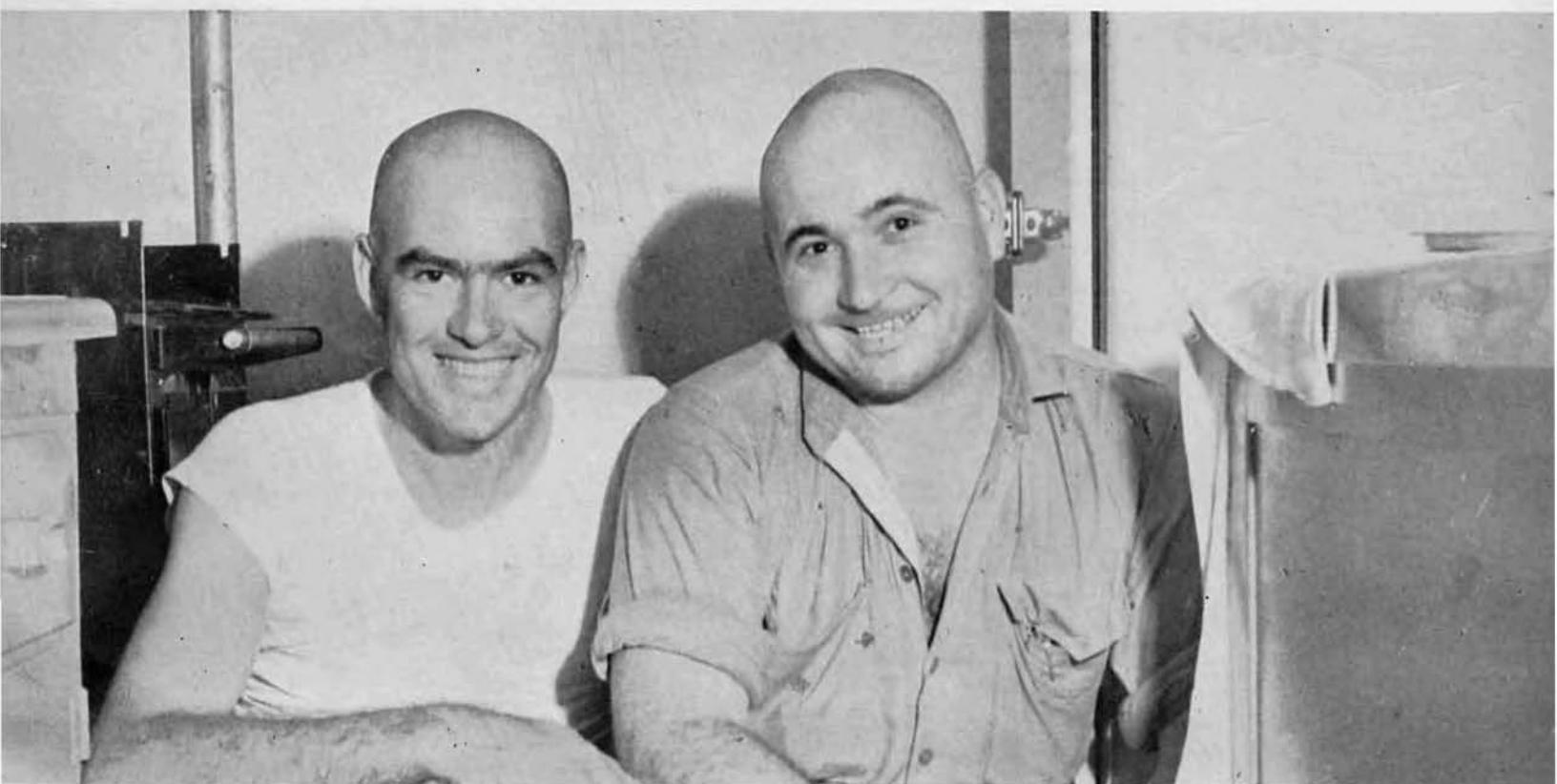
## S O M E W O R K E D





STARTING A MacALEAVY SPECIAL

TWO SATISFIED CUSTOMERS



# OKINAWA SHIMA

九政治的社會主義の宣言  
太史國命座第五回譯堂

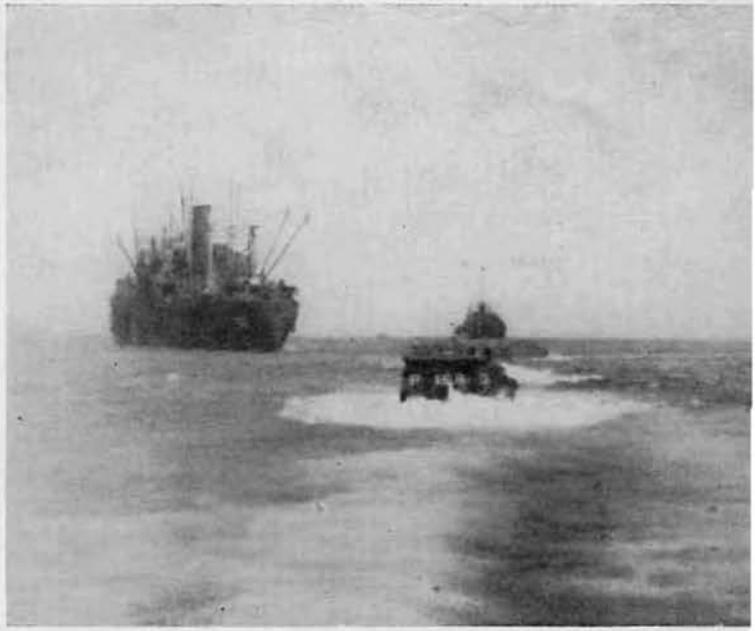
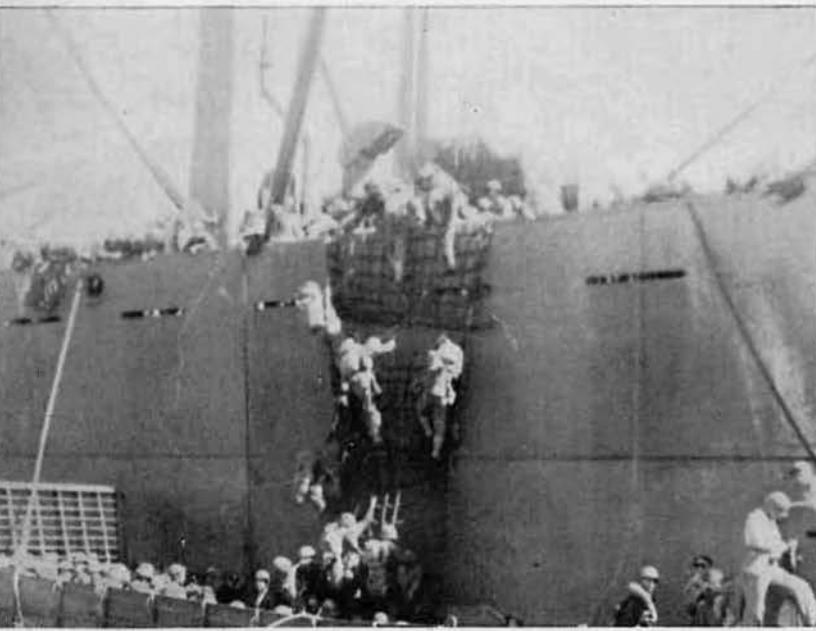
飛行機





# 15TH C. B. "D - DAY"

JULY 14, 1945





## OKINAWA

After leaving Ulithi as part of a 29-ship convoy, it became quite evident that our destination was Nagasuku Bay (the name was later changed to Buckner Bay), Okinawa. No one knew very much about the island, except that it was "just a stone's throw from Tokyo" and was the scene of some bitter fighting between American and Japanese forces. We had been warned that Okinawa was covered with deadly snakes; that many Jap snipers were still at large; that land mines and booby traps existed in abundance; all of which didn't make us feel any too secure. However, our major problem was Jap suicide planes, the Kamikaze. Target practice, fire-drills and abandon-ship drills were held daily as all gun watches assumed a 24-hour, alert schedule. The three-day trip to Okinawa from Ulithi seemed like three weeks, but all was calm and serene. We pulled into Nagasuku Bay and almost simultaneously with the releasing of the anchor, the climbing nets were dropped and the landing craft lowered over the side into the water.

With full packs, gas masks and rifles lashed to our backs, we struggled down the ropes into the LCM's and LCVP's. At any moment we expected to be greeted by the Kamikaze, but the 15th C.B. streak of luck, which saw us through the landings at Espiritu Santo, Russell Islands, and Green Islands, held up, and this landing might just as well have been made in the Hudson River.

The little craft snaked through the reefs and brought us to shore. We climbed aboard ten-wheelers and headed for a conglomeration of brush, weeds, and mud that was to be our camp. Packs were broken loose, pup tents set up, K rations broken out, and we were ready for our first work assignment. Many of the oldtimers weren't going to eat K rations or sleep on the ground. Somehow, their packs managed to contain canned hams, canned chicken and turkey, a blow pot for hot coffee, and even pillows and portions of mattresses.

Our first night on Okinawa would have made a Mack Sennet slapstick comedy strictly second-rate stuff. A perimeter guard was hastily set up with orders to shoot anything that moved outside the camp limits. No one noticed that the camp was surrounded by a field of tall cornstalks, and as the wind swept through the field that night it seemed as if the entire Jap army was advancing upon us. Our guards were wide awake though, and met the onrushing enemy with a volley

of lead and flares that would make a Marine Raider Division sit up and take notice.

Unloading ship was the number one task, and all hands turned to 24 hours per day. The food was still confined to K rations, and home was still the pup tent. After the first week, the camp started to grow, with regular 16' x 16' pyramid tents replacing the dehydrated versions and a hastily erected galley offering some hot chow . . . which turned out to be C rations. The only difference between the C's and the K's is that the former comes in larger cans.

There were air-raid alerts, and occasionally a ship in the harbor was hit, but as a whole it turned out to be just a nuisance rather than a wave of destruction. Two well-fed Japs were shot one morning a few yards out side of camp—they had to be buried quickly to keep the souvenir hunters away.

The entire island of Okinawa is covered with tombs, where for centuries the Okinawans stored brightly glazed china urns containing the ashes and bones of their deceased. It was in these tombs that the Japs hid and carried on some of their hardest fighting, and to these same tombs the Seabees flocked for souvenirs. Only after a few men were wounded by Jap snipers did the pilgrimages to these picturesque caves stop.

The natives, or "Gooks," as the American armed forces named them, were a friendly lot and seemed quite content with American occupation. However, the male sex was either 7 or 70 and ditto the femininity. Nowhere during our 31 months in the Pacific have we seen anything that remotely resembled a young woman. There was no need for any non-fraternization rulings here.

We were located about ten miles from Naha and Shuri, and naturally, at the first opportunity, all men flocked to the big city. Big city! huh! Both Naha and Shuri were just masses of debris. The vaunted castle of Shuri turned out to be just a lonely, solitary bomb-shattered wall, looking about as much a part of a castle as spam resembles steak.

Remove the "Gooks," the airfields, the rice paddies, and the tombs, and Okinawa might well be Connecticut.

They do have winds here. For further information on that subject we refer you to any stateside paper dated October, 1945. . . .



THE BATTLESCARRED PLAINS OF SHURI



BUCKNER BAY . . . AND BROWN BEACH



SETTING UP PUP TENTS



THE FIRST NIGHT





THREE DAYS LATER . . . THE CAMP STARTS GROWING





THE FIRST GALLEY



MESS HALL NO. I



THE SCULLERY



MESS HALL NO. 2



. . . THEN THE RAINS CAME . . .





. . . MUD AND MORE MUD . . .





CLEARING FOR HOSPITALS 7 AND 8

## WORK PROJECTS START IMMEDIATELY

A CORAL PIT IS STARTED





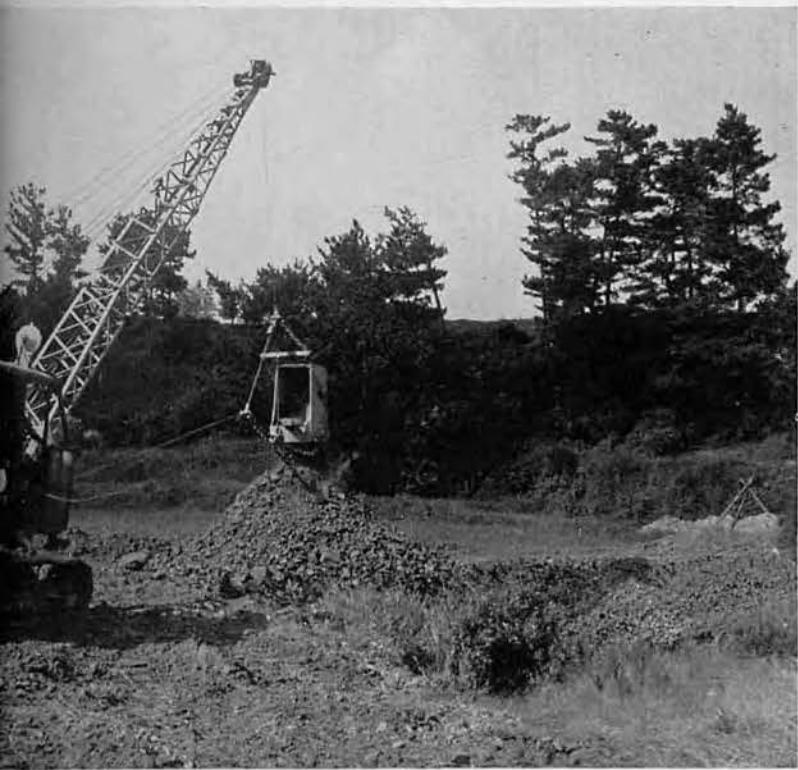
THE DRAGLINE STARTS OPERATION

HAULING CORAL . . . ROUND THE CLOCK



# PROJECTS





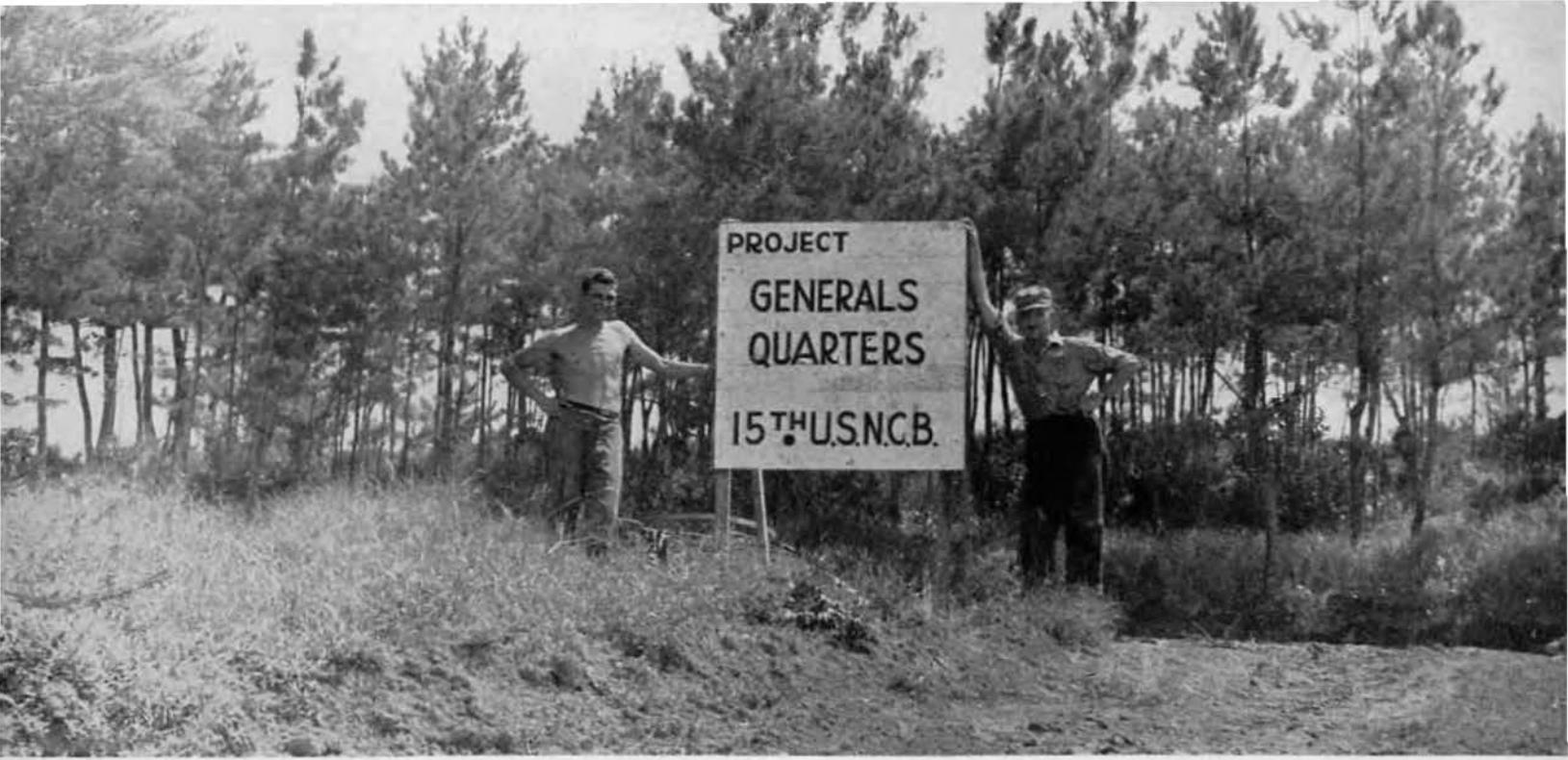
DRAINING THE RICE PADDIES



SURVEYING THE SITE FOR A HIGHWAY



THE FIRST PAINT SHOP



## LOOKING OVER THE SITE





THIS WILL BE THE GENERAL'S OFFICE



THE HUTS START GROWING

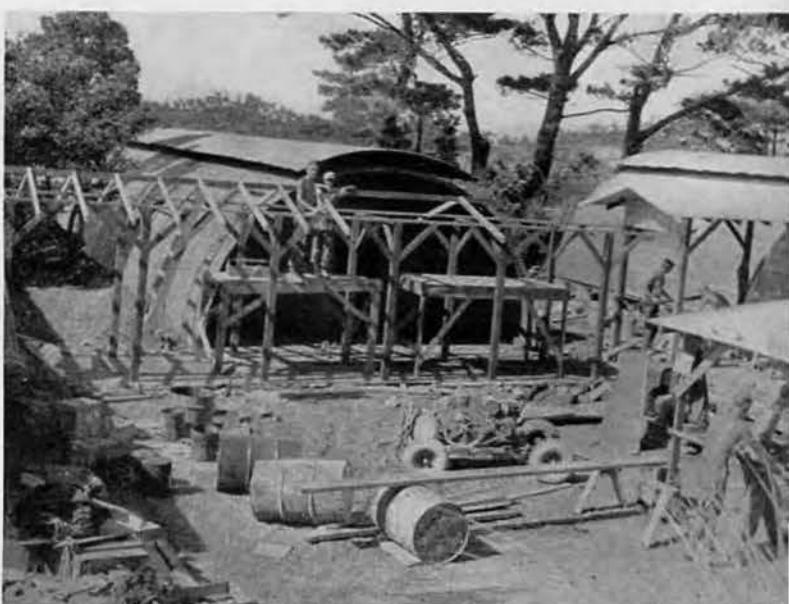


A WEEK LATER





THE GENERAL'S OFFICE



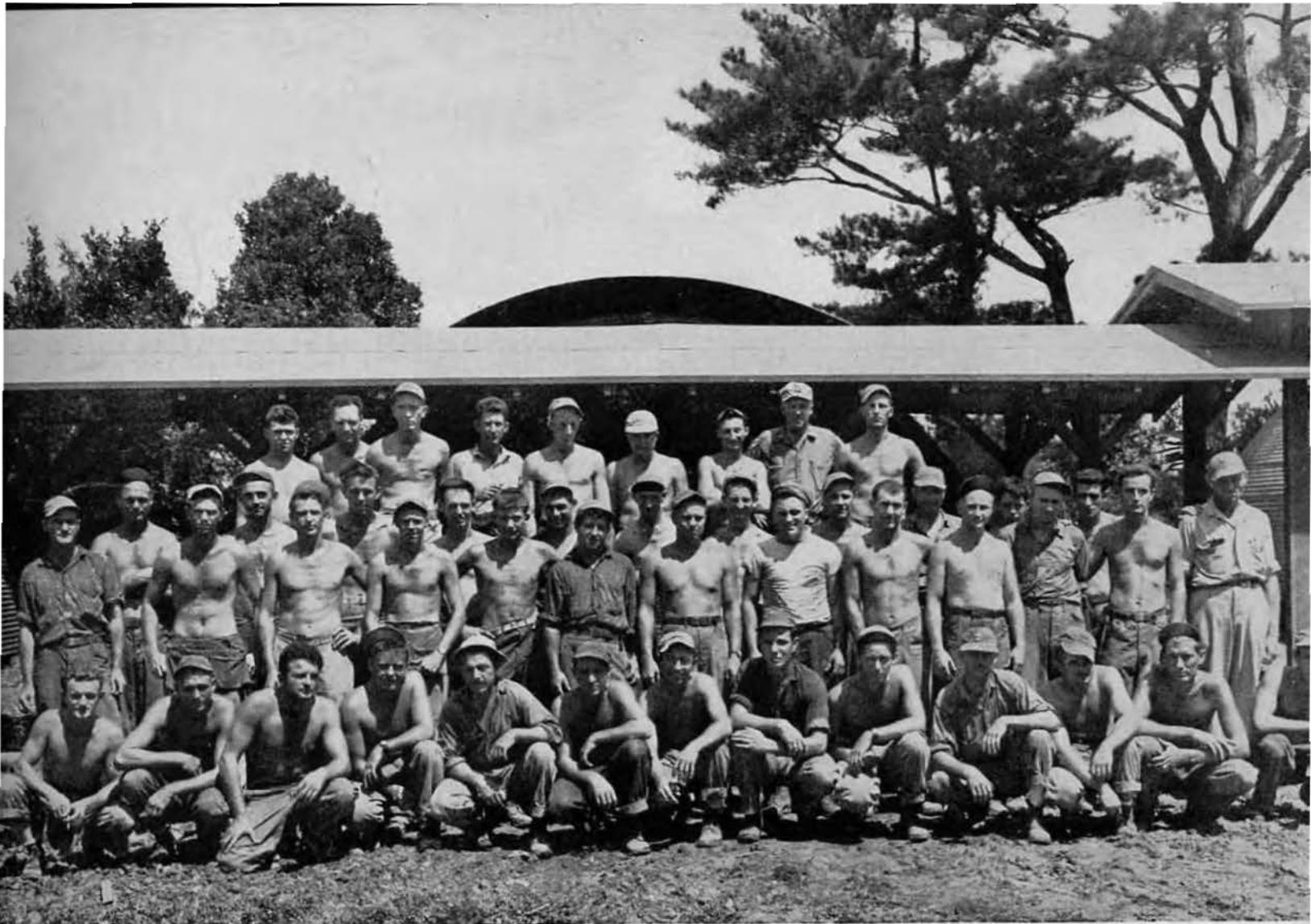
THE GENERAL'S GUEST HOUSE AND MESS HALL

THE GENERAL'S FIREPLACE



PLAYING SANTA CLAUS





THE CAST



THE FINISHED PRODUCTS





# THE TANK FARM





TANK ERECTION



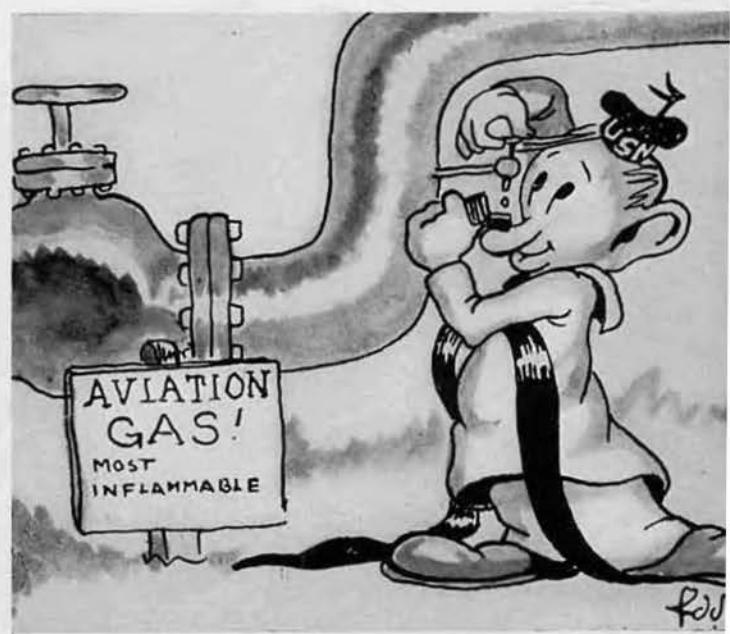
THE PIPELINE





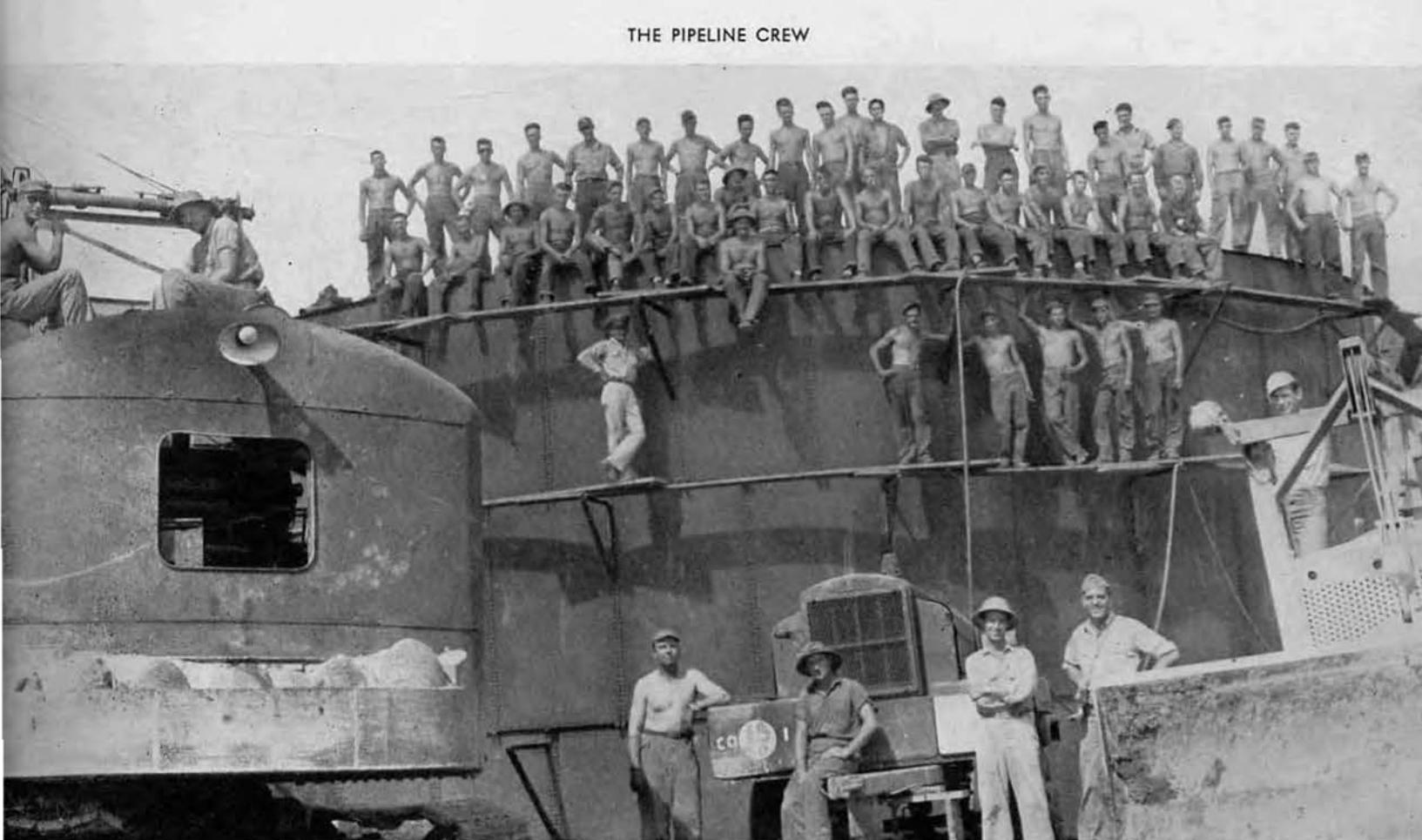
A PORTION OF THE FINISHED PRODUCT

TALKING IT OVER

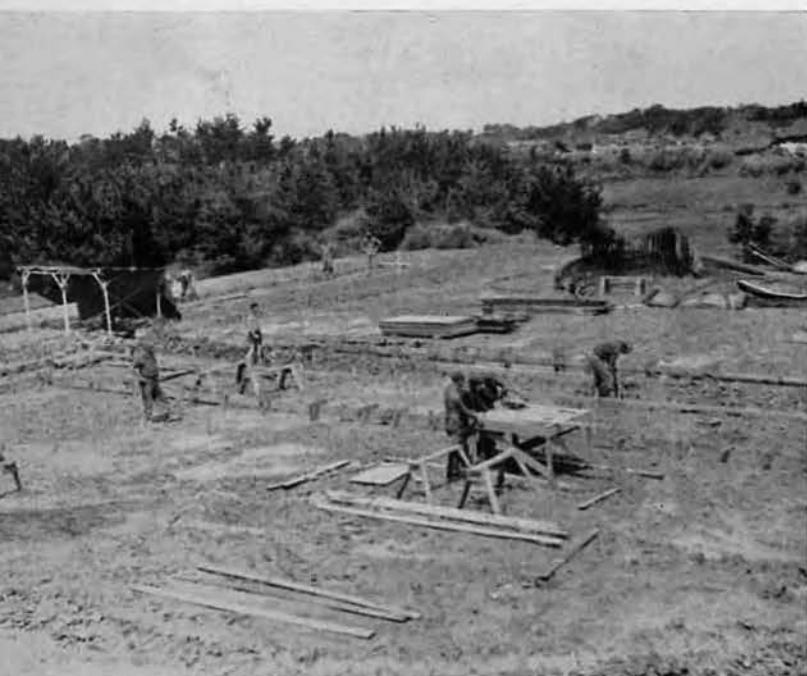




THE TANK ERECTION CREW



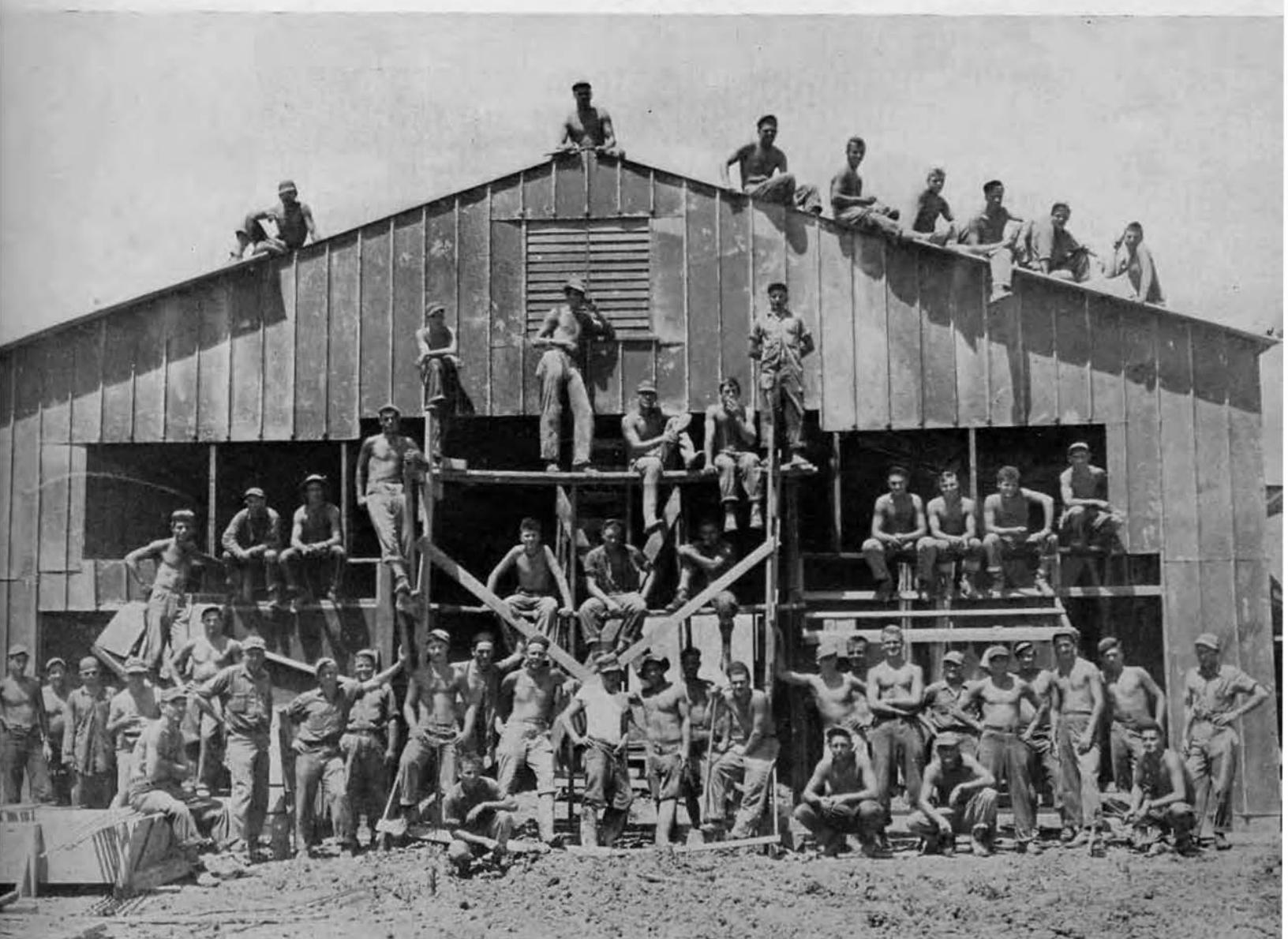
THE PIPELINE CREW

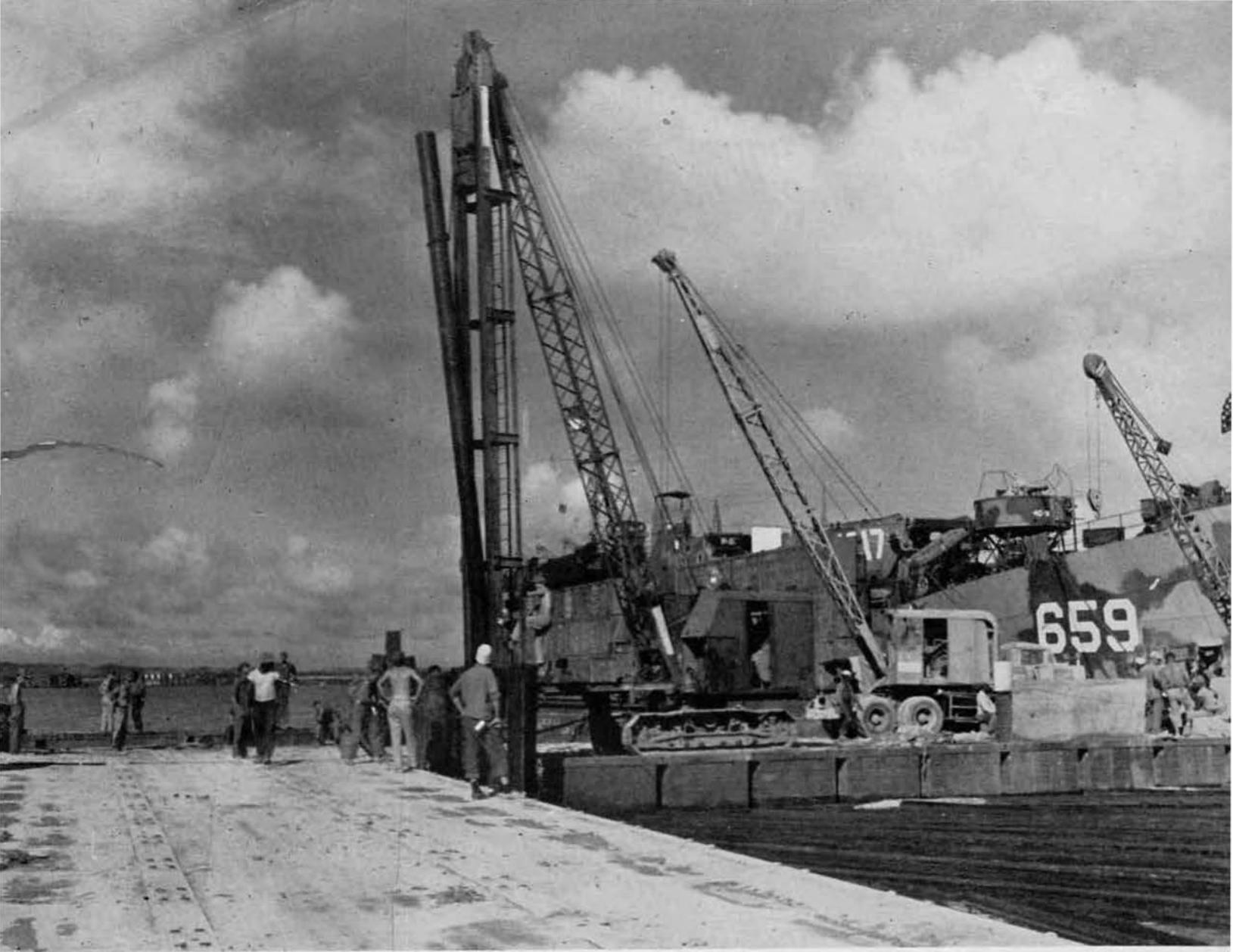


**THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**



THE J.C.C. CREW





THE 15TH CB PILEDRIVER

PONTOON BARGE PIER



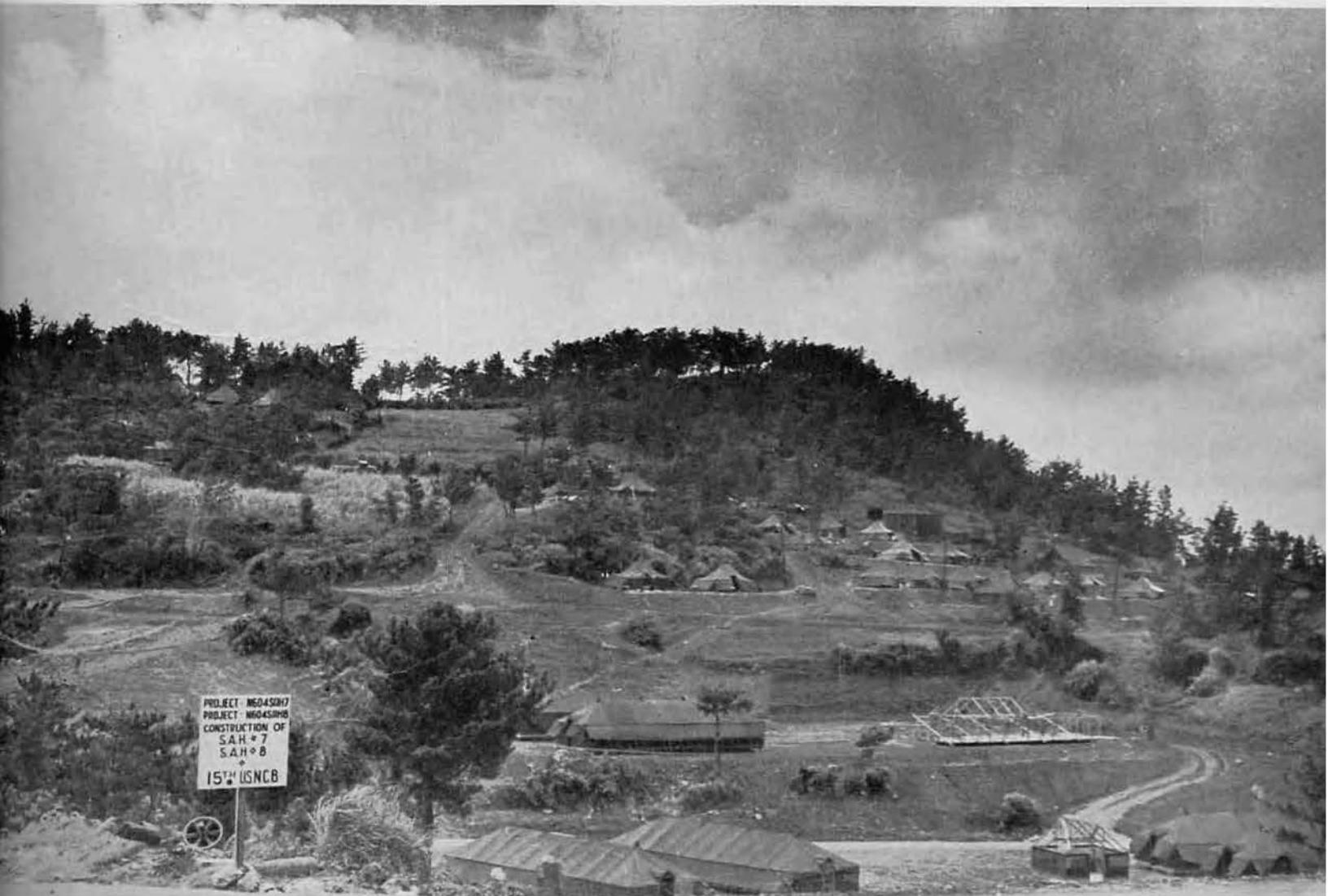
# SPECIAL AUGMENTED HOSPITALS 7 AND 8



THE ENLISTED MEN'S MESS HALL



ERECTING WARDS





ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



OPERATING BUILDING



★  
OFFICERS' MESS  
★

THE 15TH CB CONCRETE PLANT



THE NEW IMPROVED PLANT

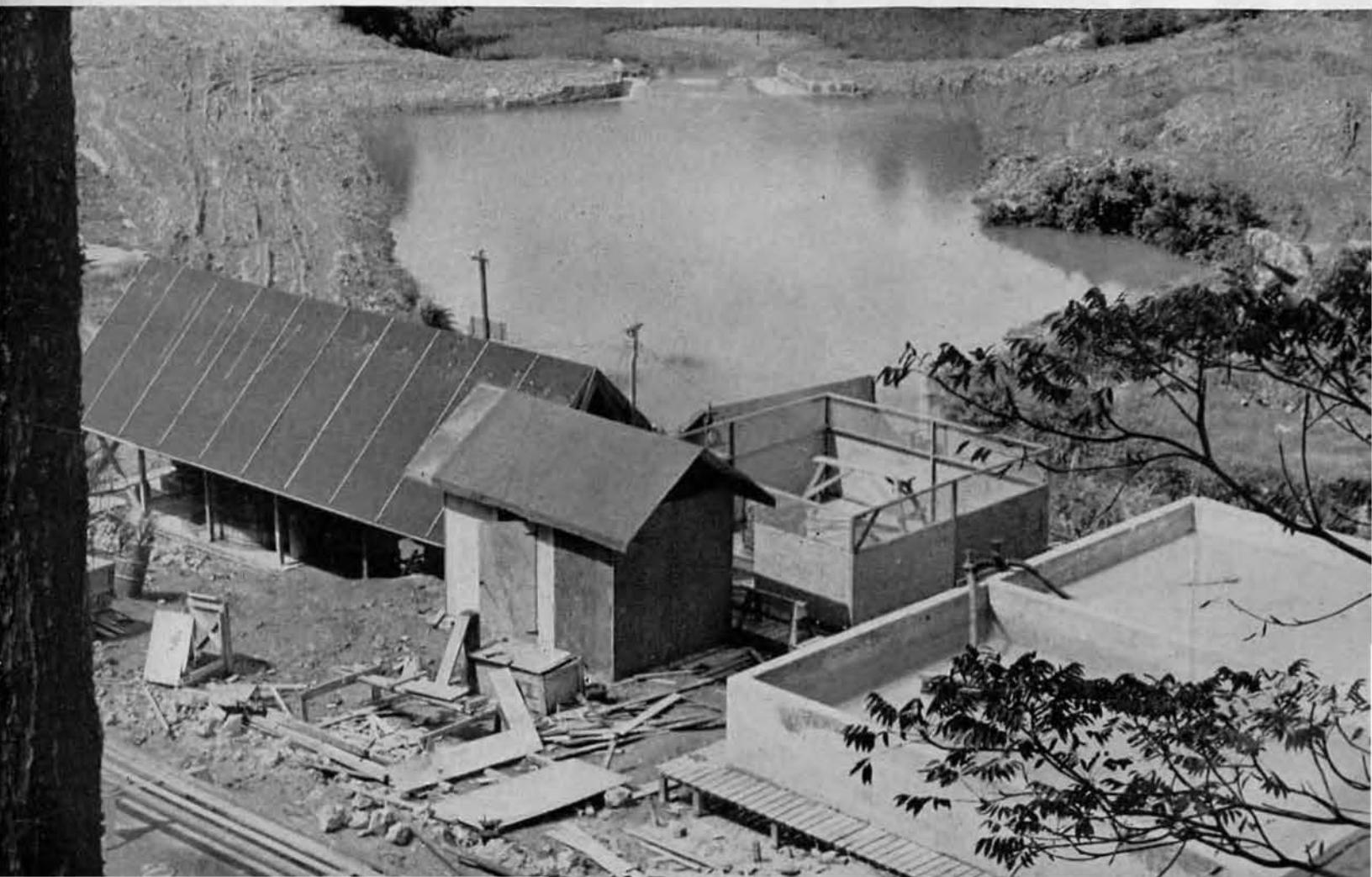




THE FIRST WATER PLANT

# THE 15TH C.B. WATER WORKS

THE FINAL PLANT





# ROAD CONSTRUCTION



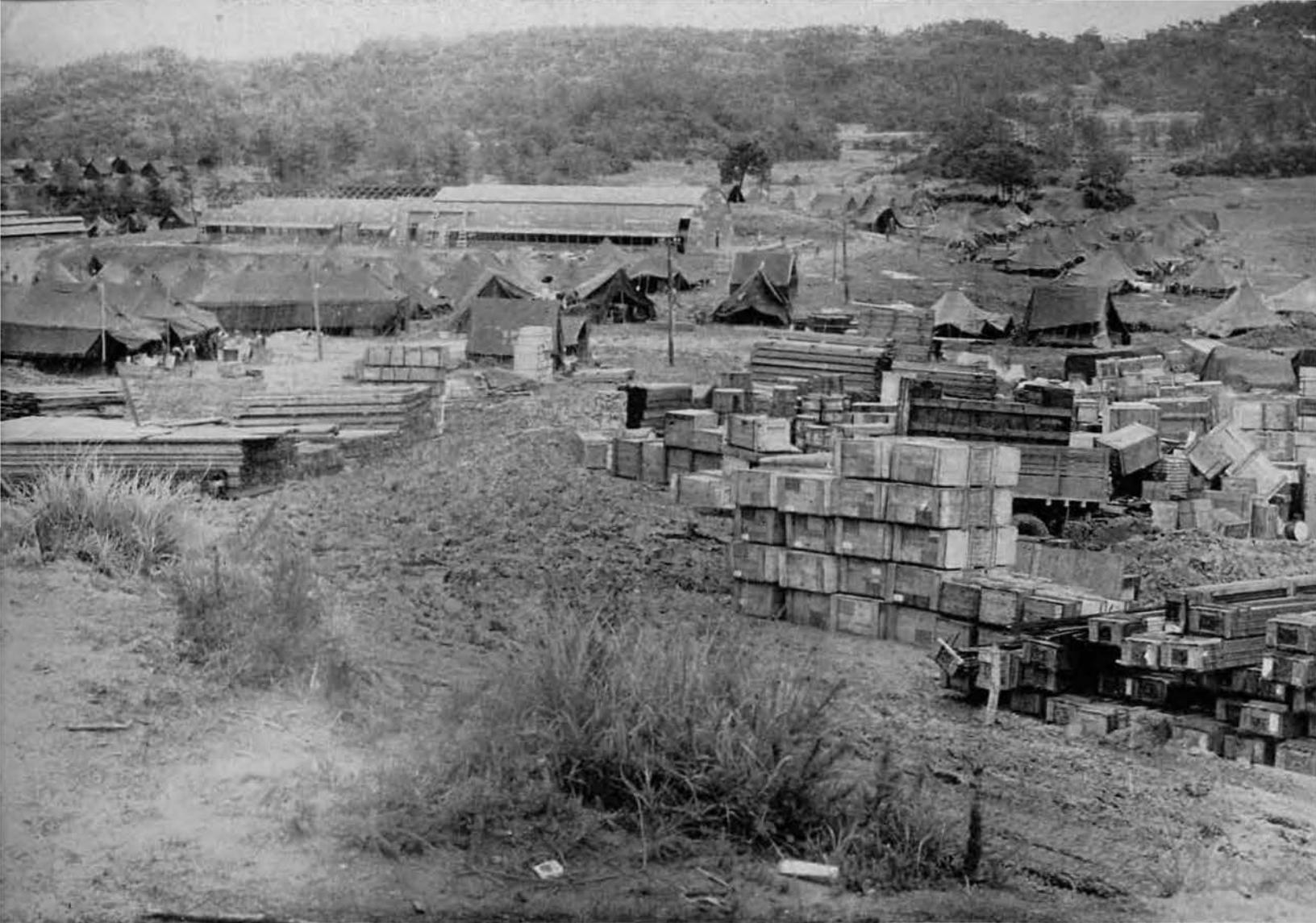


# C O R A L P I T S





**ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION**



STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE

# CAMP CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION TENT DECKS

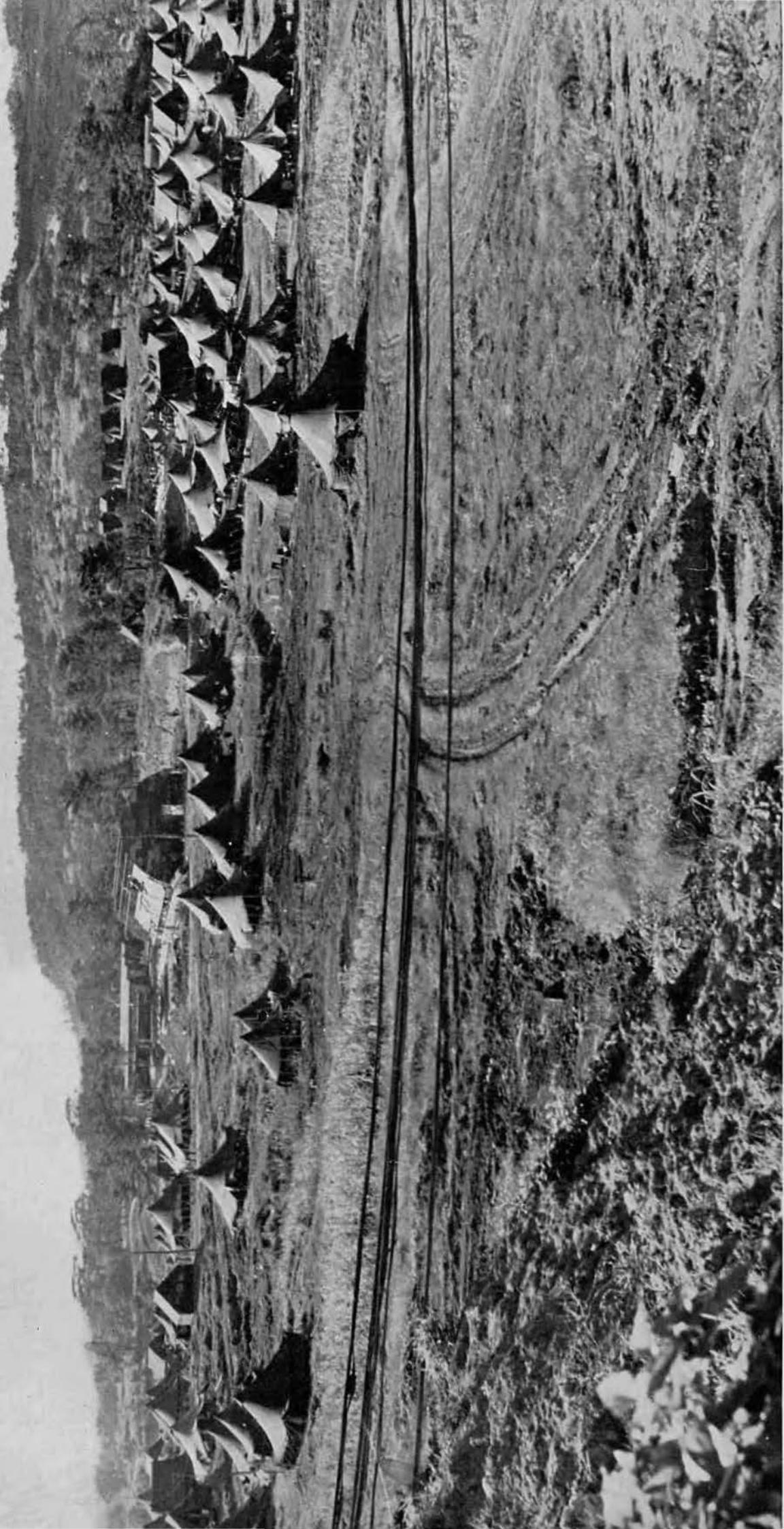


BATTALION HEADQUARTERS



15TH C.B. CAMP . . . OKINAWA SHIMA

JULY, 1945



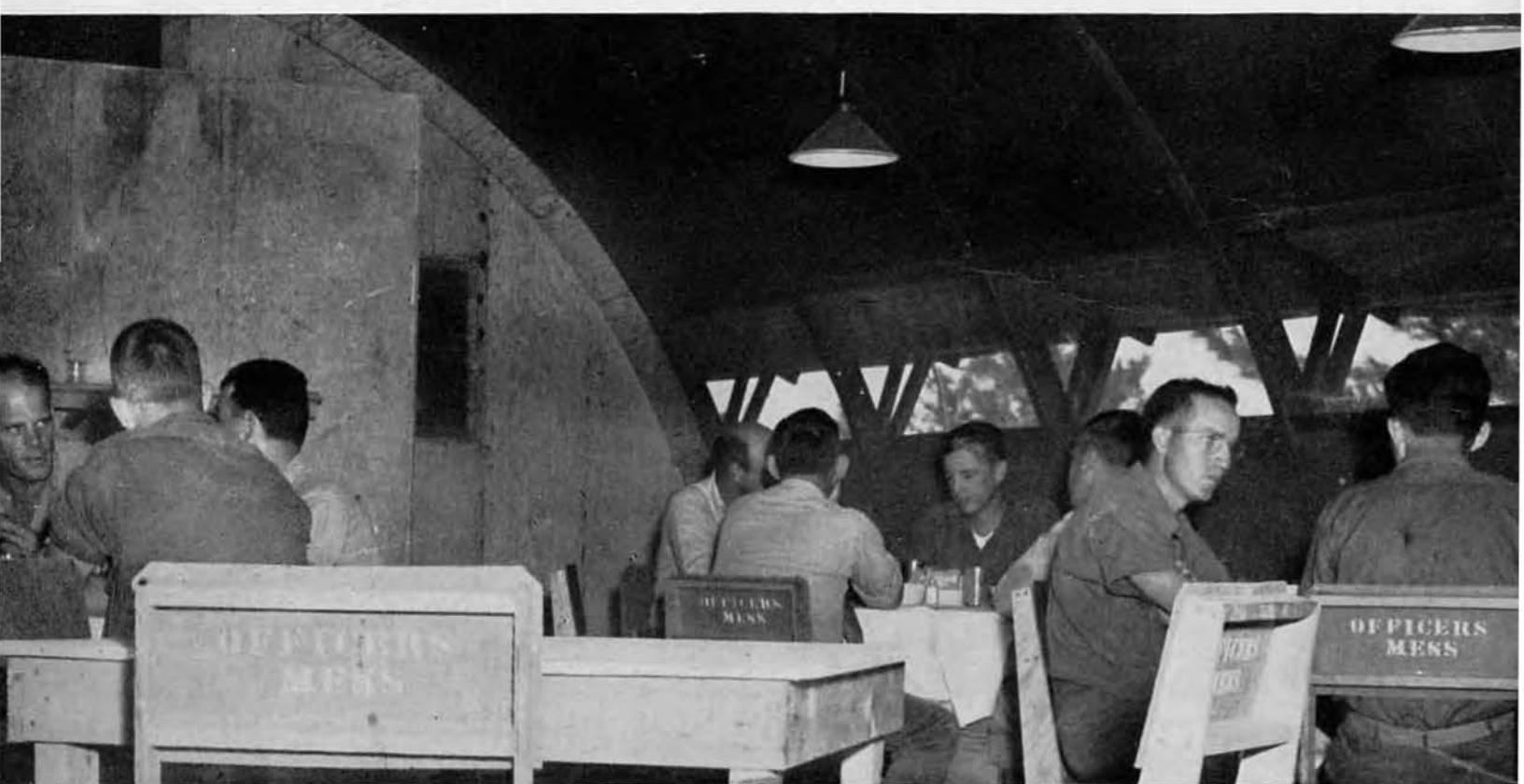
15TH C.B. CAMP . . . OKINAWA SHIMA

AUGUST, 1945





THE OLD OFFICERS' MESS



THE NEW OFFICERS' MESS

CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE NO. I



THE CHAPLAIN'S NEW OFFICE



I N D U S T R I A L   A R E A





## THE WELDING SHOP



# THE SHEET METAL SHOP



# THE RIGGING LOFT



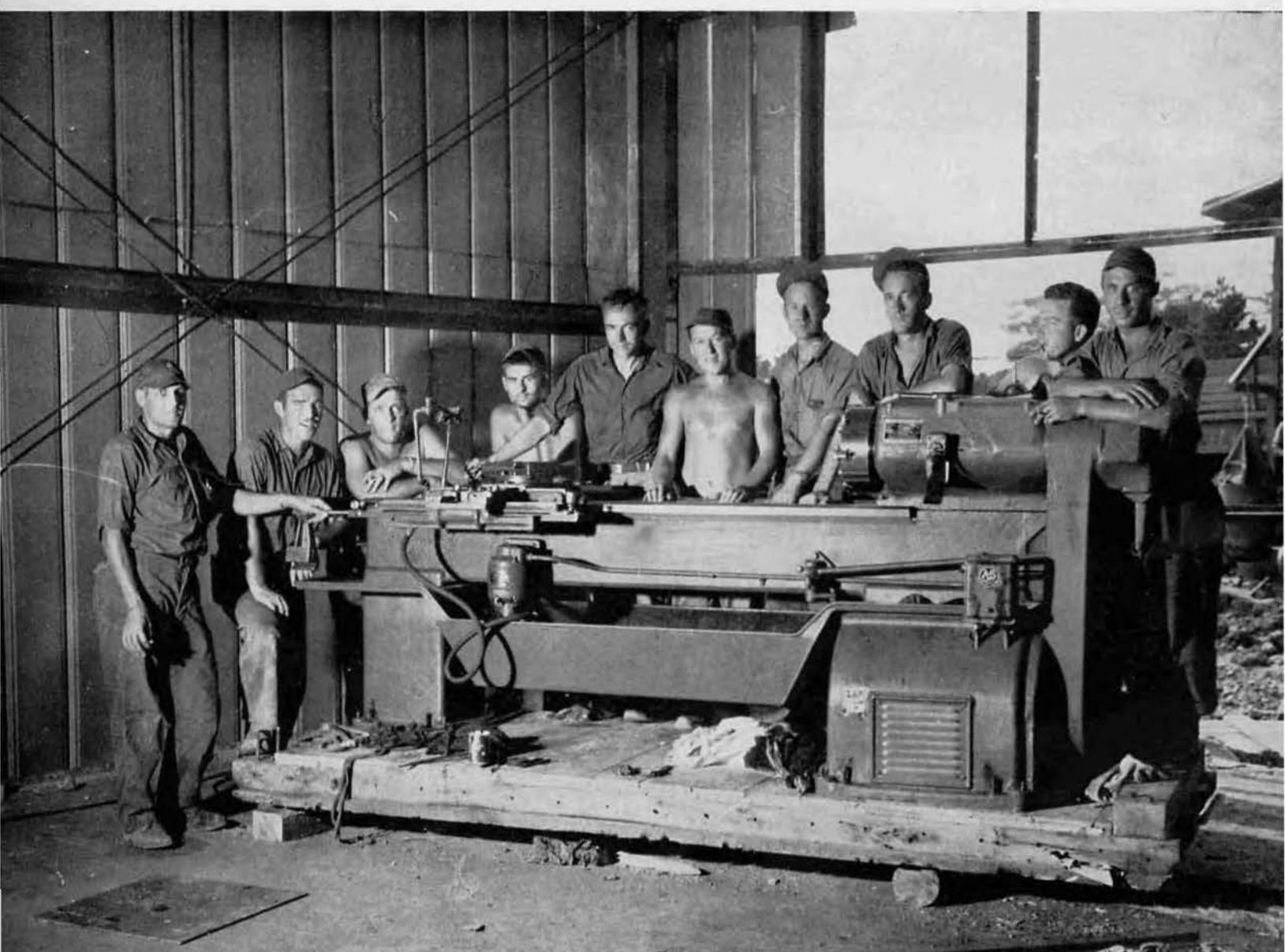
## THE CARPENTER SHOP



## THE PAINT SHOP



## HEAVY EQUIPMENT REPAIR SHOP



T H E   M A C H I N E   S H O P



## THE TIRE SHOP



## THE GREASE RACK



**T H E   E L E C T R I C   C R E W**



**T H E   T E L E P H O N E   C R E W**



**THE WATER WORKS CREW**



**THE PILE DRIVER CREW**



TRANSPORTATION



PLUMBING INSTALLATION



INDUSTRIAL AREA, OFFICER IN CHARGE AND AIDES





## PROJECTION BOOTH OPERATORS

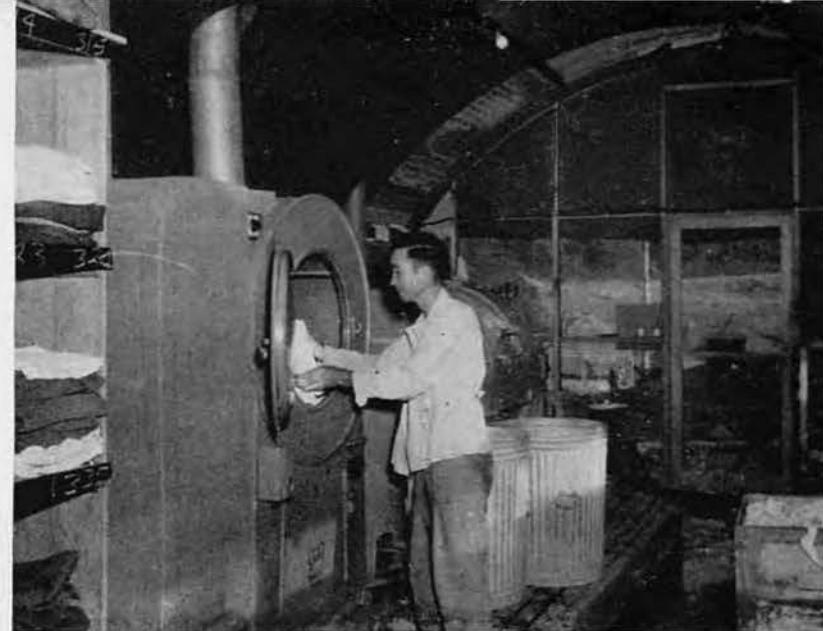


THE 15TH C.B. MOVIE AREA





THE LAUNDRY



M.A.A. FORCE



POST OFFICE



SHIP'S STORE



DISBURSING



TRANSPORTATION



PERSONNEL



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS



ENGINEERING



COMPANY B

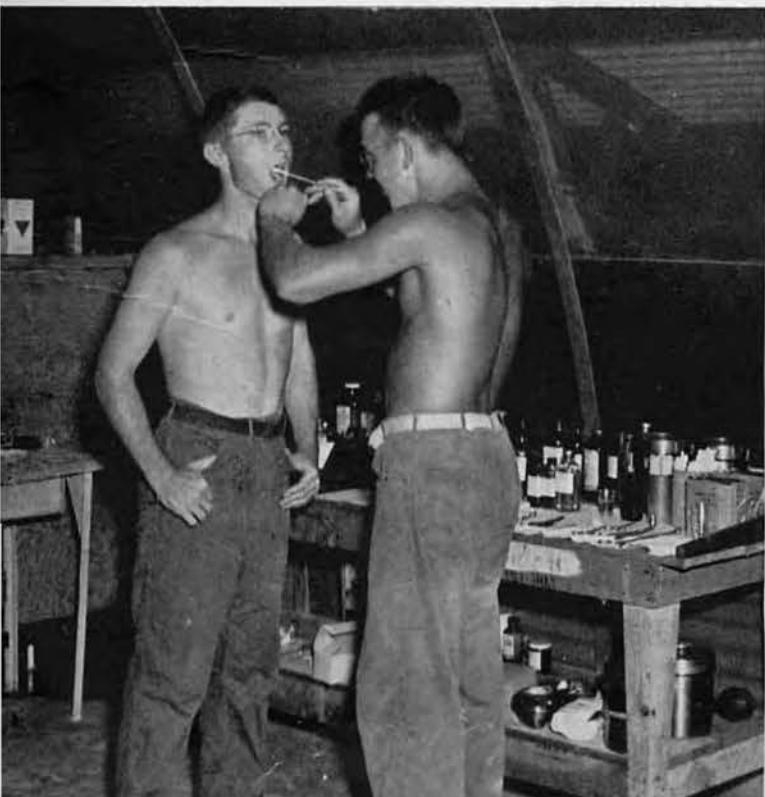


COMPANY C



SICK BAY STAFF

DISPENSARY



DENTAL OFFICE





ARMORY



LONG AND SHORT



HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

JACK O'DUSTS



SUPPLY WAREHOUSE





15TH CB OFFICERS

SURVEY PARTY



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES IN THE GALLEY



PHOTO LAB



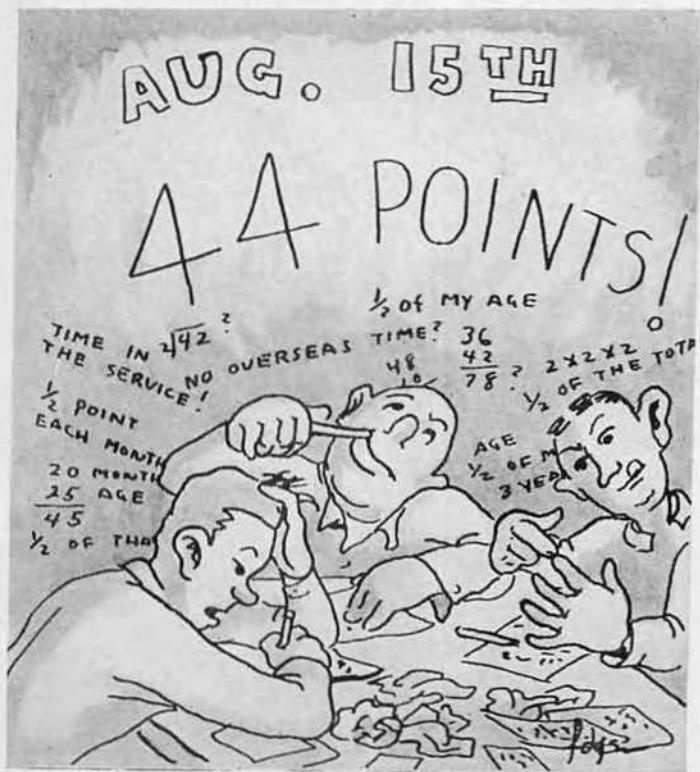
THE 15TH CB QUARTET





## THE 15TH C.B. ARMORY FIRE





THE FIRST "44-POINTERS" LEAVE FOR UNCLE SUGAR



# OKINAWA TYPHOON

OCTOBER 9, 1945



A PORTION OF OFFICERS' COUNTRY

THE 15TH CB CAMP AFTER THE WINDS DIED DOWN





QUONSET HUTS WERE TOSSED ABOUT LIKE BALLOONS



COMMANDER BUTLER'S QUARTERS



DOCKS WASHED AWAY



THE SEAPLANE BASE



TOUGH WAR, AIN'T IT?



15TH CB TIRE SHOP

# SCENIC OKINAWA & TOKYO



A FOLIO OF PHOTOGRAPHS

B

FRIEDMAN



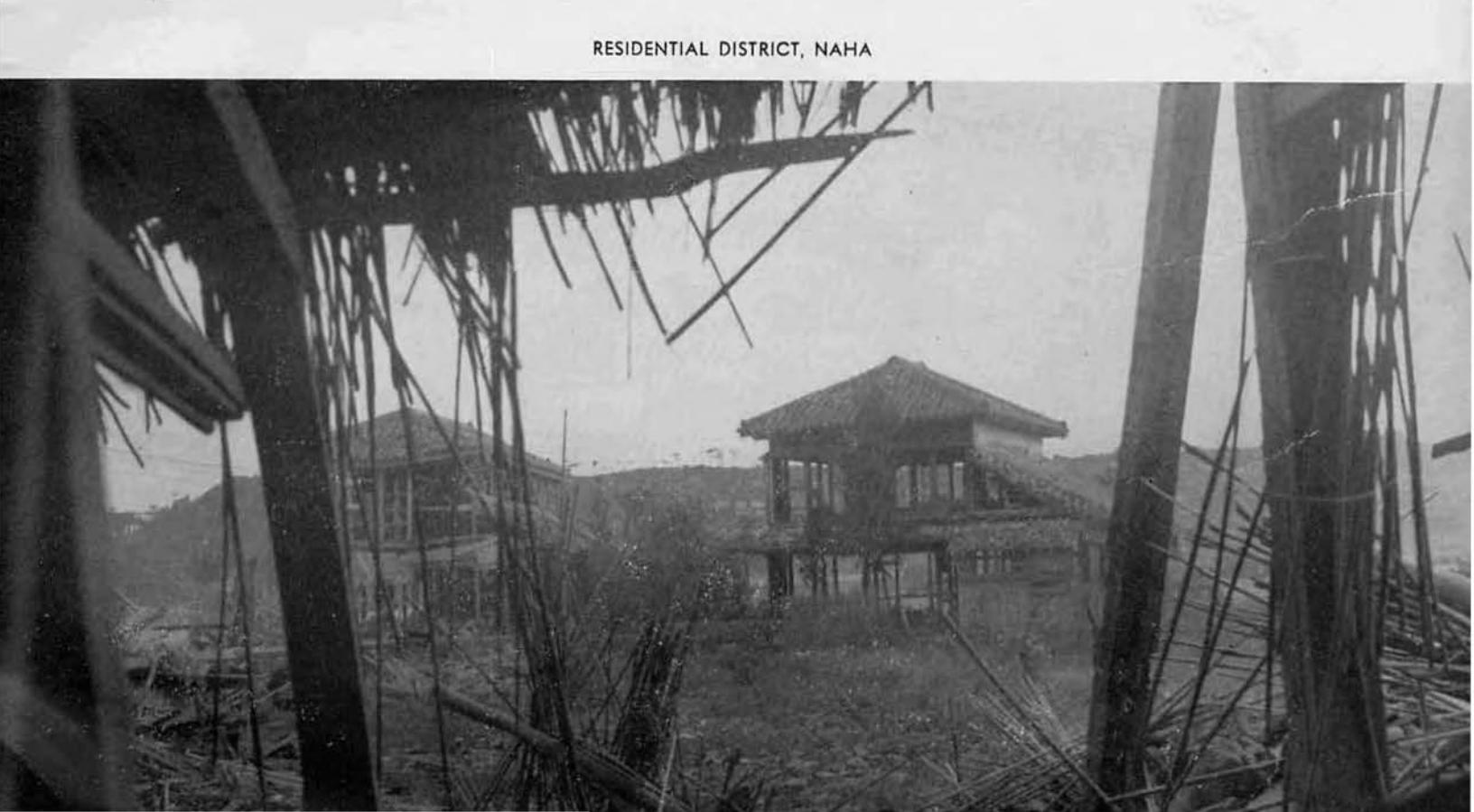
ROUTE 146 . . . OVERLOOKING BUCKNER BAY



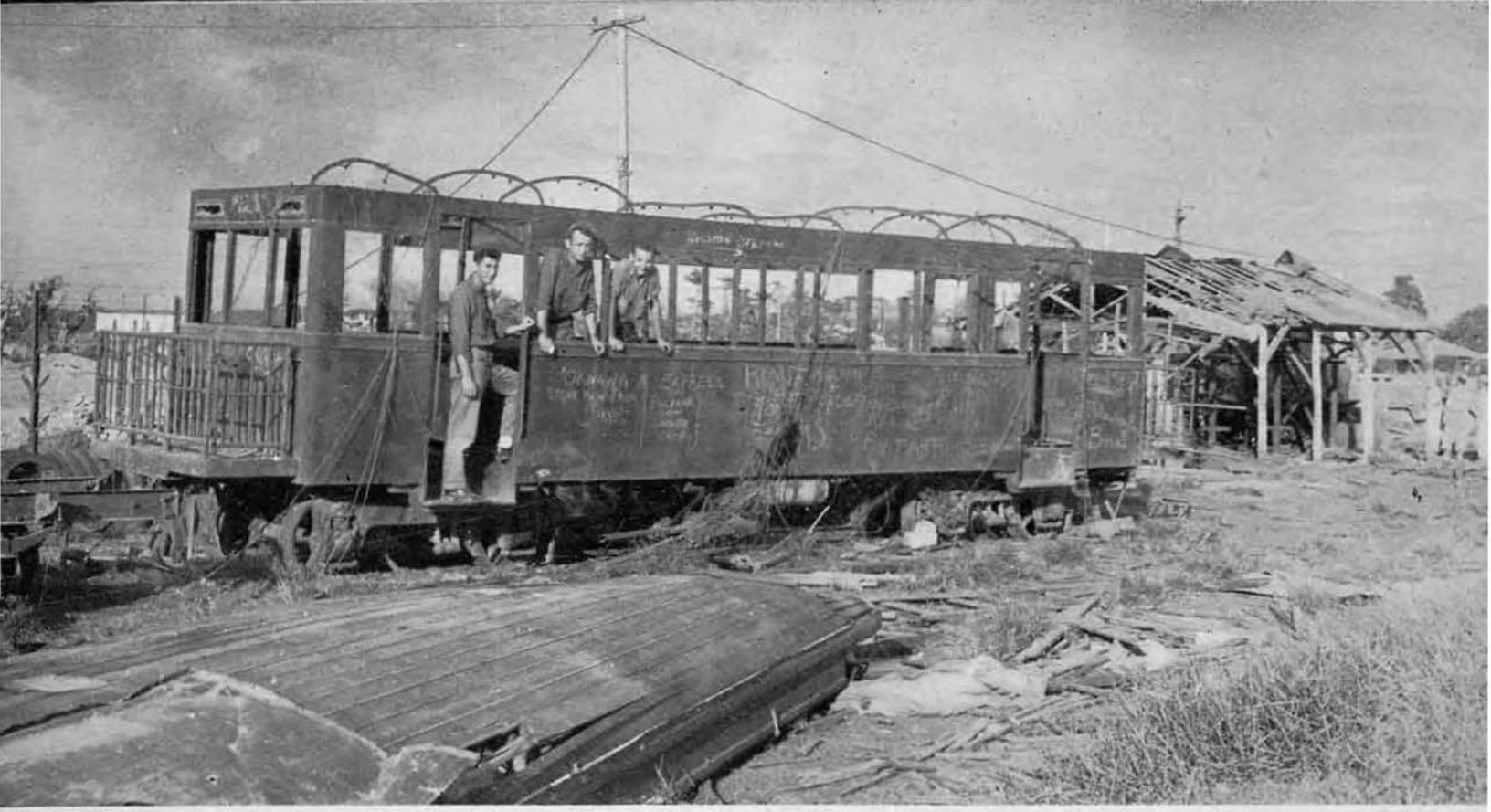
JAPANESE SHRINE AT FUTEMA



BOMB-SCARRED SHURI CHAPEL



RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, NAHA



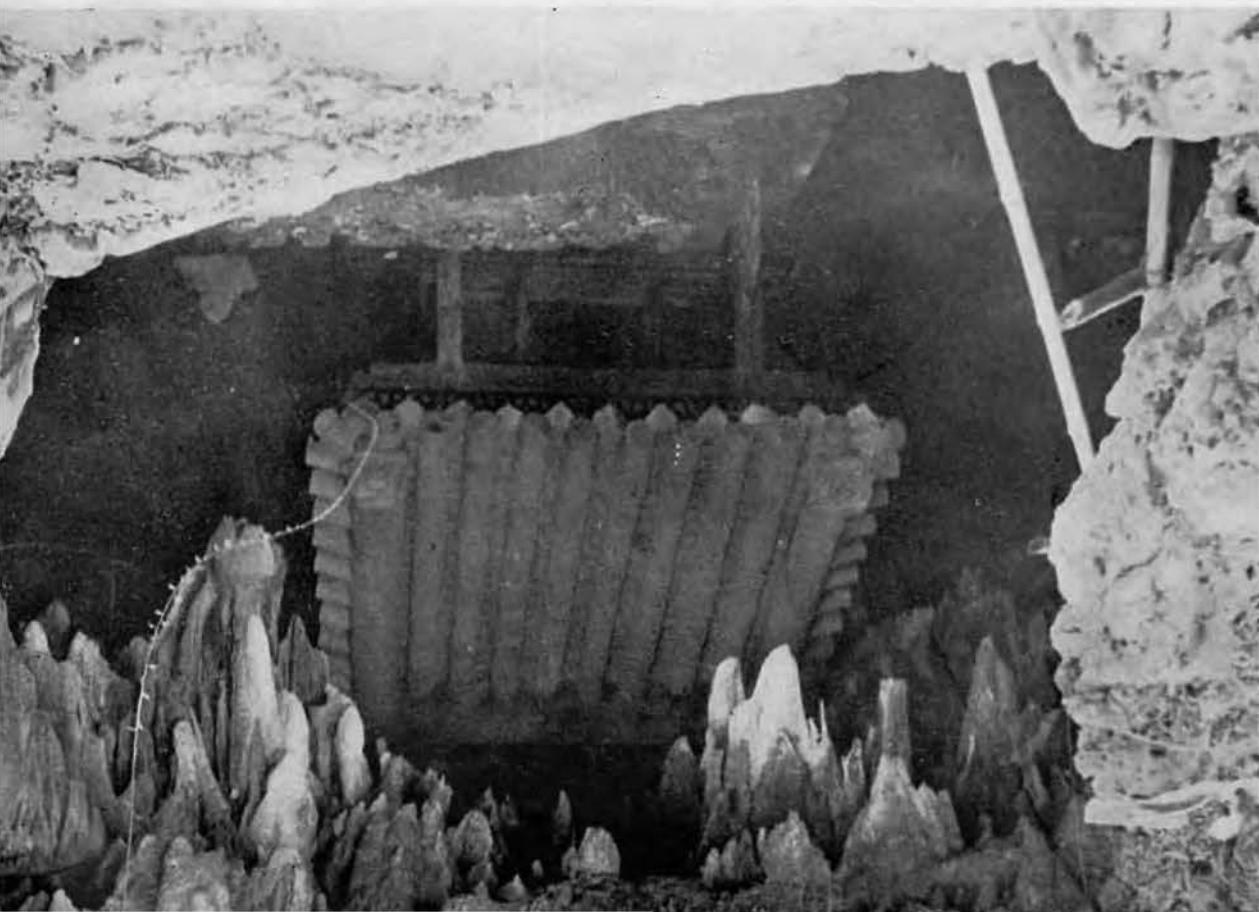
THE NAHA RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

THE FAMED SHURI CASTLE





BLOODY SUGAR LOAF HILL



JAP SHRINE HIDDEN IN  
A CAVE





NAHA





WATCH THE BIRDIE



A JAP BOMBER



A JAP ZERO



THE BAKA BOMB

AUGUST 10, 1945 . . . FLARES AND TRACERS SCREAM ACROSS OKINAWA SKIES



315



THE RICH NATIVE'S HOME



THE POOR NATIVE'S HOME



A BUNCH OF THE BOYS WERE WHOOPING IT UP . . .



A FORMER OKINAWAN HOME





ISHAKAWA NATIVE COMPOUND CONSTRUCTED UNDER SEABEE SUPERVISION

TOMBS



X

## Headquarters Tenth Army

7 September 1945

## Surrender

The undersigned Japanese Commanders, in conformity with the general surrender executed by the Imperial Japanese Government, at Yokohama, on 2 September 1945, hereby formally render unconditional surrender of the islands in the Ryukyus within the following boundaries:

30° North 126° East, thence 24° North 122° East, thence  
24° North 133° East, thence 29° North 131° East, thence  
30° North 131° 30' East, thence to point of origin.

野見敏郎

Toshiro Nomi  
Lieutenant General  
Commander Japanese Forces  
Sakishima Gunto

高田利貞

Toshisada Takada  
Major General  
Commander Japanese Army Forces  
Amami Gunto

加藤唯胤

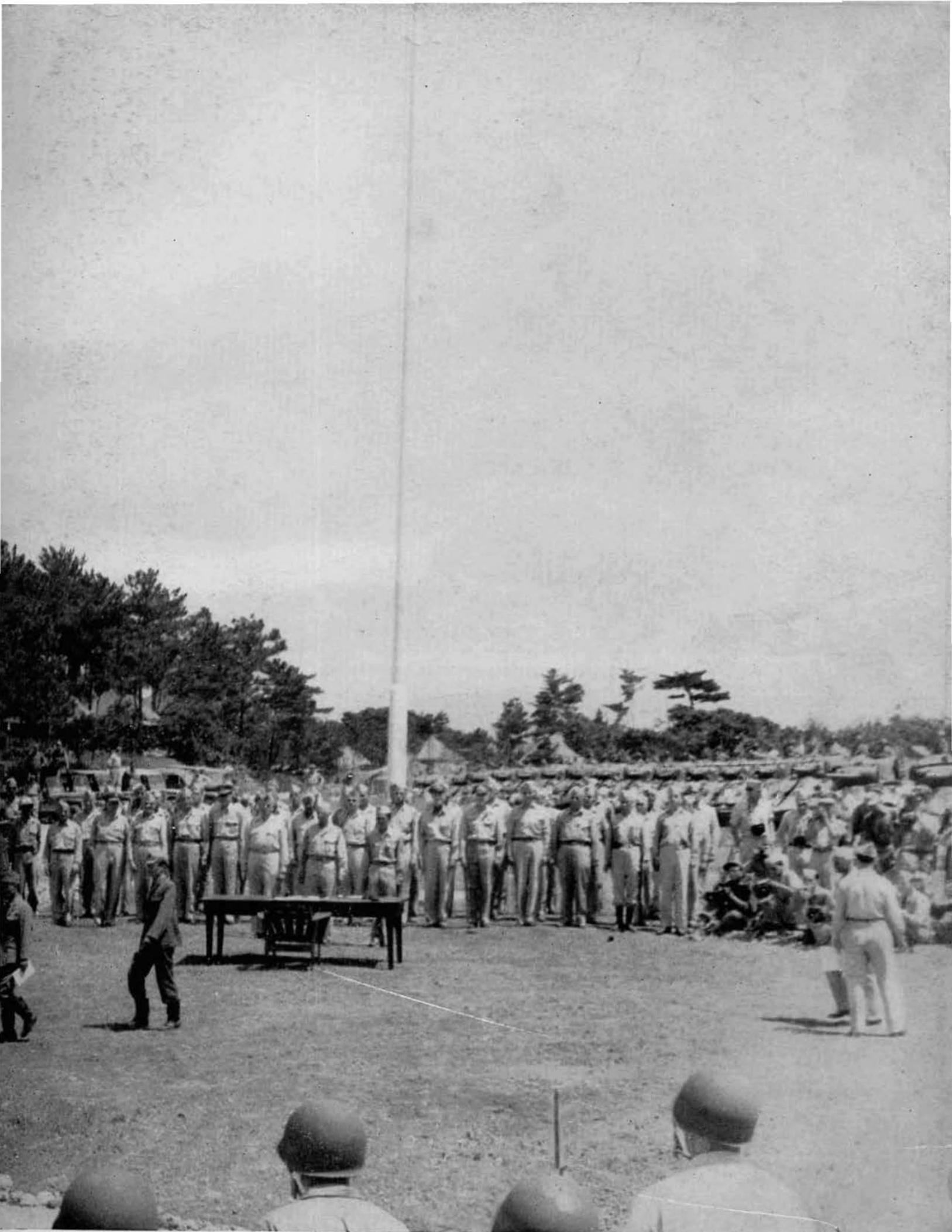
Tadao Kato  
Rear Admiral  
Commander Japanese Navy Forces  
Amami Gunto

Accepted:

Joseph W. Stilwell,  
J. W. Stilwell  
General, United States Army  
Commanding



THE JAP OFFICERS LEAVE AFTER



THE SURRENDER DOCUMENT IS SIGNED



THE JAP DELEGATION SALUTING THE AMERICAN FLAG

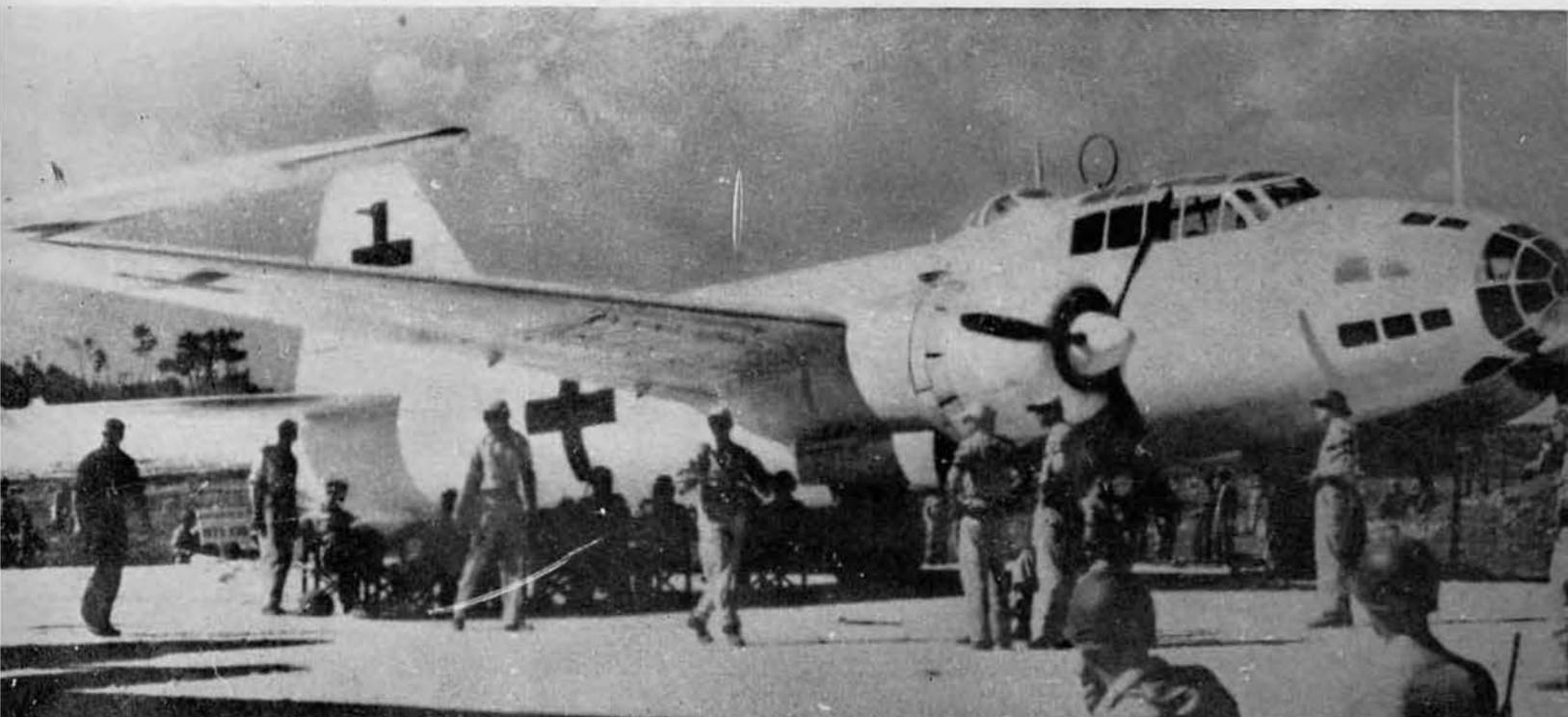


ADMIRAL KATO SEATED, SIGNING DOCUMENT. GENERAL STILLWELL AT EXTREME LEFT.

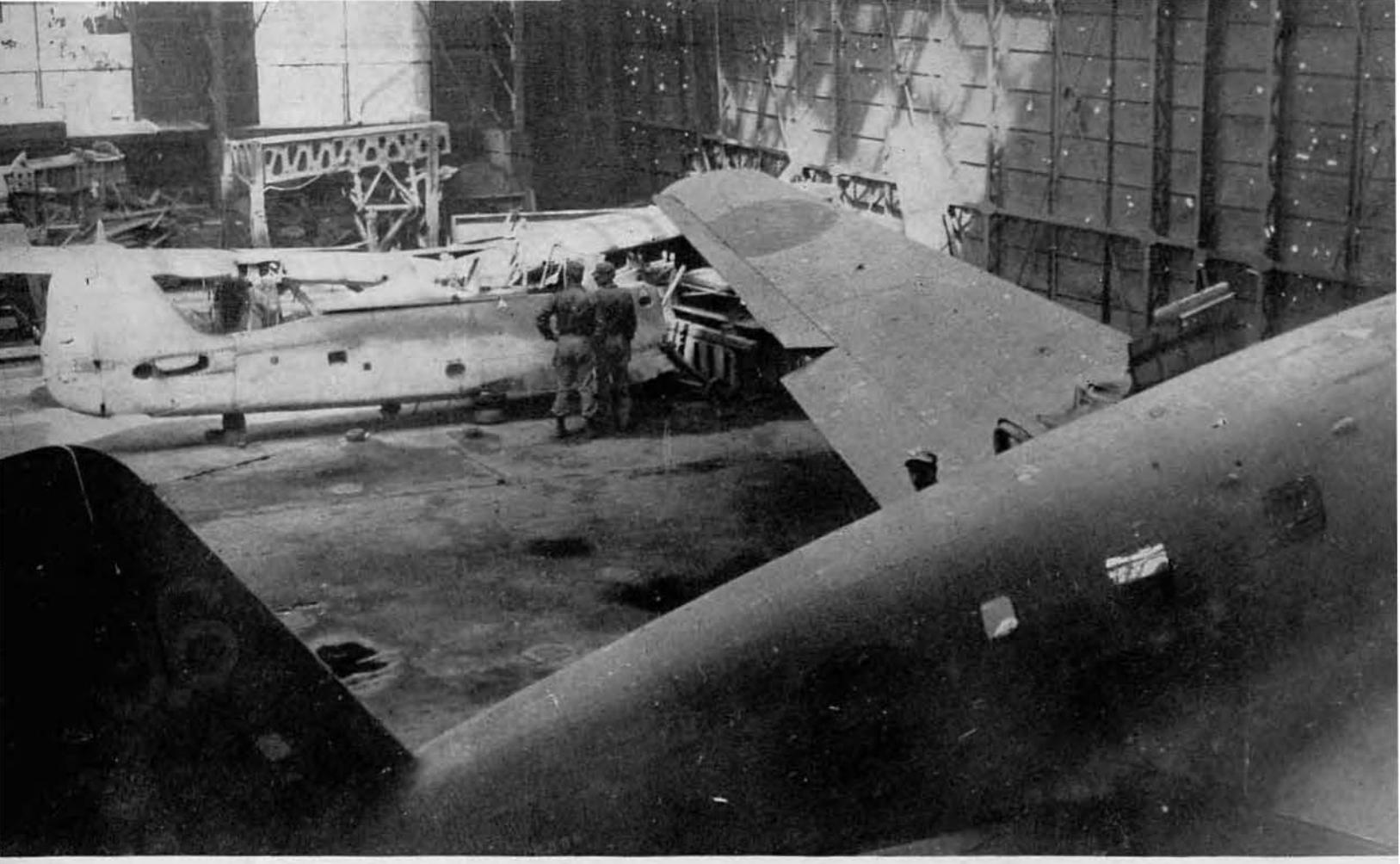


THE JAP DELEGATION FLYING BACK TO TOKYO

THE PLANE WITH THE GREEN CROSSES AT IE SHIMA







TOP: THE HANGARS AT TACHIKAWA, 20 MILES WEST OF TOKYO  
BOTTOM: JAP CIVILIANS CLEANING UP WRECKAGE



A MODERN WIND TUNNEL AT TACHIKAWA



MORE JAP CIVILIANS . . . MORE WRECKAGE

THE TACHIKAWA RAILROAD STATION



THE TACHIKAWA GENERAL STORE



SUBURBAN TOKYO



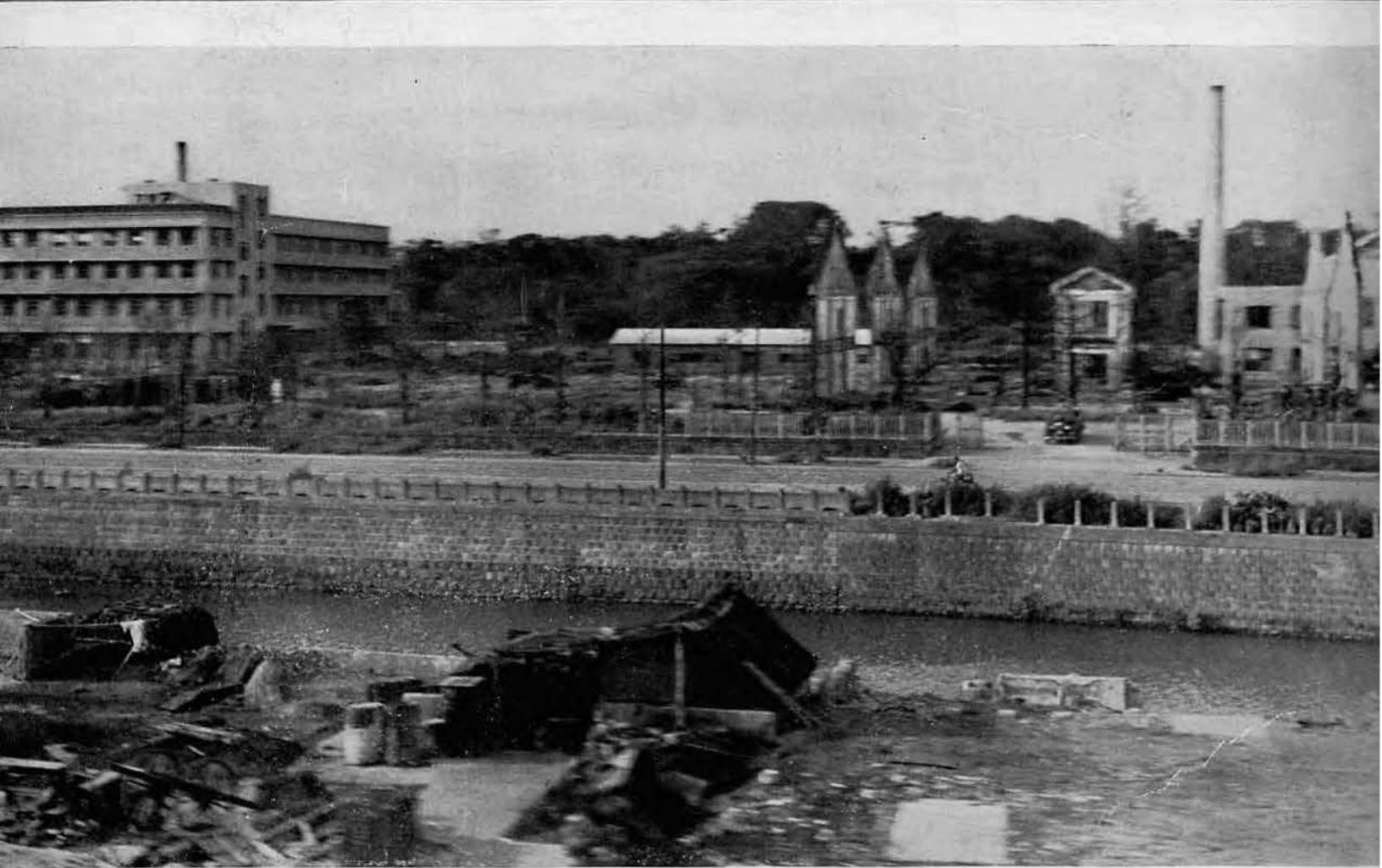
THE B-29's DID A THOROUGH JOB



WAITING FOR A TRAM IN TOKYO



PASSING ALONG SOME SCUTTLEBUTT



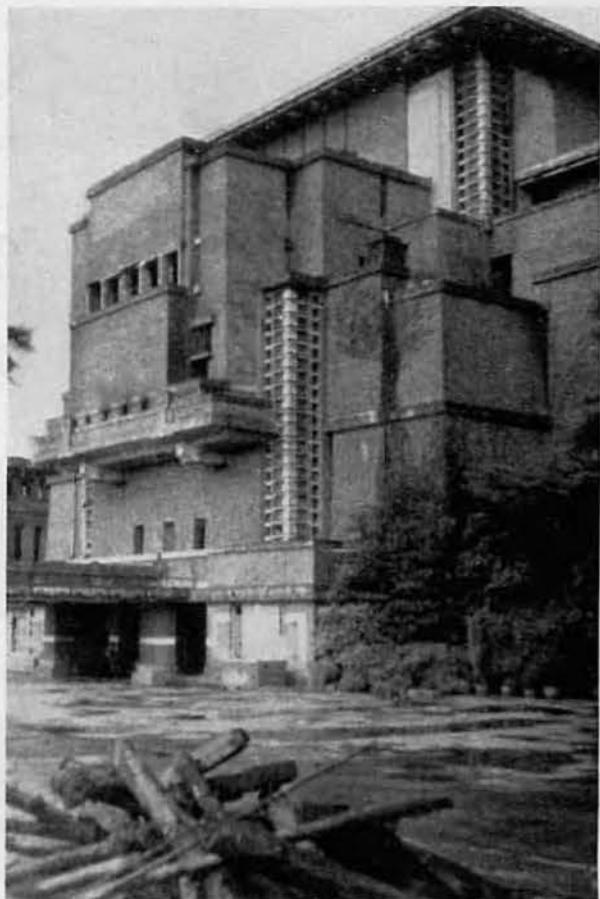
TOP: ROSIE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE  
BOTTOM: THE WALLS ARE HERE, BUT WHERE'S THE HOUSE?

T O K Y O

TOKYO RADIO CITY



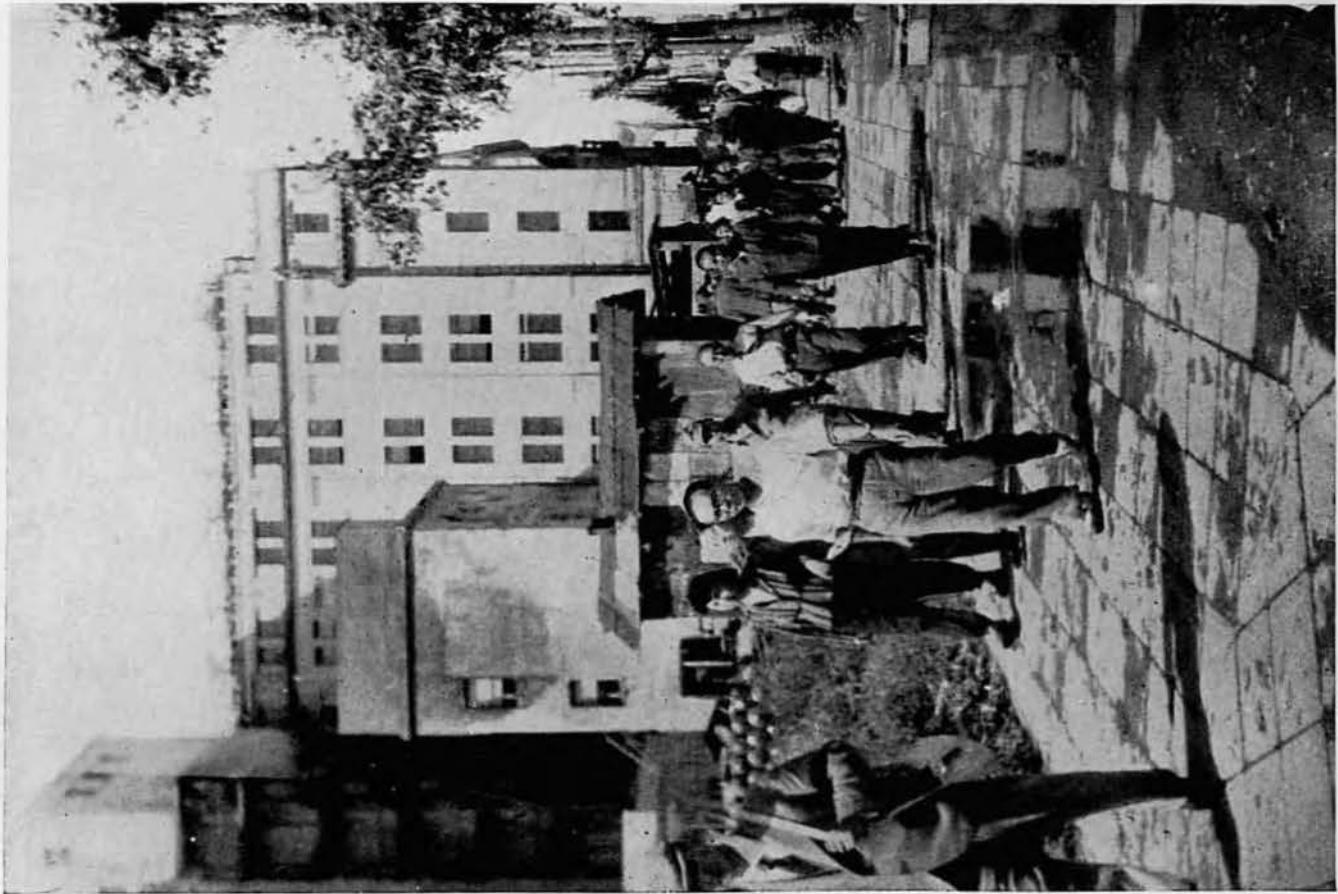
IMPERIAL HOTEL



DEPARTMENT STORE



TOJO AND YAMMAMOTO

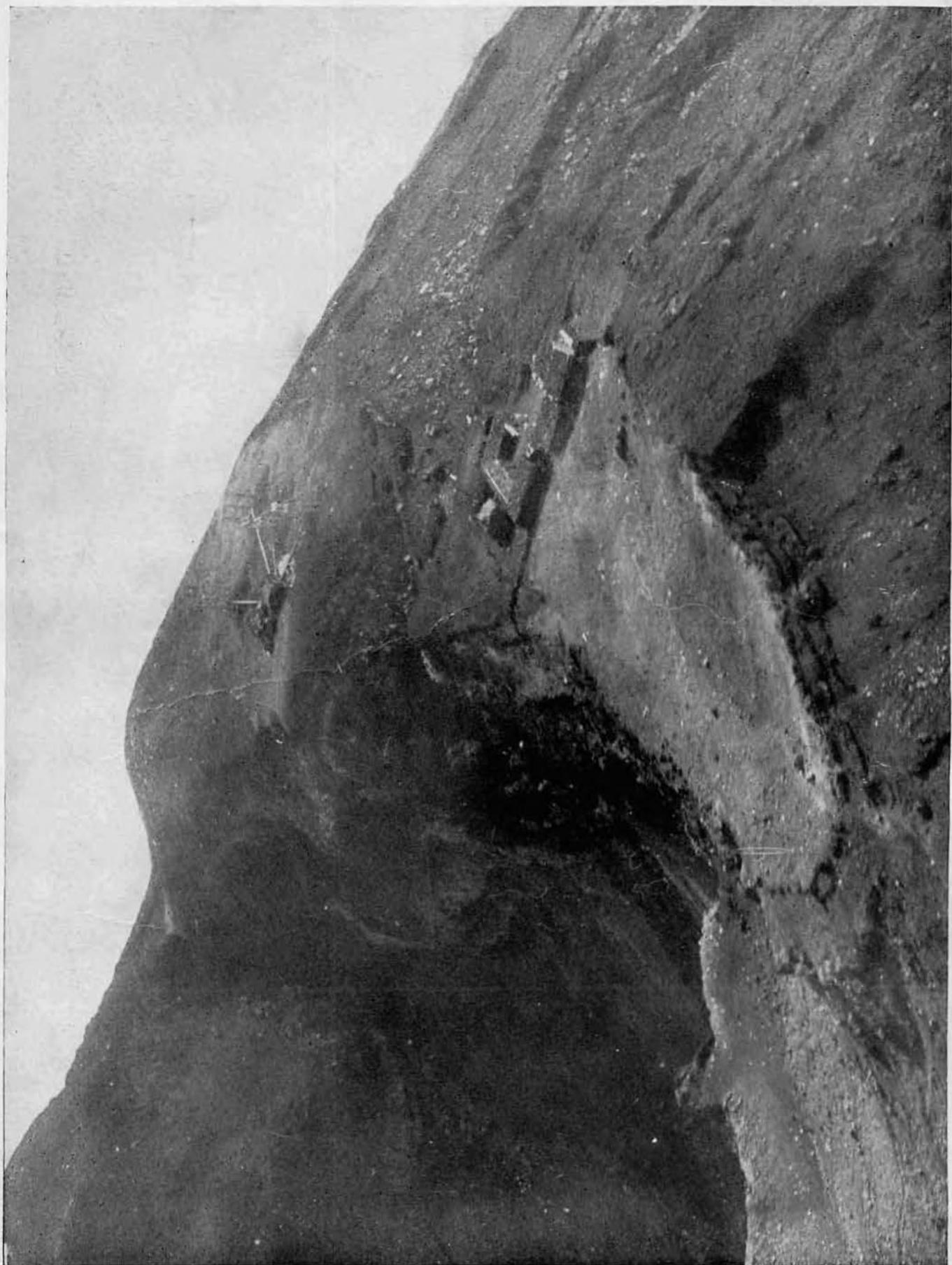


THE MAIN DRAG



INSIDE A JAP HOME

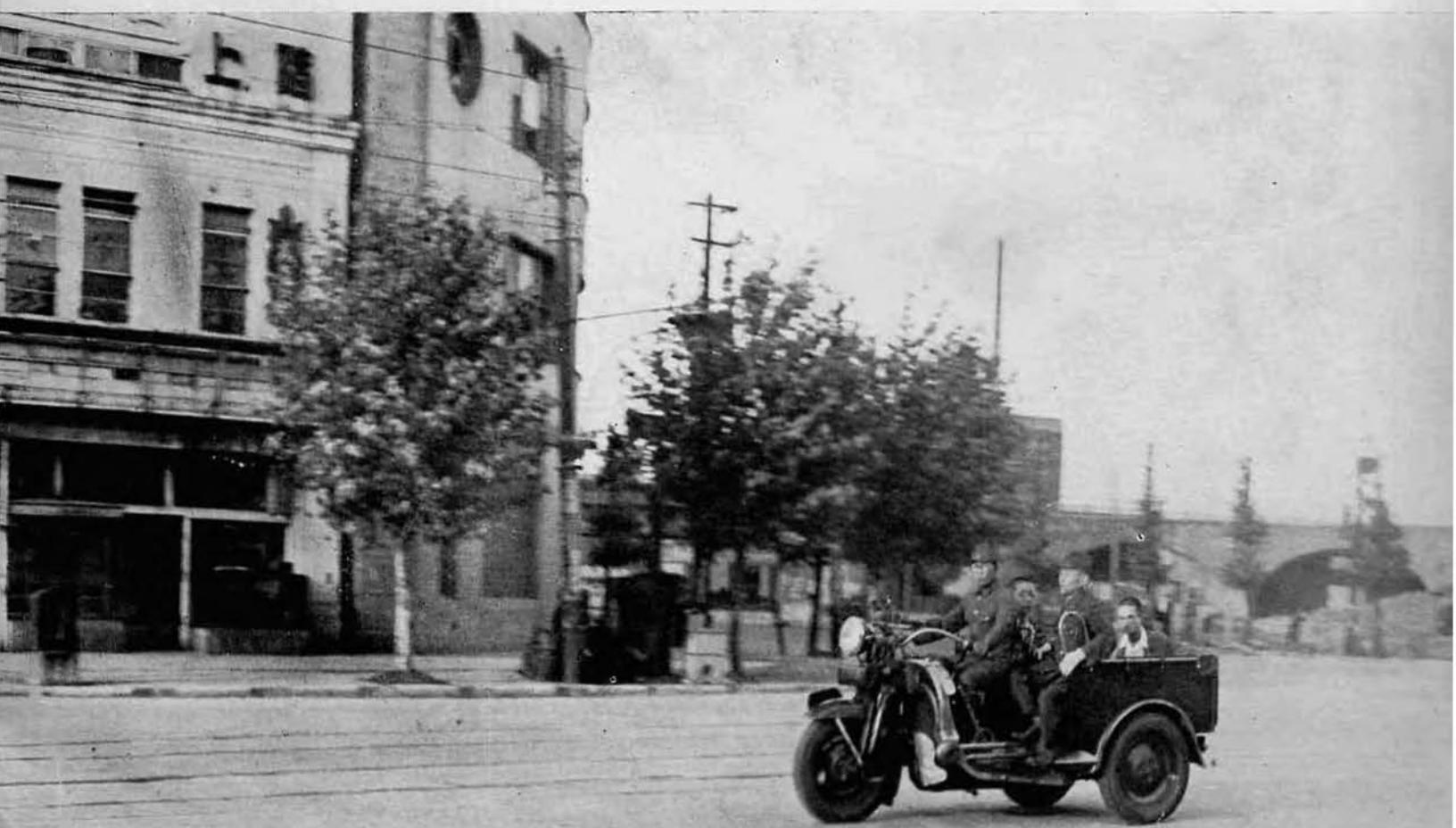
THE TOP OF MT. FUJIYAMA . . . 13,000 FT. HIGH

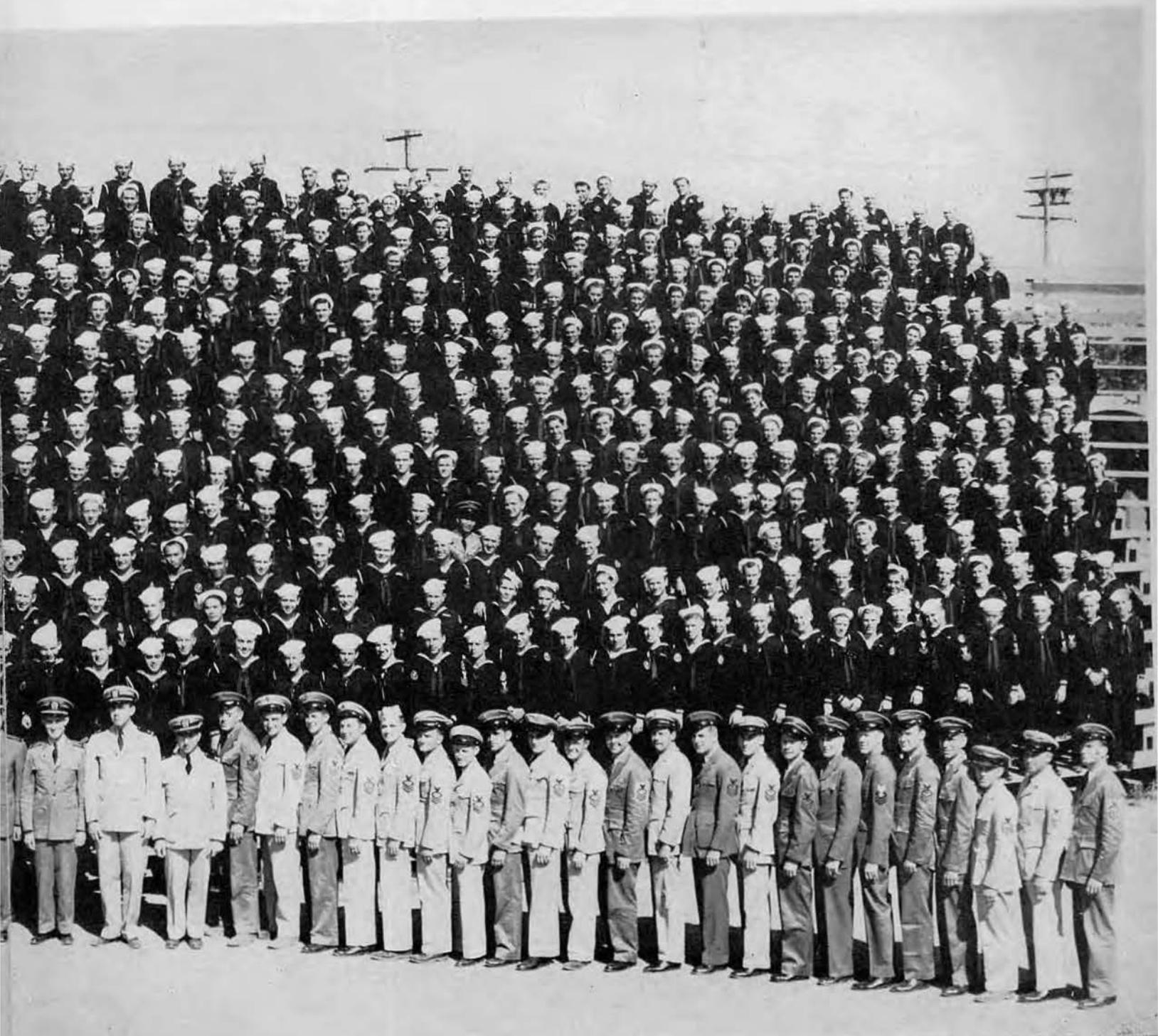




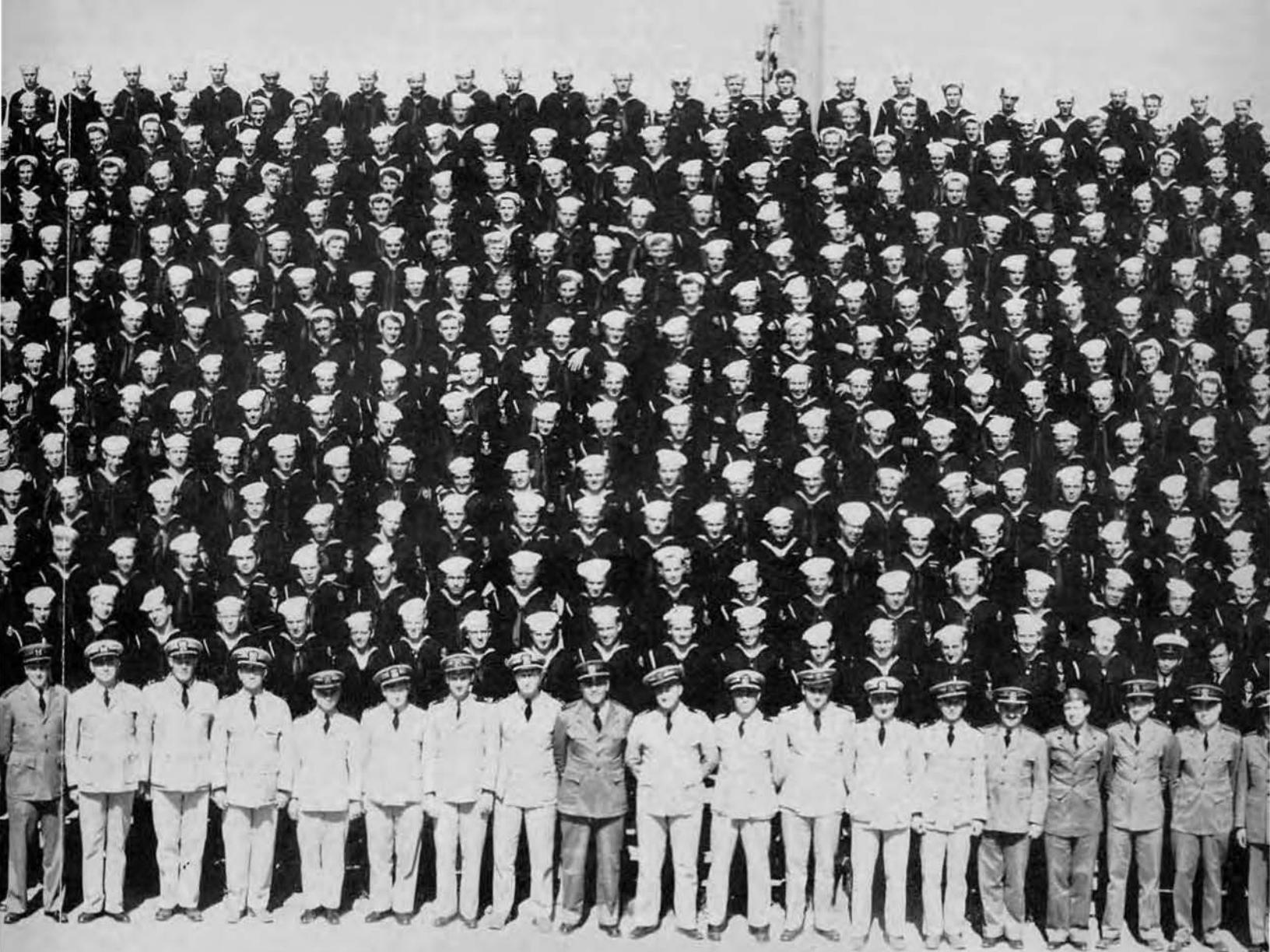
RESTING OUTSIDE THE EMPEROR'S PALACE

WHERE'RE YOU GOIN', MATE?



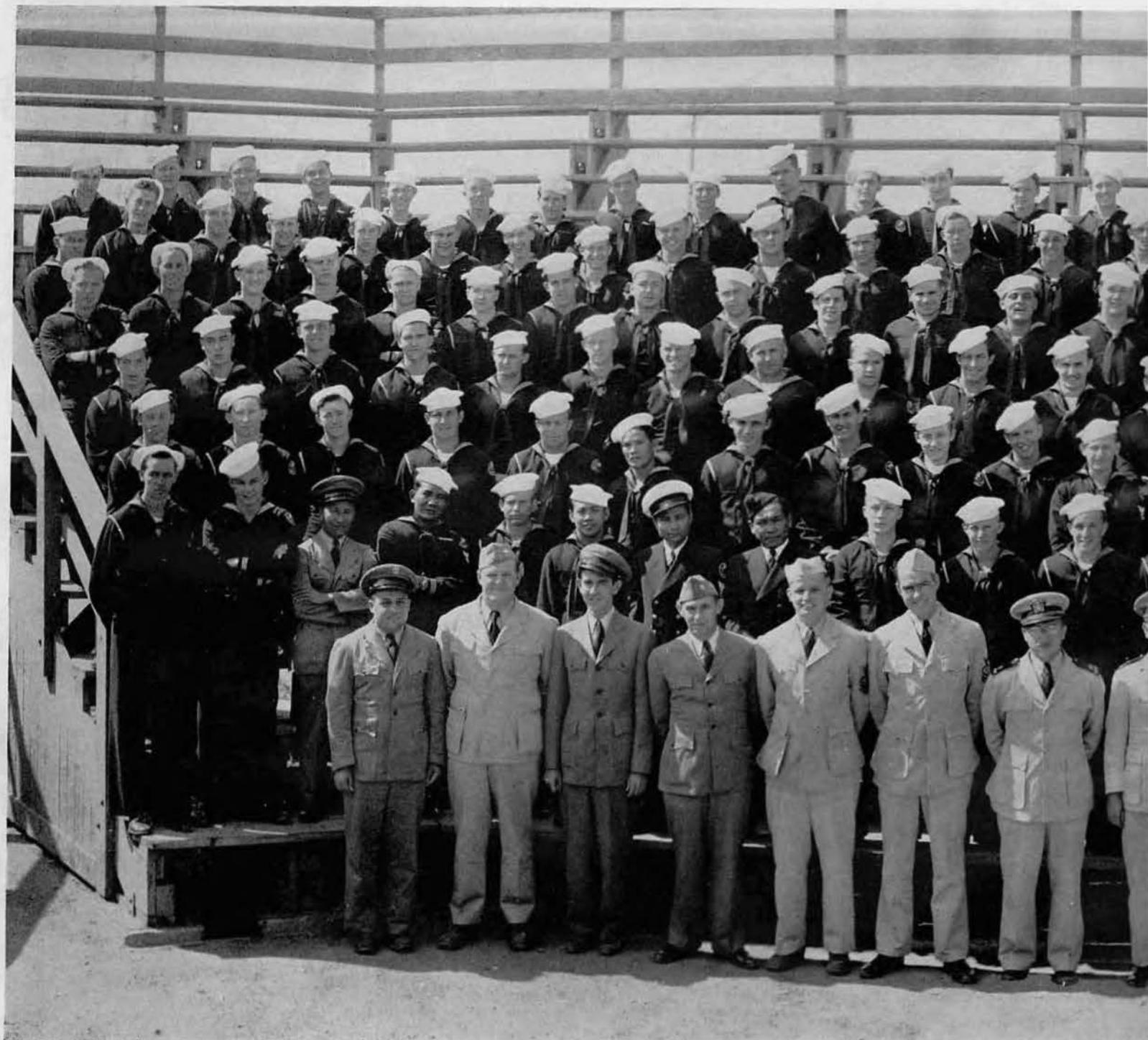


# 15TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

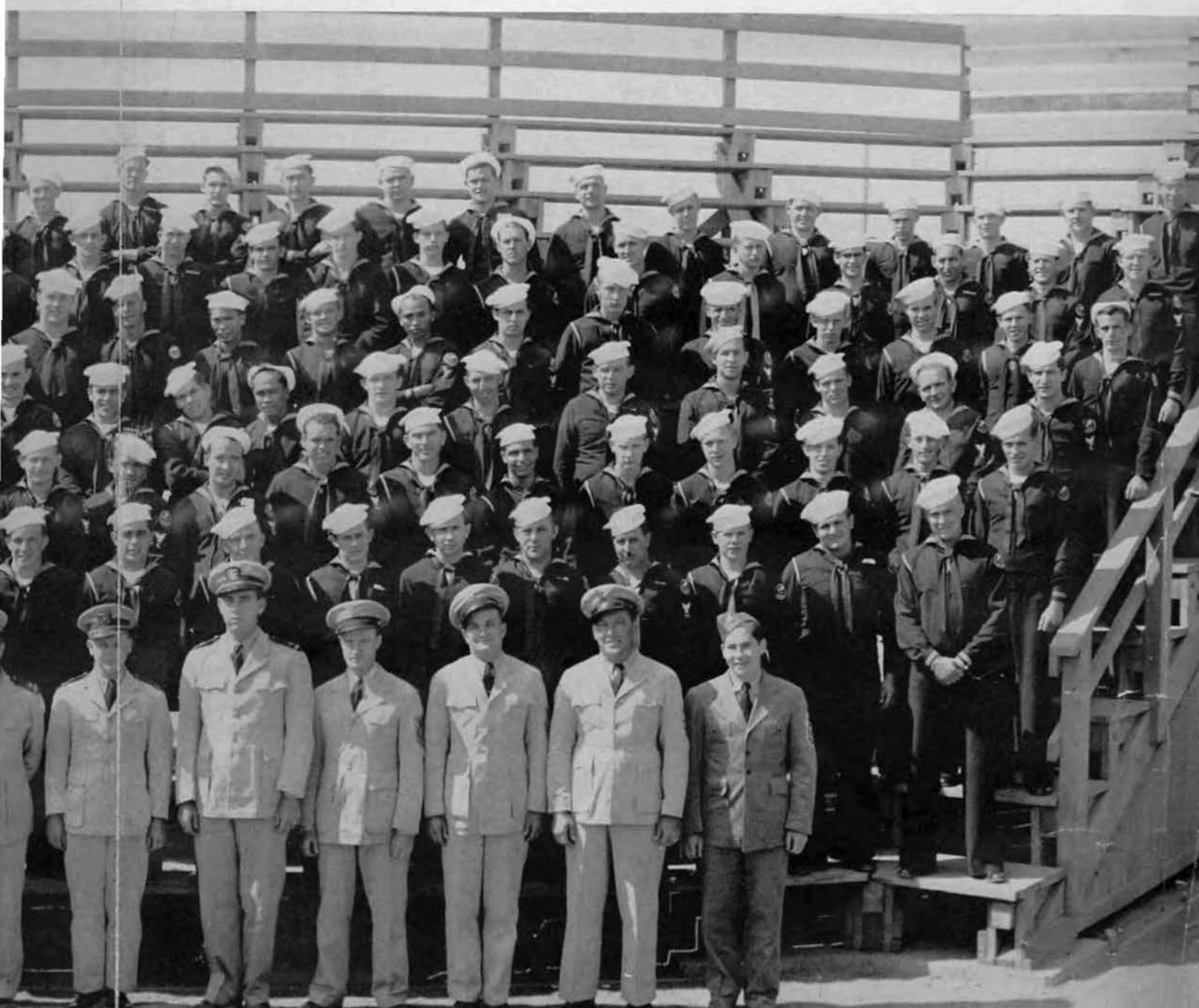




# HEADQUARTE



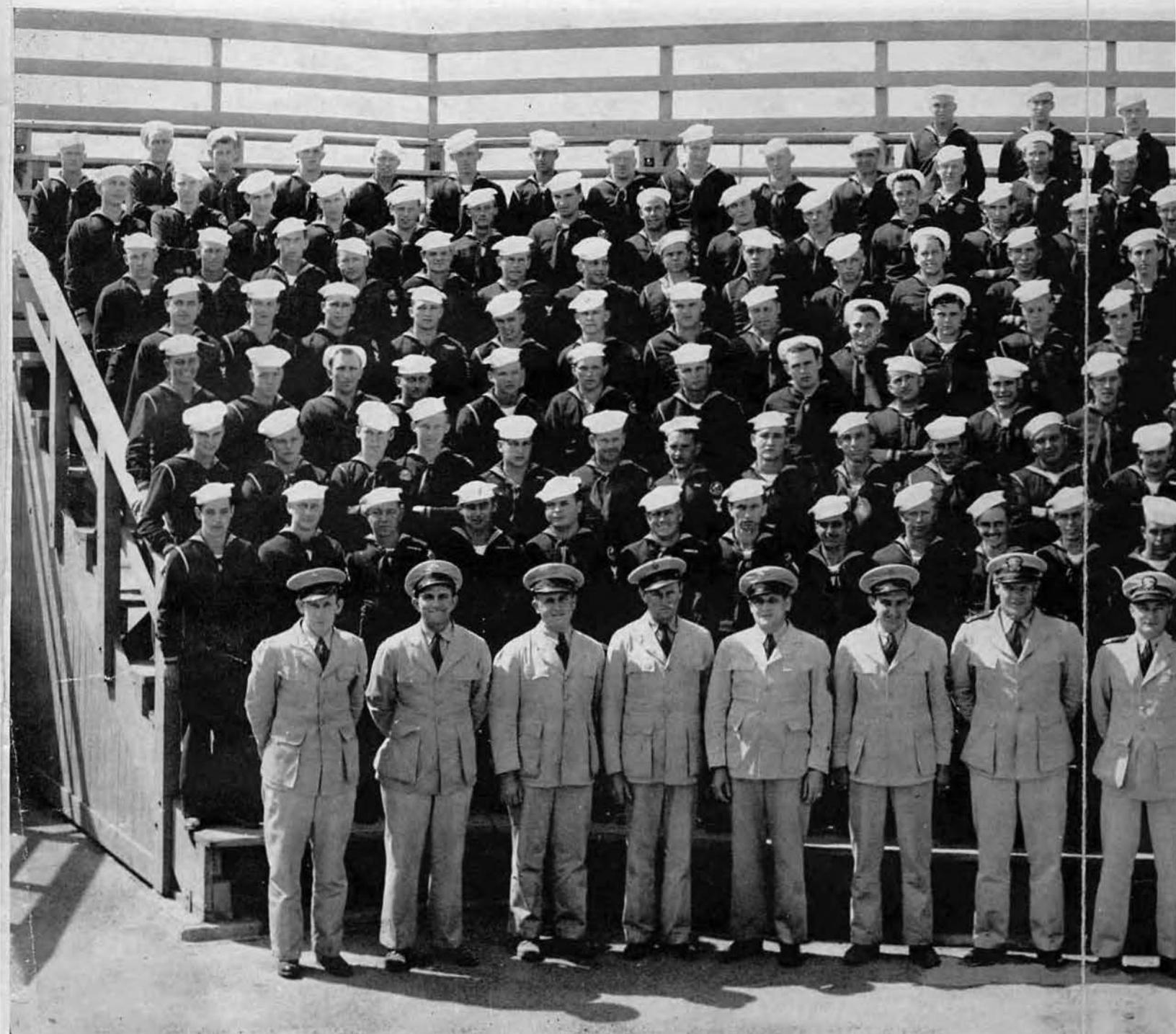
# TERS COMPANY



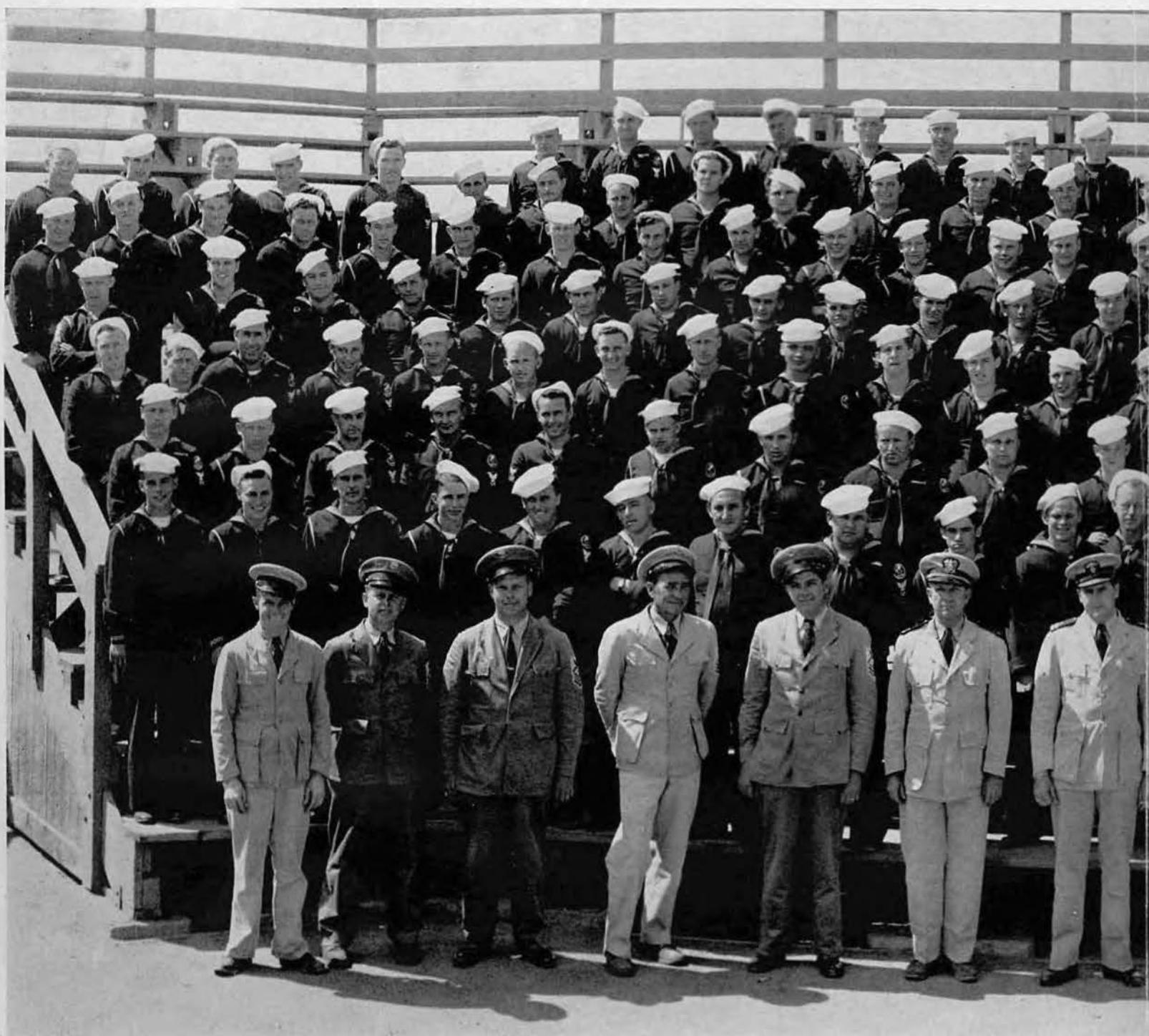
A N Y A



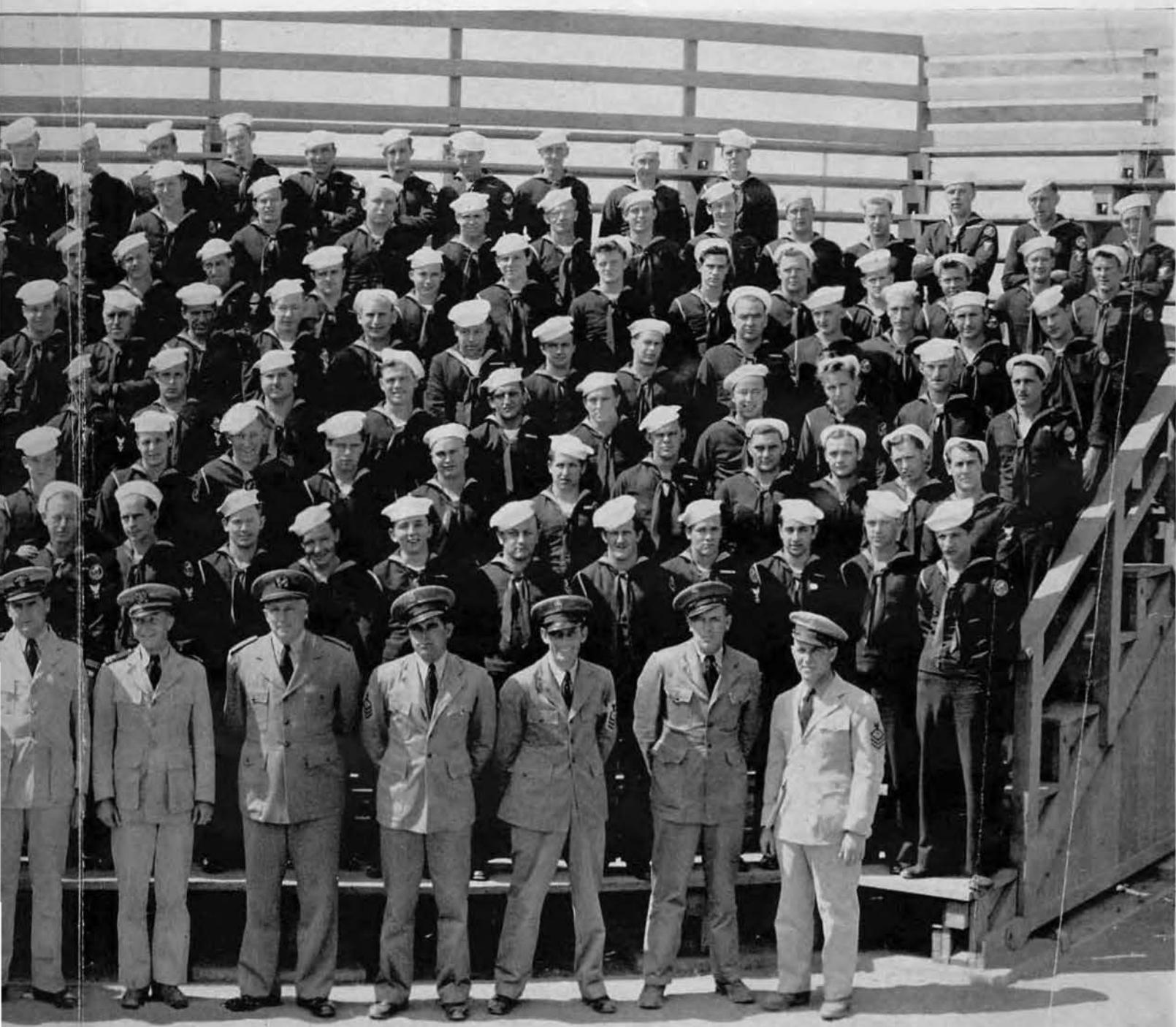
C O M P A



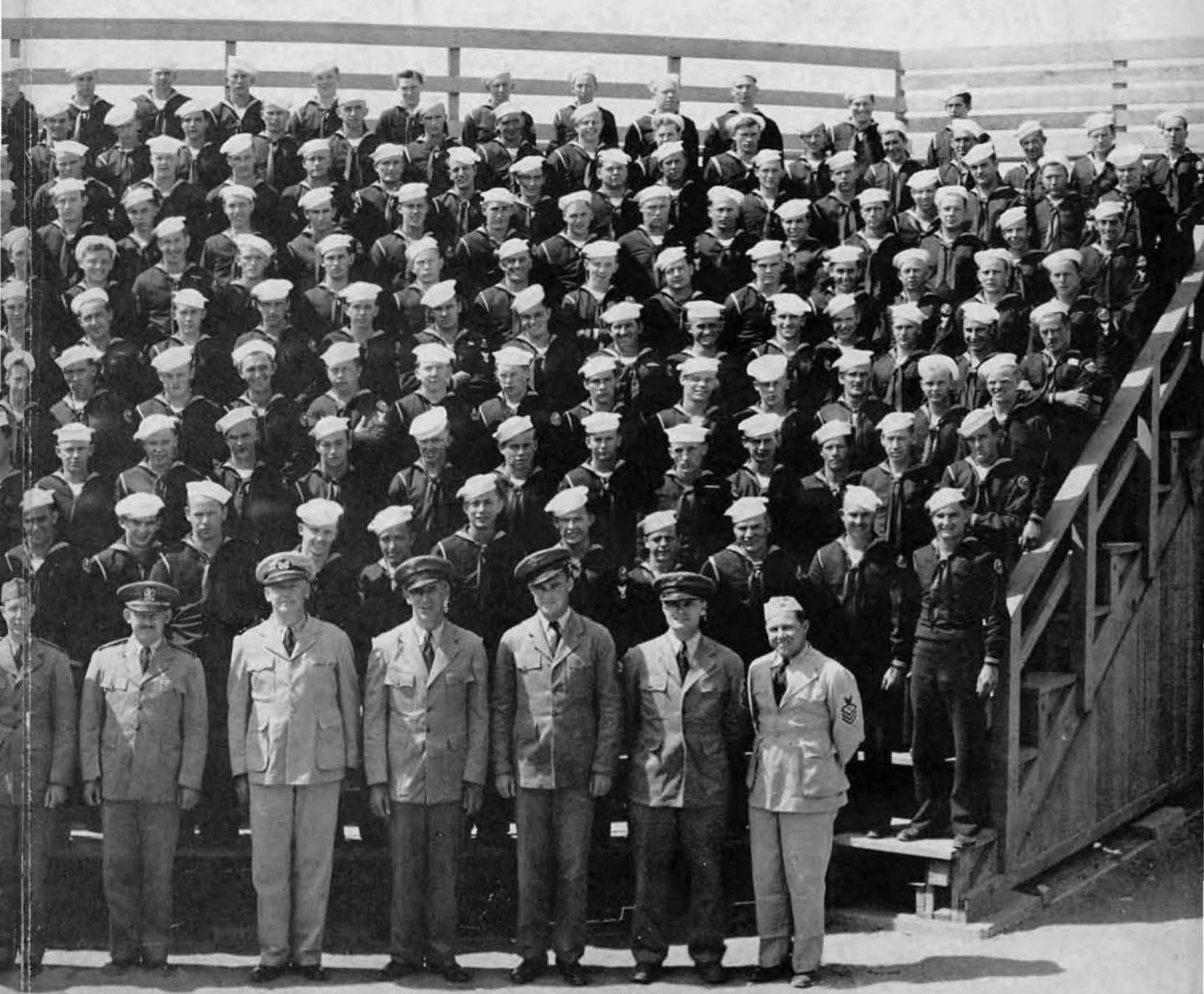
C O M P A



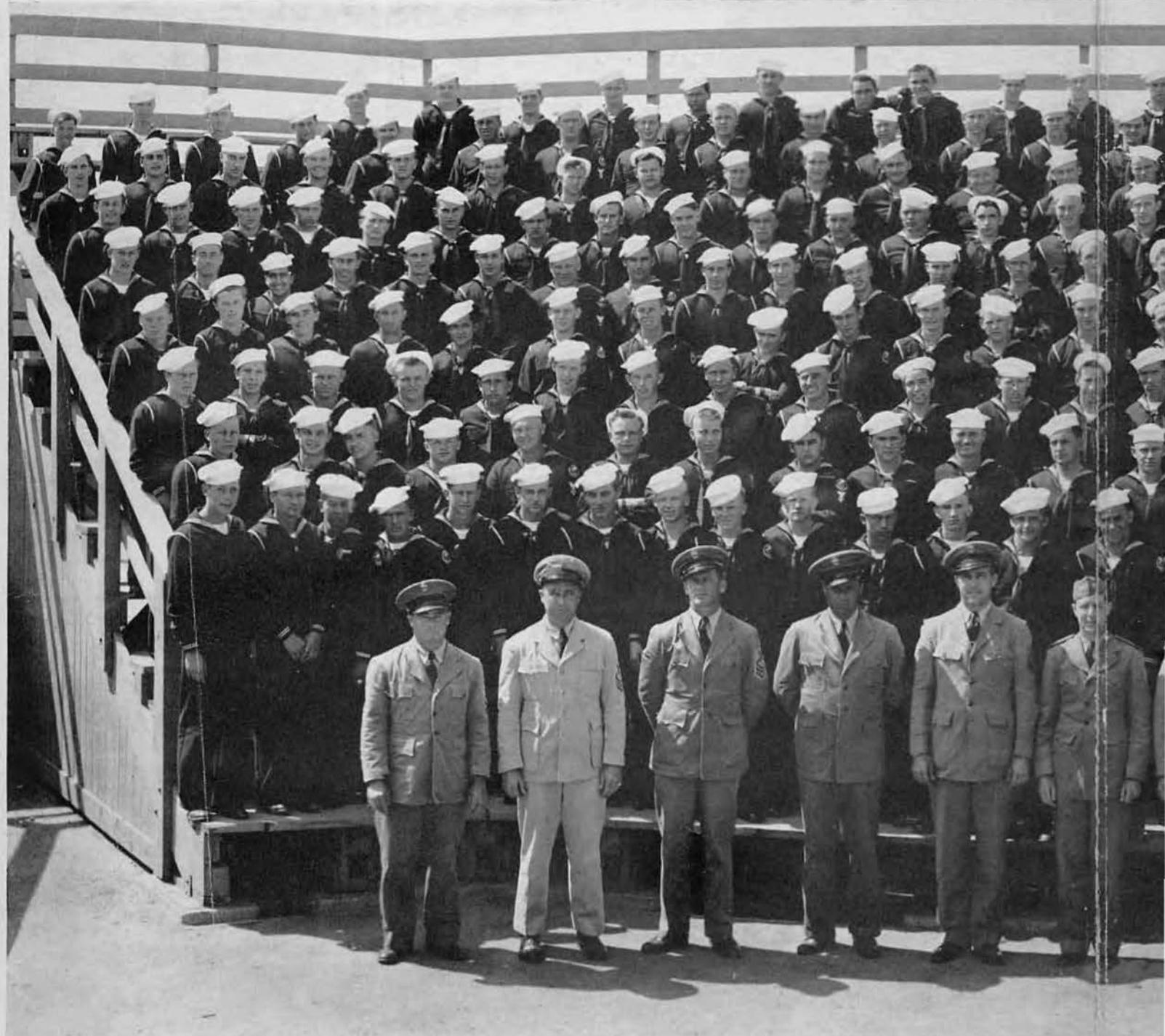
A N Y B



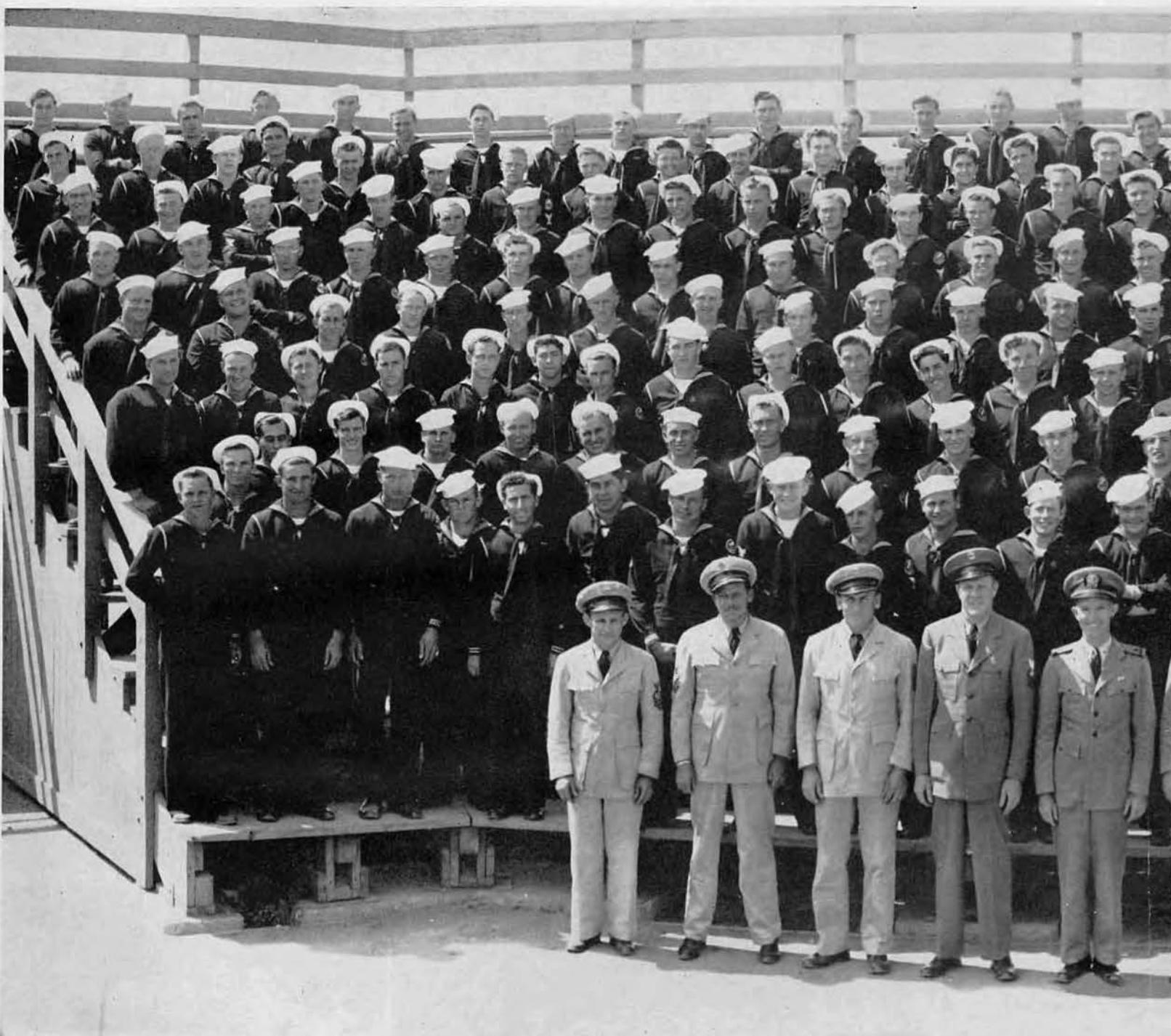
A N Y C



C O M P A



C O M P A



A N Y D



# Battalion muster

"Where yuh from, Mac?"—The eternal question. In the following pages we tell where we were from and where we would like to return.

# BATTALION MUSTER

## OFFICERS

T. H. BUTLER	Lieutenant Commander	50 Front St., Mablehead, Mass.
J. A. WALKER	Lieutenant Commander	732 Elmwood St., Shreveport, La.
E. C. CHASE, JR.	Lieutenant	308 Fitzgerald St., Bay City, Mich.
F. C. FOWLER	Lieutenant	324 Zara St., Pittsburgh, Pa., or Elk Park, N. C.
R. D. HAYWOOD	Lieutenant	3947 Newdale Road, Chevy Chase, Md.
A. J. HUESMAN	Lieutenant	147 Cresmont Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio
W. F. QUEBE	Lieutenant	9 West Troy St., Indianapolis, Ind.
R. V. SUMMERSIDE	Lieutenant	Merchants Mutual Building, Redfield, S. D.
W. L. BARNES	Lieutenant (jg)	P. O. Box 395, Charlestown, Ind.
L. J. ELFLINE	Lieutenant (jg)	1104 Second Ave., Sterling, Ill.
L. J. HORWITZ	Lieutenant (jg)	467 Central Park West, New York City, N. Y.
D. H. JAHNKE	Lieutenant (jg)	1007 Jasper St., Houghton, Mich.
J. D. McAULEY	Lieutenant (jg)	135 Java St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
D. S. POULTON	Lieutenant (jg)	1665 Northwest Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio
I. I. SHULL	Lieutenant (jg)	17 West Adams St., Tucson, Ariz.
R. E. WARD	Lieutenant (jg)	819 North Custer St., Colorado Springs, Colo.
J. A. BAXTER	Ensign	1130 15th Avenue North, Seattle, Wash.
F. R. GELUSO	Ensign	1870 East Eighth St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
R. F. LINSENMEYER	Ensign	Rt. 1, Clymer, Pa.
U. S. O'CONNOR	Ensign	133 West Pine St., Stockton, Calif.
O. H. ELVERUM	Chief Carpenter	Morgan City, La.
C. D. FLAGG	Chief Carpenter	2565 Ernest St., Jacksonville, Fla.
H. M. JENSEN	Chief Carpenter	910 North Brinton St., Dixon, Ill.
J. P. MINERVA	Chief Carpenter	32-16 Crescent St., Astoria, Long Island City, N. Y.
P. S. POMEROY	Chief Carpenter	80 North Bonnie Avenue, Pasadena, Calif.
C. G. BYSON	Carpenter	917 East Elm St., Glendale, Calif.
C. S. SMITH	Carpenter	5017 Radford Ave., North Hollywood, Calif.

## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

ALLEN, M. A., Waterview, Ky.	DEUTHSCH, U., Box 255, Jordan, Minn.	MUTH, W. H., 552 Summit Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
ALLEY, R., Lucasville, Ohio.	DOBOKWICK, V., 44 Spruce St., Jersey City, N. J.	MOEN, A. O., 309 Montgomery St., Decorah, Iowa.
ANUNDSON, R. L., 4 W. Main St., Sheffield, Pa.	EPPLRIGHT, W. J., 217 Tree St., Philadelphia, Pa.	McGREW, M. B., 1342 Market St., Parkersburg, W. Va.
ARMSTRONG, R. A., 345 W. 68th St., Jacksonville, Fla.	ESPOSITO, V., 31 Kellogg St., Portland, Me.	MARTINEZ, S. J., 978 S. Kenmore St., Los Angeles, Calif.
BARRON, C. A., Forester, Ark.	FAY, J. F., 301 Vane St., Boston, Mass.	NANCE, C. R., 510 Wheeler St., Rockwood, Tenn.
BOWLING, E. D., Glove, Ky.	FRANK, S. M., 324 Baldwin Ave., Charlotte, N. C.	NASTASI, A. J., 156 Ashland Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
BLANGER, E. E., 132 N. Main St., Webster, Mass.	FRANKS, F. E., 105 E. Penn St., Portland, Ind.	NELSON, E. H., 3452½ Larimore, Omaha, Neb.
BEYELER, R. N., Fairview, Wyo.	FLETCHER, C. T., 4233 Ormand St., Philadelphia, Pa.	NAPIER, S. C., Rossmore, W. Va.
BESNOFF, J. Z., 53 Day St., New Haven, Conn.	FLEURY, G. F., Rt. 2, Burke, N. Y.	NUNNALLY, J. W., Green Bay, Va.
BIATCH, M., Minneapolis, Minn.	FISHBACK, D. R., Rt. 1, Marshall, Va.	ORTNER, W. J., Rt. 1, Box 245, Salinas, Calif.
BLACK, G. W., Jr., Box 216, Giddings, Tex.	GARDNER, B. P., 101 E. Iowa St., Walters, Okla.	PENHALE, R., 1114 Eighth Ave. N.W., Puyallup, Wash.
BOARDMAN, A. C., 75 Central Ave., Garden City Park, Long Island, N. Y.	GILLEM, W. F., 28 Garrison Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.	PENNELL, G. L., 647 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, N. C.
BRECK, M. C., 2438 Spring Grove Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.	GILKISON, B., Wakonda, S. D.	PACKARD, D. M., Rt. 5, Portland, Me.
BRONSON, E. A., 4326 19th St. N., St. Petersburg, Fla.	GROSENTH, S. L., 140 W. 44th St., Minneapolis, Minn.	PATUO, E., Box 1236, Stockton, Calif.
BROOKMOLE, W. J., Gen. Del., San Antonio, Tex.	GROVE, R. L., Rt. 1, Box 169, Conemaugh, Pa.	PATAQUE, G., P. O. Box 652, Westmoreland, Calif.
BROWN, H. S., Sutter Creek, Calif.	HAYWOOD, G. H., Box 292, Gillette, Wyo.	PEDREGOSA, C. B., 129 S. Hunter St., Stockton, Calif.
BRUNNIG, H. J., 1755 Jarvis Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	HARDY, G. B., 4634 N. E. 115th Ave., Portland, Ore.	PEROS, S., 1610 Court St., Los Angeles, Calif.
BODY, Frank, 1104 W. Clay St., Collinsville, Ill.	HALL, D. E., 795 Kingston Ave., Oakland, Calif.	PERALTA, J. R., 1603 W. 37th St., Los Angeles, Calif.
CALL, H. G., Glenwood Springs, Col.	HARTNELL, C., 65 W. Jackson St., Painesville, Ohio.	PETERSON, J. L., 5142 S. W. Vermont St., Portland, Ore.
CARL, S., 2004 South West Park Ave., Portland, Ore.	HANSON, W. R., 546 N. 77th St., Seattle, Wash.	PATTERSON, J. H., Meadow Bridge, W. Va.
CALLOS, B., 1728 W. 20th St., Los Angeles, Calif.	HARDING, R. C., Fort Winfield Scott, Calif.	POILLION, J. J., 136 E. 36th St., New York, N. Y.
CIELOHA, R. L., 631 S. E. Taylor St., Portland, Ore.	HEWITT, R. C., 1041 19th St., Santa Monica, Calif.	PRUETT, C., 374 Park Ave. S.E., Atlanta, Ga.
CLINTON, E. V., 1721 Aldrich Ave. N., Minneapolis, Minn.	HOOTS, W., Box 553, Ruth, Nev.	RAZOTE, L. R., 2021 N. W. First St., Washington, D. C.
COPPERSMITH, R. D., 107 E. Fifth St., Emporia, Pa.	HUGHES, G. R., 5331 Woodland Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.	REEVES, W. L., 252½ E. Molton St., Decatur, Ala.
CRESSWELL, J. O., Abbeville, S. C.	HUTSON, L. C., Box 257, Hazel, Ky.	RAGASA, B., 426 Second St., Watsonville, Calif.
COWART, E., Seville, Fla.	HERTZ, R. A., Rt. 1, Lititz, Pa.	ROJAS, J. R., 823½ Fifth St., Marysville, Calif.
CHRISTENSEN, J. L., 2281 Jefferson Ave., Ogden, Utah.	HITCHCOCK, R. G., Round Lake, N. Y.	RICKEL, W., 205 Clardelle Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich.
CKOWE, A. E., 3021 Dumbarton Ave., Washington, D. C.	JOHNSON, R. R., 512 Beldon Ave., Chicago, Ill.	RICHARDSON, H. T., Box 3042, Odessa, Tex.
CUNNINGHAM, M. C., 206 W. 27th St., Vancouver, Wash.	KESTERSON, J. C., 1019 16th St., Parkersburg, W. Va.	RICHERSON, J. B., Rt. 1, Box 113, Ryton, Ala.
CURRAN, J. V., Navarre St., Rosedale, Mass.	W. M. KEPPEL, 2112 Arlington Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.	ROTHERMUND, K. L., Rt. 1, Millersport, Ohio.
COUGHLIN, J. M., 316 Avenue A, Bayonne, N. J.	KILE, A. W., Jr., 465 E. Alabama St., Memphis, Tenn.	ROSENBLATT, AI., 40-14 Vernon Bldg., Long Island City, N. Y.
CONLEY, H. D., 115 S. Drew St., St. Albans, W. Va.	KILLIAN, J. C., 2455 Walker St., Salem, Ore.	SHEPARD, R. H., 144 Grove Pl., Utica, N. Y.
DAKIN, G., 43 Poquonock Ave., Windsor, Conn.	KING, W. F., 1156 Roosevelt Dr., Zanesville, Ohio.	SICARD, A. J., 122 Rodney St., New Bedford, Mass.
DALEY, E. R., 59 Cedar St., Bangor, Me.	KIMBALL, E. E., 37 Pleasant St., West Newton, Mass.	SPANO, C. A., 3749 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
DAMBRA, M. A., 27 Sheridan St., Johnston, R. I.	LANCASTER, R. J., 870 Grove Ave., Laurence Harbor, N. J.	SZAL, M. J., 345 89th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
DARY, F. S., 507 Prichard St., Williamson, W. Va.	LANZIERO, F. J., 6 Hurlburt St., New Haven, Conn.	SHERRY, P. C., Rt. 1, Box 24, Sandpoint, Idaho.
DAVIS, H. W., Holcomb, Mo.	LINDBERG, E., 691 Penn Ave. N.E., Apt. 4, Atlanta, Ga.	TEMPLETON, W. F., 46 Bay View Terrace, Newburgh, N. Y.
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# THE FINAL WORD



On October 29th, 1945, the Fifteenth U. S. Naval Construction Battalion died a quick, honorable, and unheralded death, . . . but in its wake it left 40 months of amazing exploits in the field of construction, . . . equaled perhaps, . . . but never surpassed. Its complete projects, ranging from airfields and hangars to roads and docks, dispersed over an area covering some 50,000 miles from New Zealand to Okinawa, will remain as monuments to the tireless energy and ingenuity of the group of men that comprised the 15th "Seabees."

We all want to return to civilian life, yet the associations, experiences, hard times, and lighter moments we absorbed during our 40 months together will never be forgotten, . . . and when we leave and say our final farewells to Seabee life, it will be with a heavy heart.

Perhaps the easiest way to sum up the entire cycle is, . . . IF WE HAD TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, . . . IT WOULD STILL BE THE SEABEES, . . . AND DEFINITELY THE FIFTEENTH.

H. A. F.

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