

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS FOR BATTALION NEWSPAPERS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

ISSUE NO 40

3 OCTOBER 1944

THE FLEET POURS IT ON

In what has been described as the greatest sustained operation in Naval history, Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet has in the past 25 days sunk or damaged between 514 and 524 enemy ships of all classes and destroyed or damaged 1,101 enemy planes.

The operation began August 30 when the fleet struck at the Bonin Islands, 511 miles south of Tokyo, and has continued with four major smashes at the Philippines.

During the same period, American losses amounted to 61 planes, 42 pilots, and 23 flight personnel. No loss or damage to American surface ships were reported in the communiques issued by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

The latest announced strike was made September 23, when the Fleet's carrier-based aircraft struck at airfields on six islands in the Philippines and at shipping concentrations, sinking 22 vessels, damaging 43 others and destroying 36 aircraft. Between 20 and 30 small craft also were sunk or damaged. Only seven enemy planes came aloft to defend against the attack, and all were shot down. The others were destroyed on the ground.

Lack of air opposition lent force to Admiral Nimitz's recent declaration that the enemy's air force in the Philippines has been "broken."

While the Americans were plastering the Japs from the air, an announcement was made in London that British submarines have sunk 32 enemy vessels in Far Eastern waters and have damaged four others by torpedoes or gunfire.

DEMOLITION UNIT CITED

Eleven CEC officers and an undetermined number of Seabees were among the members of a Navy Combat Demolition Unit which has been awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for "daring and heroic" services during the invasion of Normandy.

Landing with the first waves under heavy artillery, machine gun and sniper fire, and despite 53 percent casualties and the loss of most of their explosives, the Demolitioners succeeded in blasting five landing lanes through the enemy obstructions and removing mines and other beach obstacles.

In spite of the extremely high losses, thirty-one killed and sixty wounded, the remaining officers and men removed 85 percent of the German-placed traps in their assigned beachhead area in two days.

Officers who received the citation were: Lt.(jg) John W. Nichols, Jr., Carpenter William H. Raymor, Carpenter William C. Thompson, Ensign John C. Allen, Ensign Herbert E. Duquette, Jr., Chief Carpenter James G. Hill, Jr., Lt.(jg) Lawrence S. Karnowski, Ensign Robert W. Mitchell, and Ensign Wade A. Peterson, all Civil Engineer Corps Reserve. Posthumous awards were made to Ensign John E. Bussell and Ensign George L. Gouinlock, also of the reserve, and two Seabees, Richard D. Harang, MoM1c, USNR, and Raymond R. Pienack, GM2c, USNR.

WAVES TO INVADE HAWAII, ALASKA

Seabees outside the continental limits who have yet to see their first WAVE may meet up with her soon as a result of newly-enacted legislation permitting members of the Women's Reserve to serve outside the United States within the American area and in Hawaii and in Alaska.

Methods of selection of Waves for overseas duty have not yet been announced, but the Navy has stated that they will not be stationed outside the United States without their consent.

SILVER LINING

An estimated sixteen billion dollar postwar construction program in the United States will require all the trained men and machines available, plus every bit of war-begotten "know how," according to an editorial in the September issue of the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company's "Overseas Digest."

McGraw-Hill, which is one of the leading publishers in the engineering and construction field, further states in the editorial:

"The now familiar accomplishments of Army Engineers and Navy Seabees -- matched by mass production ships and buildings -- portend a new era in Construction in America tomorrow.

"Not so long ago, Construction was the industry with most hand work, the depression labor sponge where economists advocated manpower with scoops (or teaspoons) instead of horsepower and machines.

"But to build the \$16 billion worth of immediately needed American airports, roads, buildings, bridges, irrigation and power projects, waterworks and sewage-disposal plants already scheduled will take all the trained men and machines available, plus every bit of war-begotten "know-how". In addition, there will be major similar projects throughout our shrunken world, all clamoring for the methods and equipment that distinguish American work.

"Thus, you construction men in the armed services are simultaneously building postwar skill and postwar markets.

"These mean peacetime priorities on construction men and machines just as urgent as those that placed bulldozers above tanks in Normandy, or scrapers over planes in the South Pacific.

"And Construction, though large, is but one of the industries waiting to absorb the skills of Service-trained specialists -- a barometer of the activity waiting only on victory to start full blast. We are working now to assure long-term postwar jobs for all of you and all of us."

ADMIRAL MANNING CITED FOR INVASION ROLE

For contributing "materially" to the success of the Allied invasion of France, Rear Admiral John J. Manning, CEC, USN, Director, Atlantic Division of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, has been awarded a Bronze Star Medal by Admiral Harold R. Stark, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.

Rear Admiral Manning acted as a special adviser to Admiral Stark prior to and during the Allied assault on France in June 1944.

The citation read in part:

"Rear Admiral Manning, with outstanding professional skill, served over a prolonged period as a special adviser in connection with engineering projects of a nature vital to the success of the Allied invasion of France. In the performance of his duties it was necessary for him to consult and maintain the closest liason with representatives of the United States Army, the British War Office, the Allied Commander and various engineering and construction agencies of the United Kingdom. In maintaining these contacts, he showed great energy, zeal and initiative and his participation in the engineering phases was characterized by vision, mature judgement and sound professional experience of the highest order. It is considered that Rear Admiral Manning contributed materially to the success of the Allied invasion and that his outstanding performance of duty reflects great credit upon the United States Naval Service."

COULD BE

The Second Regiment's 'Beachcomber' observes that the war in the South Pacific probably will be over when the Jap manufacturing centers can no longer keep up with Seabee souvenir demands.

REAL SALT

One hundred and three years of continuous service in the U. S. Navy is the accumulative duty record of four officers now attached to the 26th Special Battalion. The four officers, each of whom now holds the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, entered the service as Apprentice Seamen.

Henry E. Dooley, Garland B. Logan, and Leo Proimos, each have 26 years of service to their credit, while Raymond Martin is now completing his 25th year of continuous duty. Lieutenants (junior grade) Logan and Martin landed with the first forces at Casablanca and remained with the Amphibious Forces thru the Sicily campaign on to Naples. Lieutenant (junior grade) Proimos also saw action with the Amphibious Forces both in the Atlantic and Pacific areas. Before being attached to the Seabees, Lieutenant (junior grade) Dooley, 43, oldest of the foursome, saw service with the Torpedo Boat Forces in the Pacific.

The 103-year service record held by the group has thus far gone unchallenged by like combinations of officers or men among the Seabee Battalions of the Pacific Area.

BRITISH FLEET MOVING TO PACIFIC

Vowing Britain's determination to participate in aerial, naval and land operations against Japan, Prime Minister Winston Churchill has told the House of Commons that much of the British battle fleet already is gathering in the Indian Ocean for the war against Nippon. Churchill guaranteed the Allies would have naval superiority in the Pacific of "the most complete and decisive character."

"I can give the House this assurance," the Prime Minister added. "The war against the Japanese and other diseases of the jungle will be pressed forward with the utmost energy."

NEW MAIL REGULATION

To speed mail delivery, the Navy Department has inaugurated a change of address system, compulsory for every Navy man leaving the continental United States, which ultimately will apply to every transfer of Naval personnel.

Heretofore, there was no system for notifying an activity that a specific group of men was enroute to it. What happened previously was that, if the individual failed to inform his correspondents of a change in address, mail dispatched to him under the old address was usually returned to the sender.

Now, every sailor, Coast Guardsman and Marine leaving an activity within the United States is required to fill out a card providing his correspondents and magazine and newspaper publishers with his new address. The last commanding officer as well as the prospective commanding officer of each man also is informed of the new address. This system enables the prospective commanding officer to hold each man's mail pending his arrival and furnishes his old station with an immediate forwarding address.

The commanding officer of every ship and station is charged with the responsibility of seeing that a change of address card is completely filled out for each officer and enlisted man being transferred from his command.

THE HAND OF THE LAW

The Shore Patrol detail of a battalion stationed in France gave citizens and other members of the security patrol an example of Seabee "Can Do" by making its first arrest within fifteen minutes of reporting for duty.

On their way to their assigned posts, the Seabees apprehended a man apparently in the act of burglarizing a French home which had been evacuated during the fighting in the area.

The Seabees were Richard Secanti, BM1c, Marshall J. Williams, GM2c, Leroy Terrell, Cox, David J. Evans, BM1c, and William P. Kelly, GM2c.

LAY PIPELINE THROUGH MINE FIELDS

To provide watering facilities for troops and landing craft, a 19-man detail of Seabees laid two miles of pipeline through a mine-infested Normandy beachhead, removing the explosives as they worked.

When the job was assigned to his battalion, Lt. Cmdr. E. J. Brook, CEC, USNR, and his officers located a source of water supply approximately two miles inland and five miles from the front line. A reservoir, installed either by French natives or German occupation troops, was surveyed but proved to be in a bad state of repair.

The Seabee crew, under the supervision of Warrant Officer J. H. Beitler, CEC, USNR, repaired the reservoir, erected a 1,000-gallon storage tank and laid the pipeline through the mine field to the beachhead. No casualties were suffered.

REPUTATION WELL MERITED

Said the C.O. of a task force to the 36th Battalion after the Seabees had refloated an LST: "The speed and efficiency displayed ... clearly demonstrates that the enviable reputation attained by the Seabees during this war has been honorably earned and is well merited."

COOPERATED 100%

"Your splendid cooperation in helping us to efficiently maintain our combat strike schedule has been a contributing factor in the successful completion of the ----- campaign," Col. Harry E. Wilson, CO of an Army bombardment group, told Seabees of the 82nd, 87th and 6th Special Battalions and CBMU 587, as well as all officers and men attached to Naval Base Headquarters.

"From the first introduction of this organization to this Island, you and your organization have given untold assistance to us," Col. Wilson continued. "(You)

have cooperated 100% in aiding in our camp construction and maintenance, providing equipment needed, and maintaining the airdrome facilities for our technical aircraft."

TOUGHEST BATTLES LIE AHEAD

"Our armed forces will have to bear the brunt of fighting against Japan," Under Secretary of Navy Ralph A. Bard this week warned in a speech delivered before a convention of marine and shipbuilding workers.

Adding that the battle is primarily a naval struggle, with the toughest phases yet to come, Mr. Bard revealed that the U. S. Navy today is bigger than the combined fleets of all nations five years ago.

DIVERS LOCATE MISSING COAST GUARD VESSEL

Requested by the Coast Guard to participate in a search for the Coast Guard lightship, "Vineyard Sound", reported missing after a recent East Coast hurricane, five Seabee divers located the craft in 70 feet of water in Vineyard Sound off the Massachusetts coast.

Because of extremely poor underwater visibility encountered, with vision restricted to a distance of six inches, several dives were necessary before the vessel could be positively identified.

Three of the men, R. W. Love, CBM, R. H. Melendy, MM2c, and T. F. Cetner, BM2c, are diving instructors assigned to Camp Endicott Technical Training. The others, R. E. Schrader, S2c, and L. L. Schieffelin, SK2c, are members of the 35th Special. C. S. Tucker, PhM2c, also accompanied the group.

Loss of the "Vineyard Sound" and its crew, 11 officers and men, was confirmed by a Navy announcement.

TWENTY DEGREES COOLER INSIDE

The argument about whether Guadalcanal is now a "civilized" base has continued hot and heavy for many months. This little item from the "Summary of Operations" of a battalion stationed on the island appears to speak for itself.

"Design and construct air conditioning and cooling system in the two broadcasting chambers of the Guadalcanal Broadcasting Station at the Service Club."

SCRATCH ONE JAP

CSF Clifford E. Morgan, a Seabee whose unit is attached to Major General Allen H. Turnage's Third Marine Division, was the first of the Navy's Fighter-Builders to bag a Jap on Guam.

According to a delayed dispatch from Marine Corps Combat Correspondent Harold A. Breard, Morgan was salvaging lumber north of Tiyon Airfield when he came upon the Jap hidden behind fuel drums. When the Nip reached for a grenade, Morgan shot him between the eyes.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Philip Nelson thought he was through restoring cities after working from 1938 to 1941 rebuilding colonial Williamsburg, Va., but three years later he was restoring another one--- the bombblasted city of Agana.

Nelson, now a lieutenant in the CEC, commands a Seabee unit which began putting Agana together shortly after Guam's capital was captured by Third Division Marines, according to S/Sgt. James E. Hague, Marine Corps Combat Correspondent.

"The area of Williamsburg restored as a colonial town was a little larger than Agana," Lt. Nelson told Hague, but added that while the destruction which preceded the rebuilding of Williamsburg was more methodical "it wasn't any more thorough than the destruction of Agana by our guns. There is no building here which wasn't at least damaged by fragments. Almost all of them are wrecks."

In reconstructing Agana, Lt. Nelson also must solve problems which didn't bother him while working on the Williamsburg project.

"At Williamsburg," he said, "a staff of experts did the research and gave us a set of blueprints. We tore down and rebuilt according to plans. In Agana, we have to determine what was here before the shells hit. There we had the materials. Here we have only what we can salvage or find."

"Our present job is just to patch up the town to make the place livable. The big job of putting it together will come later."

ADDRESSEE UNKNOWN

"German artillery has won the unreserved respect of our truck drivers," writes a GI on the invasion front, according to CBD 1045's 'Oily Rag'.

In the letter, reprinted by 'Oily Rag,' the GI explained: "I watched a dark-skinned boy from Alabama flinch but keep on working every time a big one whistled overhead."

"'Look,' I tried to reassure him," wrote the GI, "'The only shell you need to worry about is the one with your name on it.'"

"'Yassah, Ah knows that,' replied the worried truck-driver," "but Ah still don't like the ones that come addressed 'To Whom it May Concern!'"

USE BULLDOZERS TO FIGHT AIRFIELD FIRE

Bulldozers became fire fighting equipment as Seabees of CBMU 592 fought an airfield conflagration and rescued five crew members from a flaming bomber.

A "bulldozer brigade" -- Lloyd A. Doughty, CMM; Edward M. Brooks, CCM; Edison G. Burner, CSF; Richard E. Coulter, MM2c; Frank E. Crain, MM2c; and Walter J. Fox, MM1c -- kept the fire under control by using their machines to shove all the burning planes into one blazing heap.

The fire started when a patrol bomber crashed into the field. Three of the crew crawled out of the wreckage, clothes and bodies on fire. Two 592'ers, John E. Dunkley, S1c, and Clayton O. P. Werley, S1c, who had been running to the scene, beat out the flames with their hands. While Werley stopped a passing jeep and rushed the men to the island hospital, Dunkley returned to the plane. He found two more men inside, also on fire. Again using his hands to smother the flames, the Seabee led the two to safety, carrying one and supporting the other.

36th THORN IN SIDE OF ENEMY

"The aggressiveness, ingenuity, capacity for obtaining results, and devotion to duty of every member of the 36th Naval Construction Battalion has contributed in large measure to the effectiveness of this base as a thorn in the side of the enemy."

When the 36th Battalion recently shoved off for another station, it took with it that testimonial from Major General O. W. Griswold, USA. Serving under General Griswold's command, the Seabees had built bomber-fighter strips on what then was one of our most advanced bases. They completed their assignment in record time despite handicaps of jungle construction and interference from the enemy only a few hundred yards away.

"The Battalion's subsequent achievements in construction of bivouac and housing areas, road development and maintenance, strip repair under fire, and consistent demonstration of the 'Can Do' spirit have marked it as an outstanding unit," the General also said of the 36th.

SIXTH ARMY COMMANDER CALLS JAPS BEATEN

"The Japs are licked," Lieut. Gen. Walter Krueger, Commander of the Sixth Army, said in a recent interview reported by the United Press, but he added that final victory in the Pacific would not be assured unless "we put our hearts, souls and bodies into it."

"The Japs are hard hit," the General said. "This is no time for us to relax. I believe we should hit him now with both fists."

"If we could get the Japs all in one place we could put a similar force against them and there wouldn't be any doubt about the result. But we are not fighting that kind of war." We have to track down small numbers of well-entrenched Japs over a wide front.

NO GOLDBRICK

No clock-watcher is George Roper, CM2c, of the 112th Battalion.

When his relief failed to show up due to a misunderstanding, Roper kept at his job of sanding floors for 16 hours straight.

NEXT WEEK EAST LYNNE

Ten Seabees of the 141st Battalion stole a page from the old-time "meller-dramya" by rescuing a horse from a railroad trestle just as the train screeched to a stop at the bridge's very edge.

On their way to report for work at an outlying project, the Seabees were waved down by a frantic native maiden. The sweet young thing (the 141st's "Island X-Ray" noted that anything in skirts between the ages of 15 and 55 is a sweet young thing) informed our heroes that her horse had fallen between the ties of the 100-foot high railway bridge. A train was due at any moment but the Seabees, in true "Jack Trueheart" fashion, dashed to the rescue. Meanwhile, in an attempt to flag down the oncoming "Ole 99", our heroine took off -- in the other direction.

Our stalwart heroes lashed the bang-tail's legs together, just in case he had any objections to being rescued, and hauled him along the catwalk to a position less fraught with danger.

None too soon was the rescue effected for, as the equine planted his hooves on terra-firma, the "Island X Special" braked to a halt at the trestle's edge.

SWING THAT HOOK

Although 14 of his 19-man gang had been farm hands, and some of them had never seen a ship before entering the service, CBM Fred Krummel, Jr., today is quite confident that they will give a good account of themselves "against any gang on any waterfront."

The 19-man crew, all Negroes attached to the 26th Special, started off by establishing a new stevedoring record while training at Hueneme where they loaded an average of 12,500 feet of heavy lumber per hour for 10 hours.

Claiming the title of battalion champion stevedore gang, Krummel's crew now is setting up daily records at their advance base "Island X".

Krummel, who had 16 years of stevedoring experience in New Orleans prior to joining the Seabees, is really proud of his gang's exemplary work, but not half as proud as the men themselves.

"The boys take great pride," the chief said, "in the fact that, because of their ability, they are called upon to handle the heavy lift jobs."

MUST VE BEEN A BIG PLACE

You can believe this one, or not, but the 101st's 'Bolts & Bullets' says it's true.

"John McAuley was chatting with Cos Errico the other day during a band practice breathing spell. Next thing you know they found that they both live in New York City."

But that wasn't all, 'B & B' said. Not only did they discover that they lived in the same neighborhood but "they've lived in the SAME FLAT for years -- and had never known each other!"

COMPETITION

Two Navy fighter pilots shot down eight Jap seaplanes before breakfast one morning over Chichi Jima, less than 600 miles from Tokyo.

Very likely the Navy airmen would have destroyed a ninth, but Jap anti-aircraft inconveniently knocked it out of the air just as they were closing for the kill.

OIL FOR GAS

While working with the pipelaying crew, Ben Cohen of the 101st Battalion found that adverse winds caused carbonization in coils of his gas-operated furnace and rendered them useless.

Together with Ken Dunkle and Chief Warrant G.M. Cooper, CEC, USNR, Cohen planned, built and put into operation an oil-burner furnace that proved as effective as the original gas-heater. Probably the first of its type ever constructed, the unique machine melts 500 pounds of lead, ready for pouring, in 30 minutes.

BUILDS THRU BOMBS -- WINS COMMENDATION RIBBON

Another Civil Engineer Corps officer has been commended by Admiral C. W. Nimitz, USN, for "devotion to duty" under combat conditions. Lt. Cmdr. Edward R. Gregg, CEC, USNR, now wears the Commendation Ribbon as a result of Admiral Nimitz's citation for his heroism in effecting repairs on Bougainville's Piva Fighter Strip while the field was still under enemy bombardment.

SEABEES COOPERATION HASTENS WAR'S END SAYS ARMY OFFICER

The "wonderful spirit" of cooperation displayed by the Seabees of CBMU 569 in its relations with other service organizations is the attitude which will "hasten this war to a speedy ending," wrote Lt. Col. Beverly M. Leigh, Jr., Commanding an Army Field Artillery Battalion at a South Pacific island.

In a letter to Lt. F. S. Lohman, CEC, USNR, OinC of the unit, Lt. Col. Leigh commended the Seabees for the help they had extended to his outfit. Singled out for special praise were George A. Gazaille, MM3c, and N. Krich, Jr., CM1c.

BRONZE STAR TO COMMANDER BROCKENBROUGH

For "resourcefulness, initiative and outstanding leadership (which) contributed materially to the collapse of Japanese air power in the area," Cmdr. Austin Brockenbrough, CEC, USNR. Has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal by Admiral William F. Halsey, USN, Cmdr. Brockenbrough supervised the construction of an important fighter strip, working under artillery and aerial attack.

BUILDERS READY TO DOUBLE AS INFANTRYMEN

"Can Do" is sharing the spotlight with "We Build -- We Fight" as the slogan of the day for Seabees in France. The construction men apparently are operating pretty close to the front at some points. One battalion reports, "Half of Company 'C' has been designated as support for the ---st Infantry, as the Germans are still in force across the river."

SECURITY VIOLATION?

When Walt Bean, EM3c, censor for the 112th Battalion, opened an outgoing letter recently, the contents didn't wait to be removed. As the amazed Mr. Bean jumped back, a very-much-alive lizard slithered out of the envelope, looked venomously at the censor, then scurried off.

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The Cross and candlesticks which grace the altar of the 15th Battalion's newly built chapel were fashioned from the cases of a 90 millimeter and two 40 millimeter shells.

VERY THOUGHTFUL

A small and cheaply-made American flag was found in a house in Charan-Kanoa, Saipan, and was hoisted over the territory recently seized from the enemy.

This miniature banner, believed to be the first American flag to be flown over Saipan, carried a familiar label:

"Made in Japan."



SHORT SPORT SHOTS

BASEBALL:..Veteran outfielder Chet Laabs put on one-man show to pace St. Louis Browns to their first American League pennant..Laabs hit two home runs, each with a man on, in Browns' pennant-clinching victory over Yankees..Triumph was doubly pleasing to Browns who had been nosed out by Yanks for championship in their only previous title bid during 1922 campaign..Browns gained pennant with record of 89 wins and 65 defeats, lowest winning percentage in AL history..Senators' Dutch Leonard's victory over Tigers was his first in three seasons..Closest AL pennant race was in 1908 when Tigers took flag by beating Chicago in final game of season.. Art Flesch, who claims record of being the first in line for 16 consecutive World Series openers, set up cot and canopy at Sportsmans Park week before first game.. Pennant-winning Cardinals with 105 wins first NL team to win more than 100 games for three consecutive seasons..Pete Gray, one-armed Memphis Chick outfielder, who won Southern League's "Most Valuable Player" award, sold to Browns for cash and players..Leo "Lippy" Durocher signed one-year contract renewal to manage Dodgers in 1945.

FOOTBALL:..Pro football league apparently lost two of its leading stars for season.. Sid Luckman, Chicago Bears' star backfielder, given permission to play until ordered to sea duty, received sailing orders..Sammy Baugh, Washington Redskins' main-stay, and best passer in football history, expects to remain on Texas ranch..Green Bay Packers whipped Bears 42 to 28 in NL game..Cleveland Rams upset Pitts-Chic combine 30-28 in opener..Philly Eagles spoiled Boston Yanks' debut with 28-7 victory.. Pre-season collegiate predictions make Navy, Army co-favorites in East; Notre Dame, West; Purdue, Big Ten; Wake Forest, Duke, South; Ga. Tech, Southeastern Conf.; Washington, USC, Pacific Coast..Ohio State rated best civilian team in country..Tulsa with 23 holdovers, also rated highly.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS:..Wounded war veterans in eastern US hospitals will have ringside seats, via television, at next 50 fights offered by Twentieth Century Sporting Club..Mike Jacobs, club promoter, completed negotiations with safety razor company for telecast of all Madison Square Garden and St. Nicholas Arena fights offered during next year..practically all Army-Navy hospitals in area covered by three east coast stations fitted with television receiving sets..First fight telecast under arrangement was 15-round featherweight championship bout between Willie Pep and Chalky Wright won by former..Navy's All-Star nine took four straight from Army's star-studded team to win "Servicemen's World Baseball Series" held in Honolulu..teams agreed to play remaining three games of proposed four of seven series for benefit of servicemen..Lt. Frank Filchock, former sub-quarterback for Redskins, received medical discharge from Navy; expects to rejoin team.

SIDELINES:..Baseball still remains as one of the most unpredictable games played.. For instance, a pitcher recently saved his game by unintentionally hitting a batter with a pitched ball..With two out and a man on third, Russ Christopher, A's hurler, had 2 to 1 lead over Tigers..His next pitch was far inside and wide of plate, a wild pitch on which Tigers would have scored tying run, except that batter couldn't get out of ball's way, and was hit..runner returned to third, batter went to first.. Christopher got the next batter and saved his game.