

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

MARINE COMMANDANT LAUDS FIGHTING ABILITY OF SEABEES

Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandegrift, newly appointed Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps, praised the Seabees not only as builders but as fighters in a recent coast-to-coast radio broadcast.

The full text of the General's remarks follows:

"The declaration made by our President, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, following their Cairo conference, closed with the pledge that the Allies "Will persevere in the serious and prolonged operations necessary to procure the unconditional surrender of Japan."

There is no "perhaps" written into that statement. It tells us flatly what most Americans must surely realize -- that only by serious and prolonged fighting can the Allies batter Japan to her knees.

A heavy share of the burden of those operations will continue to fall upon the Allied Navies, and we are proud of the role the United States Navy has played already in firmly taking the offensive.

In the Solomons, the Southwest Pacific, the Central Pacific and in the North, the enemy is showing great respect for our fleet. He has strong forces in those areas; but naval disasters, such as those at Kula Gulf and Bougainville, have persuaded him, for the time, at least, to avoid direct contact.

And so, we carry the fight to him. We land upon and seize key islands upon which he depends for defense of the sea lanes to Tokyo. And, believe me, to the Marines who make many of those landings, it is a comfort and an inspiration to know that our Navy is the most powerful in the world.

I have the greatest admiration for the gunners aboard our warships. Their marksmanship is superb. It is a reassuring sight to watch them soften up an enemy-held beach prior to a landing operation. And once ashore, I have had more than occasion to appreciate the failure of enemy reinforcements to arrive because of bold action by our Navy Cruiser Squadron.

Navy and Marine fighter squadrons are the pride of all our fighting men in the Pacific. Those fliers have proved themselves superior to the Japanese in every way. And I could not close without paying tribute to the Seabees, who are soon to observe their second anniversary. I can testify, as an eye witness, that those men not only build, but fight with great courage and skill.

As we continue our "serious and prolonged operations", there will be many new landings to challenge the teamwork of the Navy and its land-arm, the Marine Corps. Other islands and atolls that we shall be called upon to

seize will put up fierce resistance. Eventually the Japanese fleet will be forced to come out and fight. But the advance will go on. The Marine Corps, like the Navy, is ready for whatever lies ahead."

BETIO, GILBERT ISLANDS, AIRFIELD READIED BY SEABEES IN THREE DAYS

Three days after the Seabees started work on the battle scarred Betio Island airfield on November 23, squadrons of fighter planes were roaring down the field at regular intervals to go on combat air patrols and transport planes were arriving and departing on daily schedules.

A battle front report, via the Associated Press, describes the Seabees as being on the job even while Japanese snipers were still taking potshots at anyone in an American uniform. The fighting builders also have been running a gauntlet of Japanese land mines, some of which go off with only $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of pressure.

The Jap runway had a 10-inch coral bottom, topped by $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches of coral concrete, but this was of insufficient strength for our planes. The Seabees are reported as now scraping reefs and bringing up wet, live coral for the new field surface.

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SEABEES IN GILBERTS CALLED "UNSUNG HEROES WHO BUILD VICTORY"

Describing the Seabees as "the unsung heroes of the steam shovel and the monkey wrench - the men who build victory by sweat," New York Times military authority Hanson W. Baldwin further vouched, in a recent newspaper column, "they are undoubtedly doing their stuff on our newly won footholds in the Gilberts -- working frantically day and night not only to increase the defensive strength of these islands, but to develop them as offensive bases..."

(Navy Secretary Knox indirectly confirmed Baldwin's prediction the very next day when he announced that Seabees on Tarawa, setting to work on the atoll's much-bombed airfield while it was still under Jap fire, had the strip ready for use by American planes within four days of the initial landing).

In a newly published book, "The Navy at War", for which he wrote the commentary, expert Baldwin also said, "The Aleutian campaign ... was won by the Seabees and the men of their kind -- the Army engineers (and) the ground crews."

"We won back Kiska and Attu," Baldwin continued, "as much with the pick and shovel, the monkey wrench and the grease gun, as we did with the bayonet and the bomb."

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"MAGNIFICENT," SAYS HALSEY OF SEABEES

Summing up a review of the second year of the war in the South Pacific, in which he paid high tribute to the Seabees, Admiral William F. Halsey, Commander South Pacific Force and South Pacific Area, concluded by promising Navy men that "Each of us has an appointment in Tokyo."

"Our magnificent engineers, Navy Seabees and Army units, hewed airfields out of jungles," said Halsey in part, "and we got planes into them in time to stem all enemy counterattacks against our hard-won, new advanced positions.

"We went into harbors where little if any docking facilities existed -- and built them," he went on, and, referring to the Seabee Specials, "We cut the turn-around time of cargo ships carrying vital supplies from weeks to days.

"It is with the deepest gratitude that I pay tribute to...these components of the South Pacific force.

"Thanks to their labors, we now have these springboards from which our future offensives must be launched."

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DISREGARD EXPLODING SHELLS TO RESCUE K.O.'D PILOT

After 'hitting the deck' while an out-of-control plane parted their hair, Allen B. Olsen, CM3c, and Raymond E. Milner, PhM3c, of the 59th Battalion, dashed into the flames of the exploding wreck to rescue its 19-year old Army pilot, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Anderson.

Prying open the jammed door, the two Seabees wrenched loose Anderson's safety belt and tangled parachute and hauled the unconscious and bleeding pilot to safety.

Olsen and Milner have been highly commended by Lt. Commander Paul L. Andrews, CEC, USNR, OinC of the 59th as well as by Commander E. D. Brewster, OinC of the 7th Naval Construction Regiment, and by Lt. Col. W. C. Armstrong and Major Charles E. Taylor of the Army. Lt. Col. Armstrong pointed out that without the Seabees' aid, the pilot could not possibly have escaped alive.

Although their rescue work was done amidst exploding shells detonated by the intense fire, and both were burned about the legs, hands, and face, the two Seabees appeared to consider their action 'just part of the job'.

When asked what they did after the pilot had been carried to an ambulance, Olsen said, "We were burned a bit, and pretty messed up with gasoline, oil and blood, but generally we were O.K. We stuck around and helped fix up the broken water main and the communications which the plane had smashed up."

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YOU'LL BE SOREE-E-E-E-E

Former Italian war-prisoners, working under the direction of a Naval Construction Battalion stationed in Northwest Africa, enjoy their assignment so much that many of them have inquired concerning the possibilities of enlisting in the Seabees.

Guarded by Italian-speaking Seabees, the majority of the Italians are engaged in concrete and masonry work and have proved very willing workers, aiding considerably in the construction of various projects.

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27th GETS FOUR JAP PLANES, TWO 'PROBABLES'

Sharp-shooting anti-aircraft crews of the 27th Battalion now are officially credited with downing four Jap planes and also scoring two 'probables'.

In a recent letter to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Lt. Commander Henry G. Fortin, CEC, USNR, credits the battalion's showing to Lt. C. R. Drew, Ordnance Officer; Carpenter T. Hollingsworth, Officer in Charge of Military Training; and Chief Petty Officer J. F. Lively, in charge of training of gun crews and of the armory.

Lively has been commended by Lt. Drew, whose citation read, in part, "Raids have taken place during both daylight and darkness and also from high level and dive bombing planes... As a gun captain of a 40 mm. gun crew (Lively) carried out his duties with courage and precision, without regard for personal safety.

To run up their score, the 27th's anti-aircraft men used three 40 millimeter anti-aircraft and several 50 calibre machine guns.

All told, the battalion has helped fight off more than a hundred air attacks.

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"HIT THE DECK" TRAINING SAVES SEABEE'S SKIN

When Jap bombers recently singled out the "Island X" base of the 68th Battalion as their target for the night, one Seabee found himself in a gun pit with two servicemen from other units.

Enemy bombs bracketed their position. The two soldiers decided to make a break for it; headed for a nearby foxhole. They were caught midway and instantly killed.

The Seabee, reacting automatically to the training he had received at camp, stayed where he was -- just hit the deck fast. He came through the raid without a scratch.

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MIND OVER MATTER

Called upon to mount a metal plaque for presentation, Chief Carpenter's Mate Donald Petty, with a Seabee battalion on "Island X", searched long and carefully for a suitable piece of lumber before deciding on a solid log of teak.

Hand-sawing the extremely hard wood was difficult. In fact, the Chief worked up quite a sweat, but after he had gotten partially through the log he seemed completely stuck.

Petty wouldn't give up. He pushed and tugged and pushed again, and finally the log yielded. With considerable satisfaction he turned it lengthwise to examine the cut... only to discover that he had sawed right through the middle of a .45 calibre bullet. It had been imbedded there during an earlier battle.

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SEABEES CONQUER FIRE AND GALE; NURSE BATTERED TRANSPORT TO PORT

Helping to man a patched up cargo vessel that had barely survived a mid-ocean collision with a tanker, a Seabee detachment from the 49th ran into more trouble when a howling storm and a sudden engine room fire almost succeeded in sending their ship to the bottom.

The transport had limped into "Island X", favoring a gaping starboard hole, souvenir of her encounter with the tanker. The Seabees tore away the twisted debris, then installed new lower deck plates, bulkheads, deck stanchions, and transverse framing. Without a drydock, it was impossible to close the hull below the water line. Instead, the damaged area was closed off and the sea water confined to one hole.

After emergency repairs had been made, the Seabees' detachment of sixty was detailed to look after its structural security during the return voyage to a mainland shipyard.

The storm caught the transport just out of sight of land. With the pounding sea threatening to "belly" the plates at any minute, the Seabees hastily shored up the lower deck plates to keep them from buckling. False ribs were placed about the temporary hull. Seabee welders kept busy closing seams as fast as the jack-hammer waves opened them.

The storm was still raging when a distress call from the engine room brought one group of the Seabees on the run to fight a rapidly spreading oil fire. With the heat so intense that the catwalk above the bilge collapsed, the sweating construction men worked in three-minute relays, groping through thick smoke and acrid fumes to subdue the flames.

The transport finally crawled into its home port. A ship's engineer summed up the feelings of the crew, "We were --- --- lucky you Seabees were aboard!"

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THRIFTY SEABEES IN "JUNK" BUSINESS

Proof that the Seabees' axiom, "little ever goes to waste on "Island X", is not just an empty phrase is the salvage shop of the 10th Construction Regiment, where one may secure anything from a $\frac{1}{2}$ " nipple to a 6500 gallon tank.

Besides proving their talents at salvage, the Seabees of the 10th are also proud of their ability to improvise. Faced with a shortage of critically needed valves, they dug into their "junk-pile", came up with several hundred of all sizes, dismantled them and constructed serviceable units from the parts.

Similarly when the demand for bolts threatened to surpass the supply, the "Junkies" collected thousands of rusted bolts, had them "run-down" on dies, tapped and coated with oil to prevent oxidation and used more than 2000 on new construction work in the past month.

Several supply warehouses and repair shops have been constructed from salvage material, yielded by the demolition of temporary structures and other site clearing operations, stocked in the yard.

The yard also furnishes the foundry with lead, aluminum, copper, brads, pig iron and steel for processing.

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"BAT OUT OF HELL" INSPIRES 51st EMBLEM

Realistic-minded officers and men of the 51st Battalion, faced with the choice of an animal for the battalion's new official emblem, chose a bat because the 51st Seabees "always did their duty like a bat out of Hell".

The resultant Bat's Head emblem was drawn by Ben Pryor, CM2c and Charles Sterling, CM2c.

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LAUNCH "FORSAKEN III"

Bob Evans, Electrician's Mate 2c (and Battalion Reporter 1c) sends word of a new addition to the 3rd Battalion's private navy.

The "Forsaken III", a fourteen foot Marconi rigged sloop, has been commissioned and placed in service by her designer and builder, Walter Simms, CM1c.

Simms used scrap steel for the ship's centerboard, ordinary cotton clothes line for caulking, and hand-made the blocks, cleats, and other hardware. The lumber was all No. 2 fir dunnage.

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The Seabee "admiral" did not use any plans beyond a rough sketch, and did the job without the help of a bandsaw, edger, rim plane, or other special tools.

The "Forsaken III", which seats three men, hoists a jib and a Marconi mainsail on a twenty foot box mast. The sails are the work of George Roth, BM2c, the company's sailmaker, who fashioned them out of some paint drops and other bits of canvas.

The new sloop is used entirely for recreation. A sister craft of slightly different design, also built by Simms, serves as a small workboat.

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CBMU 549, WORKING ON SEABEE MOVIE SEES STARS -- THE WRONG KIND!

Seabees of the 549th CBMU, told they were to erect a "typical Seabee camp" for the new Hollywood movie, "The Fighting Seabees," rubbed their hands and said, "Boy, here's where we see all the stars!"

They saw 'em all right -- only they were the overhead kind, visible from sunset to dawn. The 549'ers, set for the luxuries of the film darlings, got the shock of their lives when, the first three days on their new job, they worked right around the clock -- twenty four hours a day!

Upon arriving "on location", the men immediately were put to work erecting tents, showers, heads, installing electric generators, and erecting the refrigeration plant. The galley served its first meal the following day. And, at the end of a week, the camp was complete in all details including the installation of water systems, roadways, and street lights.

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SEABEE JOKESTERS AT IT AGAIN

Reminiscent of the clipped heads and wild-eyed appearance of Seabee boots as they peer through the wire fence of the detention area chanting "You'll be sorry" is the "Psychopathic Ward" which first greets the eyes of visitors to the 3rd Battalion's tent city at "Island X".

The rather alarming sign is the gag-work of the battalion's Pharmacist's Mates, who occupy the "ward". The "inmates" are not above breaking out a fiendish laugh or wolf-like howl for the dubious entertainment of passing strangers.

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TAKE A NUMBER FROM ONE TO TEN

Most complicated jig-saw puzzle ever to hit the 64th Battalion dropped into the laps of Pete Mogilewicz and R. P. Mellot, two of the 64th's machine specialists, when Chief Joe Edwards turned over to them 5000 individually wrapped parts which were supposed to add up to one new model Mergenthaler Linotype -- they hoped.

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The whimsical shippers of the equipment had neglected to include the assembling instructions, but Mogilewicz and Mellet, who had never before seen a linotype machine of any vintage, went to work on the basis of a lubricating manual and a prayer. Two weeks later, the Seabees' mechanical ability and ingenuity had won out over the top-heavy odds. Every one of the 5000 parts in its proper place, the Linotype was turning out slugs for "Can Do", the 64th's aptly named newspaper.

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AMPHIBIOUS MESS HALL SERVES SEABEES "A LA CARTE"

Hot mid-day meals served from a traveling cart are the boast of a Seabee battalion whose personnel ordinarily is spread over several small South Pacific islands.

The Seabee chow wagon is towed by a jeep and moves from island to island via a tank lighter. Spacious enough to serve 250 men at a time, it offers the same menu as the regular mess hall.

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USE STEEL MATS TO BUILD SEAPLANE RAMPS

Marston Matting already is famous as the steel mat surfacing Seabees are laying on "Island X" airfields all over the world, but the 34th Battalion is the first to report its use in the construction of seaplane ramps.

Assigned to build two concrete ramps, the Seabees chaffed at the delay which would be necessary while cofferdams were being built. Instead, they substituted the Marston Matting and cut the time of construction from the originally estimated two to three months, to five days for each ramp.

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44th COMMENDED

"This letter is an effort to express the thanks and appreciation of all the personnel of this hospital for the skillful and valuable work done by men of the 44th Construction Battalion in the construction of the hospital," the Medical Officer in Command at a Naval Advance Base has written to the officer in charge of the regiment to which the 44th is attached.

"Construction was hampered," the commendation continues, "by many difficulties. The building priority was low; roads were frequently impassable; shortages of material were frequent, and the rains were excessive. In spite of these handicaps, the hospital was ready to receive patients 60 days after construction was commenced."

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ONCE OVER LIGHTLY, PLEASE

Thanks to W. H. (Bill) Jones, CM3c, the 80th Battalion boasts a home-made, but super de luxe barber chair which is the pride of "Island X".

The chair, which tilts back to any of three positions and turns on a swivel, was fashioned by Jones from the remnants of discarded cots, a few lengths of masonite, salvaged plywood, canvas, and kapok -- plus "Can Do" ingenuity.

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4th SPECIAL CRACKS CARGO RECORD

Handling approximately 35,000 tons at its advance base during a recent month's work, the Fourth Special Battalion topped all of its previous discharging records. The month's performance bettered that for the preceding thirty days by more than 7,000 tons.

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52nd's OinC COMMENDS TWELVE

Comdr. H. F. Geroid (CEC) USNR, OinC of the 52nd Naval Construction Battalion, has commended twelve Seabees for meritorious duty.

Ernest R. Boyter, CMM, Sanford Castleberry CM3c, Dick Harkey CMM, James D. McKinley Slc, Arthur T. Mhoon Slc, and Robert A. Woodaman SF2c earned Comdr. Geroid's praise for floating a 40-foot motor launch which had been driven ashore by a storm. The men worked for five hours in a cold heavy surf, constantly threatened by the undertow.

For saving a barge and preventing likely damage to a dock, Comdr. Geroid commended Elden D. Burton S2c, Glen D. Bowman S2c, Kenneth H. Boshers Slc, Vernon B. Blanchard Slc, William J. Cathey Slc, and Dick Harkey CMM.

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SEABEES TOPS IN WAR BOND DRIVE

In recognition of their remarkable record in securing 100% participation of their units in a recent War Bond Drive, officers and men of the 64th Construction Battalion and the 10th Construction Regiment Staff were the guests at a picnic given in their honor by Captain Harold J. Nelson, U.S.N., commandant of the Naval Operating Base.

All food, transportation, beverages and recreational facilities were provided by the base welfare department and the entire day was spent in celebration of the construction men's achievement.

Seabees, stationed at the base, topped all other branches of the services in war bond allotments with an average annual maturity value purchase per man of \$156.66 and a total dollar value of \$495,033.96.

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SEABEES IN THE DOUGH

Seabee mouths are watering at Camp Endicott as the station's fifty top-flight bakers keep turning out palate-teasing cakes, pies and cookies in astronomical quantities.

Current production pace is 2,600 pies for a single meal, plus 7,000 loaves of bread per day and 15,000 rolls, each of the latter individually handled. An average week's baking requires 18,000 eggs, 3,000 lbs. of lard, and 35,000 lbs. of flour.

Average Camp Endicott Seabee last month devoured 10 loaves of bread, 19 pieces of cake, 16 pieces of pie, 14 rolls, 14 cookies, 8 biscuits, 3 turnovers, and 2 slices of jellyroll. (What! No seconds?)

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SEABEE IMPROVISES MEDICAL STERILIZER

Learning that the naval base hospital was in need of an autoclave, used to sterilize instruments, bandages and other items needed in operations, CEM L. O. Britt of the 34th Battalion displayed typical Seabee ingenuity to improvise the necessary equipment.

Using materials at hand, Britt designed an air-tight chest of three-sixteenths inch steel plate electrically welded together. Instruments are placed on a two inch mesh located two inches from the bottom. Three gasoline torches convert the water in the chest to steam which is kept under pressure. For safety measures, Britt connected a pressure gauge and relief valve to the top of the autoclave.

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POOR FISH GETS IT IN THE NECK

The pier lights used by the 30th Battalion's pile driving detail, working at night, attract all kinds of fish. One, which later turned out to be a 52-inch cutlass fish, kept jumping up out of the water in search of prey. On one of the jumps Seabee Ed Purzycki was waiting for him and let him have it with a handsaw. The blow neatly severed the head of the poor fish who, just an instant before, had clamped his teeth on a smaller specimen.

Moral (as interpreted by the 30th): Stay away from Fighting Builders at work.

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32,000 VOLUME LIBRARY GIVES SEABEES "KNOW-HOW" FOR "CAN DO"

Returning Seabees who, a year ago, sloughed through the mud of newly-opened Camp Peary, still "can't believe" the training station's present 23-branch, 32,000-volume library for enlisted men. Beryl Bracewell, CY, heads a picked staff of 32 men who cater to the reading tastes of 27,000 callers a week.

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Library service extends even to Peary's station hospital. A book cart goes through each ward daily; patients generally check out more than 400 books a week.

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BURNED-OUT MOTOR MAKES SEABEE REPAIR SHOP HUM

A 125 h.p. motor burned out and threatened to close down the 49th Battalion's rock crusher plant while the damaged equipment was shipped to the States for overhauling.

Normally equipped only to handle motors up to 50 h.p., the 49th's motor repair shop nevertheless took up the challenge and went to work with the limited equipment and materials on hand.

With proper-sized wire lacking, 240 coils were wound of a smaller-sized wire. After the coils were kinked and set to the stator, 3,360 connections were made. The metal shop provided a specially built oversized oven for baking, and heating coils were transferred from the small existing unit into the new one. It was then a relatively simple matter to "bake out" and finish.

"Buzzing Briefs", the 49th's newspaper, estimates that a large, well-equipped shop at home would have required as much as six weeks to do the job. The motor repairmen of the Gold Rush Battalion, working from ten to twelve hours a day, completed their assignment in three weeks ... a saving in time, transportation included, of at least 75%.

The Seabees who turned the trick were Frank Petzhold, FM1c; John J. Berner, EM2c; Walter C. Callaghan, EM2c; John Joseph Welsh, EM2c; A. W. Spellenberg, Slc; Raphael F. Guida, EM3c; and Nathaniel H. Waldman, FM1c.

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UNDER THE SPREADING BANANA TREE....

A photograph showing them under a spreading banana tree in the midst of a waist-high stand of tomato plants on "Island X" won five Seabees, Santa Fe Railroad employees on leave of absence for the duration, prizes of \$50 each in a garden photo contest sponsored by the company.

The Seabees tagged the prize-winning picture with this caption: "To let our 'rail buddies' back home know that we have a Victory Garden, too."

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"SHARE THE WEALTH" PROGRAM PROVIDES FREE "SMALL STORES" FOR 4th SPECIAL

Each man using the 4th Special's new laundry service is charged 30¢ a week. Profits are turned back to the Ship's Store, which operates the plant. Eventually the proceeds provide a free issue of small stores supplies for the men. The "stores" are distributed as soon and as frequently as the laundry's earnings permit.

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SEABEE MAKES CHOP-CHOP

Seabees of CBMU 537 are chuckling over the results of a gag pulled on one of their mates. Bet that he couldn't hit between two lines with a cleaver while blindfolded, the Seabee slashed the meat-ax vigorously in the correct direction. When the blind was removed, he saw that he had won the wager but lost his hat. A Seabee gagster had placed the hat between the lines after the blindfold had been adjusted and the "goat" had chopped it to ribbons.

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SEABEE "BAZOOKA" SPEEDS WELDING

Welding steel aviation drums and having them explode and fly 20 feet into the air is no fun to the torch-handlers and, according to PhOMC E. L. Neese, CMM Paul Golding of the 21st Battalion decided to do something about it.

Demonstrating some of the well-known Seabee ingenuity, Golding built a device for deoxidizing empty or partially empty tanks in preparation for torch welding or cutting, thus eliminating the danger of explosion caused by the sparks of the torch and the oxygen in the tank.

The "Bazooka", as some of the Seabees call Golding's contraption, is portable and consists of a steel jacket filled with water and steel-wool. A tube leads from the jacket and is attached to the exhaust pipe of a running motor. Carbon monoxide given off by the motor passes through the jacket into the tank, displacing the oxygen.

Using the "bazooka" a 1500 gallon tank was prepared for welding in five minutes compared to the six hours normally needed when using the common steaming method.

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"ISLAND X" LIVES OFF SEABEES

The guest line is long at the 4th Special's chow hall on "Island X". During a single month the Seabee cooks and bakers served up 16,260 extra meals, over and above those served to their own men.

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SEABEES OPEN GUADALCANAL-BOUGAINVILLE-TOKYO RAILROAD

In an impressive ceremony, reminiscent of the completion of the Union Pacific, a Seabee battalion stationed at Guadalcanal officially opened their new, two-track transport system, the Guadalcanal-Bougainville-Tokyo R.R.

The "golden spike" was driven by Commodore W. M. Quigley, USN. While the Seabees didn't have any American Indians handy to furnish an appropriate background, they did come up with some Melanesian natives. Instead of broncos many of the by-standers rode jeeps.

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One of the branches is thus open for business; a second is under construction and promised soon; and plans are being rushed for the end of the line in Tokyo.

The boys are definitely on the right track.

TRANSPORT SKIPPERS PRAISE 3rd SPECIAL

"It is ... an inspiration to observe the work of your organization," Captain William Sahlgren, Master of a cargo ship unloaded by the 3rd Special, wrote to Lt. Jack Knapp, CEC, USNR, the battalion's O-in-C. Captain Sahlgren also expressed his appreciation for the "skillful and workmanlike" unloading job.

Commendation came also from Captain W. A. Holman, Master of another transport. Captain Holman wrote, "I would like to ... express my appreciation for the excellent manner in which the discharging of this vessel was carried out by the 3rd Special ... It is a pleasure to work with (their officers and men) and to know that men like these are doing such a fine job out here."

UNEXPECTED GUEST

Unexpected company dropped in on a 68th Seabee comfortably squatting in a fox hole during an enemy raid, when an anti-personnel bomb first dropped outside the "front door", then rolled into the hole.

The Seabee's number wasn't up -- the bomb failed to explode, and the proud but pale builder had a souvenir for the folks back home.

SEABEE MATHEMATICS

"The Caribbean", the 30th Battalion's "on the ball" publication, modestly claims a mere 48,000 readers per issue.

The editors work it out like this: Average big city daily has at least three readers per copy. Picture magazines such as "Life" put the figure far above that. "The Caribbean" rates as high, if not higher.

Each 30th Battalion Seabee sends two copies out; one home, the other to a friend in the service. The copy sent home is read by at least six people. The copy that goes to the friend in service is eventually seen by whole platoons and even companies. In addition, every Seabee battalion receives "The Caribbean". Also, at least three servicemen's libraries receive the paper, and among the three, 600 men read each issue.

So, based on these "undeniable facts", the 2,500 copies of "The Caribbean" which are printed are read by at least 48,000 people -- from "Attu to Zanesville!"

After that explanation, what is there left to say?

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WAIT FOR THE GREEN LIGHT, MATE!

Jay-walking is dangerous business on Guadalcanal. An enterprising Seabee, member of a battalion which constructed one of the island's main arteries some months ago, recently clocked the number of vehicles passing over the road. The rate frequently reached as many as 1,000 per hour!

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SEABEE BOXER KEEPS RECORD UNSULLIED

James D. Shans, S1c of the 80th Battalion, 1941 Golden Gloves welter-weight champion of San Diego, Calif., is continuing his fistic winning ways even while serving on "Island X".

Shans, who ran up a record of 24 wins -- 20 of them by knockouts -- as an amateur boxer, and fought and won three bouts while in training at Camp Allen, has bested his only two opponents on "Island X".

Peculiarly, Shans, once trained by former world's champion Henry Armstrong, can neither punch the bag or skip rope -- two things most fighters learn at the very start of their careers.

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BOMB RACK DOLLIES MOVE HOUSES

The busy 22nd has come up with another novel idea which, like many another of the battalion's "brain-storms", really saved a lot of construction headaches on "Island X".

The Seabees this time were asked to move a group of already erected quonset huts to a new location. The 22nd's way was the fastest way. They borrowed a couple of bomb rack dollies from a nearby air station, jacked up the huts and slid the coasters underneath, then rolled the quonsets to their new address.

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CBMU 503 COMMENDED FOR WORK ABOARD SHIP

Officers and men of CBMU 503 have been commended by Lieut. Comdr. John A. Paulson, D-V(S) USNR, troop commander aboard a motorship, for their "loyalty, industry, cooperation and initiative displayed in accomplishing engineering and maintenance work on board this vessel (which) has been of immeasurable value".

Expressing appreciation for the extent of work accomplished by the Seabees, while enroute to a South Pacific Base, Comdr. Paulson also noted the many contributions made by the Seabees to the health, comfort, sanitation and security of the troops aboard the ship.