MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FOUR 1953-1955

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U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FOUR

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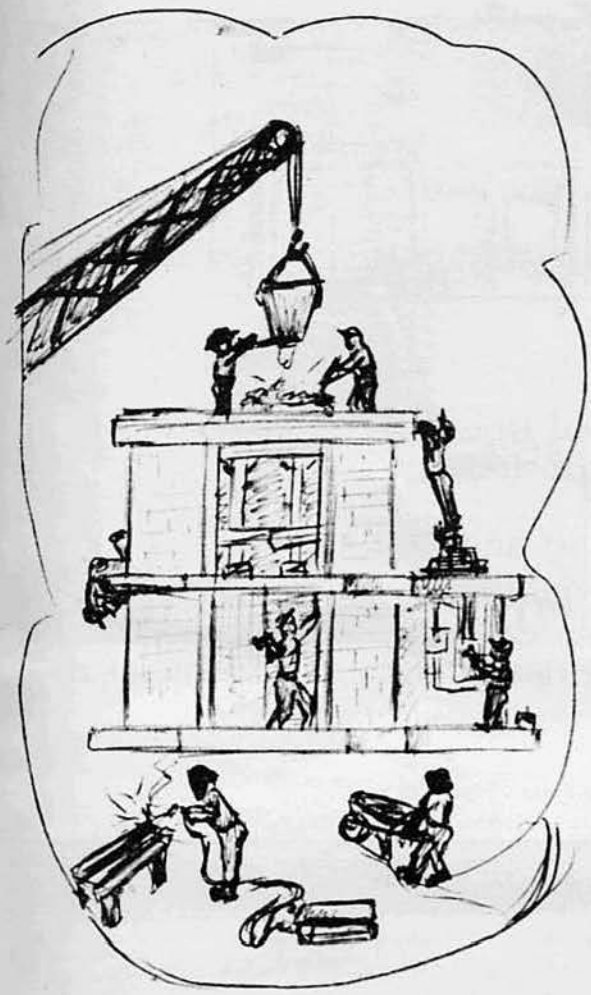
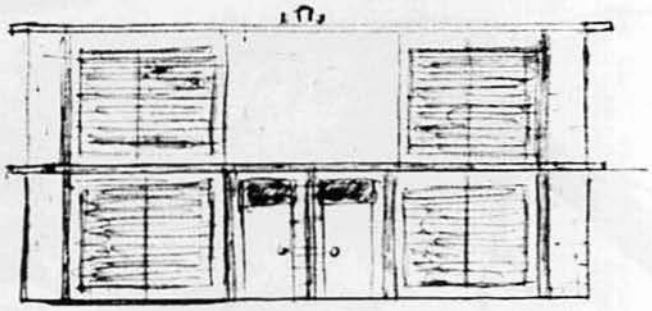


Foreword

For the past eighteen months MCB-4 has added much luster to its reputation. The outstanding achievement of this period was the recent record-breaking pace set by the Battalion in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where nearly a thousand energetic Basemakers turned out 129 equivalent family housing units in as many working days to return home nearly a month ahead of schedule. Such a feat is possible only when there is a winning combination of individual skills and espirit de corps.

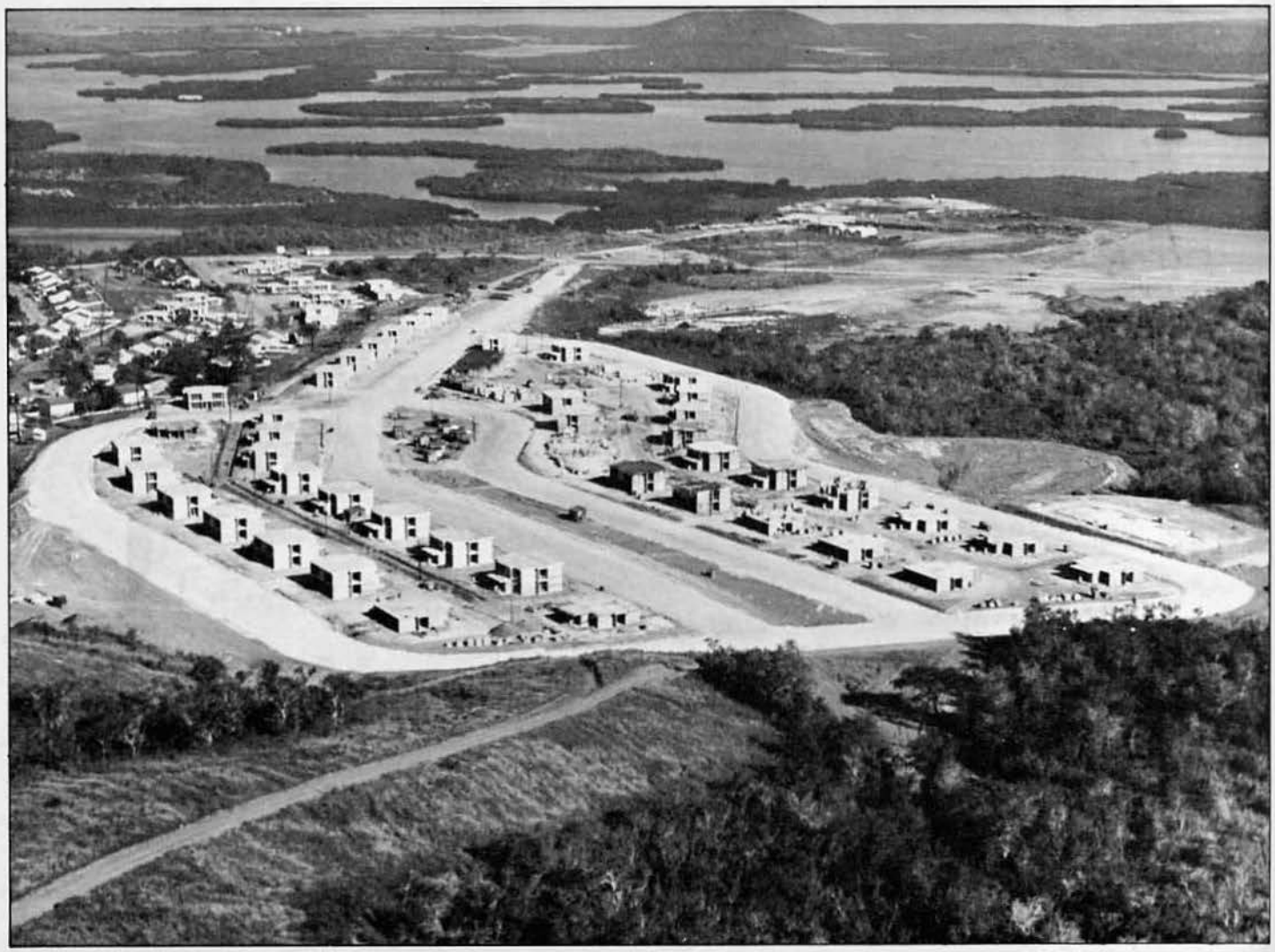
These pages record some of the highlights of this period and show that the enviable reputation established by MCB - Four has been built not on words but on deeds.

Nob Hill . . .



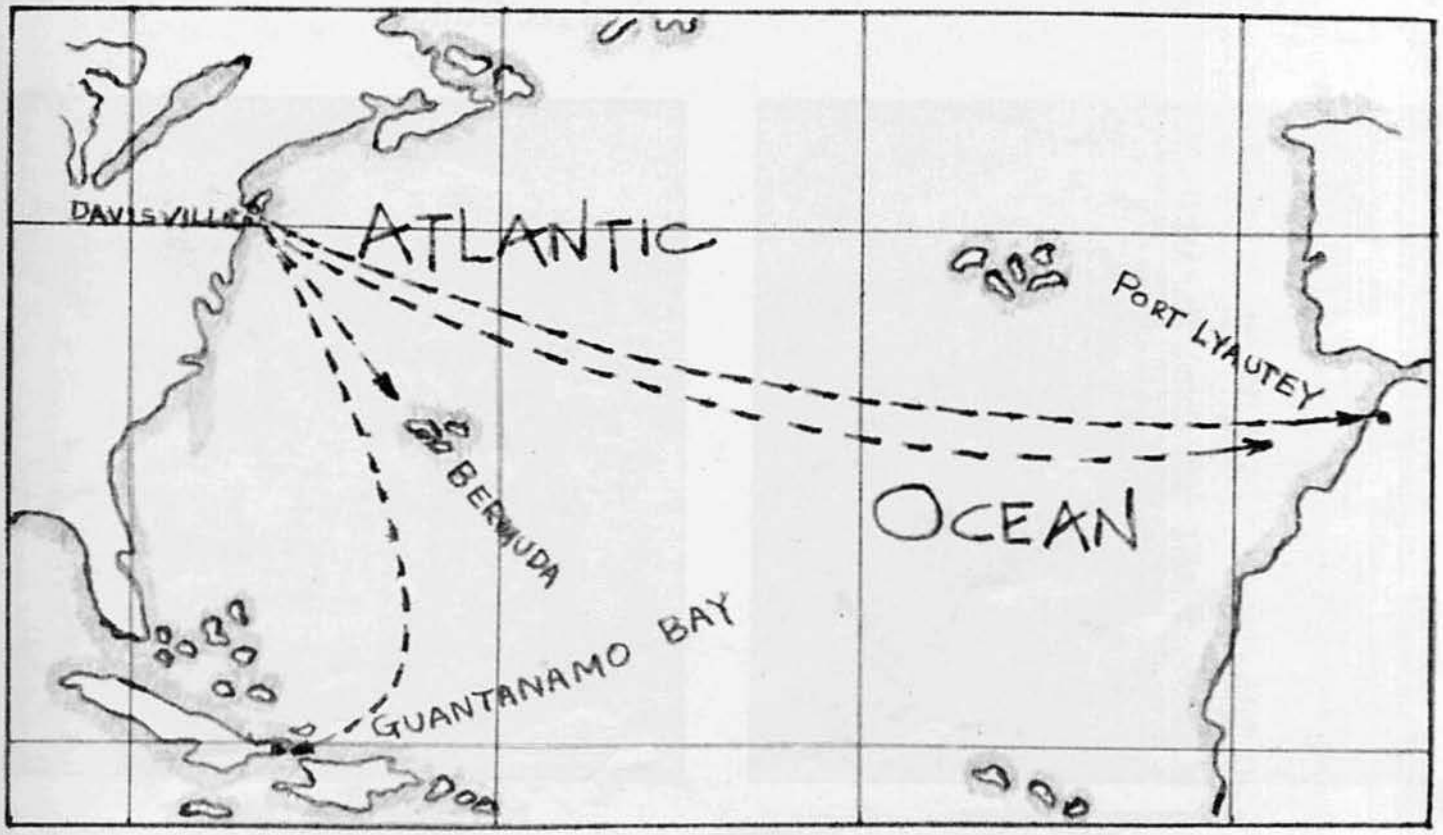
The Basemakers invaded Nob Hill and immediately began transforming what was virtually nothing into a hillside of replacement housing units.

With each crew contributing its skill and Seabee know-how we have earned for ourselves a mark of "outstanding."



LCDR JAMES V. BARTLETT, CEC, USN
COMMANDING

COMMANDING OFFICER INSPECTS



Port Lyautey . . .

SEABEE'S 12TH ANNIVERSARY

In September of 1953 MCB-Four welcomed LCDR James V. Bartlett aboard as the new Commanding Officer, relieving CDR P. R. O'Donnell.

While deployed at Port Lyautey the Battalion accomplished many projects for the various naval activities located at the Base, and joined actively in a community project to construct a Franco-American Club.

Aside from base activities the men found sightseeing to be a profitable diversion along with many other popular forms of recreation.

MORNING QUARTERS

FOR EXEMPLARY CONDUCT

...French Morocco

COMING THROUGH

PERIMETER FENCE

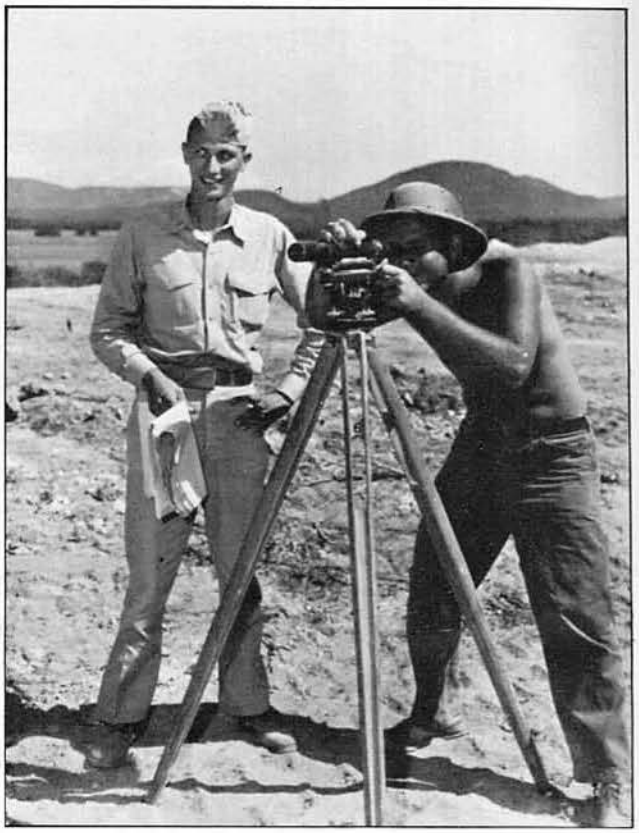
THE "BIG DITCH"

MILITARY DEFENSE

Guantanamo Bay . . .

With 29 January as our goal the Basemakers relieved MCB-One in late August and proceeded to tackle a job which involved countless interdependent phases of work for scores of units distributed among five different construction sites.

Only by each man doing his job could the Battalion hope to complete the assignment on schedule. So we began. In spite of uncontrollable difficulties the rate of production gradually increased until on 29 January 1955 we exceeded the predetermined "one twenty-nine." The rest of the story is now a part of MCB-Four's history — it lists some rough times as well as some impressive records.



TAKING A SURVEY

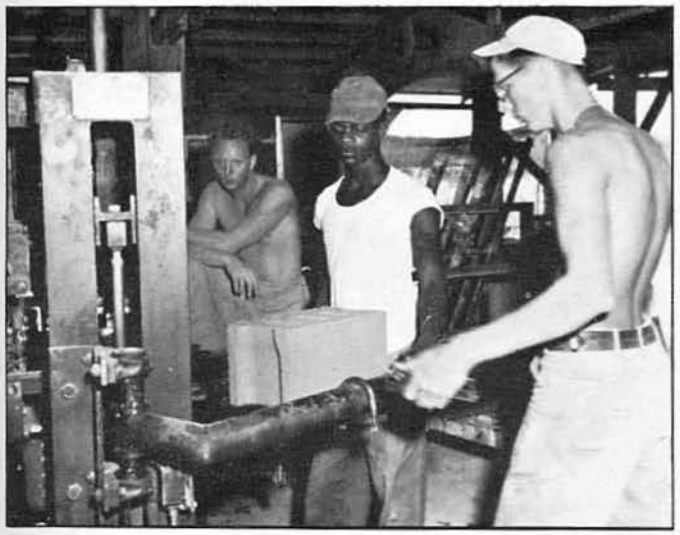
'DOZER CLEARS THE CONSTRUCTION SITE

... Cuba

CONCRETE CREW POURS A SECOND DECK SLAB

GRIZZLY

ROUGHING IN



BLOCK PLANT

BLOCK LAYERS

FORM CREW

CONCRETE FINISHERS

THE ELECTRICIANS PROVIDED US WITH POWER

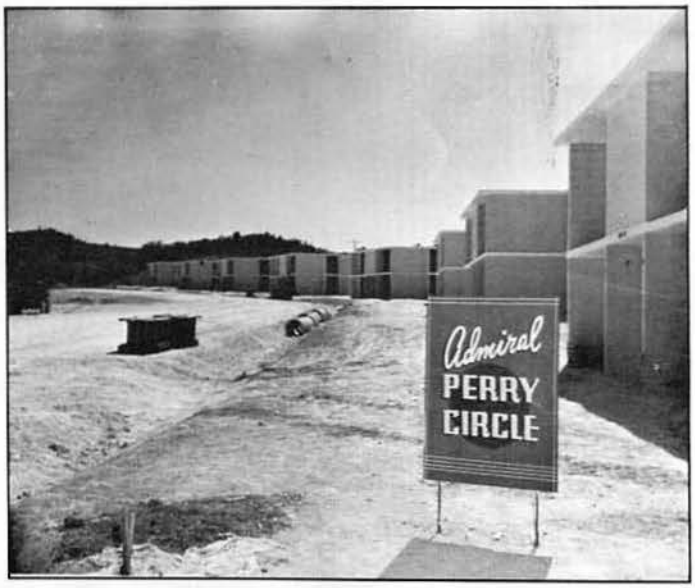
FINISHED "F" BUILDING WITH LANDSCAPED GROUNDS

UNFINISHED UNIT

CHECKING THE PRINTS

MATERIALS PROVED INDISPENSABLE

THE FINISHING TOUCH



ADMIRAL PERRY CIRCLE

FINAL INSPECTION

INTERIOR OF A FINISHED UNIT

LEEWARD POINT PROJECT

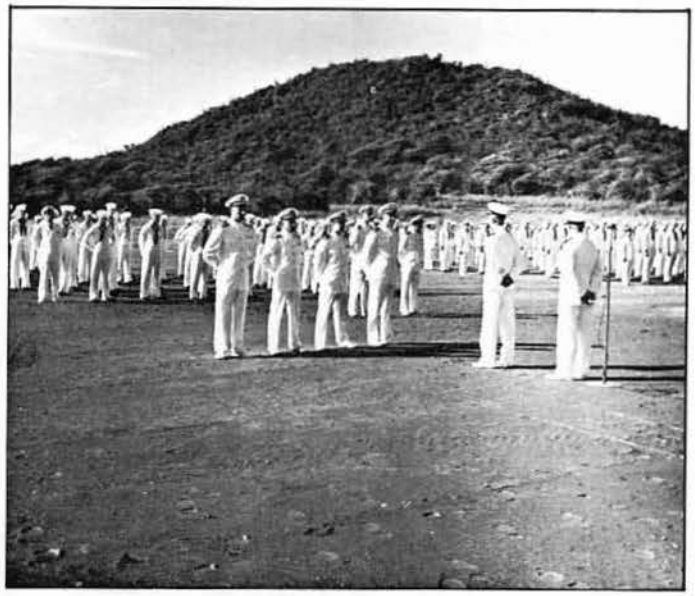
... CBLant Inspection

GALLEY INSPECTION

READY FOR INSPECTION

Again MCB-Four displayed itself in a commendable manner, both militarily and in the field during the CBLant Inspection. The highlight of the inspection was probably the personnel inspection which was staged on a rain-soaked field.

COMMO. SHORT INSPECTS THE TENT AREA



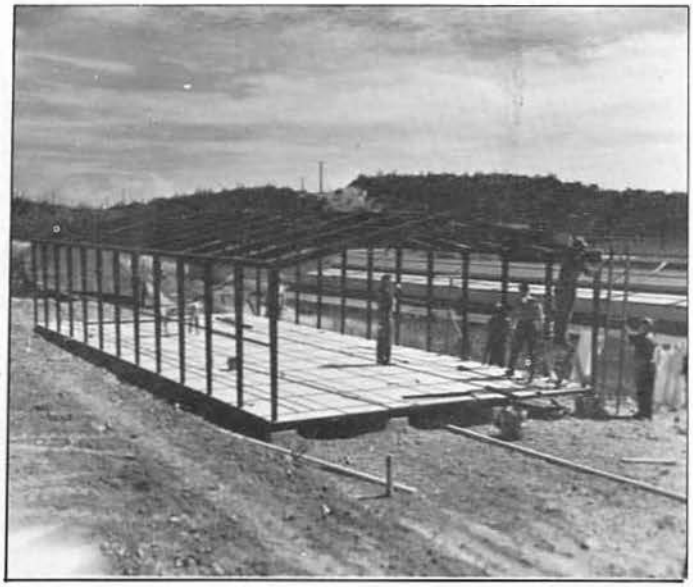
MEN AND STAFF

Base Activities . . .

Tropical hours proved to be ideally suited to recreation and base activities. This also made it possible to take full advantage of the pleasant tropical climate which prevailed. Afternoons and weekends were usually devoted to various forms of recreation and leisure-time activities which were both extensive and varied.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LCDR H. E. HELD, CEC, USNR

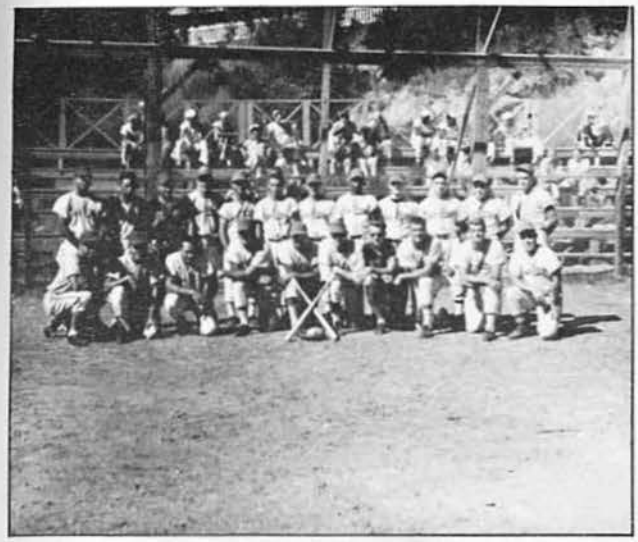
CHIEF'S CEREMONY—INITIATION TO FOLLOW



ADDITIONAL LIVING QUARTERS

FOUR PLEASE!

. . . Recreation

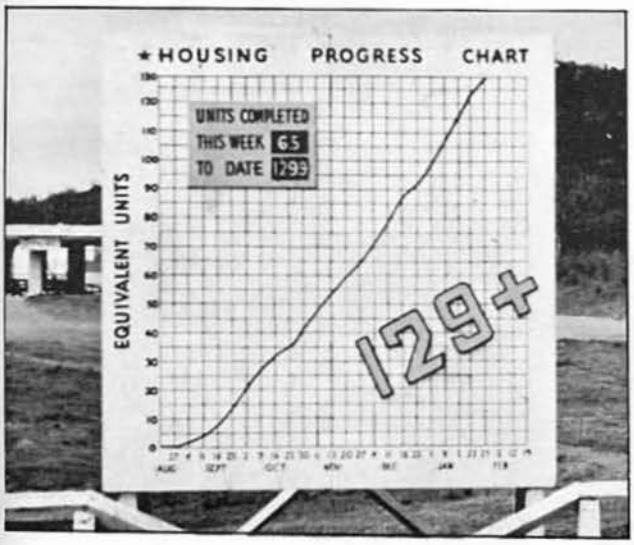


BATTALION SOFTBALL TEAM

DUSTY TRAIL

"RED DOG"

CHAPLAIN W. W. POYNTER

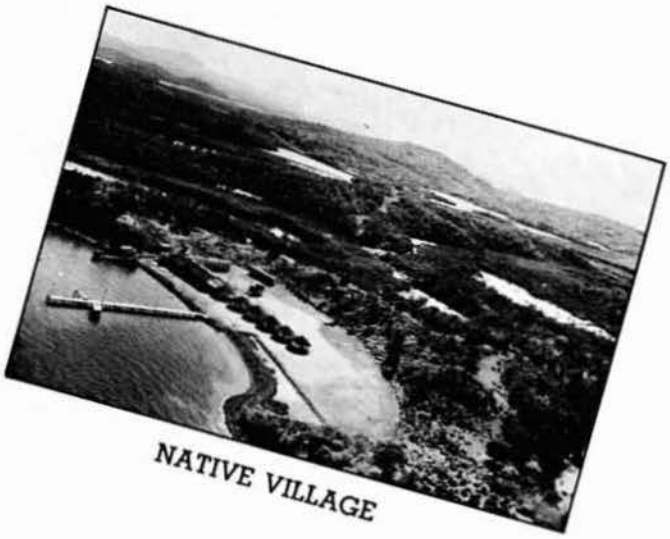


THE PROGRESS CHART

SAFE AT FIRST!

MORNING QUARTERS AT DAWN

"MY THREE ANGELS"



NATIVE VILLAGE

RELAXING AT THE
RED DOG

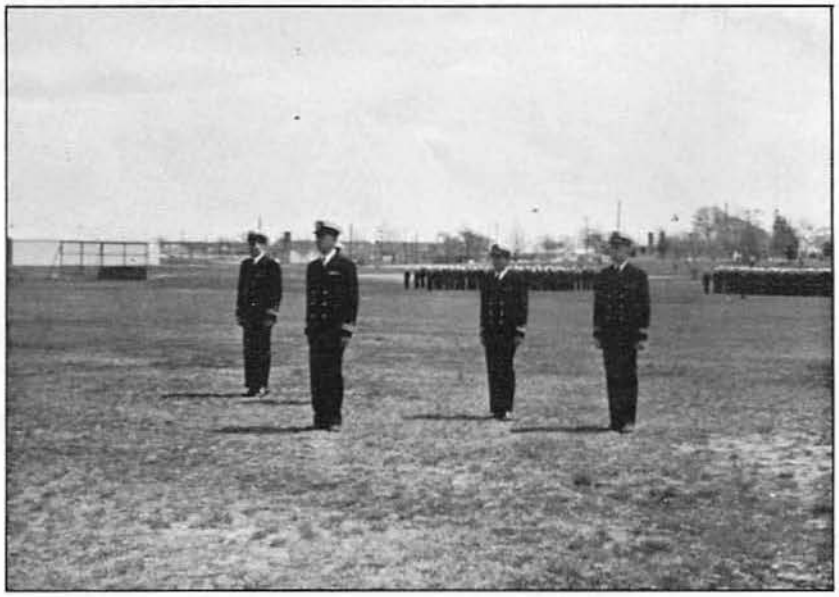
...Davisville 1955

MCB-FOUR COLOR GUARD

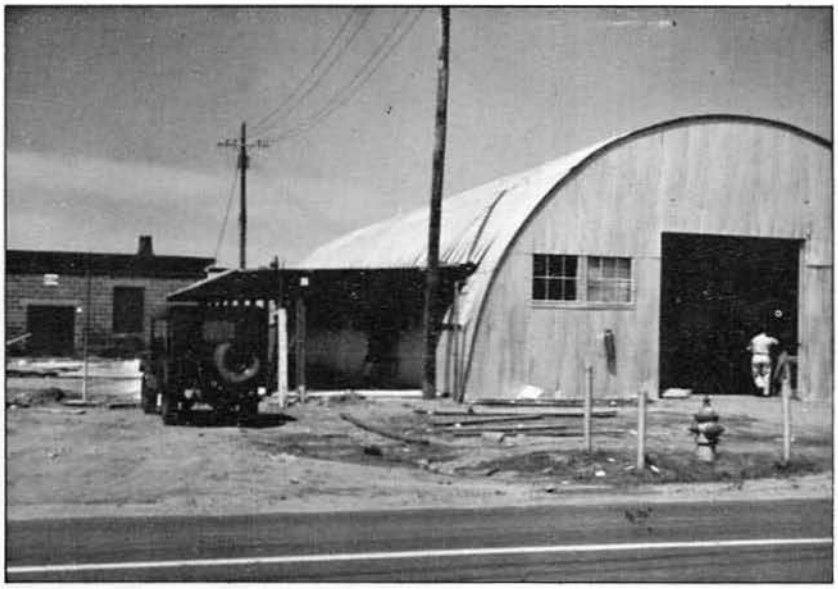
EYES RIGHT!

RADM HOSKINS AND OUR "SKIPPER"

CONSTRUCTION AT THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS CLUB



MCB-FOUR STAFF



HOBBY SHOP GARAGE

... Official Recognitions

301550Z

FM MCB FOUR
TO COMCBLANT
INFO COMNAVBASE

129 EQUIVALENT UNITS COMPLETED 0715R29
JAN 55

311536Z

FM COMCBLANT
TO MCB FOUR

YOUR 301550Z X PERFORMANCE MCB FOUR HAS
SET A NEW STANDARD OF CAN DO X WELL DONE X

312025Z

FM COMNAVBASE
TO MCB FOUR

YOUR 301550Z X CONGRATULATIONS FOR
CONTRACT COMPLETED AND JOB WELL DONE X

$3564