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1962-63

WE BUILD WE FIGHT

MCB 4
67-68



USN MCB FOUR · GUANTANAMO · ARGENTIA · 1962 · 1963



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‘CONSTRUIMUS BATUIMUS’

“We Build — We Fight” . . . in this motto is summarized the mission of the Seabees. The eagle in the Great Seal of the United States symbolizes a similar motto “The olive branch or the arrows? — peace or war?” The mission of MCB FOUR'S Seabees is in smaller part the mission of the Navy. The Navy's mission is America's mission: the promotion and preservation of Western heritage . . . whether in defense of the United States itself, or the remote outpost near the hostile frontier. The ultimate test of our resolve is the challenge to put aside our tools of construction and take up our weapons in defense. During October 1962 MCB FOUR was put to the ultimate test. To the personnel of MCB FOUR who faced the crisis at “Gitmo,” and who are prepared for the possibility of a next one, this story is dedicated.

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A PROUD TRADITION



The traditions of the Seabees have not "just happened" — they have been created, by people and events. The original "CAN DO" spirit associated with Seabees was earned during the Second World War in the strategic outposts of the Pacific and the Atlantic. Today in our time of relative peace the Seabees are carrying on the traditions of their predecessors through construction of overseas bases and a regiment of military preparedness. The role of MCB FOUR in this tradition has established a record of achievement that has given to this proud unit the nickname "FABULOUS FOUR". Since FOUR'S commissioning in 1951 the battalion has six times been named the "OUTSTANDING" MCB of the Atlantic Fleet — for overall excellence in construction, military readiness, training, and general administration. The traditions of MCB FOUR have been built in the scattered shore-based activities of the Atlantic . . . from Bermuda — to Port Lyautey, Morocco — the Bahama Islands, Puerto Rico, Rota, Spain, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Newfoundland.





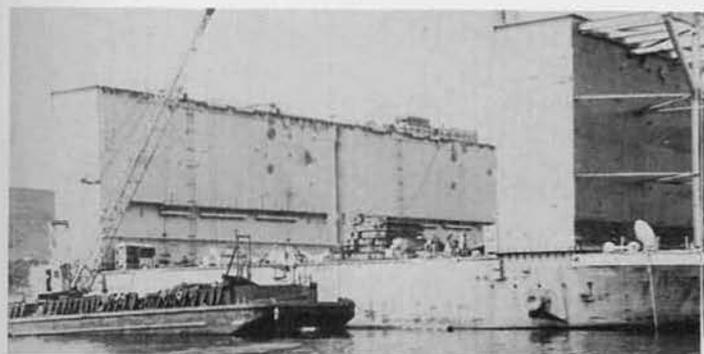
Embarking . . .



Underway . . .



Recognition . . .



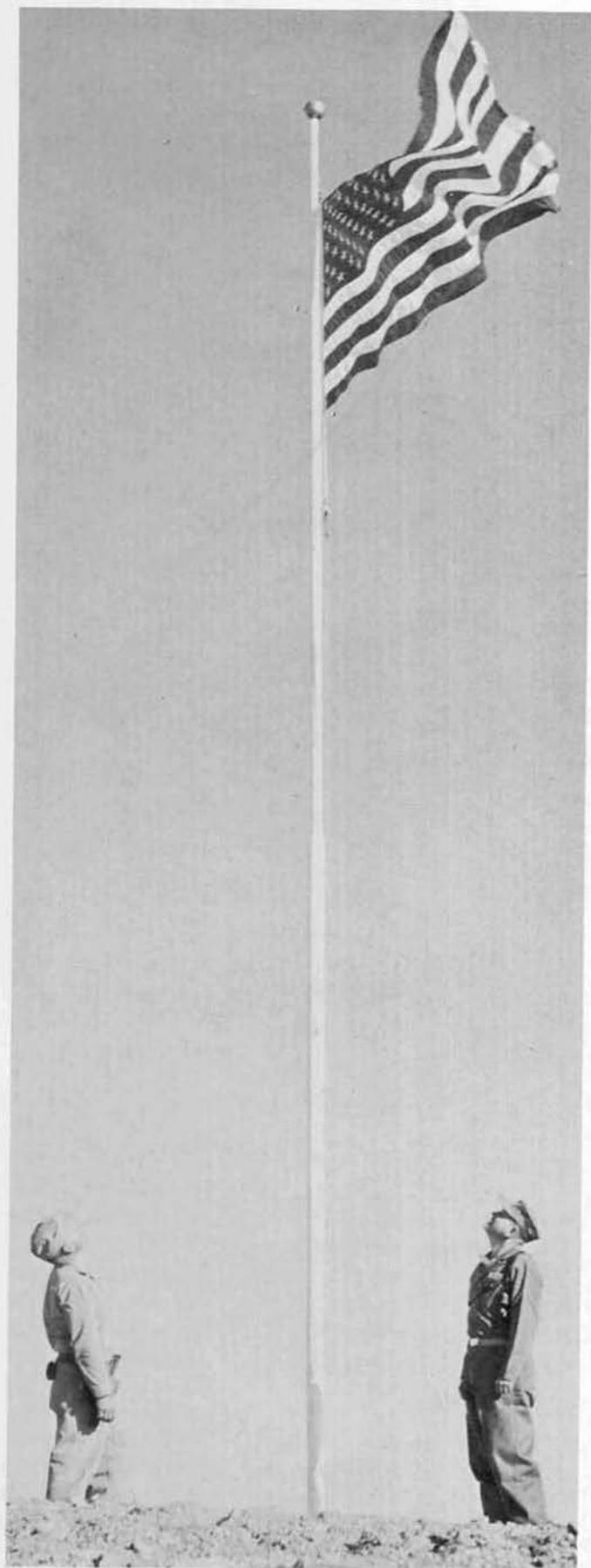
Monumental achievement . . .



On the Parade Ground . . .



And in the eyes of the public . . .



COMMANDING OFFICER



CDR Charles G. Miller, Jr. CEC, USN

It was with mixed emotions that I took command of MCB FOUR on the wind swept aircraft parking apron being utilized as a parade ground at Argentina. My previous experience with Seabees was limited to shore billets at various Public Works Departments where I was constantly reminded that regulations limited the use of Seabees. I had heard many times of the accomplishments of the World War II Seabees and the fact that today's Seabees were, as a group, younger and more inexperienced.

Now, after a relatively short period of contact with this fine group of officers and men, I assure you my emotions are no longer mixed. I have a deep and abiding respect for the demonstrated ability of the men of FAB FOUR. The completed projects are lasting monuments to your outstanding contribution to the way of life of the personnel stationed in Argentina. It took loyalty, devotion to duty, responsibility, ingenuity, perseverance, and many other sterling attributes on the part of the productive forces. It took planning, scheduling, and coordination on the parts of the operations personnel. It took the outstanding support of the staff. It took the wholehearted support of "All Hands". The willingness and hard work put forth by the men of FAB FOUR is deeply appreciated by me and by all of the area commanders in Argentina.

This cruise book is devoted to the end that you will relive in memory the tasks, worries, and ultimate satisfaction of a job well done. It will also serve as an inspiration for our new men, to help them to appreciate what it means to be a Seabee in FAB FOUR. With the reputation so justly earned, the skills possessed we will go on to even greater accomplishments. I am confident that the officers and men of MCB FOUR will continue to provide the strength and leadership required as our contribution to insure the maintenance of our country's peace, freedom, and honor.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



LCDR James T. Taylor, CEC, USN



The words and pictures which fill this book are well calculated to serve as reminders of two event filled years — the places, the tasks and the friends. The pace was fast at Camp Lejeune, it was tense in Guantanamo, dogged in Argentina, and generally leisurely in Davisville. Through these deployments and under the stress of the work at hand, we have all made many a friend and weathered many a storm, all of which adds up to some real "yarn spinning" material. If this book furnishes the background for this kind of reminiscing in the future, then it has accomplished its task.

The past two years have been especially memorable to me. They provided the means to see the changes that have taken place since I last served with the Seabees some ten years ago. The willingness and readiness of you men to fight and defend our country's interests at Guantanamo Bay during the crisis was inspiring and the quality of your building at Argentina was the finest I have yet seen Seabees accomplish. I hope you will join me in looking back on these years, not only with the warmth of reflection, but also with great pride. I certainly do. This book will have another audience too, the wives, the children, parents and sweethearts of the men of FOUR. While this book does not feature these stalwart souls, they too might find in its pages a view of the events that keep their men away for such long periods of time. May they also read between the lines, that the men share their loneliness when away. Their support, and their letters of the life unfolding at home do more to help uphold morale than anything any of us can do at the deployment site. My thanks and appreciation to them.

All past accomplishments are tucked away under the heading "experience" to be mulled over, sifted, and used as building blocks for the future. FAB FOUR has had the experience — it has the men. The combination is right for even greater honor and achievement.



CDR James M. Hill, Jr.
July '61 — June '63



LCDR James T. Taylor
June '63 — Aug '63

PAST COMMANDING OFFICERS

From Cuba — Newfoundland



DAVISVILLE

Construction Battalion Center, Davisville, Rhode Island is where everything originates. Men are trained in the skills and techniques necessary to give the Construction Battalion the unique quality of a highly mobile unit which can build anything, anywhere, under any condition. Ma-



terials are gathered and equipment readied. Military training is conducted. Men, materials, training, skill — the components of a successful Seabee deployment. While at Davisville, MCB FOUR began the construction of the new Seabee Chapel, attended classes, and re-enlisted.

HOME OF THE

ATLANTIC SEABEES





Every other year MCB FOUR deploys to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for routine military training and weapons familiarization under the direction of the Marine Corps. From April until May, 1962 MCB FOUR was trained at Camp Geiger in Lejeune. Combat training, Marine style, was a unique experience!



CAMP

LEJEUNE



The basics of self-defense are best taught in hand-to-hand combat situations . . .



This training, with an attitude of dedication and involvement, was later to prove invaluable during the Cuban deployment.



Then weapons familiarization —



The basics of group defense are best taught in the field—under simulated combat situations.



And everywhere, there is the inevitable line!



While at Lejeune, May 16, these men made rate.

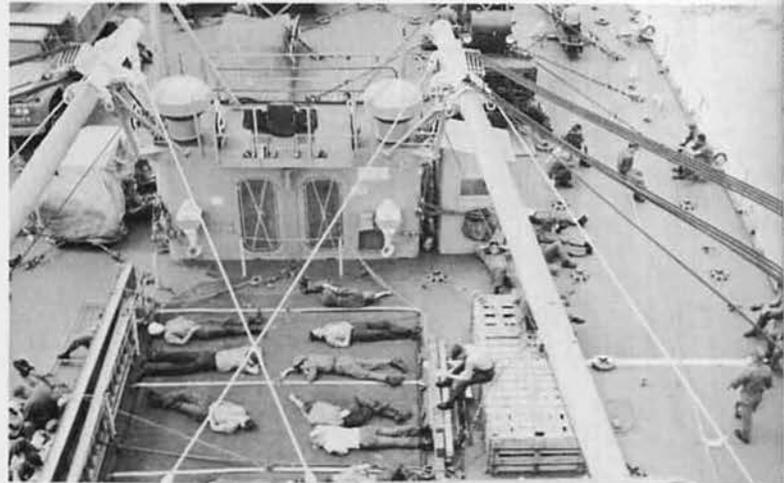


Back at Davisville the battalion completed its last minute packing. The men took a last look at the USA, said good-bye to wives, families, and friends, and on a rainy 13th of May, embarked on the USS SUFFOLK COUNTY, LST 1173.

The trip South grew more pleasant as the water became calmer and bluer, the air clearer and warmer. Life on board the SUFFOLK COUNTY was leisurely and pleasant. Then suddenly, rising from the warm Caribbean was the Virgin Islands. The ship made a port call at St. Thomas and MCB FOUR spent two days liberty in the beautiful capitol of the Virgin Islands. Next the SUFFOLK COUNTY anchored in the Haitian harbor of Port-au-Prince and left supplies for MCB FOUR's DET. LIMA, then deployed to Haiti. After an overnight cruise, the SUFFOLK COUNTY struck land; FOUR had reached Cuba.



UNDERWAY-USS SUFFOLK COUNTY, LST 1173





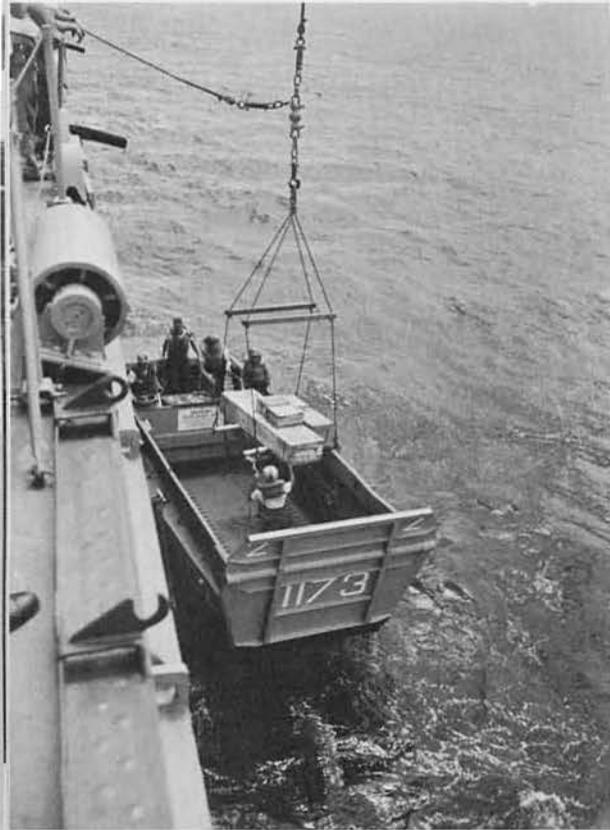
**PORT
OF
CALLS**



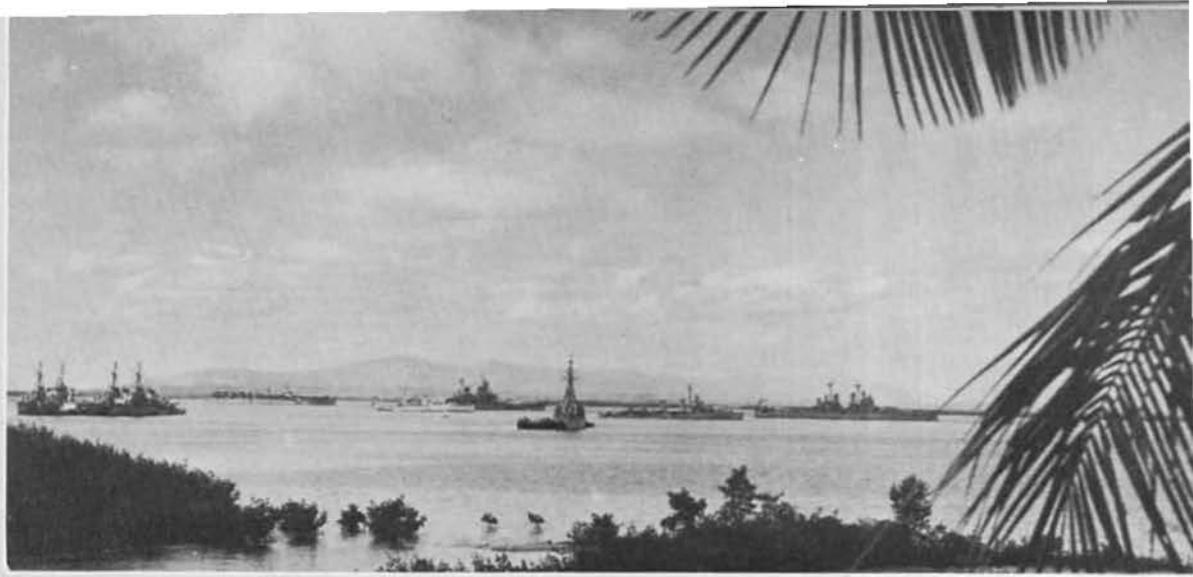
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**FIRST
IMPRESSIONS**

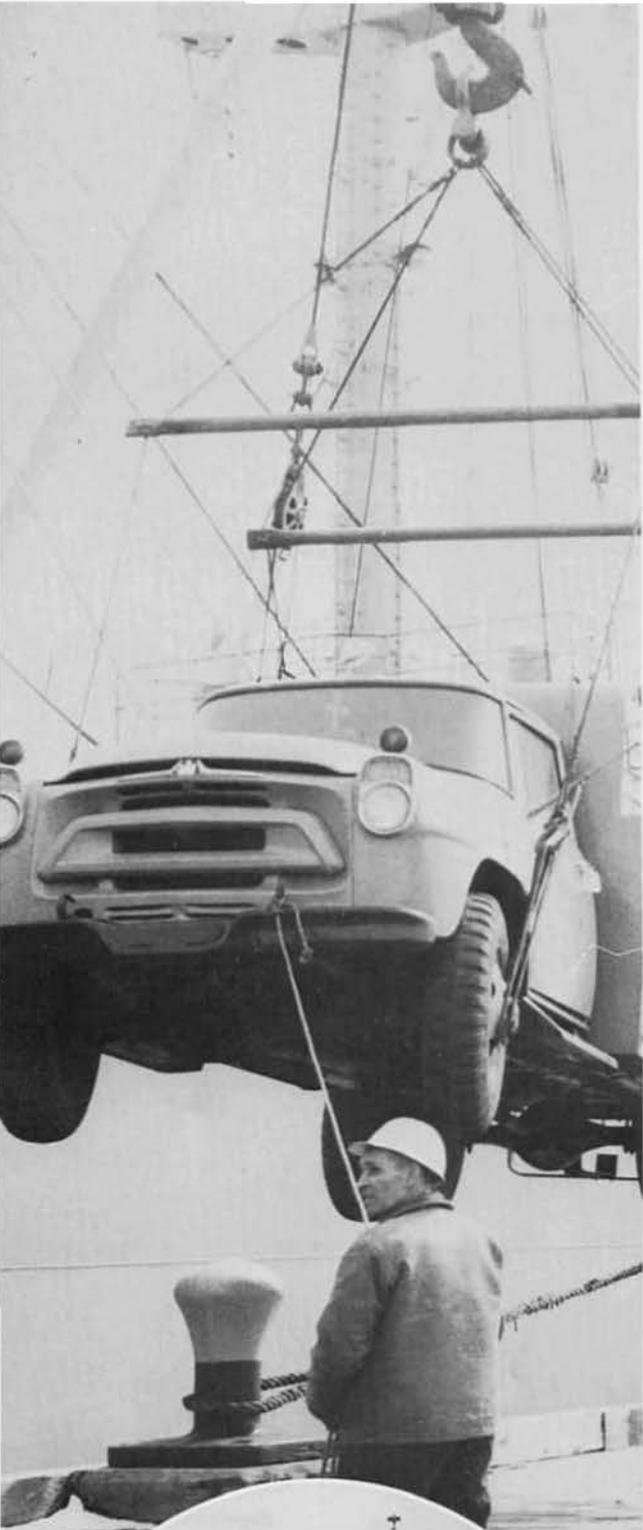


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US NAVAL STATION—GUANTANAMO BAY

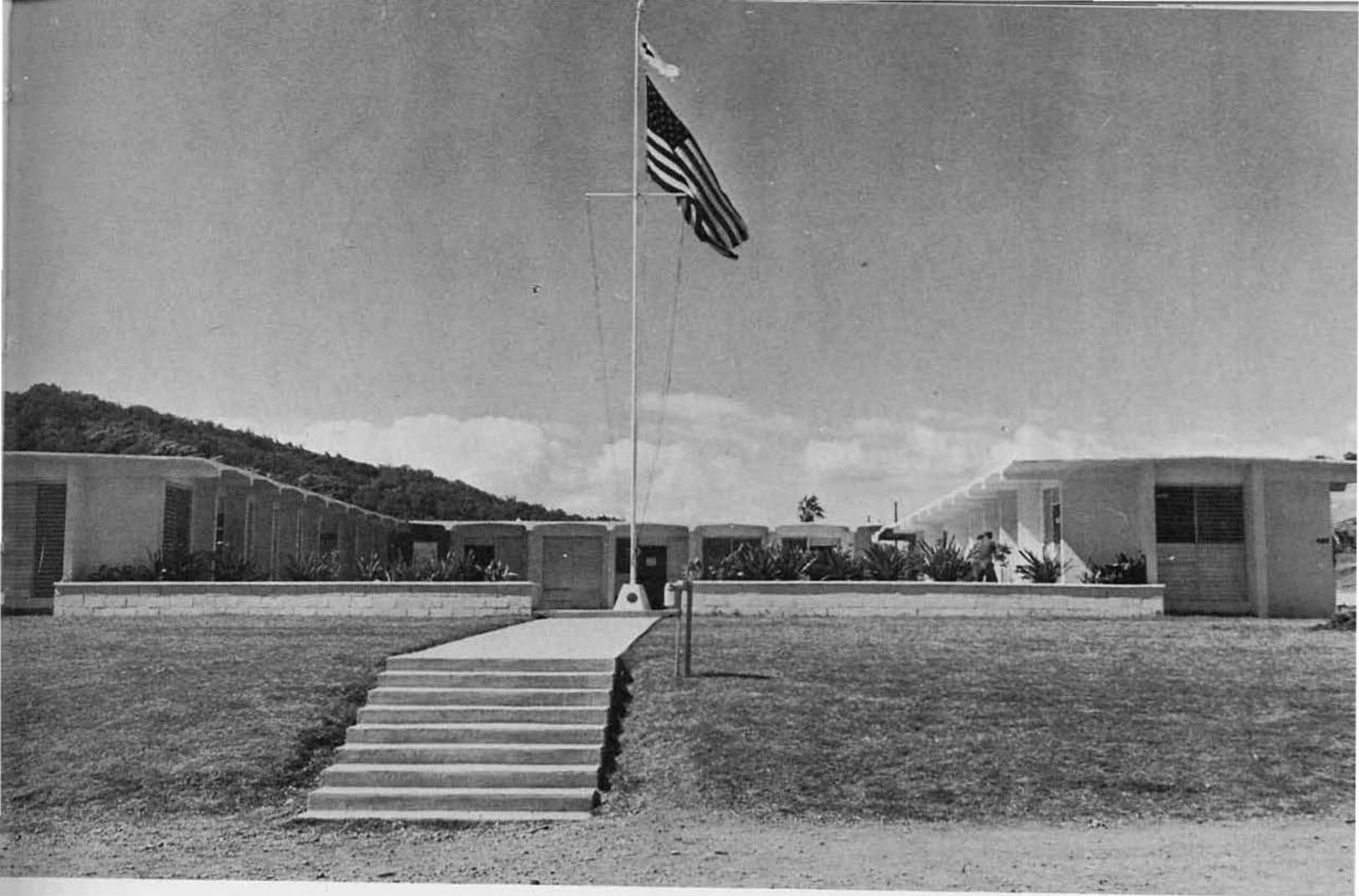




The first thing you notice about Cuba is the brightness of the sun and the heat of mid-day. The water at Guantanamo is bright blue-green and there are butterflies in the air all year round. It is perpetual summer.

We are here! We walk off an iron deck that has seemed anything but stable for the last two weeks. Finally you can feel your feet attached to solid comfortable ground again. It is a good feeling and it is good just to walk. And we DID walk — several MILES! In Cuba several miles means UP and DOWN dusty, hot hills . . . purpose: review main line of resistance positions. Then unload the gear, personal seabag, connex box, heavy equipment.





CACTUS HILL





For the next six months home was the small camp in the hills by the shore. From its position in the midst of the tropical vegetation, the camp got its name, "Cactus Hill."

The main purpose of FOUR'S being here at this time was to conduct routine construction, repair, and maintenance projects. The secondary reason for our presence at "Gitmo" was to prepare to defend an important portion of the base's defense perimeter, and if necessary, to fight. While the first was in the front of our minds every day on the job, the second was always in the back of our minds.

Guantanamo Bay during 1962 was the "hot spot" of the Carribbean. Cuban-American relations were such that the "remotest" possibility was not remote anymore.

Before long we were acquainted with everyday life at Cactus Hill . . .



"I'll see your Coke, and raise you a ham sandwich"



"Our side had 30% fewer dysentery cases"



"Yeah, that's where it hurts"





Listening to Beethoven's Fifth



"WHO missed muster?!"



"I know a guy who buys guns"



"We'll put the Supermarket right c'here"



"I thot you said we're issued M-1s!!"



"Sure wish more of you bees could make quarters"



"This is where Tarzan misses the vine"



"Yah, I'm the king of the mountain"



Down the line.

Cromiter rakes them in.

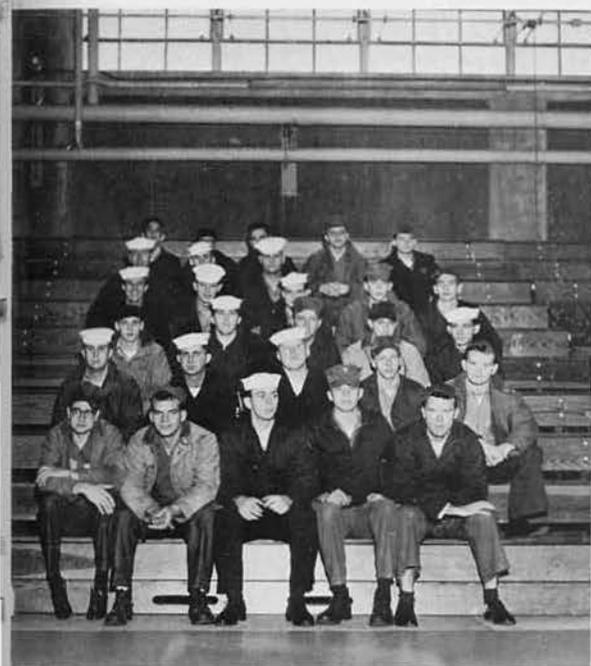


Sec. of the Navy visits Cactus Hill.





Some of the boys.



Some of the men.

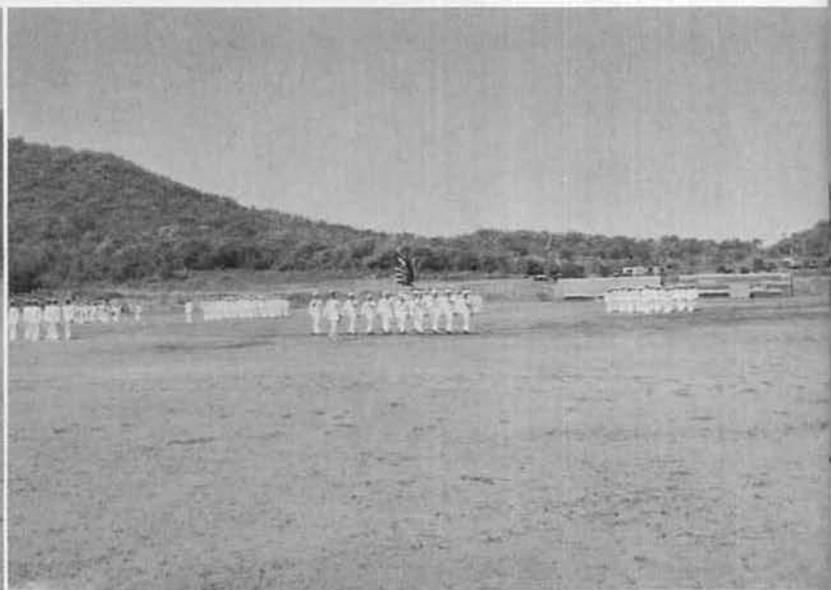
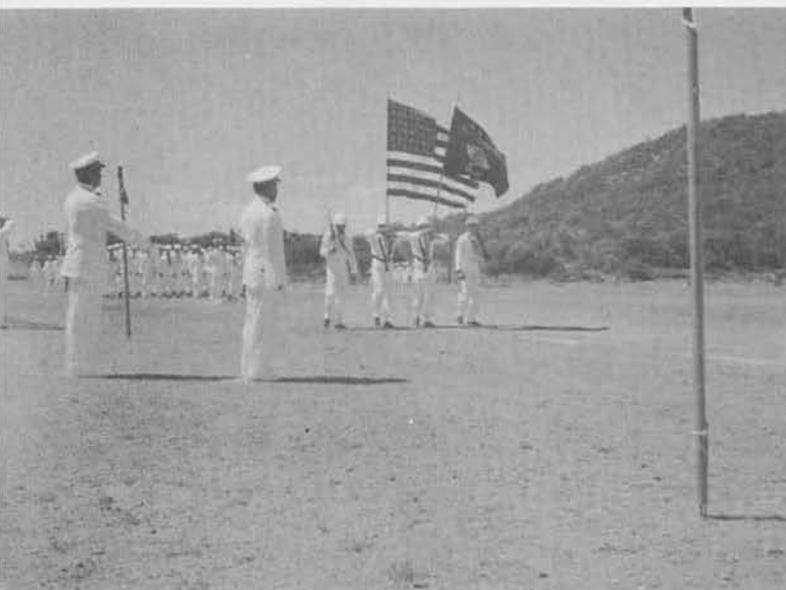


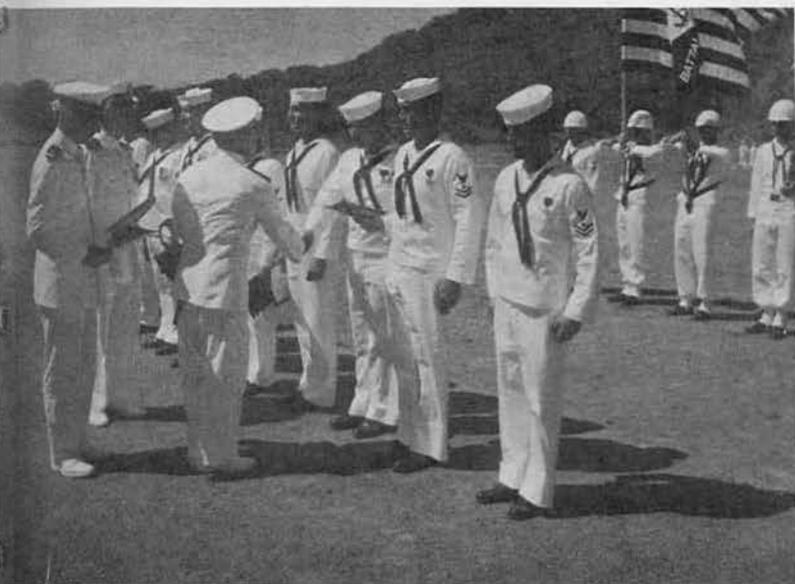
A few more of them.



MILITARY

On special days, on special occasions the work-day greens change to the clean, distinctive sharpness of the U.S. Navy dress uniform. The occasions were ceremonial reviews and inspections. Admiral O'Donnel, Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay was on hand. There was our Captain's personnel inspection and later the inspection and ceremonial review in honor of Captain J. C. Tate, COMCBLANT and Staff.





CEREMONY



MILITARY TRAINING

Cuba is no place to run around in heavy green "fatigue" uniforms with heavy combat packs, cartridge belt with canteen and carrying a rifle. Not for physical comfort in a hot, dusty and humid climate. But for other reasons it was "healthy" and plain good sense to maintain a high state of individual and unit combat readiness.

MCB FOUR was responsible for the defense of one third of the base perimeter. Military preparedness was built through overnight defense exercises, "X" Division military training classes, a regular military training day, lectures on combat topics by the Marines, weapons firing . . . military inspections.





VISUAL REHABILITATION

Life at Cactus Hill was not without its moments of fun and entertainment. Nightly movies shown by "Pappy" Dapron provided enough action to keep everyone laughing. On several occasions we were visited by travelling USO troupes which had that Gitmo rarity . . . GIRLS.

A real fine group of entertainers, the YOUTH VARIETIES SHOW, put on a show one night at the Seabee camp that was indeed memorable (to say the very least!!)

The high point in Cactus Hill entertainment came when Perry Como paid us a visit.



WHAT TO DO

There were many things to do at good old "Gitmo." MCB FOUR produced two groups of champions in Naval Station sports competition. FOUR'S softball team won the base championship. FOUR'S swimming team placed first in the base meet. The Naval Station also held "smokers" with boxing matches scheduled between individuals of the Seabees, Marines, Fleet sailors, and "Airedales." Seabees Luis Medina, Frank Provenzano, George Vasquez, and Dan Dougherty boxed for Four. Weekends were party time at Windmill Beach down the road. Some of the adventurers put on Scuba Gear and cruised the coral wonderland beneath the green waters. Sharks, Moray eels, and the sea urchins added the tenuous feeling of danger to the underwater explorer. It was a fascinating experience, and the "beach" was a welcome diversion from the usual routine.



CONSTRUCTION IN CUBA

A deployment to "Gitmo" has been a regular tour of duty for the Atlantic Fleet Construction Battalions. MCB FOUR was certainly no stranger to the Naval Base. In addition to their role as a major part of the base's defense force, the Seabees carry out projects of new construction, improvement of existing facilities, and repair and maintenance when and where needed. Among the jobs assigned to MCB FOUR in 1962 were rehabilitation of runway lighting on both Leeward and Windward air fields, a complete reroofing of the large Navy Exchange and Commissary building, repairing the perimeter road and cyclone fence, which included the construction of concrete spillways and culverts, the construction of a new welded steel raw water pipe line, running a pontoon bridge over the Guantanamo River, plus clearing new trails through the cactus covered hillside, and clearing fields of fire for defense purposes.





In the early weeks of October, MCB FOUR Seabees were busy fortifying a line of hilly ridges along the perimeter of the American Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. They were building the defensive structure of Project "MIGHT," while elsewhere in the world, events were rapidly and secretly moving toward a conclusion which was soon to thrust these men into the center of the most dramatic power showdown since the United Nations and China opposed each other in Korea.





A strange stillness enveloped the Naval Base in the early hours of October 21, as the fiery red of another tropical dawn slowly took possession of the sky. Seabees and Marines lay in foxholes and bunkers along the Base's long perimeter, their loaded weapons trained on the thin, barren no man's land that separated the Base from Castro's Cuba. They watched and waited. What had begun as a routine Base Defense Exercise had suddenly become the real thing. Blank training ammunition was exchanged for live rounds; primary positions in the Main Line of Resistance were fully manned; battle-ready Seabees snapped into an attitude of grim determination—if a stand was to be made, they would make it!

THE WATCH



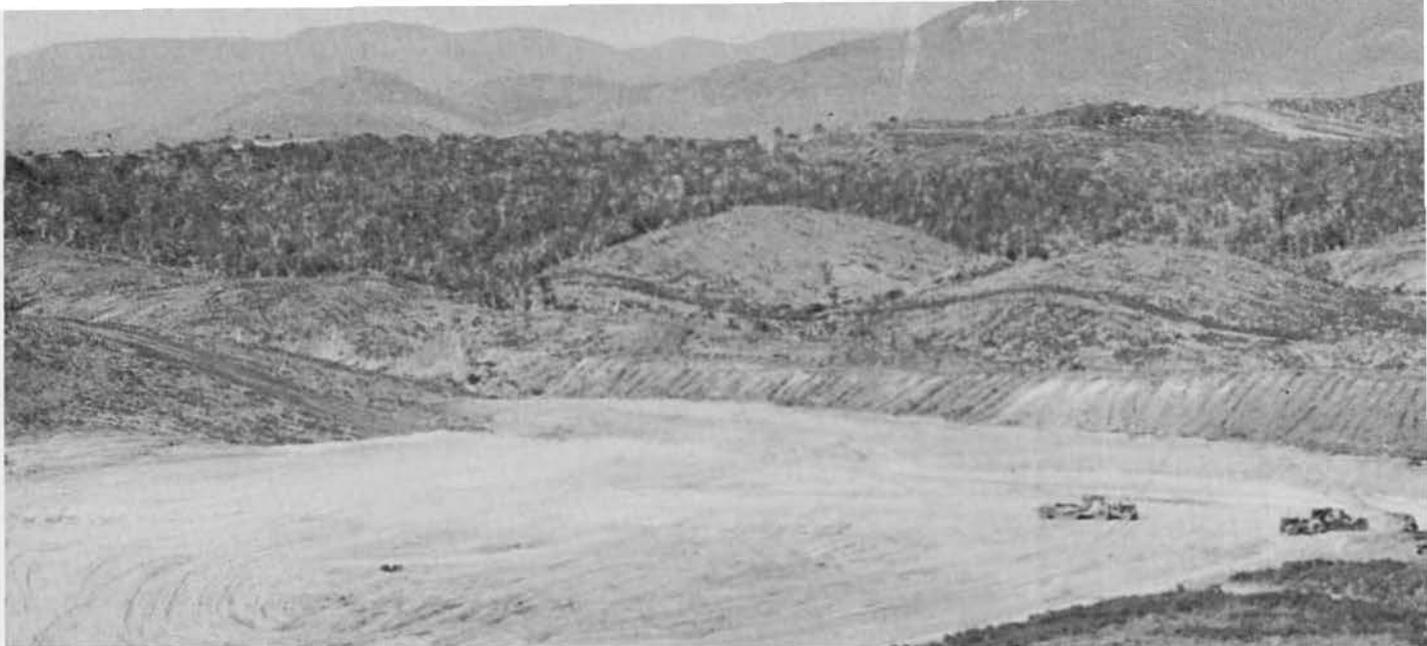
The relationship between Fidel Castro's Communist backed Cuba and the United States had steadily deteriorated. We possessed unquestionable evidence of a Soviet missile build-up on Cuban soil. For the first time in many years it was the United States that delivered the ultimatum to the Communists —remove your missiles or be prepared to face the consequences. President Kennedy blockaded the island of Cuba with U. S. Naval Forces, and mobilized America's military striking force.



The Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay had the world's attention focused upon it. Civilians and Navy families were evacuated and front-line Marine Corps units were airlifted in to reinforce the Base. But it was the small handful of Seabees and Marines who manned the strategic perimeter position during the 72 hours that it took to reinforce and evacuate the Base who bore the brunt of the crisis. Greatly outnumbered by the Cuban forces maneuvering into position just across the fence, these men were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice.



When the reinforcing Marines arrived to relieve the defending Seabees, they stared in amazement at bearded, weary men who came out of those foxholes standing tall and walking proud . . . the Fightin' Seabees.



MCB FOUR moved into its positions on October 22 and stayed for three days and nights. After the third day, they were relieved by Marines fresh from Camp Pendleton, California.

Work that had been abruptly dropped was picked up and swiftly concluded. Almost immediately the temporary foxholes on the defensive line were being replaced with the solid fortifications of Project MIGHT.





PROJECT MIGHT

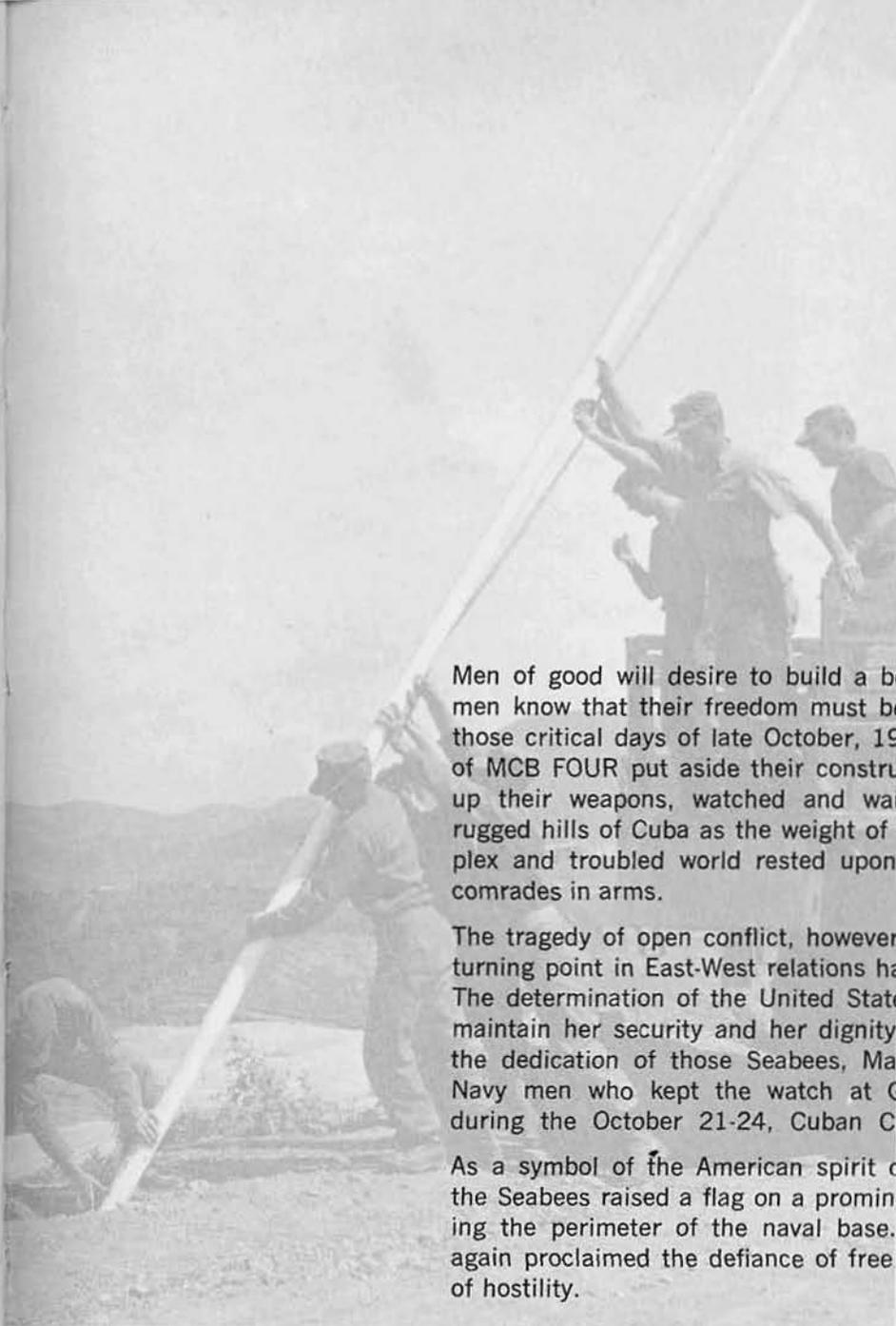


The importance of the great naval base at Guantanamo Bay can not be under estimated. The base is the training center for the Atlantic Fleet, and the airfield at Leeward Point houses the planes that patrol the Windward Passage, strategic sea route to the Panama Canal. The United States maintains possession of the base by treaty agreement. In the early Autumn of 1962, a plan was conceived to provide a network of fortifications to protect the base in the event of a land attack. The code name of this plan was Project MIGHT, and the task of carrying it out was assigned to MCB FOUR. Almost overnight new roads, masonry bunkers, tank slots, cleared fields of fire, communication and command posts appeared. The Seabees of FOUR overcame the obstacles of tropical heat, rugged terrain, lack of materials and equipment, and constructed the largest system of defense works since World War II. After being relieved in the hills, MCB FOUR provided intensive support to the Marines, constructing mess and shower facilities, supply depots, command posts, roads, and other defensive positions.





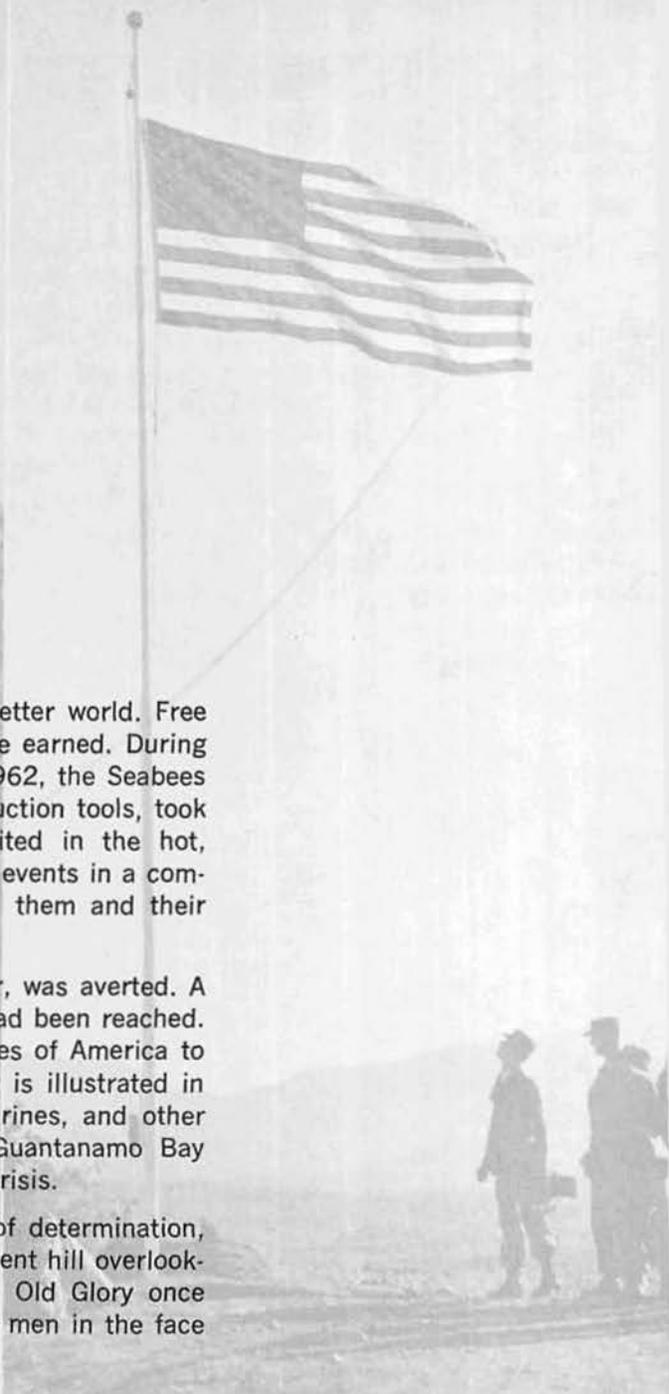




Men of good will desire to build a better world. Free men know that their freedom must be earned. During those critical days of late October, 1962, the Seabees of MCB FOUR put aside their construction tools, took up their weapons, watched and waited in the hot, rugged hills of Cuba as the weight of events in a complex and troubled world rested upon them and their comrades in arms.

The tragedy of open conflict, however, was averted. A turning point in East-West relations had been reached. The determination of the United States of America to maintain her security and her dignity is illustrated in the dedication of those Seabees, Marines, and other Navy men who kept the watch at Guantanamo Bay during the October 21-24, Cuban Crisis.

As a symbol of the American spirit of determination, the Seabees raised a flag on a prominent hill overlooking the perimeter of the naval base. Old Glory once again proclaimed the defiance of free men in the face of hostility.



“MOUNT OUT”

Towards the end of a deployment the rumors start to fly. By the beginning of December it looked doubtful that the battalion would be home before Christmas. (Cromiter said we would.) A while later a Christmas Tree went up on one of the huts. But it didn't seem like the right season. Suddenly one Friday the Skipper appeared at Quarters and said, “We have 72 hours to pack up all our gear and load the Sandoval, we're going home!” That was the first we knew for certain that there was a ship in port and we would be on it and home by the middle of December. That, in spite of the fact that on one of the connex boxes someone had stenciled the obvious rumor destination: New Delhi, India.

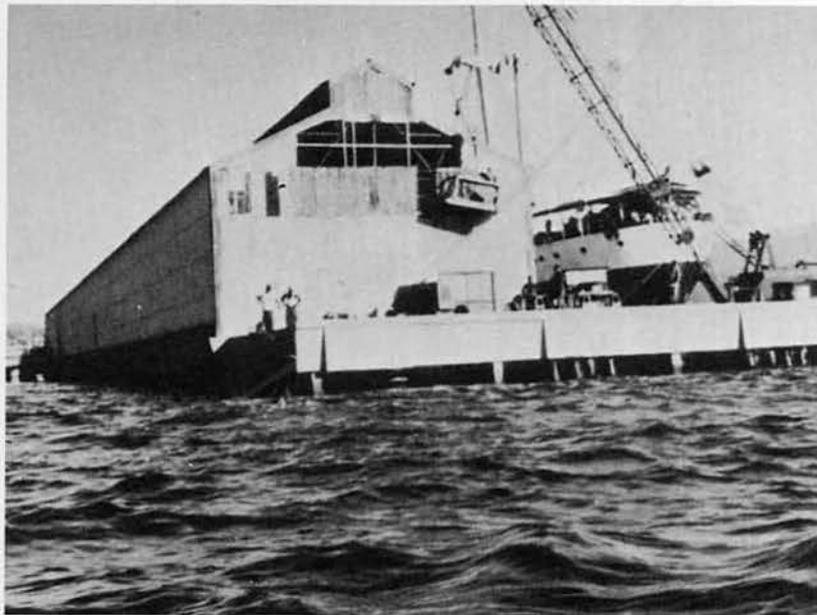
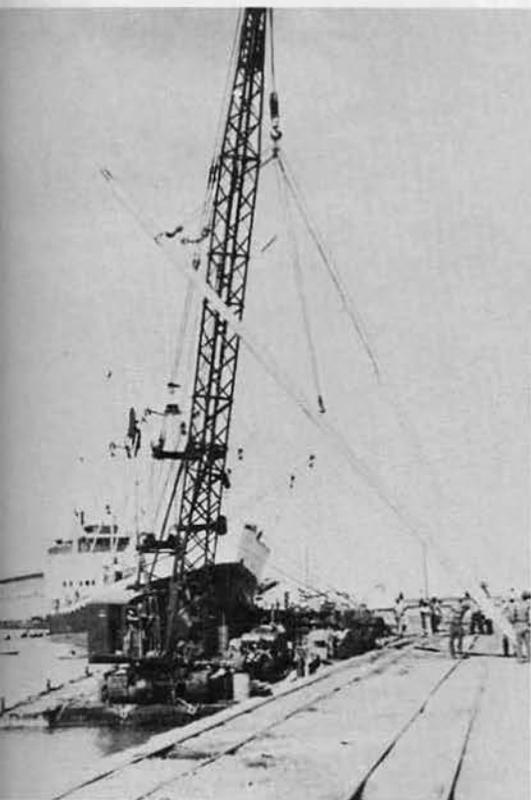
In the ridiculously short space of two days 600 Seabees were mounted out and ready to go home, all in orderly fashion.



DETACHMENT LIMA

At the request of the Government of Haiti, the United States sent a team of Seabees to the picturesque city of Port-au-Prince to make emergency repairs and carry out rehabilitation work on a municipal pier. The project was assigned to a unit of MCB FOUR, Detachment LIMA. The pier is the first reinforced concrete pier ever constructed. Years of wear and neglect however had left the pier in a rather advanced state of deterioration. Severe storm damage had completely collapsed the end of the pier. Work involved precasting new reinforced concrete pilings, placing them, then constructing the reinforcing structural works and actual pier decking. The Detachment Lima men both worked and acted as supervisors for Haitian nationals engaged in this repair and rehabilitation work.

Detachment LIMA was in Port-au-Prince from May of 1962 until April of 1963. Lt E. G. Pelitier, CEC, USN, served as Officer in Charge of the detachment, and Equipment Operator Chief Donald Shoener served as Leading Chief.



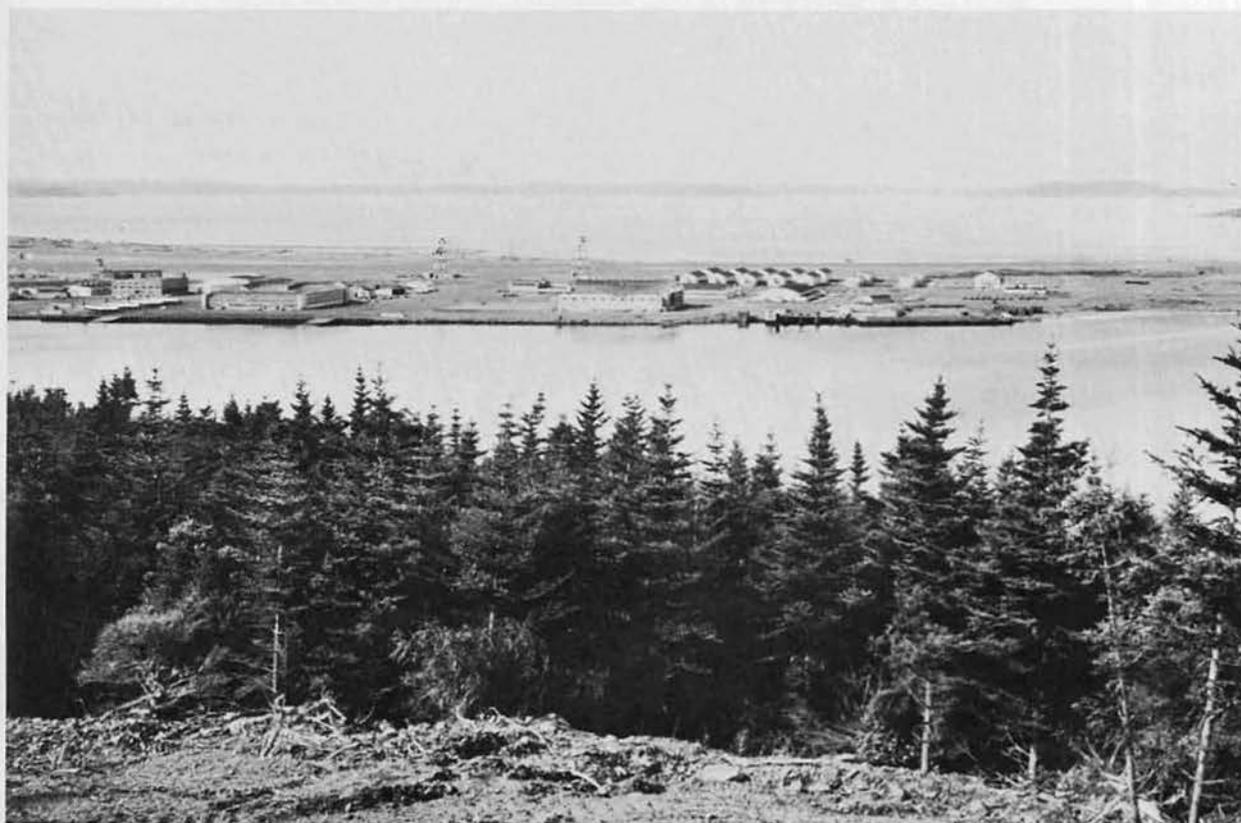
DAVISVILLE DEC 62 • APR 63

Home again, home again! Even with the routine organizing for the oncoming deployment, the months slipped by fast. Shortly after arriving at a very chilly Narragansett Bay port, the word was out that the battalion would be in Argentina, Newfoundland for the summer. In the meantime there was the long-awaited leave, the usual classes in military training, and ABC warfare and language schools, STAT training schools. But before there was time to think about moving again, our time was up. On the 19th of April we boarded the USNS UPSHUR and sailed down Narragansett Bay to the shipping lane that led up the coast to Canada's Eastern-most province.



ARGENTIA

The deployment of MCB FOUR to Argentia was exceptionally valuable to the overall mission of the Seabees. The variety of the projects provided an excellent opportunity for training and experience in virtually all the phases of Seabee construction activity. This is our main concern, but at the same time, appropriate attention was given to the military and technical training phases of the Argentia deployment. MCB FOUR is particularly proud of its construction and military performance over this period of time, and it is this pride which is reflected in the battalion's appearance and work.



ARGENTIA SCENES

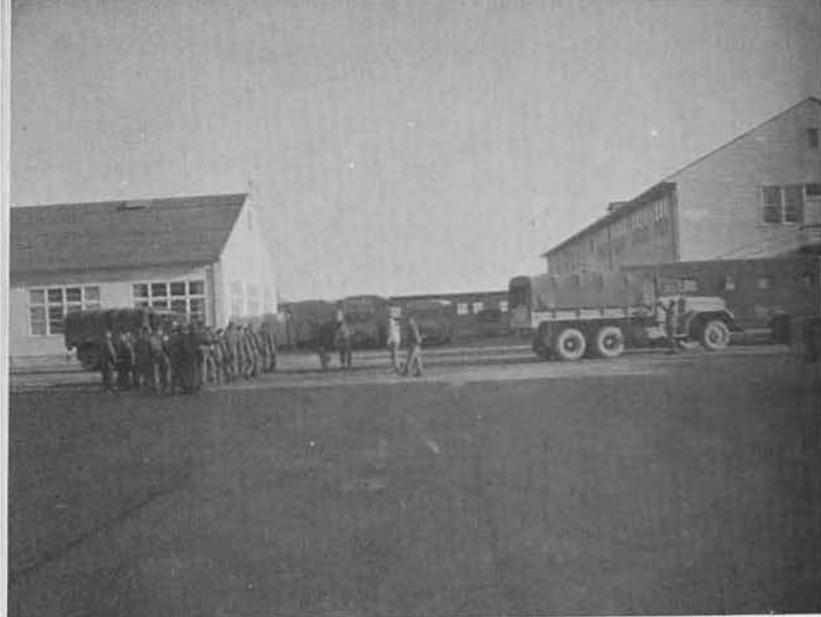
After two days on not too rough seas, the 600 officers and men of USNMCB FOUR looked out into the snowy night of Argentia Harbour. In the first dark hour of the morning everyone had moved into their new home and temporarily stowed their gear. During the next few days there was ample opportunity to become acquainted with the small, windy, unprotected peninsula with its bleak complex of various buildings. The 632 men of the battalion soon covered the base like an Argentia fog in their efforts to satisfy their curiosities about this part of the world.





Shortly after arrival, jackets, 782 gear, and rifles were issued. Barracks were made shipshape, and the MCB "Fabulous Four" sign and flagpole were erected. Seven days after arrival, the battalion marched around the naval station in full combat gear to advertise our size and military status. As part of military training exercises the first week, the C.O. led the greenclad battalion on a four mile hike over the Newfoundland tundra and rock hills that were our training grounds.





There were many occasions to turn out in sharp formation during the summer.



The Armed Forces Day Parade



The CO's first inspection — at which Chief Cook and SW1 Graham were honored for their efforts at GITMO and at the floating drydock at Holy Loch, Scotland.

CAPT Harbert, COMNAVSTA, ARGENTIA, visited MCB-FOUR'S CO and was given an inspection tour.



CEREMONIAL REVIEW



About mid-deployment COMBLANT, CAPT William Heaman and his inspection party arrived.



"And out of the fog marched Cote's hundred."



Before the first ceremonial review there the necessary practice to square away new "boots."



And was met by Tam-o-Shantered officers.



Over a period of four days, blues were inspected —



Greens were inspected —



And job sites were inspected.



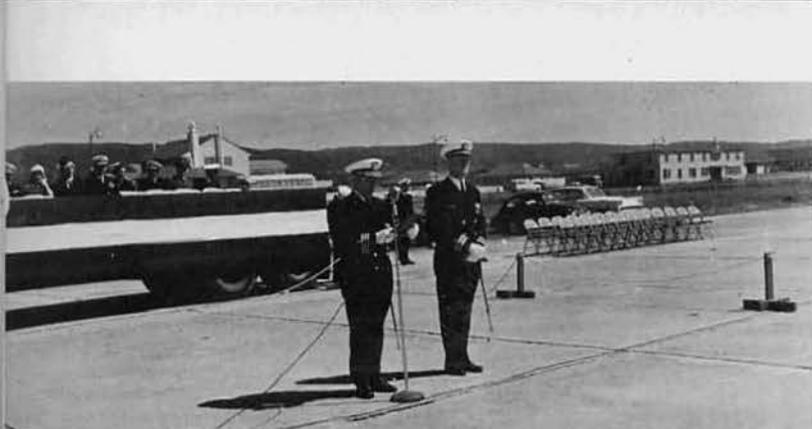
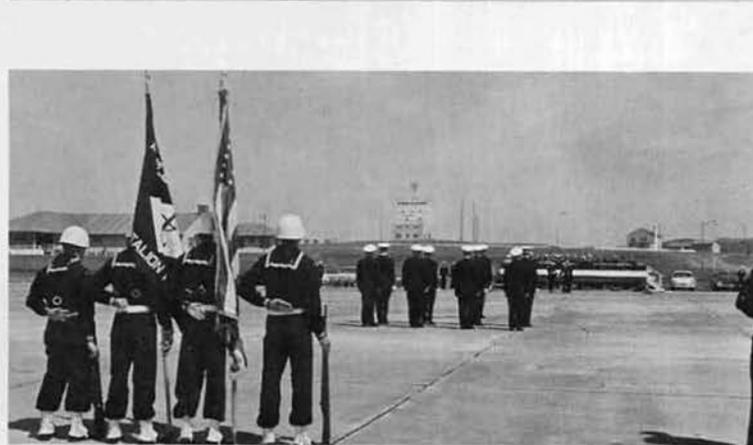
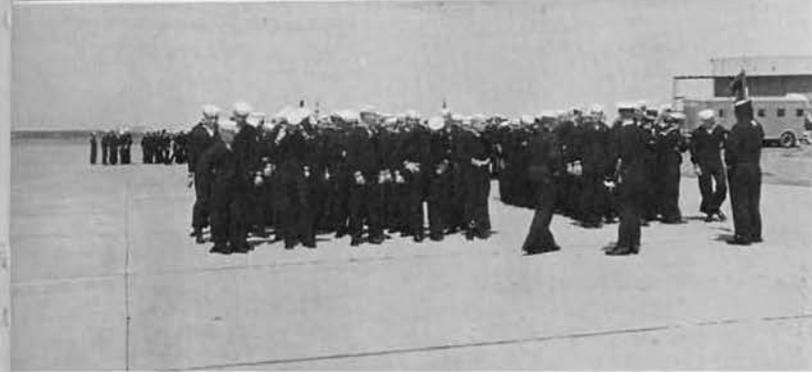
CDR HILL'S FAREWELL

Co-inciding with the COMCBLANT inspection week was the departure of our Skipper of the last two years, CDR James M. Hill, Jr., CEC, USN. With the ceremonial review honoring CAPT Heaman, the battalion also held a change of command ceremony in which LCDR James T. Taylor, the battalion's Executive Officer relieved CDR Hill of command of FOUR. This is Navy tradition. The next day an event occurred which though not traditional to MCB FOUR or to the Navy, was a testimony to the esteem in which MCB FOUR held their "Skipper." En-route to the air terminal and his plane to the States, CDR Hill was given an escort by four 106-mounted jeeps, and lining both sides of the road to the air terminal were the green-clad Seabees, who saluted as he approached, and fell into a marching formation behind his car. At the end of the line, the Skipper was presented a token of appreciation from the battalion by Chief Bevilaqua. At the plane he offered his farewell to FOUR as the Drill Team presented a four-gun salute and everyone sang one of his favorites, "Waltzing Matilda." Then, with the CBLANT Inspection Team, he boarded "Eloise" and was off to his family and his new position with the Bureau of Yards & Docks, Washington, D. C.



CHANGE OF COMMAND

In late July FOUR'S present Skipper, CDR Charles G. Miller, Jr., CEC, USN, reported aboard. August 1, he relieved LCDR Taylor of command of FOUR during an impressive ceremonial review.





DRILL TEAM

The best example of our military appearance was provided by a small well-drilled group, MCB FOUR'S drill team. The team was organized and led by Henry Terry, SW1. They represented the battalion at the community celebration at the nearby town of Placentia, and a little later at the annual Placentia Regatta. And at all the official battalion ceremonies, the drill team performed sharply. About mid-way it was taken over by Bill Smith, and at Harbour Grace turned in its best performance. There, in one of the largest Canadian Armed Forces Day parades in Newfoundland's history, MCB FOUR'S Seabees were viewed along with such colorful units as the Royal Canadian Army Pipe Band — the "Blackwatch." Before the reviewing stand of assembled dignitaries, the team performed in sharp executions and won a hearty applause from the assembled Newfoundlanders.



MCB FOUR BUILDS

MCB FOUR, commanded by CDR Charles G. Miller, CEC, USN, and earlier in the deployment of CDR James M. Hill, Jr., CEC, USN, had their work cut out for them when they arrived at the U. S. Naval Station, Argentia, that cold, snowy night last April. Their mission: TO BUILD! Coordinating the complex administration of this construction battalion is a job that requires a cool hand at the helm, as well as effective leadership on down the chain of command. MCB FOUR is fortunate in having able men in the higher positions of leadership. A witness to the officers' and mens' appreciation of this fact is the great demonstration of admiration and respect shown CDR Hill on his departure, and the admiration already entrusted to CDR Miller.



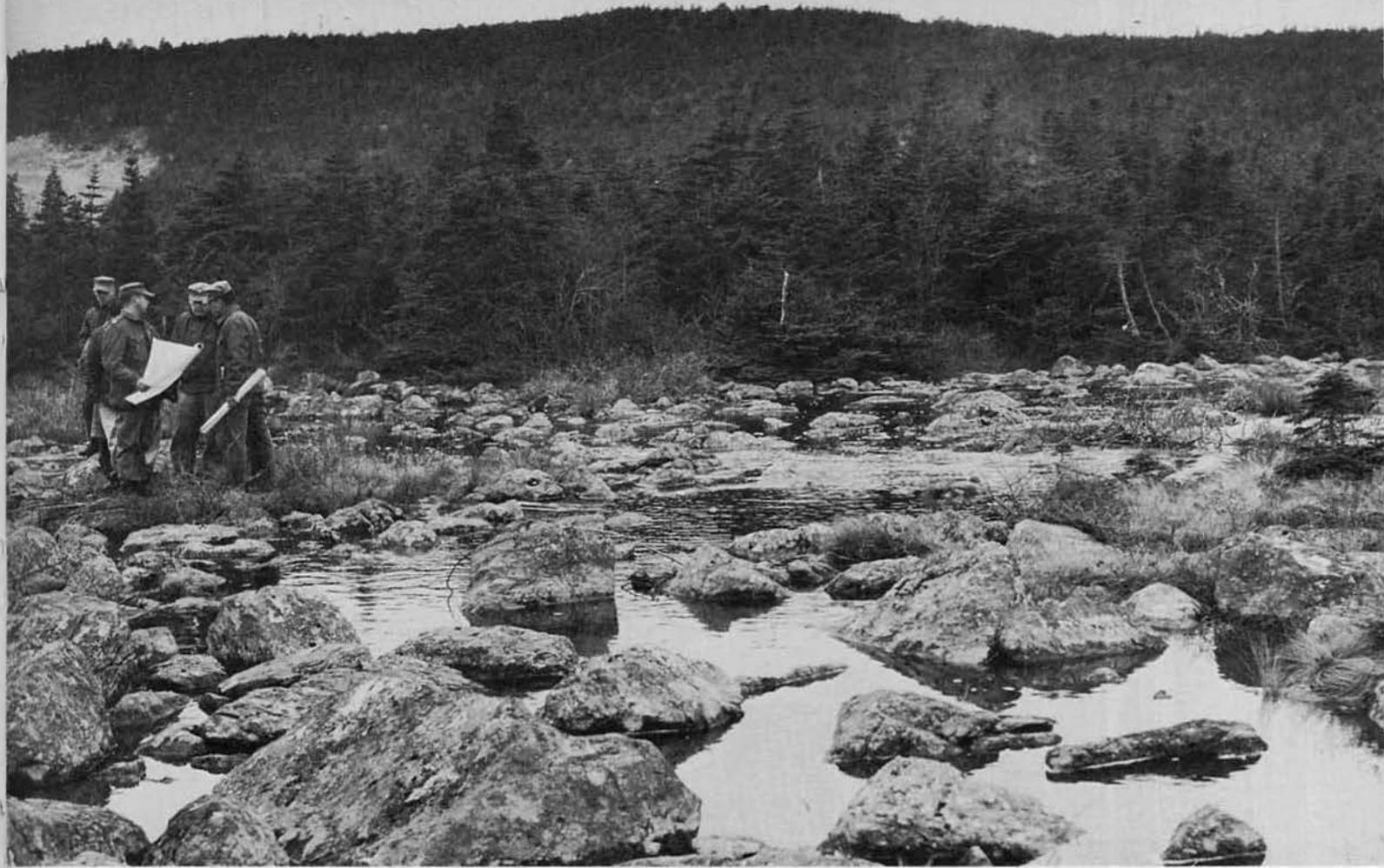
"Everywhere, the versatile skills of Seabees at work . . ."



During the short six months of the deployment all the versatility and skill of FOUR'S Bees were combined energetically for the fulfillment of their mission: TO BUILD. Building in every aspect, from blasting to cabinet making, high voltage cable splicing to structural steel erection, everywhere the versatile skills of Seabees at work.

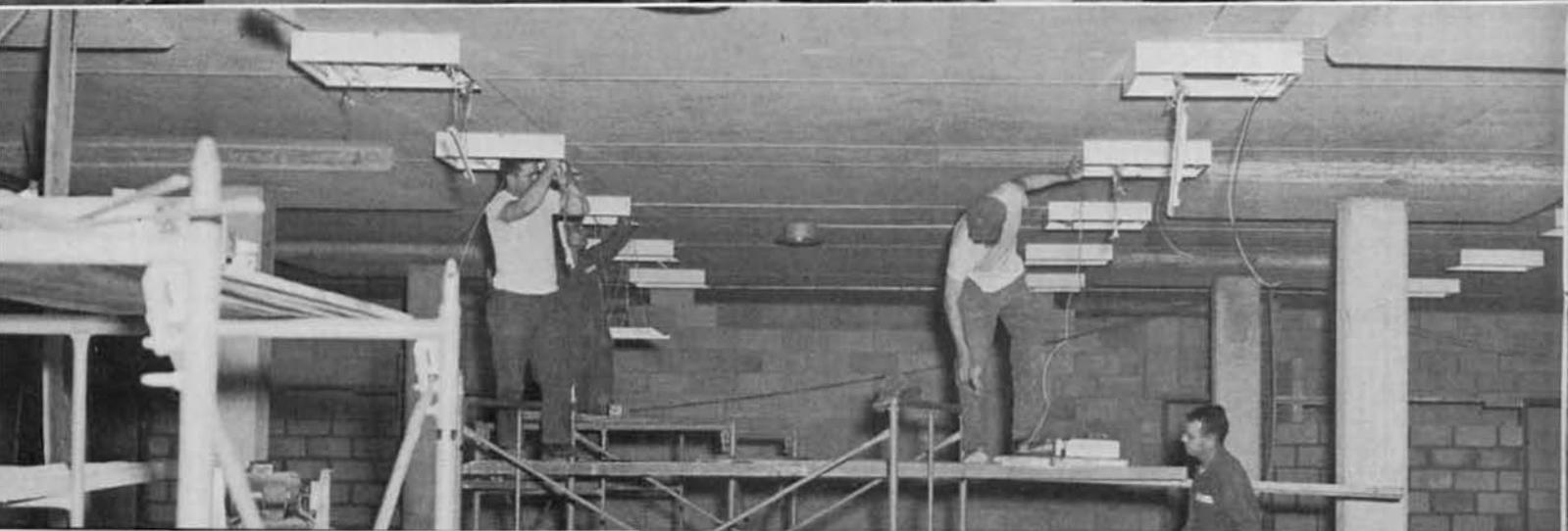
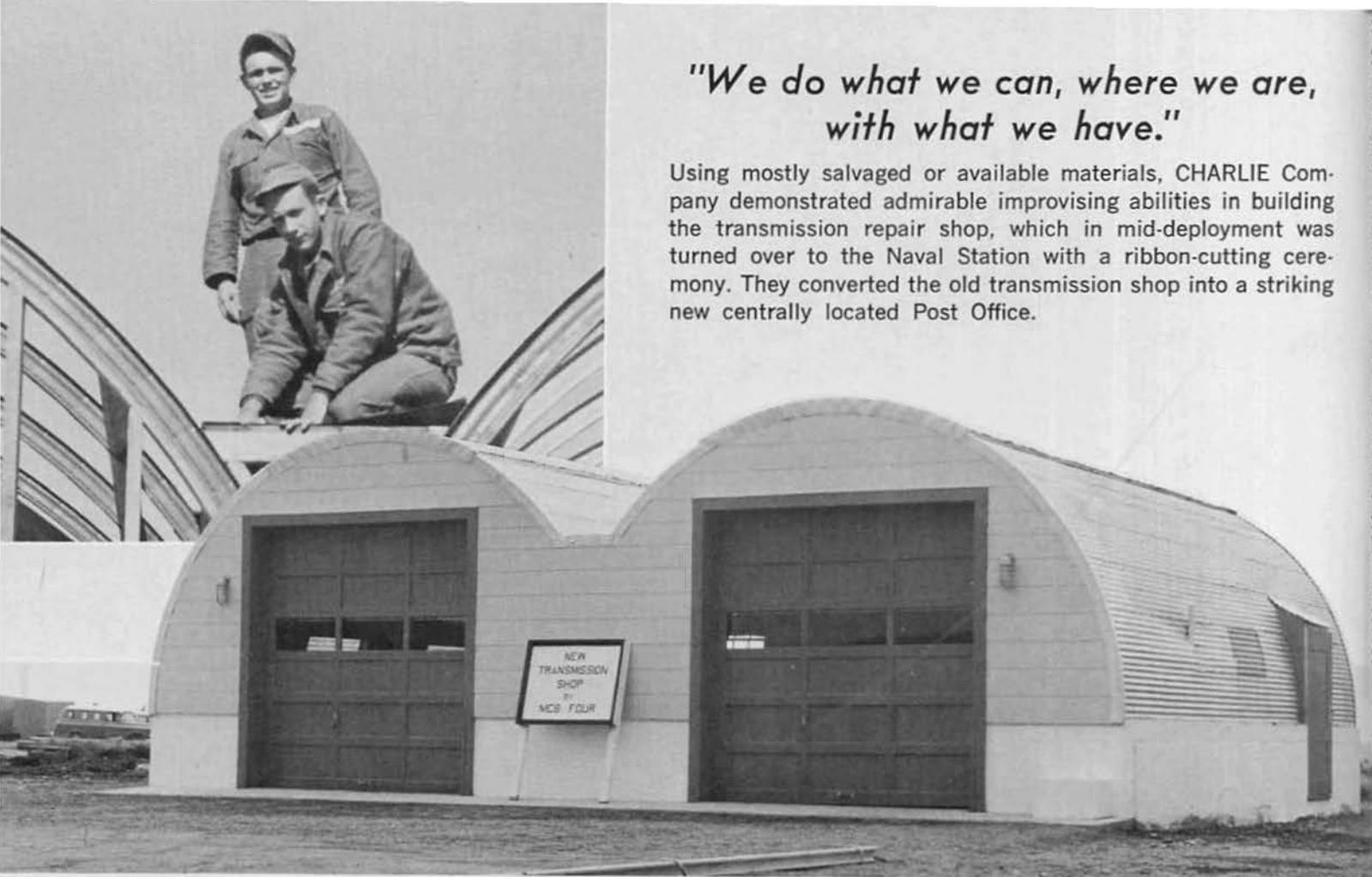
Almost as soon as they had arrived, a survey team was at Clark's and Larkin's Ponds, where a dam and spillway were to be constructed in order to increase the water storage facilities for the base and the local Newfoundland towns.





*"We do what we can, where we are,
with what we have."*

Using mostly salvaged or available materials, CHARLIE Company demonstrated admirable improvising abilities in building the transmission repair shop, which in mid-deployment was turned over to the Naval Station with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. They converted the old transmission shop into a striking new centrally located Post Office.





CEs

BRAVO Company's construction electricians jobs involved them in rehabilitation of three high voltage electrical feeder lines — requiring splicing high voltage cable under very exacting conditions, installing a barracks public address system, and fluorescent lighting in the Miami hangar offices and in the EM & PO Club, the transmission shop, and the Navy Exchange.

STAT TRAINING

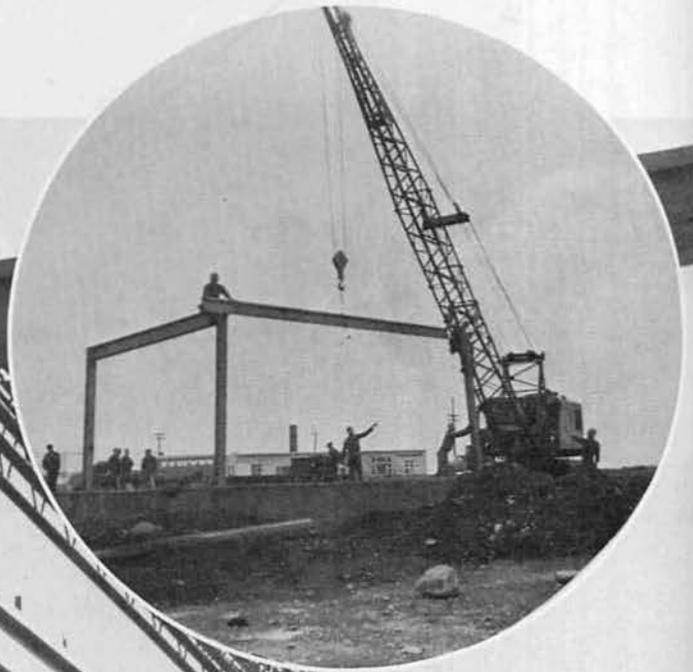
MCB FOUR'S two Seabee Technical Assistance Teams (STAT) carrying out a program of cross-rating and specialized training, built a large cabin at the Naval Station's northeast arms recreation camp, and underwent instruction in fundamental scuba diving.

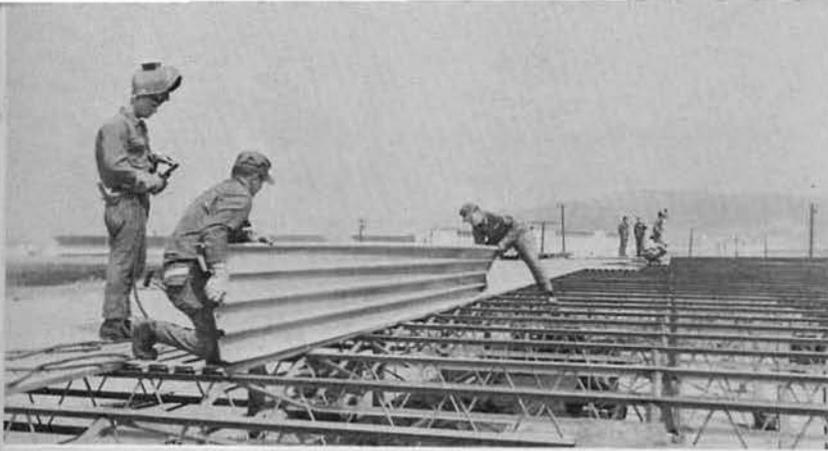
Among the other projects were the building of carports in the Officer residential area, the replacing and improving of steam condensate lines, and the installation of new street lighting.



DYNAMIC CONSTRUCTION: NAVY EXCHANGE ANNEX

The most dramatic construction at Argentia was the 16,000 sq ft low-lined, silver-gray, steel and concrete annex to the existing Navy Exchange Retail Store. CHARLIE Company builders provided the form work and concrete deck, while BRAVO'S steelworkers handled the dramatic erection of the brilliant orange structural steel and the corrugated exterior.



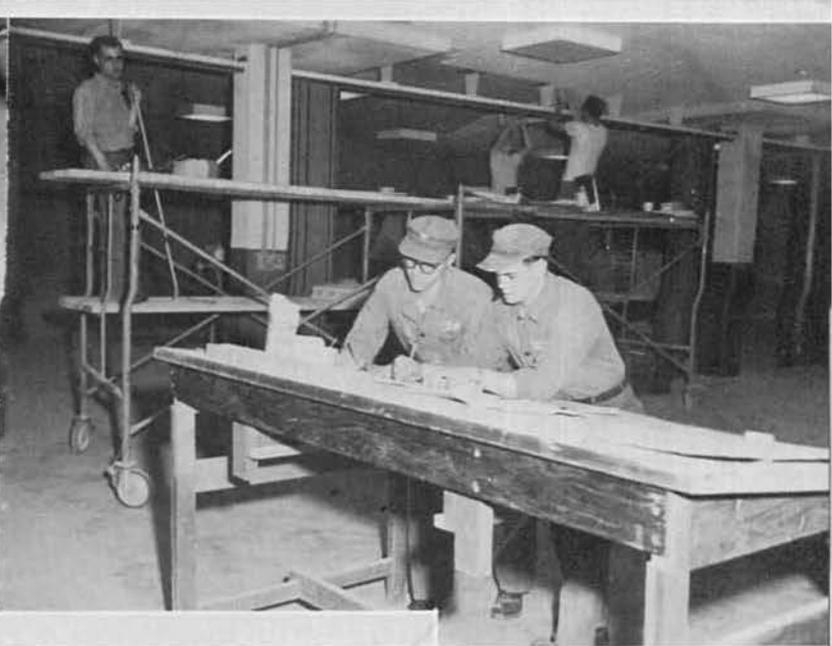




SECOND TO NONE

When DELTA Company began, the basement at the Southside galley was a huge unused, dingy space. It is now a modern, fully equipped Enlisted Men's Recreation Club, well designed exhibition of craftsmanship. Rich tones of mahogany sliding wall divider panels, parquet floors, acoustical tile ceiling, inset indirect lighting, the latest equipped bars and cabinets and galley. These are the features that make the handsome chocolate and cream colored recreation center the pride of the deployment.

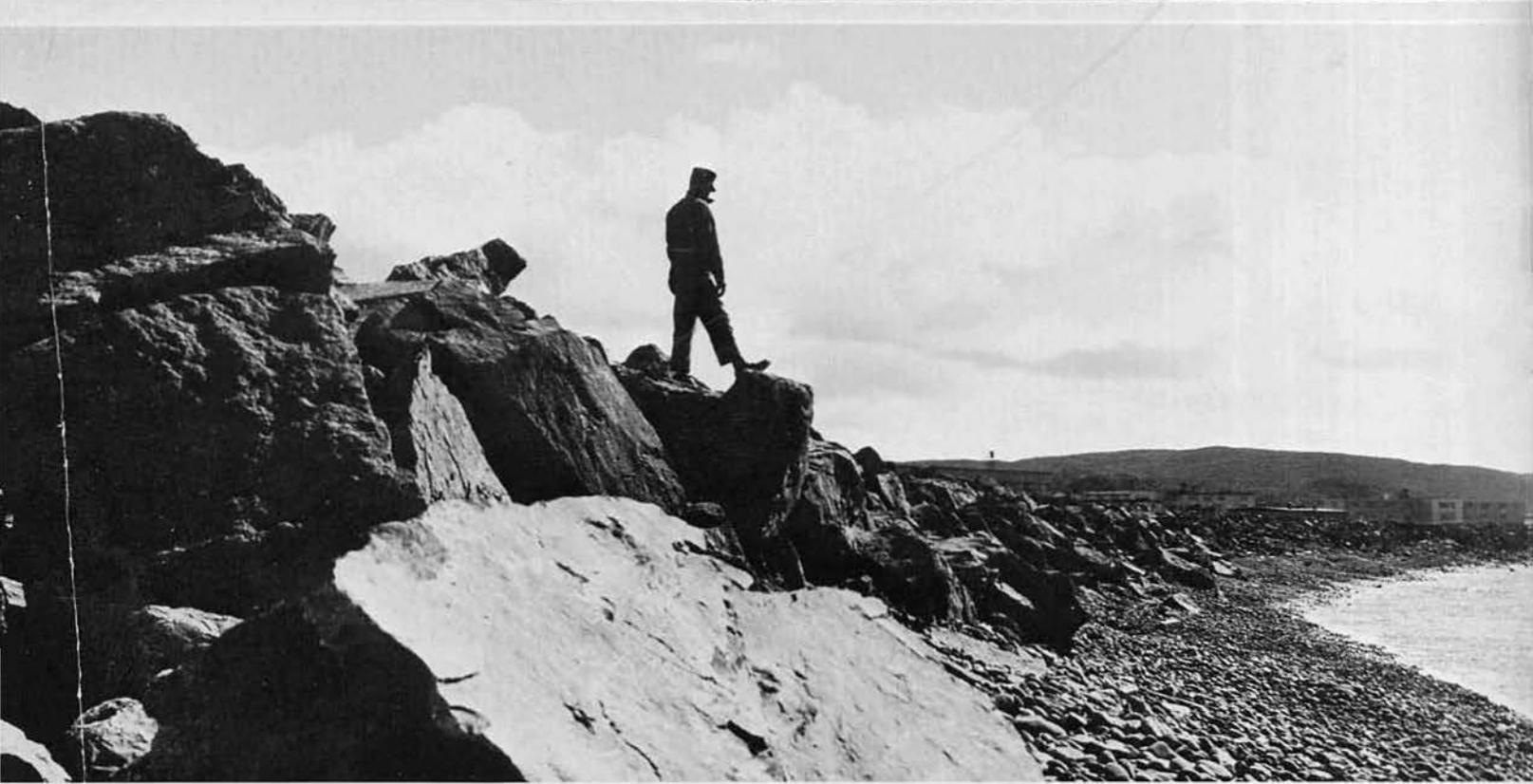




QUARRY OPERATION

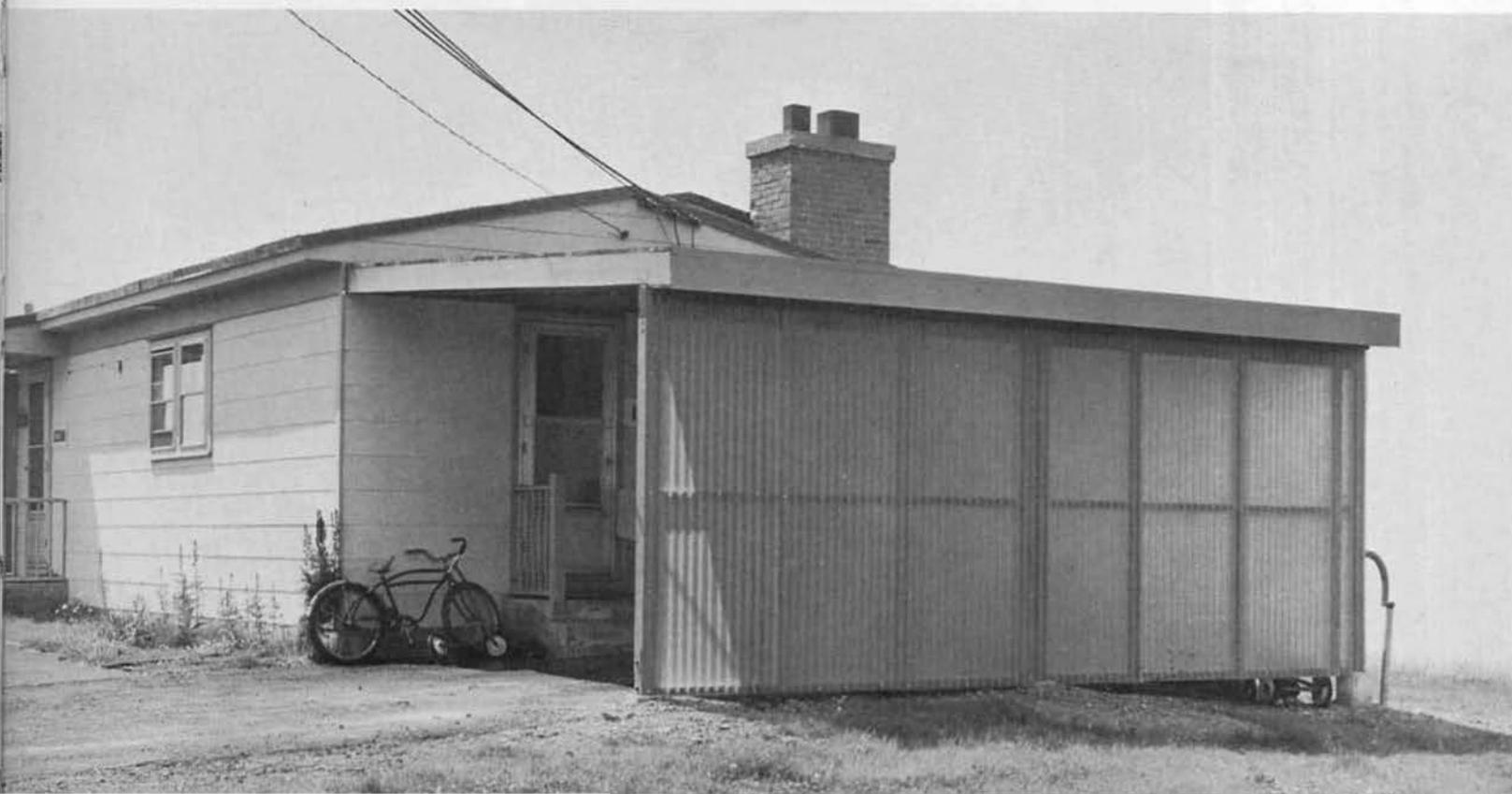
One of the most important tasks assigned FOUR was the halting of shore erosion threatening the radar picket planes runways, and strengthening of the sea wall at other places. In accomplishing this ALPHA Company began a full scale quarry operation. Expected to take a full year, the entire project of quarrying and placing 43,000 cu. yds. of rock was completed in just five months!







The purpose of this deployment was to TRAIN the battalion for its wartime mission. During peacetime, projects are selected for the amount and variety of training they can provide, and at the same time increase, improve, or maintain overseas-based facilities. Only 50% of deployment time is devoted to construction. While in Argentina, FOUR engaged in an extensive technical and military training program to maintain the readiness condition. But the unpredictable Newfoundland weather and certain critical material deficiencies often made it necessary to work irregular hours to maintain construction schedules. However, these obstacles were overcome, and the results speak for themselves.



COMPANIES



Uhhh...
HOWDY!

BRAVO!

**FU
BAR**

GLEE

**FU
BAR
CONSTRUCTION**

tweet
tweet
F
of

FOUR

UHH
HOWSU
EVER...
YODEL
ADEE
YO-YO

A-HUP 2
THREE-4-A

A-YUP--
HY-YUP-YUP
VVVV YUP!!!

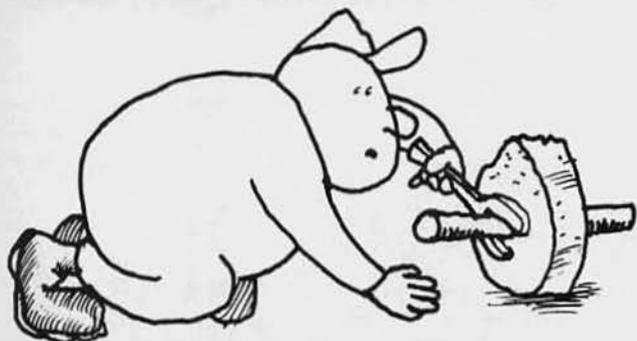
"A.J. SQUARED AWAY"

GITMO

ALPHA COMPANY

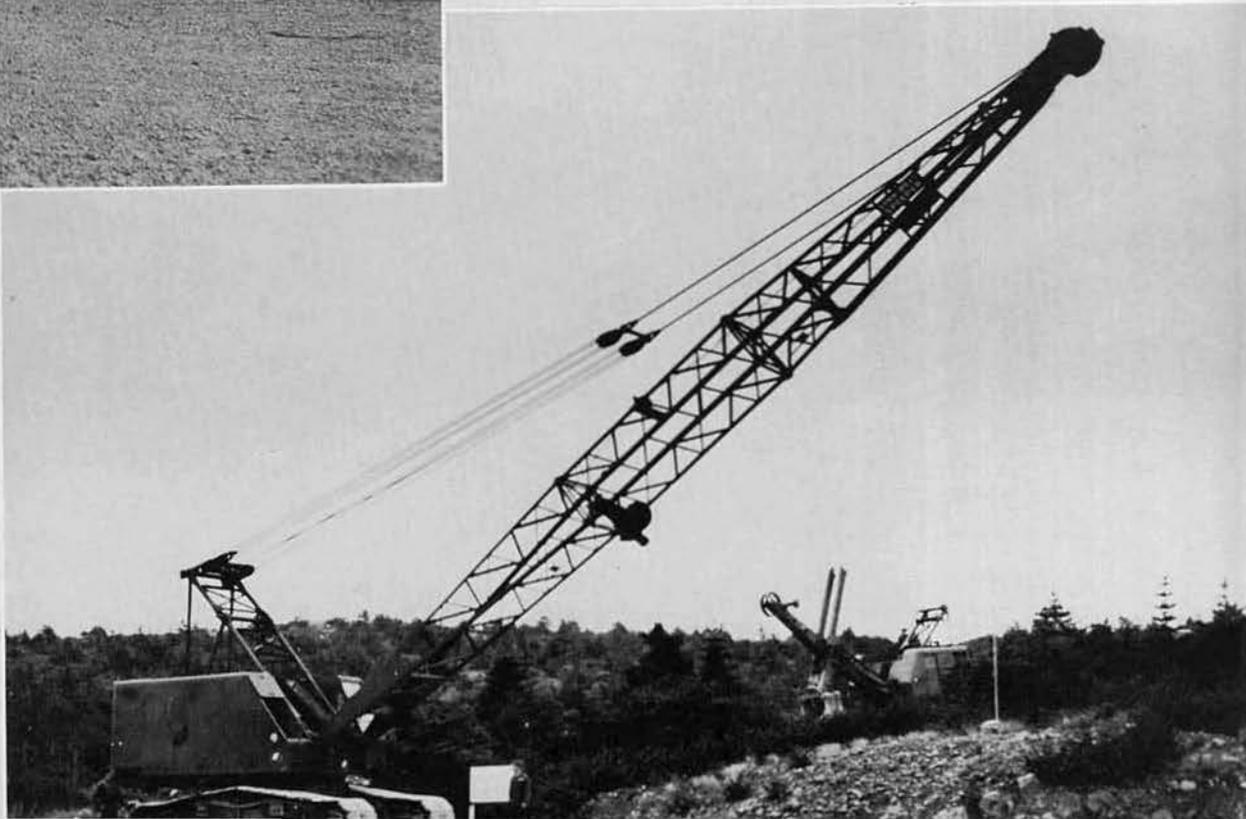
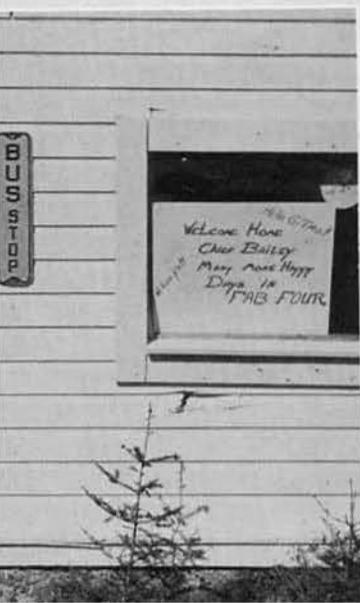
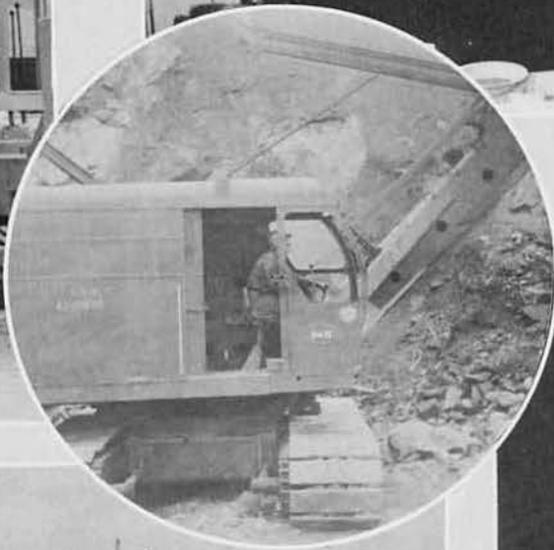
MOBILITY is the job of ALPHA Company. Under the leadership of LTJG Don Crumbley the men of "A" Company kept equipment moving and moveable.

ALPHA'S most challenging job was the Pierce's Peak quarry. The men on this job literally moved a mountain-side, and drove 25,000 total miles up and down hill without break-down or accident.











BRAVO COMPANY

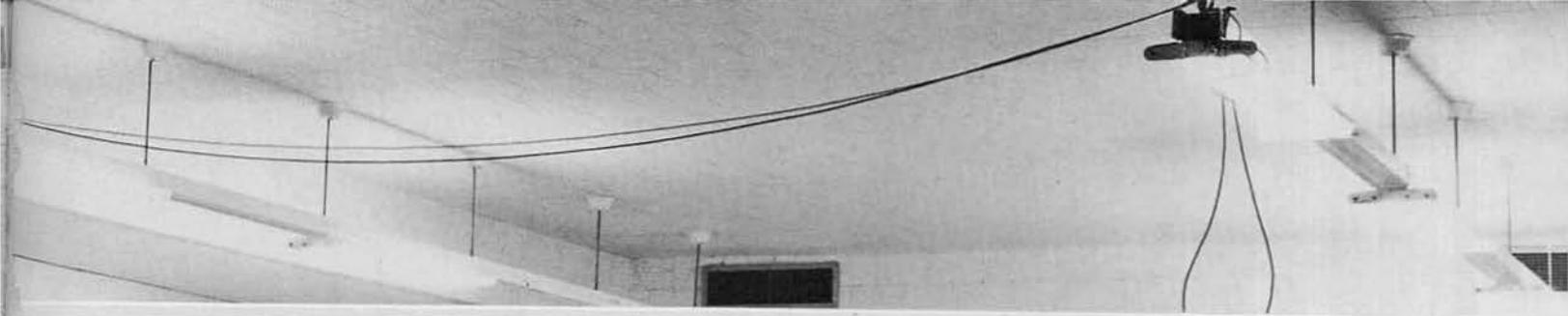
The shops and crews of BRAVO Company put the finishing touches on many of the jobs. Lt Kintz's boys installed lighting, plumbing, electrical feeders, spliced cables, climbed poles, welded steel and pipes, erected steel, and provided numerous other services. The BRAVO men had a hand in everything, even the barracks PA — which we're not sure was such a good idea sometimes!













"All work makes Jack a dull boy," so occasions sometimes demanded a company party; (or two).





CHARLIE COMPANY

Some of the more spectacular operations were assigned to the busy builders of Ensign Pickart's CHARLIE Company. The Larkins-Clark Pond spillway system, the transmission shop, the Post Office, and the Navy Exchange were some of the haunts of the Charlie-Cats.





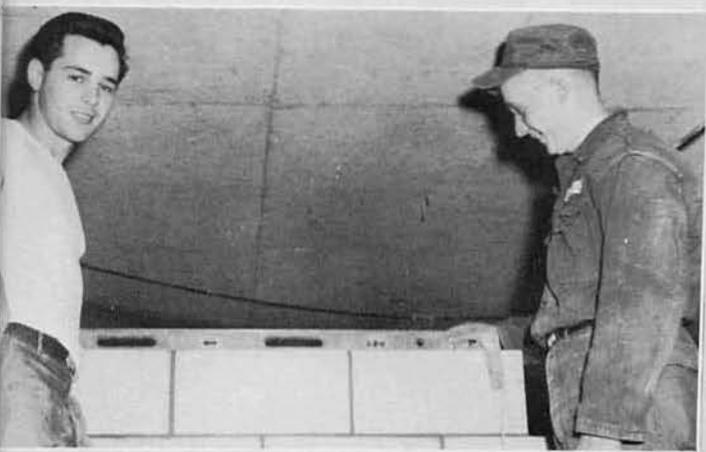




DELTA COMPANY

Under the able administration of DELTA Company Commander, Senior Builder Chief C. A. Bevilaqua, the men of DELTA Company gave Argentia many notable examples of their craftsmanship. The magnificent new EM & PO Club is their proudest example. On conspicuous walls are the MCB FOUR Seabee plaques which Frank Shadwell and Bill Shutfufski masterminded. Another project of DELTA is the carpports of the Officer's family residential area.







Ensign Christiansen's Administrative and Personnel Department, which he inherited from Ensign Gallaher, who in turn inherited it from Ensign Pickart.



While the other companies were "out in the field" doing the actual construction work, a large segment of the battalion was busy handling the administrative and various support operations of MCB FOUR. These were the surveyors and draftsmen, the disbursing clerks, cooks and bakers, launderers and personnelmen, photographers and barbers, store-

Operations, LT Daniel Urish's Dept, until later in the deployment, when LT John Paul Jones, Jr succeeded him.



keepers, and corpsmen, and all the other so called "fleet sailors" of the battalion, many of whom are "H" Company Seabees. Working indoors and behind the scenes, the men of "H" Company ground out the routine paper work and the many little "extras" necessary to the smooth functioning of the battalion.



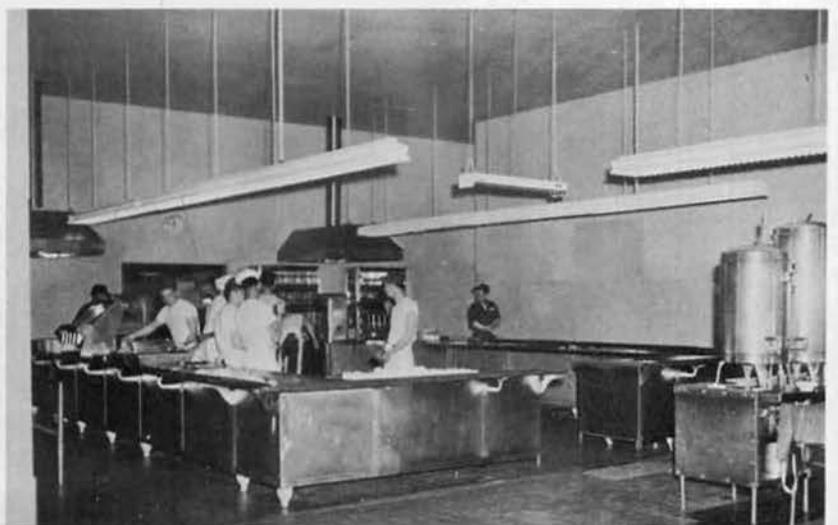


LT Duffy's "empire" — the far-flung Supply Department, galley, laundry, disbursing, warehouse, "6101," and greens issue.



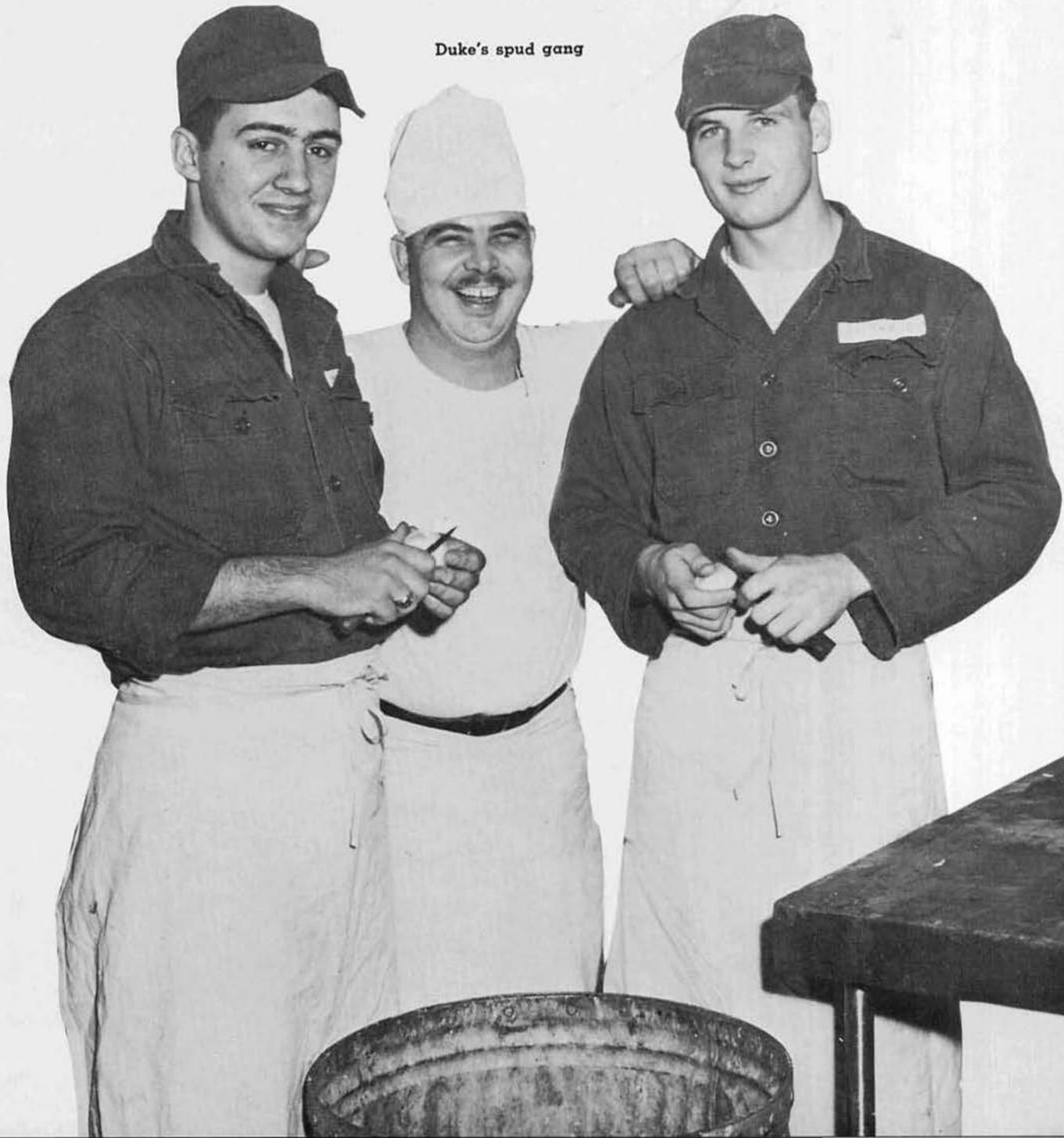
GALLEY

"An army travels on its stomach." So said Napoleon. It could be said that this battalion works on its stomach. We have burned up a lot of energy on this deployment, and the time spent in the galley was enjoyable. It is a tremendous job to keep 600 men well-fed and happy. To the men who performed this task successfully, we say "thanks."





Scullery boys



Duke's spud gang

CHAPLAIN-LEGAL-POST OFFICE PUBLIC INFORMATION



MEDICAL-DENTAL MAA-BARBER SHOP-COMPARTMENT CLEANERS

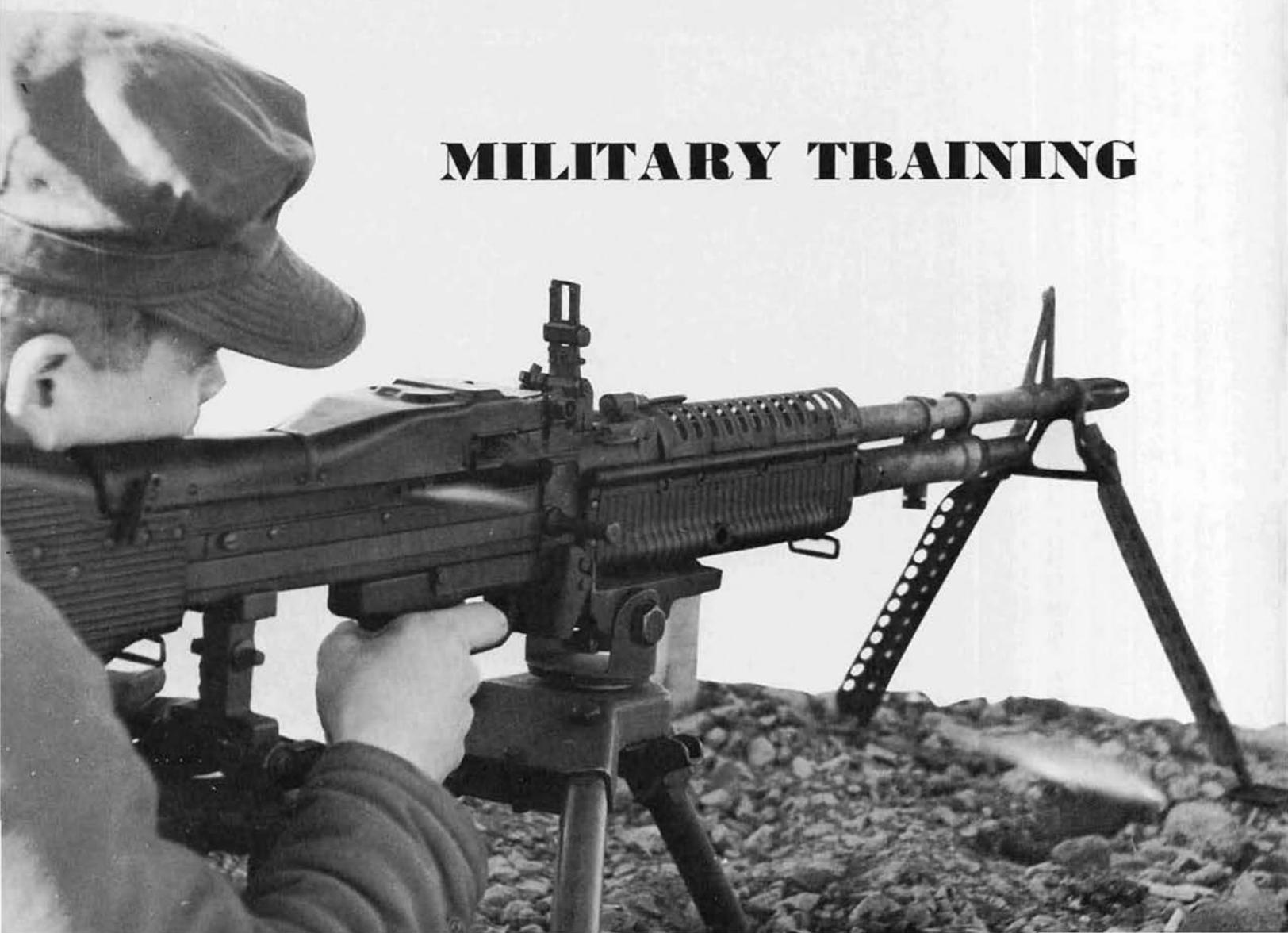


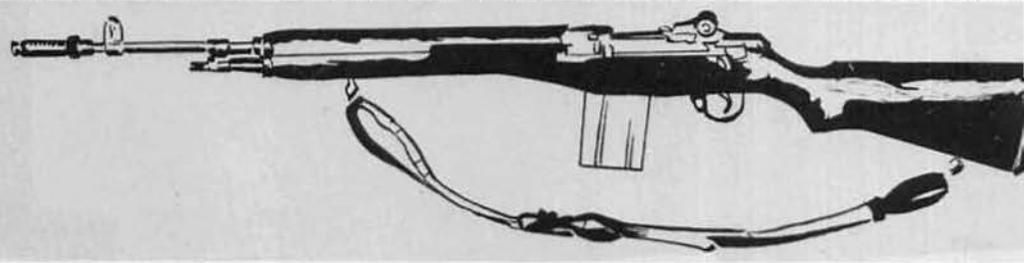


The Training Department, the strong right arm of the Readiness Officer, is known throughout the battalion as "Military Training." It is the control and coordination center for implementing and maintaining the readiness posture of MCB FOUR. The department administers the majority of the instruction effort in the military training program, as well as coordinating the technical training program and the safety program.

The overall objectives of the Training Department are to produce an efficient team and an efficient man, concurrently. Through progressive battalion-wide military training and highly specialized technical training slanted toward the readiness mission of the Atlantic MCB'S, the battalion has attained this status.

MILITARY TRAINING





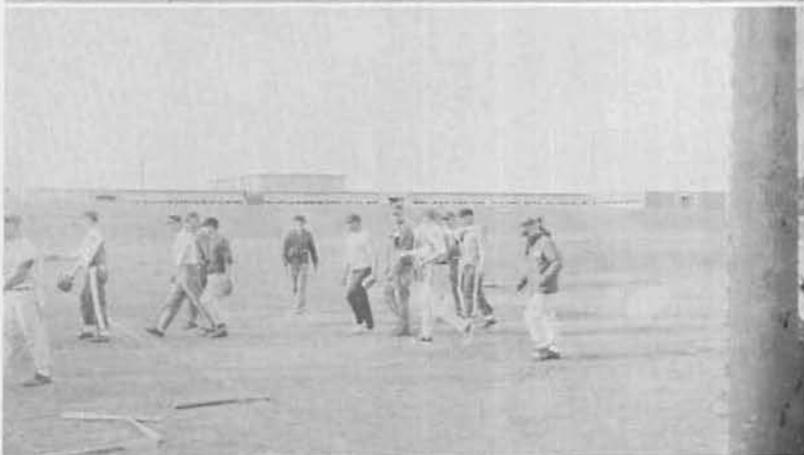
SOFTBALL TEAM



With the handicaps of putting together a totally new team and only a short span of practice, our softball team did surprisingly well for itself in knocking over some of the established teams in the Naval Station League and fighting the top team down to the championship. Although they had to settle for a close third place in the championships, the men were rewarded with the satisfaction of giving it all they had and playing a couple of cliff-hangers with the eventual champs.



"Mesa's fireball"



John slaps
a long one





PLACENTIA REGATTA

We also entered a team in a sporting competition that was entirely new to us, shell racing. In the services' division of the Placentia Regatta, FOUR's two-week old rowing team soundly trounced the Marines' team.

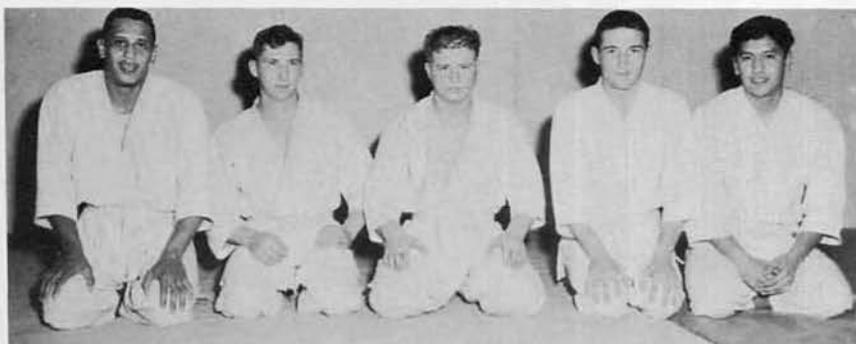


The Isaac Walton Club



"Barney's underwater Tigers"

Judo



Deep in central Newfoundland lies a lake where the speckled trout average 15" and the sleek landlocked salmon cartwheel after any lure that swims. The lake is called Jubilee, and every other week, a seaplane took a lucky group out to do battle and commune with nature for three days. If the cabin lacked modern touches, no one cared, because the flight in was spectacular, the fishing straight from the tall tales, and the relaxed living was a refreshing change of pace.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It has been noted that "all work and no play, makes Jack very dull." Consequently it was in the best interests of the battalion to kick up its heels once in a while.



Else the pressures of tedious routine could lead to drastic operations.



The occasions for relaxation were often the company parties at Northeast Arms Camp.

Sometimes these were financed by the Fannin-Huszar Contribution Fund Drive . . . such as for "B" Company parties.

And then another party fund drive . . .





Music by the "New Argentic Ramblers"



"Did we have a good time?"



Meanwhile — back at the job site . . .

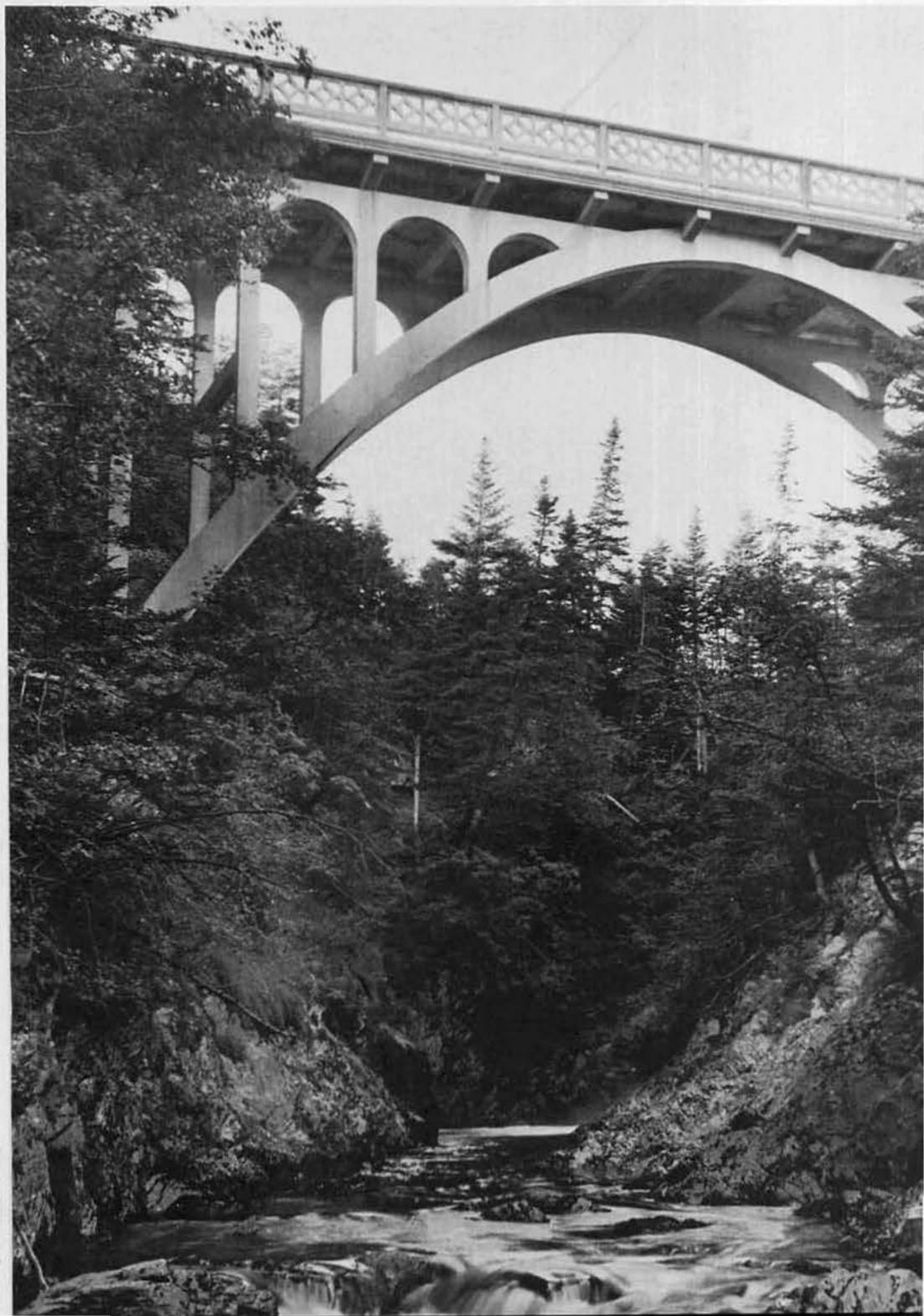
"Yes, we did!"



REFLECTIONS of NEWFOUNDLAND

Besides the routines, we will remember Argentina for many other moments:

The blood donor clinics FOUR gave profusely to, the PT days, the charming USO shows, sent just for us, "Rocky" with his friends of the STAT team, the Mounties who kept us from harm outside the gate, the paydays that occasionally surprised us, the wonderful hours of extra rack-time whenever we could sneak them in, the volunteer work for the Placentia Boy Scouts, the long lonely hours as the "duty midnight cop," and finally the warm, friendly faces of Argentina, and the serene and dignified scenes of Newfoundland.

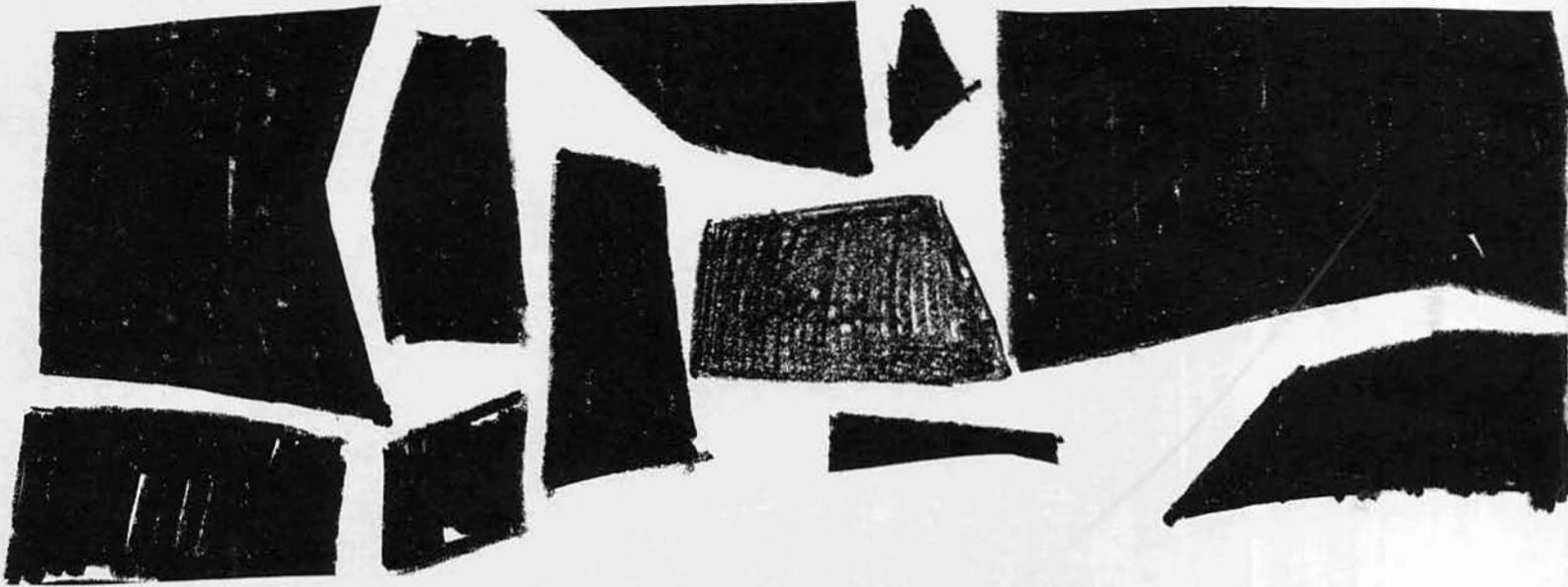




AND THEN...! HOME



C'EST FINIS !!



"And out of chaos there was order"



Contributing Photographers — Papke, Lamoure, Franson, Dinmore, Richards

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Editor and Design — Franson

