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PACIFIC ALBUM

NEW CALEDONIA
GUADALCANAL
BOUGAINVILLE
BANIKA
NEW GUINEA
PHILIPPINES

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THIS book has been prepared especially for the members of the 75th Battalion and their families and friends. Some of the material contained here is not suitable for general release to the public press and radio until the end of the war. It is requested that none of the contents be made available to the public press or radio.
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SIDNEY R. TEACHMAN
In gratitude we dedicate
This book to those who watch and wait;

Who keep the home fires burning bright
A ray of hope in war’s black night:

To You, whose love has spurred us on
We pass the signal, “Mate, well done!”
ANNALS OF THE 75th BATTALION

Camp Endicott, R. I.—“You'll Be Sorry”

Christmas seasons come and go and are quickly forgotten, but there are not many of us who will soon forget Christmas of 1942. In cities all over the Middle West—Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Detroit, Milwaukee—men who were strangers to each other, but who were later to become “mates,” assembled in groups and entrained for an unheard of place named Davisville, R. I.

There were work-worn veterans of many years in the construction game; there were beardless youths; and there were all ages between. There were farmers and city men, mechanics with calloused hands, and office workers with occupational callousness also. There were salesmen and bartenders and policemen and businessmen. They had all enlisted voluntarily in the Seabees. It must be admitted that the word “voluntary” needs a little stretching to include some of the enlistments; there were men who were still panting from the exertion of their race with the mailman bearing the fateful “greetings.” But they had all enlisted, nevertheless, for a wide variety of personal reasons—and for one big collective reason—to take an active part in the greatest national effort in the history of our country, to do what they could to help win the war.

This strange assortment of men converged on Camp Endicott on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. While we staggered through cold mud under cumbersome burdens of mattresses and blankets, we were welcomed to the tune of “you'll be sorry,” sung out by the “veteran” Seabees of three or four weeks of training. We were indeed a sorry assemblage of bewildered boots. We were destined in the next few weeks to graduate from our lovely boot status, but in all the time that we have been the 75th Naval Construction Battalion, we have never quite succeeded in losing our bewilderment.

During the coldest winter within the memory of all but the oldest Rhode Islanders, we passed through the successive stages of our training. We learned about “Port Arma” and “Long thrust” and “By the left flank—harch!” We found out the meanings of such (unrelated) terms as “head” and “M. A.” We learned how to aim a rifle at “six o'clock” and how to put on a gas mask “by the numbers.” We had a lesson in jungle warfare one day when the snow in the “jungle” was two feet deep. We learned many things that were thought necessary for us at the time to know—and we also learned about “cat fever,” after which we looked forward to landing on some distant Island X where there would be nothing more serious to contend with than malaria.

On January 18, 1943, the 75th Battalion was formally commissioned, with Lt. Commander John H. Savolaine as Officer in Charge, and on March 18, 1943, we left Camp Endicott.

Camp Parks and Camp Rousseau—“California, Here I Come”

Our departure from Rhode Island was followed by a whirlwind of railroad travel. We rattled across the continent to Camp Parks, near Oakland, California, stayed barely long enough to fill our lungs with California air, doubled back on our trail to spend a few days at our respective homes on leave, and then returned to Camp Parks. Many of us would have been unable to survive this prolonged bout with the day coaches if we had not been physically hardened by our boot training. Nor did this strange incident do anything to lessen that feeling of bewildered confusion that still haunted us—and would continue to haunt us.

The rolling hills of the beautiful and fertile San Joaquin Valley, blanketed in a profusion of grass and flowers and trees, lay basking in the California sun. We enjoyed this mild sunny climate all the more because of the bleak New England winter we had just been through.

Camp Parks favored us with good quarters and savory chow and liberty every other evening. The neighboring towns of Pleasanton, Hayward, and San Jose, and the great cities of Oakland and San Francisco, provided liberty pleasures in abundance. These liberties were so highly prized that even a gruelling twenty-five mile hike, which was the climax of our training program at Camp Parks, did not deter any appreciable number of the mates from going forth in the evening as usual, in search of whatever pleasures could be found.

An overnight train trip took us to Camp Rousseau at Port Hueneme, California, where we arrived on April 19, 1943. We were almost certain that this was to be our port of embarkation. The scuttlebutt thickened accordingly, and there was no end to the speculation and debate concerning the two important questions, “When” and “Where.” The even larger question, “Why,” we made no attempt to answer.

Our dress blues regularly helped to brighten up the streets of Oxnard, Ventura, and Los Angeles, and its sprawling suburbs, in return for which these delightful communities helped to brighten up our liberties.

On June 9, 1943, we climbed the gangplank that separated us from U. S. soil and gratefully deposited our heavy burdens of gear in the troop compartments.
of the ship that was to take us (we seriously hoped) to an unknown destination.

S. S. Del Brasil—Passage to the Antipodes

There have been ships in our lives since then, and for a few of us there had been ships before, but none of us is likely ever to forget the Del Brasil, that converted luxury liner in which no visible trace of luxury remained.

There was the nice feeling of lying in our bunks far below and listening to the hostile sea rushing past outside the bulkhead, and wondering tensely how we would react if a torpedo came crashing through that bulkhead. There was equatorial heat and sleeping on the open decks at night to avoid it. There were pale and drawn looking mates whose stomachs refused to adjust to the rolling motion of the ship. There were glimpses of flying fish and whales and porpoises. There was the phosphorescent gleam of the ship’s wake, and the breath-taking spell cast by the moonlight on the limitless sea—all of which were novel sights to us then. There was King Neptune’s Court, which tried us for the high crime of crossing the Equator for the first time and sentenced us without mercy. There was the strange case of the missing day, which was lost when we crossed the International Date Line. There was the nightly blackout, which was enforced by no one as rigidly as by ourselves.

The Del Brasil performed her work well, and her zigzag course brought her up at last off the coast of New Caledonia, where she dropped anchor on June 25, 1943, in sight of the majestic Mont Dore.

Nouvelle Caledonie—High up on a Hillside

The French island of New Caledonia was formerly used as a penal colony. Its climate is mild but without the intense heat and discomfort of the tropics. It is inhabited by French colonists, and natives who are tame without being civilized.

We built our first camp overseas about twenty miles by road from the principal city of Noumea. The building of this camp presented us with the first of many construction problems, as it was necessary to carve out terraces on a steeply rising hill to provide level spaces for our tents. We also found it necessary to construct our own docking facilities. But all of this was accomplished in a thorough and efficient manner, and there was time left over to explore the interesting beaches of the island, which are protected by outlying coral reefs and teeming with many strange and exotic species of marine life. The skeleton of a large whale which was found on the beach a few days after our arrival had almost completely disappeared a short time later. It was generally assumed, especially by the Battalion Post Office, that the bones were sent piece by piece back to the U.S. by the many souvenir enthusiasts in the battalion.

There was also time to explore the streets of Noumea, to absorb its Old World French Colonial atmosphere, and its meager stores of cognac and amaretto.

Life in New Caledonia was not too unpleasant, but we were impatient to be on our way, so when we boarded the U.S.S. Fuller on September 16, 1943, to move closer to the Pacific war, none of us was disappointed.

Solomon Islands—Fox-holes in the Jungle

At Guadalcanal, where we arrived on September 21, 1943, we had our first taste of the tropics, in which we were to spend many long months, but to which we were never to become completely accustomed. Guadalcanal, the scene of the first major set-back which our forces had inflicted on the Japanese, was for us mainly a matter of heat and coconut trees and lizards. We were still on our way north to take over a place in the lineup which was then preparing to push the Japs out of the Solomons. Our turn to leave the sidelines and get into the game arrived when we received orders to join the First Marine Amphibious Corps in the invasion of Bougainville, largest and northernmost island of the Solomons Archipelago. This was what we had shipped out for. This, as one of our Chief Petty Officers expressed it, was what would “separate the men from the boys.”

A beachhead was established by the Marines at Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville on November 1, 1943, and taking active part in this invasion were one hundred officers and men of the 75th Battalion, selected from volunteers. They accompanied the Marines on the initial landings and assisted in the unloading of supplies and equipment in the face of enemy fire. Additional echelons of the battalion arrived at short intervals thereafter. We rapidly pushed construction of roads to the front lines—and sometimes beyond. The thickness of the jungle and the incessant tropical rains provided anything but ideal working conditions, but there was no obstacle too big to be overcome.

Commander Savolaine was replaced as Officer in Charge on November 23, 1943, by Lt. Commander David H. Gottwals.

During our seven months stay on Bougainville there was never any time that we could feel secure from enemy attack. The piercing wail of the air raid sirens in time came to be a familiar sound to us, but never so familiar that we failed to treat it with respect. Our small beachhead was not only bombed from the air, but shelled by Jap artillery concealed in the mountains. Impressed in our minds is the memorable occasion when we were called upon to prepare and man a rear area defense line in anticipation of a Jap break-through, which, however, failed to materialize. But despite our almost constant exposure to these hazards, our casualties were fortunately low.
Our contribution to the Bougainville campaign included the construction of many miles of roads, a fuel tank farm, various dock and other water-front facilities, and many other miscellaneous installations.

It was no simple matter to achieve a comfortable living standard in the Bougainville jungles. We were viciously assaulted by malarial mosquitoes and centipedes, which were greatly feared, and with good reason, but not easily avoidable in the type of foxhole existence we were compelled to lead. Then there were the periodic earthquakes, the most memorable of which occurred early in the morning of December 24, 1943. We had occasion to be thankful then that we were not in a city of collapsible buildings. We kept a wary eye on our smouldering neighbor, Mt. Bagana, an active volcano, whose lofty summit was perpetually wreathed in smoke. But this volcano turned out to be more an object of beauty than of terror.

Our stay on Bougainville acquainted us intimately with the courage and heroism of our brothers in the Marine Corps. We respected them highly, and enjoyed their respect in return. We also got to know those formidable jungle fighters, the Fiji Islanders, who performed incredible scouting feats as a matter of routine.

We left Bougainville on May 24, 1944, aboard the “Rotanin.”

Leave in Australia—Almost

On May 27, 1944, we arrived at the Russell Islands, where we had an uneventful stay, during which we lived in a coconut grove in the company of a numerous colony of rats.

On August 12, 1944, we boarded the S.S. Agua Prince and arrived on August 18, 1944, at Papuan, New Guinea, at a point not far distant from the Australian mainland. Here we were housed in barracks, which was almost luxurious living as compared to the nomadic tent life to which we were accustomed. We did very little in New Guinea except contemplate the pleasures of our scheduled leave in Australia. Dress uniforms were purchased and accumulated pay was withdrawn from the Disbursing Officer, in eager preparation for the long awaited return to civilization. Enthusiasm was running high, when suddenly it was announced that our leave had been cancelled. This change in plans turned our thoughts from Australia to the invasion of the Philippines, in which we strongly suspected that we would take part.

The main body of the battalion began its departure from New Guinea on October 6, 1944.

**Philippine Islands—Cities and Civilians**

After a long voyage aboard LST’s, with a stop-over at Hollandia, in Dutch New Guinea, we arrived in the Philippine area on October 24, 1944, while a major naval battle was being fought. We were unaware of our peril at the time, but later we learned that it was only by a slight margin that we were spared from being the target of Japanese naval guns. The huge convoy of which we were a part successfully delivered its cargo of men and supplies on the beaches of Leyte, and the Philippine campaign was on. Again there were the air raids and the long hours in fox-holes, but the experience was not new to us this time. Bougainville had taught us how to take it—if not to like it.

We were thrilled and pleased by the enthusiastic welcome given us by the Filipino people, who were something different in our experience. We were accustomed to natives whose civilization was rudimentary at best, but in the Philippines we met many people of intelligence, to whom English was not a strange tongue, who lived in cities, dressed in civilized manner, and shared our American allegiance.

The battalion accomplished many vitally important construction jobs in several different locations in the Philippine Islands. Again we demonstrated our reputation for speed and efficiency and ability to overcome obstacles.

**Rotation**

June 9, 1945, marked our second anniversary overseas. While we observed the occasion by demolishing the huge cake whipped up by our expert bakers, we discussed the topic that was absorbing our attention at the time—rotation. The point had been reached where we had some fairly definite prospects of returning to the “Promised Land.” We felt that we were close to the end of the long trail we had traveled together since Christmas Eve in 1942. We had failed to shed the confusion and bewilderment that dogged our footsteps all the way, but we felt that we had not failed to accomplish what we set out to do, and we were experiencing a pardonable feeling of pride.

As this Pacific Album goes to press, some of our mates have left for a well deserved leave in the “Promised Land.” In due time we all shall have accomplished that end. We have made many new memories and friendships in our long association with each other that we shall remember for a long time to come. Through our continued correspondence with each other once we part to take our separate ways, and through the medium of our Pacific Album, we will always have and keep a fond recollection of those two and one-half years and more as members of the 75th Battalion.

—Neil E. Murphy
The Night
'Twas the night before Christmas, and all thru the train,
A surge of excitement stirred in each brain.
A cargo of Boots, this troop train had brought—
So the Seventy-fifth came to Camp Endicott.

A short week before, we were happy as kings,
Thinking of Christmas, and egg-nogs, and things.
And then came that letter—most awful of shocks—
A nice formal notice from the "Yards and the Docks."

The Night Before Christmas, a thousand brave Boots
Arrived with their baggage and gay civvy suits.
The S.P.'s took over, and ordered us out
With an order, a curse, and an ungodly shout.

"No Cameras! No Whiskey! Hey Mac! Let's don't lag!
Don't loiter! Now hurry! Hey, Open that bag!"
They moved us along thru the slush and the mud,
With a "Hurry up, Sailor! You! Get along Bud!"

So we marched to a building, 'twas bigger'n a barn,
And Lordy! I wished I was home on the farm!
We each got three armsful of bedding to tote,
And stumbled thru mud that was up to the throat.

We arrived at the barracks after marching an hour,
And climbing in bed took the last of our power,
We had just hit the pillow—Then a horrible shout:
"Hit the deck! Rise and shine! Get up and get out!"

So, Bright Christmas Morning we formed our first line—
'Twas as long as from now to the starting of time.
We made breakfast by noon, and they gave us a tray,
We gobbled some gobbler, and started "Our Duty,"

Lined up for a muster, we blushed red with shame
As a smart boot instructor mispronounced every name.
We listened in wonder to "Old Salts" who cried:
"You'll be sorry!" Poor Seabees, we thought that they lied!

Then we marched down the road that the devil had made,
And a Big Shot stepped up, and he asked us our trade,
"Lectrician," we told him, and he said that was fine...
"These clippers are lectric, just step into line."
Before Christmas

And so we got haircuts . . . a shingled effect . . .
Not quite the style a man would select.
The hair of each outfit that came to that spot
Made a beautiful mattress for an officer's cot.

The next day we stood in another long line,
And trembled in terror when we read this sign:
"This way to the needles, both dull ones and square."
How we shivered and shook as we stripped our arms bare.

They shot us for typhoid, and smallpox, and mumps;
Our poor arms were spotted with thousands of lumps.
We took off our clothes, and they hid 'em some place.
And we "stooped" for the doctors with a sad, blushing face.

They gave us an issue of clothing next day.
As handy and neat as a forkful of hay.
You complained that your dress hat looked like a rag.
And you got but one answer, "Put that hat in the bag!"

From then on 'twas drill, 'till we nearly fell dead.
"Right Dress!" and "Dress Right! You heard what I said!
Right Flank! To the rear! Double Time Now!"
From bright early mornin' 'till late evenin' chow.

Bay'net and judo and hand-grenade drill,
Bloodthirsty instructors to make your blood chill.
To top it all off, some "backside of a horse"
Went out and constructed a commando-boy course.

So we struggled and staggered thru three weeks of hell!
And instructors got medals 'cuz we did so well!
On a cold Sunday Morning the bugles were played,
And we marched in a flashy Battalion Parade.

With bright wooden rifles we marched down the Drive.
And we were commissioned Number Seventy-five!
We stood at attention while the band played a song . . .
A Battalion of Seabees, a full thousand strong.

Yes, the Night Before Christmas of the year '42,
We arrived in Camp Endicott, doubtful and blue.
They taught us to drill and to work, and to shoot.
We'll never forget those "Old Days of Boot!"

Don Brooks
BATTALION OFFICERS

Lieut. Commander David H. Gottwals
Officer-in-charge

Lieut. Commander Henry E. Bakkila
Medical Officer

Lieut. Leonard L. Lenger
Executive Officer
BATTALION OFFICERS


Left to Right, Second Row: (CWO) M. H. Bushnell; Lieut. (jg) E. Kirchoff; Lieut. (jg) H. B. Ferguson; Lieut. (jg) R. E. Johnson; Lieut. (jg) E. C. Pomeroy; Lieut. (jg) A. F. Liebscher; (CWO) A. J. Riese; Lieut. K. E. Sorensen; Lieut. E. J. Cooksey; Ens. G. E. Dyke, Jr.

Battalion Staff Officers

Headquarters Company Staff
Left to Right, Seated: Lt. (jg) O. L. Fisher; Lt. (jg) R. E. Johnson and Lt. (jg) M. Pollack.
Left to Right, Standing: C. J. Berling; E. W. Augustus, Jr.; W. J. Broderius.
CHIEFS


Left to Right, Standing: K. D. Tinker; C. A. Boyer; J. S. Rowland; B. J. Berger; S. C. Drassler.

Left to Right, Seated: J. C. Medisch; R. L. Johnson; L. W. Daumeyer; J. B. Keepes; J. F. Higbee; G. D. Boulton; F. X. McGovern.

Left to Right, Standing: R. E. Ream; E. A. Otterman; J. A. Sterling; P. Tucker; E. P. Stark; R. W. Milligan; O. A. Tilleson; W. G. Doether.
Left to Right, Seated: E. Wolfenson; S. W. Lanham; J. Jones; J. J. Busch; H. D. Wasson; W. Finley; B. B. Dearing; M. P. Rapoza, Jr.

Left to Right, Standing: W. D. Bateman; R. L. Niederlander, Jr.; C. C. Ackerman; T. A. Denny; E. D. Brandt.

Left to Right, Seated: A. E. Hruskoci; D. M. Learned; D. G. Henry; D. Rashkin.

Left to Right, Standing: S. Evans; E. Gaug; B. L. Stoltman; J. Holly; O. Linert.
Left to Right, Seated: S. W. Wright; M. F. Odenbrett; G. E. Cheatum; J. D. Haynie; E. M. Austin; C. D. Lord; J. Donathan.

Left to Right, Standing: J. D. Phelps; H. Schultz; C. C. Smith; M. A. Begault; L. A. Gholson; R. L. Carter; O. Chambers; I. W. Hartnagle.

Left to Right, Seated: W. R. Aker; J. J. McMahon; C. L. May; L. J. McNamara; C. H. Torgerson; R. Rose, Jr.; J. A. Taylor.

Left to Right, Standing: C. V. Luton; B. Thoreson; A. Culp; L. P. Michelon; E. W. Brock.

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Left to Right, Seated:  R. W. Neal; E. J. Koehl; A. Durand; N. M. Crowe; C. W. Coslet; J. R. Hurst; W. F. Clancy.
Left to Right, Standing:  G. Boardman, Jr.; D. E. Schoonover; A. A. Strohpaul; J. P. Dugan; J. J. Dullea;
G. E. Harmon; V. M. Teeters; V. N. Rutiglano.

Left to Right, Seated:  P. J. Isakson; W. E. Liddy; J. Chace; P. P. Robbins; J. Klaric; R. Aguilar; G. W. Smith.
Left to Right, Seated: L. Pergola; L. E. Burgess; E. A. Gulick; C. W. Bertram; J. D. Jacobs; J. W. Seiman; O. Van Brook.

Left to Right, Seated: J. P. Koch; O. F. Wehmiller; E. R. Halterman; P. F. Eshelbrenner; T. J. Moore; F. A. Rose; F. J. Wallace.
Left to Right, Standing: R. R. Fugate; J. G. Anderson; C. P. Wilt; B. J. Berger; M. N. Gunsallus; J. T. Cooke; L. G. Jaisle.
HEADQUARTERS

Left to Right, Seated: E. C. Smith; T. J. Chainey; C. J. Reed; G. Debose; H. L. Green.
Left to Right, Standing: M. Harrison; G. M. Grayson; J. W. Reynolds; C. Ferguson, Jr.

STATESIDE BOUND
Our first group to leave the Islands—June 5, 1945

Left to Right, Front Row: V. E. Johnson; L. R. Winter; A. J. Hills; D. Christian; G. E. Harmon; W. M. Turner;
G. D. Lord; J. P. Friday.
Left to Right, Standing: F. W. Mundt; R. J. Buckley; J. F. Welch; R. R. Cheney; H. Crain; E. Ollinger;
J. P. McNulty; A. L. Piquette.

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STAFF
Left to Right, Seated: CWO A. J. Riese; Lt. (jg) A. F. Liebscher; Ens. R. S. Aldom.
Left to Right, Standing: H. J. Schutte; M. Strohmaier; H. D. Ahrens.

CHIEFS
Left to Right, Seated: W. C. Hamilton; G. L. Schryver; B. S. Woodard; H. E. Uschold; V. W. Critzer;
W. J. Kohler; C. W. Blaum.
Left to Right, Standing: J. R. McLean; L. B. Fisher; L. O. Nagel; L. R. Moser; F. Harrison; U. R. Molseed;
P. F. Donaghy; B. M. Frederick; L. P. Cronk; M. Strohmaier.
Left to Right, Seated: H. Richards; H. C. Greenfield; C. E. Minton; R. E. LeVeille; R. Pietrocola; E. A. Calhoun; E. E. Cartmell.

Left to Right, Standing: W. Johnston; M. R. Egger; R. D. Moret; M. R. Rear; R. D. Pearce; C. E. Tavel; N. Benko; R. F. Ellis.

Left to Right, Seated: H. E. Swanson; E. R. Begeman; E. F. Cannan; S. P. Kucka; E. T. Kinsella; J. J. Francis; R. D. Kerr.

Left to Right, Standing: A. Chuppa; T. J. Bernhardt; G. C. Kragh; R. H. Rohling; O. T. Porter; H. J. Schutte; M. D. Mullins; L. R. Gervais; D. E. Day; C. J. Killian.

Left to Right, Standing: H. L. Harvey; R. M. Simonson; A. Mathison; V. A. Ballard; B. H. Baldwin; J. G. Bishop; V. V. Gardner; R. W. Moore.

Left to Right, Seated: H. R. Bruscino; J. D. Humphrey; J. L. Wainwright; W. C. Cooper; C. F. Prescott; C. W. Winslow, Jr.; C. W. Keaton.

Left to Right, Standing: V. W. Misuraca; J. D. Iverson; L. F. Novey; J. R. Johnson; C. K. Radcliff; W. V. Melliens; E. E. Woehler; C. D. Kucera.

Left to Right, Standing: W. C. Rimkus; R. A. Camp; J. O. Hanson; M. G. Utley; W. B. Leyendecker; R. McSweeney; C. N. Bennett; R. W. Worden.

Left to Right, Seated: K. E. McLennan; E. S. Witt; G. H. Fuchs; R. E. LeVeille; O. P. Peterson; R. W. Rohr; H. J. Phillips; W. S. Smith.

Left to Right, Standing: R. T. Ament; A. E. Heeden; J. D. Sodergren; J. E. Moore; C. V. Bates; A. D. Hullinger; E. A. Gaug; L. E. Hopper; R. E. Flood; H. W. McBride; A. A. Bounds.
Left to Right, Seated: B. L. Bauer; A. W. Rowbottom; J. Brenner; J. E. Barlow; J. Speacht; H. M. Yokeley; J. W. Bercaw.


Left to Right, Standing: B. F. Murphy; L. V. Grubb; K. R. Johnson; R. Graham; J. Rayl; G. K. Sheridan; O. F. Clark; E. E. Belt.
Left to Right, Seated: W. R. Carlton; J. F. Kelly; A. L. Greenrock; J. E. Held; T. G. Allen; J. C. Reigle; D. M. Hudson.
Left to Right, Standing: G. M. Edwards; C. S. Sandre; J. W. L. Strait; F. J. Wine; D. R. M. Klug; F. E. Bowman; G. B. Skilton; R. W. Krause.

Left to Right, Standing: I. P. Kleeve; J. B. Moore, Jr.; D. W. Witt; K. E. King; J. A. Wood; J. P. Ischkum; G. M. Wheeler; C. N. Lay.
COMPANY B

STAFF
Left to Right, Seated: CWO M. H. Bushnell; Lieut. K. E. Sorensen; CWO T. M. Agerton; CWO F. Recknagel, Jr.
Left to Right, Standing: W. W. Hanson; J. L. Rodefer.


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Left to Right, Standing: C. Dryovage; A. J. Hills; E. J. Duritsch; H. Crain; F. W. Haylett; E. P. Marrello; J. L. Wilking; M. W. Maggard.

Left to Right, Seated: D. W. Engle; R. J. Oney; R. B. Reagan; D. Smith; G. L. Wicker; C. R. Hammond; V. J. Waltzak.
Left to Right, Standing: H. W. Krohn; R. J. Dickerson; J. Z. Gowen; W. H. Hlavin; J. G. Shimko; R. L. Johnson; M. L. Flinn; F. C. Hall.
Left to Right, Seated: H. L. George; J. E. Cremin; A. R. Sollars; G. E. Roberts; C. E. Wisler; J. J. Hopperstad; W. J. Rankin.

Left to Right, Standing: H. Geerner; J. E. Cook, Jr.; W. M. Godwin; S. R. Kusz; F. E. Dudgeon; R. B. Walker; H. J. Rees; C. C. Ogle.


Left to Right, Seated: L. J. Hagan; E. W. Sibert; R. S. MacDonald; J. R. Laurie; R. O. Lurtz; E. L. Rupel; R. E. Green.

Left to Right, Standing: W. G. Schraeder; J. W. Middleton; P. D. Nahodil; J. J. Fisher; A. M. Becktell, Jr.; R. A. Johnson; V. E. Johnson; W. S. Lewis.

Left to Right, Seated: R. A. Bruns; W. R. Bartko; J. L. Williams; F. J. Youngson; D. Loveless; G. E. Hanson; S. R. Teachman.

Left to Right, Seated: N. W. Haviland; C. P. Reineke; F. J. Scharl; R. T. Allen; F. E. Vance; J. Harmicar; I. H. Stroud.

Left to Right, Standing: R. E. Douthirt; M. G. Docherty; E. N. Lauer; W. H. Osborn; F. A. Laubenthal; W. J. Hayes; H. W. Wiegmann; T. Gray, Jr.

Left to Right, Seated: A. J. Stagnaro; J. P. Hume; H. D. Bass; J. L. Day; G. P. Goetzinger; D. P. Henkel; C. A. Buckley.

Left to Right, Seated: R. E. Baum; P. I. C. Krempp; J. A. Butsch; G. B. Wise; C. L. Pratt; W. K. Reynolds; D. R. Bond; J. D. Hickerson.

Left to Right, Standing: L. L. Geiger; J. Bandagski; L. W. Kaniewski; W. L. Williams; W. J. Donaldson; J. W. Kohl; L. G. Page; C. A. Hill; M. L. Mallott; E. W. Nielsen.

Left to Right, Seated: O. Larson; P. T. Newman; D. W. Gibson; J. F. Poteet; M. D. Ryan; O. S. Roberts; R. L. Landis; D. L. Main.

Left to Right, Standing: M. L. Terry; L. B. Rush; C. P. Hiell; F. S. Winter; W. R. Stemple; M. C. Sartain; M. D. Batchelor; A. E. Granstaff; C. P. Dumbolton; R. T. Kiensch; E. L. Lynam; G. E. Newcomb.

-[33]-
STAFF
Left to Right, Seated: Lt. (jg) E. Kirchoff; Lt. C. W. Sunday; CWO L. E. Teis.
Left to Right, Standing: B. G. Montgomery; J. F. Welch; M. R. Trice; F. W. Binsbacher.

Left to Right, Seated: G. Koda; F. W. Binsbacher; W. E. Byrnes; R. L. Geltmacher; B. G. Montgomery; N. E. Pripps; G. Walters.
Left to Right, Standing: F. M. Votruba; A. P. Robichaux; D. E. Viers; C. G. McCullick; J. W. Skinner; G. G. Rider; L. R. Auck.
Left to Right, Seated: J. H. Wetzel; E. C. Noren; E. A. Shotrow; J. R. McEnaney; N. P. Rickabaugh; W. M. White; V. A. Bell.

Left to Right, Standing: L. Uretzky; D. H. Brooks; B. B. Bowers; J. G. Bishop; T. R. Schuyler; R. Hall; W. M. Allen; D. Christian.

Left to Right, Seated: P. A. Hultman; D. L. Gray; W. A. Meier; O. J. Thompson; A. E. Madewell; M. E. Johnston; C. J. Lis.

Left to Right, Standing: L. S. Martin; L. G. Sturdy; J. H. Wadsworth; E. F. Kemper; W. L. South; T. R. Bland; L. Riley; F. H. Allen.
Left to Right, Seated: J. F. Twohig; S. L. Schwartz; R. J. Ackerman; P. P. Wienczek; H. L. Rinehart; L. T. Brazile; E. L. Stanton.

Left to Right, Standing: K. G. Wilsey; W. S. Giant; D. E. Solem; G. A. Miller; C. L. Smoll; B. Y. Salley; F. W. Stone; C. J. Pappan.


-[36]-
Left to Right, Seated: T. E. Boyd; L. D. Hinds; D. C. Walker; B. W. Svendsen; L. E. Biebel; W. H. Tucker; H. T. Franco.

Left to Right, Standing: W. Breivogel; R. W. Herold; D. R. Litalien; E. L. Westlund; T. R. Weymouth; H. R. Lister; R. G. Douglas; R. E. LaValley.


Left to Right, Standing: J. W. Wamsiedel; A. W. Gingrich; M. P. Kapsch; G. F. Wilkes; P. Burman; C. E. Heinrich; G. J. Olson.
Left to Right, Seated: M. R. Trice; J. J. Kasap; J. R. Trueman; W. Wyatt; E. M. Bendall; R. S. Williams; W. W. Mapstone.

Left to Right, Standing: G. K. Keister; P. A. Jones; M. E. Brown; R. P. Alkire; R. I. Lehto; G. M. Smith; R. A. Miller; J. H. Matthews, Jr.
Left to Right, Seated:  J. D. Kirtley;  J. Eubanks;  E. P. Wilson;  J. F. Welch;  L. H. Laramie;  C. W. Hill;  H. N. Matherly.

Left to Right, Standing:  A. F. Henry;  F. K. Lilly;  A. W. Horstman;  C. V. Stamm;  L. G. Sturdy;  G. W. Stewart;  E. T. Vanas;  L. S. Martin.

Left to Right, Seated:  E. G. Griggs;  T. S. Tarman;  G. M. Seaton;  L. W. Stiff;  L. O. Sears;  J. C. R. Grenier;  E. L. Peper.


- [39] -
Left to Right, Seated: L. P. Robicheaux; P. A. Booker; R. W. Hager; F. L. James; D. E. Baysinger;  
R. A. Theobald; C. F. Heckel; R. E. Clawson.

Left to Right, Standing: H. E. Jones; R. L. Branch; E. W. Thornton; M. E. Blevins; L. R. Abear; C. A. West;  
D. E. Hanson; P. Ferguson; W. R. Sullivan; A. L. Johnson; K. G. Wilsey.

Left to Right, Seated: D. W. Weiss; H. E. O'Neill; L. P. Harris; I. A. Beam.  
Standing: O. C. Lange.
COMPANY D

STAFF
Left to Right, Standing: A. E. Ernst; R. F. Hampton; L. J. Nosky.

Left to Right, Seated: P. T. Dedier; W. M. Turner; B. E. Hoad; J. F. Komathy; A. Zerm; E. H. Hunt; B. W. Honemann.

Left to Right, Standing: M. W. Fell; E. S. Blery; R. Perry; H. R. Webb; C. W. Hobbs; G. D. Anderson; F. W. Mundt; R. K. Bounds.

-[41]-
Left to Right, Seated: W. A. Rhea; D. W. Powell; A. J. Gerbic; E. F. Maritano; H. R. Sheppard; C. F. Whitfield; R. V. Cole.

Left to Right, Standing: M. O. Scofield; G. L. Stevenson; E. S. Biery; R. C. Nelson; H. S. Benschop; R. E. Foss; F. A. Worthley, Sr.; F. P. Penney.

Left to Right, Seated: W. M. Finley; R. L. Schofield; C. W. Allred; W. R. Garrison; M. E. Frantz; C. R. Nelson; W. H. Lepper.

Left to Right, Seated: G. I. Wilkinson; O. W. Balsley; A. M. Coop; D. J. Tirabasso; L. P. Harris; E. T. Ballash; C. E. Shannon.

Left to Right, Standing: J. W. Hooker; R. G. Gramm; H. S. Benschop; J. J. Birnbaum; J. Close; C. H. Miller; L. J. Buechter; S. Beldin.

Left to Right, Seated: G. M. Lybarger; T. F. Leago; L. E. Richardson; E. F. Ingels; J. H. Frick; P. A. Smith; E. T. Krug.

Left to Right, Standing: W. White; R. T. Baatz; L. E. Wooley; R. J. Bebak; C. H. Westmeyer; J. Klaric; L. E. Lytle; W. Lewis.
Left to Right, Seated: C. Bowman; C. L. Bell; R. D. Baker; R. B. Irion; L. J. Trost; G. R. Biggs; D. C. Brandau.

Left to Right, Standing: H. G. Thompson; R. B. Bottomley; J. G. Britnell; G. A. Brattain; D. R. White; H. E. Hollis; G. A. Allen; P. H. Nolph.

Left to Right, Seated: L. A. Moullette; C. B. Miller; J. Pippa; K. H. Wirzbach; G. Visscher; L. R. Winter; R. J. Gingue.

Left to Right, Standing: J. P. McDonald; M. B. Gilmore; G. W. Larson; C. Hunefeld; S. D. Yagle; G. A. Meyer; R. L. Beard; G. L. Booth.
Left to Right, Seated: D. M. Esmond; D. C. Carson; M. W. Shum; H. W. Bates; J. W. Fridley; [B. E. Price; H. L. Puffenberger.


Left to Right, Seated: A. Cutrer; E. Kaminen; W. B. Smith; L. J. Weiland; M. L. Cook; A. E. Ernst; G. G. Miller.

Left to Right, Standing: R. E. Van Horn; H. A. Farver; F. P. Keeler; F. D. Ackerman; W. Skiba; J. S. Carpenter; W. G. Harrison; H. L. Pyle.
Left to Right, Seated: E. B. Green; H. I. Armentrout; H. E. Booth; G. C. Sherrard; H. R. Carroll; C. E. Moormeier; R. D. Bean.


Left to Right, Seated: G. W. Tyckolis; A. A. Stockton; A. G. Nugent; F. J. Griffin, Jr.; W. B. Bone; J. A. Perry; J. P. Friday.

Left to Right, Seated: T. E. Akester; H. Faulds; B. Pakizer; H. J. Fossell; C. D. Copus; L. J. Mertens; R. Minnick; F. Regan.

Left to Right, Standing: M. F. Whippo, Jr.; C. E. Berthiaume; J. P. Dolan; V. G. Peck; W. E. Tobin; P. Lerner; H. E. M Knight; F. W. Smith; F. J. Griffin, Jr.; H. C. Fasnaugh; R. H. Bederske; R. L. Shepherd.

SAWMILL DETACHMENT

Left to Right, Seated: R. H. Fitchner; J. H. Tisdale; S. O. Zabala; W. Murray; M. Rosenstein; F. B. Brzezinski.


Left to Right, Third Row: E. B. Sanchez; D. A. Gates; L. J. Sellers; J. D. Healy; H. P. Storms; N. E. Winters; J. E. Connell.
FORER
MEMBERS

Lieut. Charles W. Worth
Lieut. Thomas J. Hanson
Lieut. Conrad C. Quint

Lieut. A. W. DiBrienza
Lieut. William H. Smith
Lieut. Donald R. Shaw

Lieut. (jg) A. Jay Medford
Lieut. Sidney R. Towe
Lieut. Stewart M. Crais

Comdr. J. H. Savolaine
Lt. James P. F. Rice

Lt. Marion R. Shepard
Lt. Ralph M. Tidd
FORMER MEMBERS

Willis H. Alexander
Robert T. Love
Harry C. Smith
Jerome M. Muench

Arthur C. Olstad
Leonard T. Johnson
Leonard Cooley
Robert W. Irmscher

Paul V. Batts
Albert E. Rathbun
Clarence E. Tompkins
Carl J. Agriesti

James A. Mullen
John R. Ranc
Lee N. Reeves
Fred F. Smith

William R. Young
Hugh M. Kelly
Arthur F. Kautz
Harold G. Barnhart

Russell C. Paul
Pleas E. Dawson
Luis R. R. Martinez
George W. Bell
FORMER MEMBERS

Harold A. Clayton        Wilfred A. Stevens        Samuel J. Williams        Russell Sappenfield

Wilbur Van Dine         Walter W. Goodfield        Joseph T. Smith         Raymond W. Bell

Robert M. Ellis          J. F. O'Malley           William P. Heflin       Bedford W. Sprowl

Maynard L. Arwood        Julius J. Vasco           Frank M. Masten        Glenn C. Hubbard
WELL MATE

(As we go to press, the above recommendation for commendation has not been approved by the Navy Department. We thought we would go ahead and read the recommendation anyway, as well as the messages from Mr. Forrestal and Commander Gottwald.)
Quentin Cahill  
Ira O. Helton  
Alfred W. Wright

John Milton  
Frank D. Russell  
Kenneth S. Kelly

Robert J. Sammon  
James N. Knight  
Clifford R. Yardley

Jack J. Wilson  
Elmer R. Lundquist  
A. R. Anderson

Robert H. Bettes  
Champion H. Meteer  
Lewis D. Schlarf
Sacred to the Memory of

Jack L. Wells
James W. Dragon, Jr.
Harry E. Webb
Clinton C. Siegel
Frederick A. Mahoney

Richard A. Nally
Oscar A. Fagerlin
Herbert Lehman
Delmar L. Hagen
Arthur E. Granstaff

Harry E. Webb
Clinton C. Siegel
IN MEMORIAM

These men, our shipmates and comrades, gave their lives in the service of their country and for the cause of freedom in World War II.

We remember their sacrifice and devotion with pride, with regret and with deep gratitude.

To all who loved them and to those whom they loved, the men of the 75th Naval Construction Battalion send solemn greetings and tender sympathy in the certain hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AWARDS

BRONZE STAR

... for meritorious or heroic achievement or service in connection with operations of the enemy ...

Lieut. Comdr. David H. Gottwals
Henry S. Utley

PURPLE HEART

... for wounds received as a result of an action of the enemy ...

Harry E. Webb (posthumously)
Kenneth S. Kelly
William M. Allan
Joseph C. Clark
George E. Harmon
John D. Norris
Frederick W. Mundt
Anthony J. Gerbic
Peter Ferguson

COMMENDATION RIBBON

... for meritorious and efficient performance of duty, in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy ...

Ernest J. Lakia
John W. McGrew
Merrill F. Whippo
Donald M. Esmond
Lawrence E. Lytle

Presentation
PROMISE, AT SEA, SOUTH PACIFIC

The New Zealand Air Patrol spots us off New Caledonia.

—E. T. REEDER
75th
SEABEES

NEW CALEDONIA
Clearing for camp site
Admiral Halsey on inspection tour
Marking targets

Headquarters
Chow in the open

Cat-eye beach
42nd and Broadway
The Main Drag
Blasting for water pit

Water supply

Digging drainage ditch

Camp site

On the firing line
75th SEABEES

GUADALCANAL
THE GRAVE OF THE KYUSU MARU

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Dozens of wrecked Jap ships lie close to shore.

—R. M. ELLIS
Pacific Album

Beached Jap ship

Guadalcanal Natives

The beach

Souvenir hunters

Native Chapel

Bananas from Savo
The Corpsmen

Commandos

Free beer before leaving

Relaxing

Boarding ship
75th
SEABEES
BOUGAINVILLE
INVASION BEACH
Bougainville, Solomon Islands

LCMs, workhorses of the amphibious
Seabees, line the landing beaches.
—E. T. REEDER
TAKE OFF

DIRECT HIT
OUR CAMP AREA

Entrance to camp

Typical camp scenes
Birds-eye view of surrounding area

Motor pool

Colors

One of the finer homes

Dick Rees: "I don't want to set the world on fire"
TANK FARM

Construction sequence of Large Tank
Construction sequence of Small Tank
Pacific Album

Crossing under road

Tanker

Gas Station

Pipe line hit by bomb

Shrapnel-pierced tank
MOUNT BAGANA—From Marine Drive

[76]
EAST—WEST TRAIL

-[77]-
EAST-WEST TRAIL

When the 75th Battalion was given the job of constructing the East-West Trail, the outlook was none too bright. The dense, teeming jungle with its "wait-a-minute vines," malarial mosquitoes, and impassable swamps presented natural hazards that at first were discouraging.

Yet with the thought in mind that the road was a vital one—for by it alone could the supplies and ammunition be carried to the brave incomparable Marines on the front lines—no obstacle was too great for the completion of the road.
The work carried on day and night, through the thick jungle and over the many swamps and hills. With the help of the Marine Engineers, a "corduroy road" consisting of hurriedly hewn logs thrown into the sogging mud, was first constructed. All this work was done by hand, in every type of weather. Over this corduroy road followed the heavy equipment, building a good, solid road that could withstand any kind of traffic.

So quickly and efficiently was this road constructed that many troops coming in at a later date were astounded with the roads "the Japs left behind."

With the completion of the East-West Trail, its builders proudly cherished the fact that they had contributed another step in the "Steam Rolling of the Pacific."
So when we reach the “Isle of Japan”
With our caps at a jaunty tilt
We'll enter the city of Tokyo
On the roads the SEABEES built.

Third Marine Div.
26th Raider Reg.
To Our Friends, The C.B.'s, 2nd Bn. - 12th Marines
A Very Merry Xmas

Your Able Protector at The 7th Marines - Seabee Wish you a Merry Christmas Doggies

IN TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH SEABEES
MBTRY 4th BATTALION 12th MARINES

TO OUR LOYAL BUDDIES
75TH SEABEES
WHO HELPED BLAZE AND GLORY ON THIS BLOODY ISLE
Bougai NVille
WE, THE U.S. BATTERY H 3rd MARINE SALUTE THE FOR THEIR AND HOS-
US TO FIGHT. RAISE 'OLE FINE WORK PITALITY

Tributes FROM THE MARINES
P. T. BASE
TOROKINA POINT

Blasting

Completed dock

Construction
FIGHTER STRIP
TOROKINA POINT

Torokina strip

Wrecked Liberator

Repairing strip
Camp Halsey

Cub 9 Chapel

Pouring deck

Enlisted men's mess
ADVANCE UNIT

Officers' mess

Beach tower

Shower deck

Warehouse
FIJI CEREMONY
75th SEABEES

RUSSELL ISLANDS
SEABEE SHIPFITTERS

The Russells, South Pacific. Men of the 75th assemble pontoon strings for another invasion.

—E.T. REEDER
QUONSET

Inside view

ERECITION

Fill-in around hut

Completed hut
B-11 angle coming in position

Placing P-7 pontoon

Angle placed and bolts ready

PONTOON

Burning hole for bolts

Pontoon supply
ASSEMBLY

Placing T-6 pontoon

Launching
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OVERSEAS
75th
SEABEES

PHILIPPINES
Farewell to New Guinea

[96]
Smoke screen

Philippines bound
PHILIPPINE LIBERATION
Temporary camp at Tacloban

Camp after typhoon

Chow line

Camp at Shrapnel Hill
SAMAR CAMP

Bridge over drainage ditch

Fill-in

Drainage ditch

Grading

Culvert laying

Everlasting mud

-{ 100 }-
SAMAR CAMP

First galley

New galley

Landmark

Road behind supply area

Natives policing camp

Fill-in galley area
CANVAS CITY ON CALICOAN
Calicoan Island, P. I.

The final Philippine camp of The 75th USN Construction Battalion.

—E. T. REEDER
Pacific Album

The Rolling Surf

Water Spout
Marginal Wharf

-[106]-
THE Dock Job is outstanding for a number of reasons. Foremost is the gigantic amount of construction done to date by a comparatively small number of men (never in excess of 125), with no serious injury sustained by a single workman.

Impressive, too, is the fact that while work on the main berthing facilities was going forward with record-breaking speed, pontoon wharves for small craft and a garbage disposal dock were put into operation, as well as piers and dolphins at the watering station.

Chief Warrant Officer Elzie E. Steele of Missouri, in private life a civil engineer with ample construction experience, is in charge of the wharf job, together with Ensign George E. Dyke, Jr., and Ensign Robert S. Aldom. Working under their direction are Chiefs G. A. Fields, Curtis D. Anderson, Sidney Beldin, John F. Komathy, Charles E. Shannon, Merle Strohmaier and R. E. Flood; SF1c Mason O. Scofield, SF1c Carl K. Radcliff, CM1c Ray H. Morris, CM1c Carl W. Chastain, and their respective details.
The first dock pile was driven on January 24, 1945; on March 15th the first berth was completed and a ship already docked. At the present time, three Liberty Ships can be berthed with 104 feet to spare. In 135 days of work (112,029 man hours) 1,075,000 board feet of lumber went into deck, supports and curbing, while an additional million and a half feet of piling was driven. 175,000 pounds of hardware was used. 90,000 cubic yards, the equivalent of 3,600 truck loads of coral rock was hauled for the causeways. The project is an “Around the clock” job.

The complete marginal wharf will berth eight Liberty Ships. The forty foot deck will extend 4,060 feet, served by seven 30-foot and two 60-foot causeways which are each over 700 feet long from ship to shore.

In building a wharf, three types of piling are used: vertical piles on which the structure rests, batter piling driven in at an angle for support and to prevent swaying, and fender piling which acts as a buffer between ship and wharf. United States piling was used for all except the fenders. Australian Ironwood was used for this purpose because of its superior ability to stand abuse. In driving the piles, coral caves were encountered in which the pile would almost sink under the weight of the hammer alone. The men found that overnight the piles would “set” so that fifty blows of a double-acting air hammer would make no appreciable penetration. The explana-
WHARF

tion seems to lie in the fact that waves would fill the caves with sand at night, setting the piles, much as quicksand does. In other places, it was found necessary first to drive down a pipe and set off an explosive charge within it, in order to crack the coral before driving the piles.

The trick of bracing a wharf is timing, according to Chief Komathy. Bracers, working from rafts, can operate only when the tide is receding. Figuring the rise and fall of the waves is important, too, not only to bracers, but the cut-off crews as well. Their job is to saw the piles at the proper height to afford a level surface for capping, stringers and decking. Waves kicked up by a VP barge can raise hobs with their work.

Decking crews under Chiefs Strohmaier and Uschold, and Carpenter’s Mates First Class Leslie Dorman and Carl Chastain laid the floor of the wharf. Then Chief R. F. Hampton’s men “put the necktie on the job.” The bullrail, or curbing, is more than just a protective railing to prevent trucks and dock mules from driving over the side. It dresses up the job as well, and compensates for slight irregularities in deck levels.

The marginal wharf is a project of which we are justly proud. Senior echelons of command speak of it as the best constructed wharf in the Southwest Pacific.
WHARF
NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT

Area in first stages

Temporary Storage
NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT

Quonset Hut Erection
THE PIPELINE JOB
WATER SOURCE

Higher than Niagara

The River

The Dam
Shade for the Village

Native Scene
Our Headquarters

The Village

Chow in the old School House
THE proposal to utilize water from two falls, both higher than Niagara, to supply ships some four or five miles away sounds fantastic. We wouldn't blame the reader if he considered it a "pipe dream" rather than a pipe line. The plan, in brief, was to run a 6 inch line from a river, which is fed by the two waterfalls high in the hills, to the ocean. The proposed line would run some 3500 feet through the jungle and snake up and down twin hills 145 feet high, resembling Bactrian humps. Yes, the average man would be skeptical.

But tell a Seabee outfit a thing can't be done and they get that "The Hell it can't" look in their eyes. Lieut. Charles W. Sunday and the men of the 75th Battalion were no exceptions.

The pipeline was no easy job. Nature frowned on the project and used every trick at her disposal to halt the work. Trails had to be cut foot by foot through dense jungle growth; tropical rains beat down mercilessly, making the trail a bog of sticky clay. There was always the threat of typhoons; swarms of insects harassed the workers, but the job went on.

Pipe sections were carried over the first hump on an overhead cable conveyor, with a truck winch furnishing the power. At the end of the cable line, carabao dragged the sections of pipe to the desired location.

Pipe sections were joined by victaulic couplings by able men, many of whom had laid a pipeline at Bougainville a year previous. With
FACILITIES

Chief Walters' detail working from the river, and Chief Alfred Zerm's crew working from the ocean, the two groups met at 2330 on February 1st, making the deadline with a half hour to spare.

A vertebrae of 3600 feet of six-inch pipe now ran from the intake at the river, through a battery of pumps and a chlorinator, over the twin humps, and out into the ocean. Half a million gallons of fresh chlorinated water could be drawn daily by LST's and smaller craft, which lost no time in making use of the watering facilities. It is not uncommon to see half a dozen LST's lined up to take on water and as many more at anchor offshore, waiting their turn.

The project was a success—so successful, in fact, that another and larger pipeline (12 inch diameter) was proposed to go into operation by May 1st. This job was a cinch compared to the earlier one. A cat was used to clear the right-of-way for the line, work that had to be done by back-breaking manual labor on the first line.

The second line was ready for operation within the deadline period set. It delivers 2,800,000 gallons of water in 24 hours. The two lines furnish one of the best, if not the best fresh water facilities this side of Pearl Harbor.

We are proud to have contributed a project which will continue to serve long after the war is ended.
PIPCLINE COMMENDATIONS

SEVENTH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

17 May 1945

From: Officer in Charge
To: Officer in Charge, 75th Naval Construction Battalion.
Via: Officer in Charge, 33rd Naval Construction Regiment.
Subj: Commendation for Expeditious Completion of Fleet Watering Facilities at Samar, Philippine Islands.

1. Forwarded with congratulations.

(c) W. H. Godson, Jr.
W. H. GODSON, JR.
Deputy Officer in Charge

SEVENTY-FIFTH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

7 June 1945

From: Officer in Charge
To: Chief of Naval Personnel.

1. Reference (a) particularly commends the Officer in Charge, 75th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion and the Officers and men assigned to the Fleet Watering Facilities project at Samar, P.I., for the expeditious manner in which this project was constructed.

2. The Officer in Charge, 75th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion wishes to add his congratulations to those already extended. Although confronted with very difficult problems of transportation and the procurement of supplies, the battalion not only met the original completion date but finished the project extension to usable completion fifteen (15) days ahead of schedule. Lieutenant Sunday and those men who served with him are to be particularly commended for their exceptional performance.

D. H. GOTTWALS

THIRTY-THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

20 May 1945

From: Officer in Charge
To: Officer in Charge, 75th Naval Construction Battalion.
Subj: Commendation for Expeditious Completion of Fleet Watering Facilities at Samar, Philippine Islands.

1. Forwarded with congratulations.

(c) B. L. Phillips
B. L. PHILLIPS

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

17 May 1945

From: Officer in Charge of Construction
To: Officer in Charge, 75th Naval Construction Battalion.
Via: (1) Officer in Charge, 7th Naval Construction Brigade.
(2) Officer in Charge, 33rd Naval Construction Regiment.
Subj: Commendation for Expeditious Completion of Fleet Watering Facilities at Samar, Philippine Islands.

1. The rapid and efficient manner in which construction of fleet watering facilities was accomplished by the Seventy-fifth Naval Construction Battalion is considered a noteworthy achievement, and has been the subject of highly favorable comment by administrative officials of Seventh Fleet.

2. In meeting the urgent and imperative need for suitable watering facilities for the forces afloat in the Leyte-Samar area, the Officer in Charge, and all officers and men of the Seventy-fifth Naval Construction Battalion involved in this project, may feel justifiably proud of their accomplishment.

(c) J. R. Perry
J. R. PERRY
Fire—In-the-hole
75th Seabees

POWDER

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}[124]---
MONKEYS
North Road

Construction Steps
NORTH ROAD
NORTH ROAD

If the North Road could be moved overseas intact, it would become overnight one of America's most popular highways. Its hard, smooth surface, scenic curves, and easy grades would appeal to any motorist in the States. It links two Philippine islands of major importance to the Navy with a coral causeway which reminds one of the Sandusky Bay Bridge at home.

Officers and men assigned the task of building the North Road must have felt discouraged as they eyed the jagged coral hills to be leveled, or sloshed their way through the malarial swamps. But to the Seabees, the impossible just takes a little longer (and not much longer, at that) so on February 1st, we started the job.

Entire hills were leveled during construction of the road. Jack hammer gangs worked around the clock drilling holes for dynamite charges. Two thousand cases of explosives were set off before the job was done.

On April 15th, our gangs met the Army men coming in from the opposite direction, and the road was ready for use. The finished highway is a four-lane job, 60 feet from shoulder to shoulder, with no grade of more than seven degrees. The portion of it done by the 75th Battalion is about 4\frac{1}{2} miles long.

It is another "permanent" job done by this Battalion. It will still be serving the Philippines long after the war is over.
OUR NEIGHBORS

Go-getter

Off limits

Bananas

Water boys

Filipino ferry

Rattan weaving

Bartering
FILIPINO PARTY

Menu, please

Filipino chefs

Filipino fox trot

Guerrilla Officers
ISLAND LIFE

Native-built shelter

Caribao cart

Bench-building

Filipino follies

Shingle weaving
Thirty Filipinos built Seaside Chapel in a month. Deeply religious themselves, it was a labor of love. With skill they wove the 6000 palm mats needed, cut and stripped 1000 poles, and fabricated three miles of rattan strips. Even the lighting fixtures are cleverly woven palm bowls.

When you step into Seaside from the hot, glaring sun, you are impressed by the same sense of calm and peace that you have experienced in the great high-vaulted churches at home. There is the same feeling of quiet serenity. Who can say whether it is merely the acoustic properties of the palm mats, or indeed the Presence of the Spirit of God?

Men of all faiths worship at Seaside. An estimated 700 men attend services every Sunday. There are five services, beginning at 0900 and ending at 2000. The chapel was built to seat 180 men in comfort, but from 200 to 300 men attend the morning Protestant and afternoon Catholic service. There are also Jewish and Christian Science services.

We feel that Seaside Chapel will still serve God in the Philippines long after the war is ended and we have returned to familiar scenes. It is a living memorial to the world brotherhood we believe in, and to which we probably will never come closer than during this war period spent in the Philippines.
DIVINE WORSHIP OVERSEAS

First services on Samar

Passover

Chaplain Van Winkle

Father Rice

Secretary Knox Memorial Service
REFLECTIONS

Samar, Philippine Islands. The village of Macarata before its removal to make way for the U.S. Naval shore establishment, Leyte Gulf.

—E. T. REEDER
AROUND THE CAMP

Happy landing

Fire fighters

Souvenir shop

Rising Sun has fallen

Saturday

Victory garden

Rotation sweepstakes???
AROUND THE CAMP

Happy landing

Fire fighters

Souvenir shop

Rising Sun has fallen

Saturday

Victory garden

Rotation sweepstakes???
Street scene, Tacloban

TACLOBAN - LEYTE

The Capitol

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TACLOBAN—LEYTE

1. Mercedes Theater
2. Tacloban Harbor
3. Downed Jap Seaplane
4. Where Bomb Hit
5. Taxi
6. Street Scene
75th SEABEES

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES
DISBURSING

The Pay off, New Caledonia

Peso Pay Day
PERSONNEL

The yeomen at work

LABOR COORDINATOR

Slave market
MASTER-AT-ARMS FORCE
POST OFFICE

Did we get any mail today? When do you make out money orders? What, no stamps? How about that package of mine my aunt Nellie sent.

Sorting mail

Christmas mail call

Carrying the mail
SHIP'S SERVICE

Beer line

Ships store

Tailor shop
SHIP'S SERVICE

Laundry

Clip joint

Cobbler shop
PHOTO LAB

WATCH THE BIRDIE

Brandt and Martinez

Van Rhoden's workshop

WELFARE AND RECREATION

WATCH REPAIR

Jeweler Gramm
ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATION
SIGN SHOP

CARPENTER SHOP

SURVEYORS

Meyer and Robbins
Pacifi c Album

MALARIA CONTROL


RADIO OPERATORS

Jerry Briner (front), Howard L. Dupuis, Charles R. Eierman, Ross G. Dikeman
Sick call

Appendectomy

Gabe Langdon — Dr. Dooley

MEDICAL DEPT.
MEDICAL DEPT.

Seated:
Lieut. R. Tidd
Comdr. H. Halprin
C.P.O. J. Tuckish

Standing:
M. Abbot
C. Dudine
W. Aker
R. Furman
M. Spisak
C. Mann
P. Bishop
G. Langdon

Original Complement of Corpsmen and Staff

Randy Scott chats with patients

Dr. Halprin — Clyde Mann

Morning check-up

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PUBLICITY

Beginnin' our
3rd Year Overseas

1st June

Merry Christmas

Birthday Greetings
From The Philippines
1945

Seventy-Fifth Seabees

75th NCB
Dedication Service

Promotions Rotation

At 7:00 a.m. we were awakened by a roll call and found that we were to rotate on a new project. The project was to be completed by 4:00 p.m. The Seabees were divided into two groups, one to work on the project and the other to clean up the area. The project was to be a new building for the Seabees and was expected to be completed in two days. The Seabees worked hard and completed the project on time.

Holiday Greetings

From The Philippines
1945

Seaside Chapel

Thinkin' of You, Darlin'

As My Best Valentine

From The Philippines
1945
HOLIDAY Greetings

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the South Pacific

BEST EVER, DARLIN'

HAPPY EASTER

ALL PACKED UP TO SEND
TO MY VALENTINE

MERRY Christmas

V-Mail
Schoony's office

MOTOR POOL

Shops area
SHOPS

Cable splicers

Rigging loft

Blacksmith shop
MACHINE SHOP

Mobile shop

Steel-forming
HEAVY EQUIPMENT
BULLDOZER REPAIR

Keeping the sturdy “cats” rolling was a big job, for Nature joined forces with the Japs, and with corrosive salt spray, treacherous mud, typhoons and abrasive coral sought to halt our march to victory.

—R. M. ELLIS
HEAVY EQUIPMENT

1000 Hours Without Repair
SPORTS
BASKETBALL

Our Popular Court
Softball Team

Front, left to right: R. L. Robb; G. Cheatum; P. Krempp; A. Piquette; G. Harmon; E. W. Sibert; K. E. Winslow; and W. R. Stemple.

Rear, left to right: R. L. Johnson; C. Berling; C. Henson; J. Fisher; D. Aviles; L. Michelon; L. E. Richardson; G. Hanson; and A. H. Sell.

BASEBALL

"Hank" Fossell

"Doc" Stone

"Jimmy" Cooke
Standing: "Johnny" Pastor; "Marv" Sartain and "Joe" Visco.
Kneeling: "Ray" Baum; "Oscar" Wehmiller and "Rube" Theobald
ENTERTAINMENT
GOOD EVENIN' LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO NIGHT
THE 75TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION TAKES
GREAT PLEASURE IN WELCOMIN' YOU TO OUR BATTALION SHOW
"THERE'LL BE PIG IN THE SKY"

FEATURING

GOT A MATCH?
YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE, MY ONLY.

BILL GARRISON
DON BYERS

HILL BILLY MUSIC

CHIEF ROSCOE HAMPTON
AND CHORUS

BELLS O' ST MARY

ANYONE CAN DO IT IN ABOUT 5 OR 10 YEARS

ELMER STARK

"ON THE BOTTLES"

"THE BEST IN POPULAR SONG"

I'M ON FIREWATCH

ALSO GOOD MUSIC,
COMEDY SKITS WHAT?
NO WOMEN, THIS AINT
THE WAVES, MAC. DAMN.

COMEDY BY
RALPH SCHARFF

THE Scuttlebutters

JOE KOLACZEK and his Violin

LEONARD RUSH SINGS

BOB GRAMM
BILL GIESE

LEONARD RUSH SINGS

"THIS 'S WORTH FIGHTIN' FOR"

- (170) -
“MC” Norris and the 75th Choir

“Batch” and Banjo

“Put it in the bag”

Violinist Joe Kolaczek

Drum and Bugle Corps
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Native Dance

Singer Luc Consolacion

Swing Band

Jack Kenny

450 lb. cake
2nd YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Golden-voiced Stark

Nordstrom's Hill-Billies

75th Orchestra

"The Andrews Sisters"

Ice Cream and Coke

897 lb. cake
Many members of the 75th Battalion who were affiliated with the Masonic Lodge in the States were pleasantly surprised to find, upon our arrival to the South West Pacific, an established Masonic club organized in Noumea, New Caledonia. Likewise they found another club organized on Guadalcanal during our tenure there.

The good times, the acquaintances and fellowship developed at these clubs, gave many of our own members a definite determination to develop a club of our own at the first opportunity.

That opportunity materialized when the 75th was called upon to be one of the organizations to take part in the D-Day operations on Bougainville. As soon as our preliminary work projects were underway and we had a temporary camp site established, several of the brothers called together a group meeting with the idea in mind of perfecting a Masonic Club for Bougainville.

On December 22, 1943, the first regular meeting was held and the By-laws of the "FIRST MASONIC CLUB," of Bougainville were read and accepted. At this meeting the following Officers were elected: Sam W. Wright, President; H. G. Brown, Vice Presi-

dent; A. R. Rees, Secretary and Treasurer; and Lt. (jg) R. E. Johnson, Chairman of Board of Trustees.

Meetings were held weekly, except for a brief period of time that "Nip" artillery prevented public gatherings. The attendance steadily grew at these meetings as invitations were extended to brothers of other Naval, Marine and Army units on the island as well as brothers from New Zealand and Australia. The paid membership developed until there were 319 registered members representing home lodges from practically every state in the Union as well as New Zealand, Australia, China, Territory of Hawaii and Fiji Island. Of this total membership, 64 are from the 75th C. B.

These meetings were continued until April 26th when it became apparent that the Battalion would be leaving the island. The club then merged with a club sponsored by the 36th CB and therefore became known as "Solomon Island Masonic Club, Bougainville Chapter" which continued to strive in the succeeding months that the Armed Forces were on the Island. However it was a great satisfaction to the members of our battalion to know that it was they who laid the groundwork for such an enterprising club.
75th SEABEES

THE ROSTER
The Roster

75TH
SEABEES

Officers and men attached to the Seventy Fifth Naval Construction Battalion prior to June 9, 1945, the date marking our Second Anniversary Overseas.

A

ABBOTT, Maurice L.
Somerset, Ky.

ABEAR, Lawrence R.
Box No. 116
Deerwood, Minn.

ACKERMAN, Carl C.
R. D. No. 1
Huron, Ohio

ACKERMAN, Frederick
R. D. No. 1
Lorain, Ohio

ACKERMAN, Ralph J.
9005 Lorain Ave., No. 9
Cleveland, Ohio

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Thayer, Ind.

ADCOCK, Everett E.
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Monmouth, Ill.

AGERTON, Thomas J.
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Waco, Texas

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AKER, William R.
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R. D. No. 2
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8491 Fenton
Dearborn, Mich.

ALDOM, Robert S.
80 Voorover Avenue
Caldwell, New Jersey

ALDRICH, Albert G.
91 Patton Street
Bangor, Maine

ALEXANDER, Jessie L.
Carbon Hill, Alabama

ALEXANDER, Willis H.
c/o Process Dept.
The Texas Company
Lockport, Illinois

(*) Deceased

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Slade's Corner Road
Dartmouth, Massachusetts

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ALLEN, Russell T.
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-[179-]
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Tip or paste in your own photograph here

11-9-96
Map Shows States
75th Seabees Hail From

Forty-five of the 48 states are represented. Ohio leading with 231. Not shown on the map are the District of Columbia with two men, and Quebec, Canada, with one.

The figures include both our original complement of officers and men and subsequent replacements. It is accurate but incomplete—we didn’t have everybody’s home address available.