When the time is 12:00 noon at the International Date Line, the day before in Hilo, Hawaii, it is 9:00 a.m. on the Hawaiian Islands, 6:00 p.m. on the west coast of the United States.
90th USN

Construction Battalion

It's History and Accomplishments

1943-1945
DEDICATION

We dedicate this book in loving memory to the men in our battalion who fell in line of duty. Their cruise is over, their battles are all fought, their victories are all won.

Our poor power of speech can add nothing to what these men have already done. The most we can hope to do is to follow their example, to show the same selfless courage in peace that they did in war, to commit ourselves by the grace of God and the stubborn strength and power of human will to this end: that their sons and ours shall never make these sacrifices again.

There they rest, with their fallen comrades of other branches of the service. May their resting place be symbolic of all we fight for. There, are Protestants, Catholics and Jews together, men of all ranks and stations. There is no discrimination, no prejudice, no hatred. If we lift a hand in hate against a brother or think ourselves superior to those in the minority, we betray our heroic dead. May God forbid.

This book must ever remind us of the obligations that are ours in keeping the peace. Let us hold high the torch of liberty and keep it burning in our hearts.

With cherished memories that are forever sacred, with sustained faith that is stronger than death, with the comforting hope of immortal life, we commend their dauntless spirits unto God who gave them.

CHAPLAIN WAY
ETERNAL REST
GIVE TO THEM.
O LORD.
IN MEMORIAM

To the men
of the battalion who
have died in line of duty.

Ace Cox 20 March 1945
Theodore Clyde Martin 20 March 1945
John Henry Haertschi 15 April 1945
Richard Herbert Black 16 April 1945
Joe Davis Sells 23 April 1945
William Carl Brown En 1 June 1945
William Augustus Heals 1 June 1945
Billy Joe Grim 1 June 1945
Arthur Robert Hassling 1 June 1945
Marvin Arnold Rosin 1 June 1945

Carl Hale Dickie 18 March 1944
Al Fritz Olsen 13 May 1944
Ralph Dangler Carp. 10 Sept. 1944
PURPLE HEART
AWARDS

FLOYD EDGAR AUGNST
JOHN HENRY BAERTSCHI
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BEALS
RICHARD HERBERT BLACK
ERNEST P. BRAUN
WILLIAM CARL BROWN
WILLIAM J. BROWN
ACE COX
CLIFFORD JOHN DEVENISH
EDWARD J. GARDNER, JR.
WILLIAM R. GARNER
BILLY JOE GRIMM
ARTHUR ROBERT HAFFLING
ALVIN M. HENNING
BENJAMIN F. IRISH
THEODORE CLYDE MARTIN
GEORGE EVERETT MEIER
EVERETT MILLER
ERNST ANTRANIG OHANNESIAN
MARVIN J. OTT
HAROLD T. QUINNAN
MARTIN ARNOLD ROSIN
HERBERT WOODROW SCHWEITZER
GEORGE E. SMITH
JOHN FRANKLIN SOMERS
JOSEPH DAVID SELLS
ALBERT VAN ATTA
LEWIS A. WAGNER
ARTHUR ERNEST WELLS
JAMES E. WILHELM
FOREWORD by Commander Brockway

As the 90th United States Naval Construction Battalion completes the second year of its activation and enters its third, it is only fitting and proper that the accomplishments of the Battalion be recorded.

In the following pages the story is told, in part, of the daily life, the achievements the recreation, the jobs, the hopes and disappointments since that memorable day at Camp Peary, Virginia, when the Battalion was commissioned.

In the years to come, this book, prepared by your mates, will become increasingly precious. It is hoped that the memories recalled by turning its pages will be most pleasant, that the heartaches and disappointments that all of us experienced somewhere along the line will be obliterated forever, and that we will recollect only the thrills of endeavor, the pride of achievement and the spirit of genial comradeship that is the soul of the 90th United States Naval Construction Battalion.

I am most grateful that mine is the privilege of being the Commanding Officer of a group of men, who in spite of all obstacles, accomplished each duty—no matter how arduous, with a whole-hearted spirit of cooperation, which has established a record second to none, and has contributed materially to the winning of the victory.

There is much work yet to be done, but we face the future with the confidence of veterans, and with a determination to continue, using our best efforts, until the task we have undertaken has been successfully concluded. Let us carry on, so that when peace finally comes, as it inevitably will, we can say with justifiable pride, "We did our job to the best of our ability; we carried our fair share of the load."

To the men of the 90th United States Naval Construction Battalion, whose loyalty, patriotism and devotion to duty have been demonstrated on innumerable occasions, may I say, God bless you and keep you all.

GEORGE S. BROCKWAY
Comdr. CEC USNR
Officer in Charge
The 90th U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION was born at Camp Peary, Virginia on the twenty-fifth day of July, nineteen hundred forty-three, in the blistering hot sun, as those who were there will well remember. As an indication of what was to come later the sun, in all its glory, was appropriate; for the battalion, on its tour of duty in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre, has scarcely ever found the smallest amount of shade!
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The staff wishes to acknowledge the valuable assistance, in various capacities, of the following: Wayne C. Dunn, R. F. Barrett, D. E. McAlpin, F. A. Smith, Jr., T. D. Bryd, M. A. Kittel, H. P. Daykin, Paul N. Friend, E. A. Channosian, F. A. Miller, A. G. Hemmer, E. E. Wilson, George Ah Choy Kam, E. E. Hickey, H. L. Mainburg, C. R. Flourny, and others whose cooperation and interest were a constant inspiration and help.
HISTORY and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From Peary to Iwo Jima and V-J Day our stirring saga runs. The inevitable triumph of Allied arms found us deep within the shattered inner perimeter of the Land of the Setting Sun.

This, The History and Achievements of the 90th United States Naval Construction Battalion, is our LOG.

Forged from selected skills and brawn, drawn from 47 States and two Territories, and tempered and toughened by training, coordination and firm resolve, the 90th from its inception has been an action outfit. It is our outfit. Ever since we began forming ranks at Camp Peary’s USNCTC, in the Old Dominion State, on a hot June morning in 1943 we have kept steady uninterrupted cadence in the March to Tokyo. In the same year of our formation we moved overseas, our organization and training completed; and our ranks closed solid against the then unpredictable problems of the future. We have met these problems with fortitude and courage. We have met them well. Thus, the record, as presented in this pictorial volume, will show.

Our Constructioneers not only helped to build the essential strong and sure springboards for the all-out final offensive in the Pacific, but in a forward combat area, almost within the shadow of the enemy’s homeland fortifications, we have substantially strengthened the sinews in the Allied mailed fist, aimed unswervingly at the heart of Japan. Into our all-important work and military duties performed we poured our sweat and toil and skills and the hallowing life blood of some of our mates. We saw every day and night of our efforts, in their immediate results, strengthen and make more deadly lethal the last knockout blows against the once proud and arrogant Nipponese. We saw our shots strike the target. We have just cause for profound and unending pride.

This is OUR Battalion at work and at play, engaged in recreation and military duties . . . consistently carrying on. In these pictorialized pages we are panoramic . . . on long land and sea safari . . . moving, serving, building. We need not dramatize our record. Our achievements do this.

We are, at "going to press time," two years old, "going on" three. We were activated at Camp Peary on 25 July 1943, when we held our commissioning parade and received our colors—the Stars and Stripes and the Blue and White banner of our outfit. Following 10-days embarkation leave for all hands East of the Rockies, the 90th moved by train to Camp Parks, near San Francisco, California. A few weeks later we again entrained for our embarkation point, ABD, Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California. And from there, on 13 October
1943 we embarked for overseas. Behind us were boot days and advance training with the Marines at Peary, followed by more training on the West Coast. Ahead was a great war-use construction program, adventure, many days and nights at sea on two voyages—and more military training! The personnel of Company B had shove off two weeks earlier on a cruiser. We traveled aboard a troop transport. And on Wednesday, 19 October . . . Diamond Head loomed ahead! PEARL HARBOR, again strong and breathing vengeance after the battering Japanese sneak attack, was our goal. Here as recorded in this, our History and Achievements Log, we got in our first hammer and saw blows against the enemy.

During 16 busy, eventful, productive months we laid the foundation and began the building of our splendid performance record. Pearl Harbor then was the gigantic fountain head of supply lines extending deeper and deeper into the Pacific . . . one of the world’s greatest depots of equipment, supplies and men. We helped to further develop the Pearl Harbor base. We expanded its ramifications. We helped to make it stronger and to increase its potentialities.

All was not construction and military duty on Oahu. From our Red Hill bivouac we were in close proximity to indescribable scenic beauty . . . to a part of the world strange and new to most of us . . . We were in the Paradise of the blue Pacific . . . the Hawaiian Islands . . . exotic, fascinating, optics-caressing, Iolani, the palace of the Hawaiian kings; Waikiki; Madame Pele; the magic syllables in Kapiolani, Moanalua, Kalakaua, Nuuana . . . their nomenclature is musical, mysterious, thought-tantalizing, even now . . . after combat area contact with war has steeled and sobered us. Unforgettable: Five Islands, 99, kanaka, Kapu, blackouts and 2200 curfews . . . the mobbed buses, the endless lines for movies, food, drink . . . the constant move and surge of humanity . . . and tens of thousands of men wearing the uniforms of every branch of the United States’ armed forces. There we had our last plush, our last starched whites . . . our adios to the comforts of life.

We worked hard . . . day and night shifts . . . we sweated through more military instruction, including jungle training . . . we built for the big push . . . a huge office building for strategy planning, port facilities, warehouses, refrigeration, terminals, the Marine Third Amphibious Corps administration building, facility after facility.

Communications from other Naval authorities, marked "Subject: Commendation", were received. We were proud but the Battalion did not rest upon its laurels. Instead, it drove ahead. Here, as at Peary and on the West Coast, was the persistent call "Let’s Go!"
Battalioneers wanted to shove off again... to move in closer to Japan... to join in the invasion of her stolen islands empire. We did.

September 1944... Assigned to a pontoon detachment, a group of 90th men participated in the Marine assaults against Angaur and Pelelieu. This engagement brought the war closer home. And the Battalion collected its first Jap souvenirs!

Autumn 1944 saw the return of U. S. troops to the Philippines, liberated in 1945. From the newly Seabee-built Marinas fields in the Marianas and from carriers American warplanes and our fleet began pounding the tiny inner perimeter island. We saw its name in type... a strange, new name in the annals of Pacific offensive warfare.

IWO JIMA!

November, December, January came and sifted through the glass, and air and fleet units pounded and battered the dot of sand and rocks.

All 90th work projects were secured. We shifted further into forward drive. More gear was issued, ships were loaded. Pack-laden and with carbines slung, we gangwayed aboard a transport. Our course was chartered for IWO. And as we moved cautiously outward, blacked out from dusk 'til dawn, the Marines were striking at the island fortress... our goal. We went ashore, moved to White Beach and dug in while the Battle for IWO still raged. Exactly 26 days after the Marines hit the beach, organized enemy resistance in the toughest and bloodiest fight in the valor-glorified history of their Corps was ended. Eight square miles of hell were "secured." Sporadic clashes and mopping up operations continued for weeks.

Foxholes, K and C rations, soaking rains and searing heat, air raids, a bloody banzai attack, our front seat view of the great air offensive by B-29's and other warplanes against shaking, tortured Japan—all these and much more is indelible upon our memories.

We built ramparts, potent and powerful against the enemy.

We even brought softball, baseball, volleyball and tennis to IWO—but the peculiar Nipponese sense of humor—if they have one—probably cannot absorb this!

On IWO the 90th began breaking ranks... as many "charter members" headed home on rotation leave and the "42 plan." We welcomed replacements to our muster roll of the crew.

Constructively, progressively, we expanded our space in the history of a great war—which we fervently hope will be the last to cast its heavy shadows upon the world.

This is your LOG and your History and Achievements of YOUR Battalion.

We need not say "WELL DONE." This the record will show.
The Capitol
Wren Building
Formal Gardens
Governor's Palace
Overlooking the Pacific, its architectural perfection and beautiful grounds a popular visiting place for many thousands of servicemen, the Mormon Temple on the Island of Oahu is the first building of its kind ever erected outside the Americas. There is centered the religious activity of people of Mormon faith throughout the islands. Because of its magnificence, this Temple of the Latter Day Saints is worthy of inclusion in this volume—of, for and by Builders.

The Temple is located on a beautifully landscaped site embracing 8,000 acres and the village of Laie. The site was chosen in 1915 by the late President Joseph F. Smith and was dedicated in that year. The completed temple was dedicated in November 1919 by the late President Heber J. Grant.

The Temple was erected for the use of church members throughout the vast Central and Southern Pacific area. From widely scattered islands, large and small, including New Zealand and the Commonwealth of Australia, they journey to this splendid house of worship to perform their ordinances. Some of the members reside in the picturesque village of Laie and during their spare time assist in the work at the Temple.

The many objects of interest adjacent to the Temple include a sculptured group in which a figure from the Book of Mormon is shown blessing his son, The frieze around the top of the Temple depicts several phases of Ecclesiastical history.

The Temple is one of the most frequently photographed subjects in the Pacific area and snapshots of it are included in the albums of thousands of servicemen.
HONOLULU! Internationally known crossroads of the teeming Pacific ... a magical, thriving and busy metropolis, its pulse quickened by the tempo of war when we were there ... the picturesque rendezvous of East and West, of old and new, of peoples of many races. Beautiful streets and parks, Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head, rich flora and fragrant flowers, leis and laughter and a port of call for many ships and thousands of men in all branches of the armed forces. Fascinating, unforgettable ... and different from any other city on the globe. This is the Honolulu we will remember ... once the grim grind of service and the inevitable Mainland nostalgia are gone.
QUONSET TOWN! One of the first projects the 90th completed on Oahu was the construction of Red Hill Quonset Camp, housing personnel and operations of two neighboring battalions. This included the erection of a large galley and the installation of its equipment. Situated against a backdrop of mountains, this camp was adjacent to the 90th Area.
In true Seabee style, the 90th Battalioneers not only built for the all out prosecution of the war—they also built for the comfort and welfare of their outfit.

Examples of this Battalion "community life" construction are the septic tank project (illustrated on this page) and the 90th Laundry, shown under construction on Page 53. This type of construction has early priority, even in forward areas, since adequate health and sanitation facilities are Seabee requisites. The septic tank is a sewage disposal facility which served all activities on Red Hill, thereby assuring complete area sanitation in this respect. The laundry, in addition to serving the personnel of all activities on Red Hill, also supplied the needs of many other Naval officers and men of various Pearl Harbor area activities.

Liberty whites, officer's dress uniforms, dungarees, greens,—the nice and the rugged apparel of Seabees at work and at play—all these were cleared through the 90th-built laundry plant.
NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR — In the vast Pacific theater the United States had switched from the defensive to the offensive in the war against Japan. New, powerful and important amphibious assaults were being planned and carried out against the Nipponese, dug in and strongly fortified on ill gotten islands of their stolen empire.
Kwajalein, Guam, Saipan, Tinian—these were the names that electrified the minds of the American people and centered the strategy of the United States Navy and the Marines. On to the Marshalls! On to the Marianas! These were the goals and the battle cries of American men of arms and their rapidly expanding machinery and strategy of war.
These islands were tough, hard to invade, difficult to conquer. The operations were bloody and costly. Those in charge of the great overall program of "seize and hold" planning knew this. All the way from the great Oahu springboards to the very beaches of entry careful and thorough preparations were made. And here the Seabees, the Fighting Builders of the 90th United States Naval Construction Battalion came in—for action and performance of duty just as vital and important as any part of the gigantic assault. THEY BUILT THE 500-STRUCTURES, 3,000-BEDS NAVAL HOSPITAL 128, located in close proximity to Pearl Harbor. To this great laboratory of healing and reconstruction of maimed men the wounded were brought. In great numbers they came, by sea and air transport. And, because the labor and skill of 90th men had been expended generously and well, and an important job had been completed ON TIME—these wounded men were cared for.
The 90th Battaloneers began their project in the raw. They hacked away the thick jungle of burned cane, leveled the ground with bulldozers, cats-and-carryalls and graders, laid foundations and sent the buildings soaring skyward.
When their project was needed it was ready.

And thus, even before moving to a forward area, they had active part in the war.
The power energizing of 90th-built projects has been the well-executed job of the Battalion's electrical crew.

Power stations, high tension transmission lines, hard work, skilled work, dangerous work — their production voltage has been adequate on all jobs.

Largest of their projects was the Iroquois Point staging area on Oahu. Here men and supplies for outgoing units were assembled and loaded on ships. Here important forward area operations had a large part of their actual beginning. The Iroquois Point area was keyed directly into the Pacific offensive and in its completion the 90th Electrics had a vital part.

Permanent, essential, productive, their work stands on Oahu — a memorial to their labor and skill. And in our forward area they carried on equally, efficiently and well.
An all-Battalion project, the huge ComserforPac building on Oahu is 500 feet long, 3 stories high. This structure houses important administrative offices for advance base operations in the Pacific. Urgently needed, it was given a surprisingly short completion timetable—30 days. The deadline was made! On the 29th day, while the sound of saws and hammers and finishing machinery droned on, completing final details, the Navy officials began moving in.

All hands in the 90th turned to on this job. Even the men on mobile mess helped. They brought cooked food direct to the job, served the busy workers two meals a day. Thus, precious time was saved.
In addition to pushing this project ahead every day, without interruption, some of the men worked at night, repairing the old CincPac building, thereby increasing the amount of urgently needed office space. Among interested spectators on the 90th's big job there was Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who had headquarters in the old CincPac building. Later, Admiral Nimitz moved his headquarters to Guam. The 90th Seabees, finished with their big work program on Oahu, "passed him by"—they went on to Iwo, to more offensive war work and to greater responsibilities.
The bonds of friendship and mutual respect between Seabees and Marines are stronger, perhaps, than between any other two branches of the armed forces. Ninetieth men have trained with Marines, built for Marines and served with Marines. Our dead were buried with Marines. Among the Marine-use projects our Battalion built on Oahu was the Third Amphibious Operations Building, used by both Navy and Devil-dogs units for forward area operations planning. This was one of many rear-base projects built by the 90th in the Pearl Harbor area, and definitely keyed into the great Pacific offensive.
HAWAIIAN NAVAL CONSTRUCTION

Command:

Subject:

1. It is a continuing command to witness the performance of the 90th Naval Construction Unit in quilting up the area.

2. Particularly, the efforts of Commander G.S. (name illegible) and men of his command for Fleet Landing and Ferry terminal "carry on" evidenced by the efficient and systematic manner of materials and equipment handling for the purpose of your battalion. Your personal example is a credit to the traditions of the Seabees.
Naval Construction Battalion

A source of satisfaction to this
force of construction operations of

to command the Officer in
EC, USNR, and all officers
of excellent job at the Malama
Project. The cheerful air of
in the face of 'short' item

as have been in the best "Can-
of the Naval Service."
FLEET LANDING, the huge Pearl Harbor port clearance facility through which ship-to-shore crewmen and officers stream by the many thousands, stands as another 24-hour-used 90th-built Navy asset. It includes a railroad station and a ferry service to nearby Ford Island. The several buildings comprise the "Grand Central Station" of Pearl Harbor. Thus, the movement of tens of thousands of men was grouped, organized and speeded up. Fleet Landing is more than war construction—it is a permanent, useful facility in one of the Pacific's greatest ports.
An example of Seabee ingenuity, the Quonset construction method used by 90th men in building the Telephone Exchange at the Marine Base, Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, has attracted wide attention. The plan was simple but a most effective time and labor saver. Sites were cleared, concrete foundations poured, hut sections assembled separately nearby—and then the completed Quonset was lifted and placed upon the foundation. Presto! The job was done! Just as simple as that! This series of interesting photographs show just how clever CB constructioneers are!
Entombed beneath tons of rock and granite, in a bomb-proof underground power station on Oahu were 5 diesel-electric engines and other equipment needed for forward area operations on Guam. The 3,000-kva station was sealed in solid rock, steel and concrete barred. The delicate job of blasting a removal opening and dismantling the equipment for transport was another "WELL DONE" 90th Battalion project.
Blasting Necessary in Dismantling Bombproof Power Station

By Bernard R. Carbon, Yeoman 1st Class, C.B., U.S. Navy

The underground room had to be tunneled out of solid rock and opened with an office barrier made up of two reinforced concrete walls 4 ft thick. The wall was 70 ft high and 50 ft thick, and the barrier was moved out of the way by a series of jackhammers. This was necessary to clear the way for the large units that could not be taken through the doors in the barrier.

Removal of the barrier was therefore essential, and the amount of equipment and doors made it desirable to blast a doorway in line with the side within the station. Two blasts were required because of heavy reinforcement in the barrier. The first blast opened a side through the blasted opening, it was necessary to move the engine nearest the tunnel entrance was of course the first to be moved. It was raised from its mount by four hydraulic jacks, placed under the bottom, and was raised and pulled by the weight of the tractor, placed on rollers and pulled by the weight of a tractor, onto a pair of 15 by 24 ft skids, which had been previously placed on a well-greased steel plate. The

Operating Results of the First Blast, Which Exposed the Doorway

A Second Blast Removed the Opening in the 14-Ft-Thick Wall Slides were then bolted to the engine. Additional greased plates were placed beside the first plate, in a series, so that the engine could slide along on them. In order to get the engine in position to be pulled through the blasted opening, it was necessary to move...
Seabee builders are versatile as well as skilled and efficient. Any type of construction anywhere defines their scope. Example: the collection of projects shown on these two pages.

Top left: Marine storage warehouses on Oahu, under construction.

Center photos: Marine ordnance warehouses (Camp Catlin, Oahu) under construction.

Lower left: 600-man head.
Top right: General construction 6th Base Depot, Oahu.

Lower right: Vats for blueing new rifles for combat use.

In the Marine ordnance warehouses, designed and used for maintenance of equipment, gun mounts, amphibious tanks, land tanks and other heavy war machinery were rehabilitated and "tuned up" for assault landings and combat use.

These are 90th Battalion projects.
Paving laid by 90th men in the CHA 1-3 Naval Housing areas added a pleasing modern village appearance. Here reside hundreds of civilian workers employed at the nearby Pearl Harbor Navy Yard. In addition to the paving, the 90th Seabees did the highway culvert job shown in
the adjoining photographs. From grading to the poured and smoothed pavement the job was done in typical 90th fashion—speedily and efficiently. Here again our Battalioners left the mark of their labor and skill permanently on Oahu.
FOOD is just as essential as ammunition to the Nation's fighting men. Its assured uninterrupted supply figures as a definite "must" into all offensive planning. Storage and refrigeration must be provided. For this all-important reason, the Merry's Point warehouse and refrigeration facility was built by the 90th Seabees. Located on Oahu, it functions as an assembly and preservation point for
food sent to fleet and island-based men all over the Pacific. Modern in every detail, the Merry's Point unit assures a constant large supply of well-preserved fruit and vegetables and other foods. Its construction gives further emphasis to the unlimited versatility and skill of our men. The job required the use of Canek board, hot tar treated, and very disagreeable and dangerous work, as the men
Music to march to . . . music to dance to . . . music to listen to . . . From Peary to the Pacific the 90th Battalioneers had their own band. Organized at USNCTC, Camp Peary, Virginia, the Melody Men were "giving out" . . . even after V-J Day . . . on Iwo Jima. Talented, tireless, they even included ship concerts in their long and faithful performance record.
DRESS RIGHT! DRESS! READY! FRONT! FORWARD! MARCH! 1-2-3-4! 1-2-3-4! Resplendent in dress whites, men of the 90th pass in review... stepping in measured cadence to the beat of mar-
tial music . . . with colors flying . . . up to the reviewing stand . . . "Eyes, Right!" . . . and off the Red Hill drill field . . . soon to ship, their whites home . . . in exchange for forward area duty greens.
TRAINING
The hazardous but necessary job of locating, "de-lousing" and removing mines, shells and other deadly explosives from construction areas in order that men and equipment could operate as safely as possible was the responsibility of the 90th Demolition Crew on Iwo Jima. Caves were cleaned out, hundreds of hand grenades and loads of live ammunition were
removed by these men. They located and cleared mine fields. Risk rode their shoulders constantly. Several stubborn Japs learned—too late—that their marksmanship was excellent. How many lives our demolitionists saved cannot be determined, but this is an established fact: they did a dangerous job well.
The aftermath of War on Iwo confronted the 90th Battalion burial squad (top left) with the task of locating the previously uninterred bodies of fallen Americans and Japanese and giving them proper burial. The multiple unpleasant details of their grim task, were occasionally brightened when they were able to identify the body of a Marine who had made the supreme sacrifice, thereby removing his name from the "Missing in Action" roster and providing his loved ones with the assurance that he would rest with his comrades in a marked and kept grave. Some bodies were booby-trapped. Unexploded shells and ammunition made every touch and step a risk.

Center photo—the 90th Demolition squad.

Below, 90th Seabee Signalmen, especially trained on Oahu, wig-wagging instructions from shore to the ship from which the submarine pipelines feeding fuel from anchored tankers to 90th-built tanks ashore were being laid.
The 90th Battalion Fire Department built and manned its own facilities on Iwo. During the hot, dry weather when fire hazards were many and constantly present, the availability of our own Fire Department provided a sense of security. The fellows in the department took their important job seriously. They worked hard. They designed and built their own firefighting apparatus. Drills were held. Their firemen duties were carried out in addition to their daily functions as Battalion MAA's. A mutual cooperation educational program was conducted directing the attention of all hands to the day-and-night danger of fire in an area thickly dotted with highly inflammable "cloth houses."
A shell exploding in the sea off our transport’s port bow was our “welcome” to Iwo. Our eyes were focused on the Northeast sector of the island—our future camp site. The area was a turmoil of smoke and fire and blasted rocky terrain through which tanks and flame throwers moved and weary Marines crept like ants, as the Japs held stubbornly on. Tracers and streaming liquid fire and the red and yellow flames of angry guns converted the section into a Dante’s Inferno that night. Ashore next morning, we crossed the island near Mount Suribachi, encamped temporarily on White Beach. Later, when our permanent camp area was secured, our surveyors and photographers moved cautiously in. Nipponese snipers were thick, secreted in rocks and caves. Surveyors were ringed by Marine guards and so was the photographer when he shot some of these pictures. Then came 90th Constructioneers and equipment. Quickly the area was changed into the clean, orderly, well-equipped and supplied camp shown in the large aerial photographs and other views.
In the States and overseas full-fledged Seabee Battalion life operates upon a complete and thoroughly organized community plan. Thus, regardless of where we were stationed, we were self-sustaining. "Restauranteers" of the 90th were the cooks, butchers and bakers. Their job was to feed the men, no small task. Heading their organization, the Battalion Supply Officer and Chief Commissary Stewards supervised the procuring, issuing, prepar-
ation and serving of foods. On desolate White Beach we heated our K and C rations upon improvised stoves anchored in the sand, and for the first time in service keenly felt the absence of a standard CB galley and mess hall. Temporary mess later was tent-housed. In our permanent area, we were early provided with a large, well-equipped mess hall, capably staffed by our own cooks, bakers and butchers. Life was brighter again!
One of the oldest of Naval facilities is the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, which supplied medical science and skill to our Battalion personnel. BuMs brought to us skilled doctors and dentists and well-trained hospital corpsmen. Conscientious, capable, they gave unstintingly of their time, labor and skill. The emergencies they handled on two included duty under fire. From laboratory to medical records, from ambulance service to dressing room, from stretcher-bearing to ward—they gave us their best in humane, capable service. They contributed much, directly, to the success of our construction and military programs by keeping the men well and on their feet. Most of our corpsmen served with us from Peary to Iwo.
SHIP'S SERVICE—the big "general country store" of Seabees and sailors, ashore and afloat! 'Want a haircut? 'Need your clothes washed? 'Wanna buy anything from soap to shoe polish?' You'll find the lads in Ship's Service on the ball and all set to serve you! Sometimes, especially far out on such lonely, isolated islands as lwo, stocks run low and a lot of items—beer and Coca Cola for example—are rationed. But even on lwo our one beer a day and our cokes were served ice cold and with a Seabee smile!

Included in this efficient personal service are the post office—the mail Mecca of every Seabee—and the censors office. These fellows handled our mail, the Post Office
staff all the way from Peary to Iwo, the censors from Oahu to Iwo. We even had a limited mail dispatch service aboard ship on the way out.

Not all Navy haircuts are "clipped-to-the-skull" boot style! Our barbers even asked "How do you want it on the sides?" And they did swell work. Ask any "liberty hound!" On Oahu our whites were starched and ironed smooth as a Seabee "wolf's" patter line, and even in our combat area we received 24-hour service. To all these fellows who so capably and conscientiously manned our Ship's Service and Personal Service facilities we owe much. They too did important jobs well.
90TH SALVO, IN NEW FORMAT

Following publication of 34 mimeographed editions, The 90TH SEABEES SALVO appears today in its first formal format as a printed newspaper with illustrations.

At the same time, the Battalion's newspaper changes from Volume 1 and begins Volume 2. The editorial staff expresses its appreciation to the following men who helped to make it a substantially improved product:

Executive officer of the Battalion, Capt. Louis C. Miceli; officers and staff members who cooperated in the planning of the new newspaper; and the Printing Department's printing and binding staff led by Fred J. Wells and J. B. Duras and Joe Ettinger.

The SALVO staff's new feature, a news section called "Salvo," adds to the newspaper's appeal.

Sports Editor, Col. Johnny Rodgers, has taken the lead in covering sports, and his reports on the Marine Corps' football team and other intramural sports have been a hit with readers.

APPROPRIATELY, we present in this issue the first edition of The 90TH SEABEES SALVO, in its new format. The new SALVO is a "portrait" of Capt. Specialist R. "Bandy" Dick, Chief in Charge of the Battalion's Sports program, who has given his talents and commitment to the Marine Corps' athletic programs.

Bandy Dick was a student at the University of North Carolina, where he was a member of the track and field team and a key member of the football team. His dedication to the sport and his leadership skills were evident to all who knew him.

In the fall of 1942, Bandy Dick joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to the 90TH SEABEES. He quickly became known for his athletic abilities and his leadership qualities.

During his time with the 90TH SEABEES, Bandy Dick served as the team's captain and led the football team to victory in several matches. He also served as the team's head coach, where he instilled a strong work ethic and a sense of teamwork in his players.

Bandy Dick's contributions to the 90TH SEABEES were recognized in 1943 when he was awarded the Marine Corps' Outstanding Marine Award. He was also honored with the Marine Corps' Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the sport.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps, Bandy Dick continued to be involved in the sport, serving as a coach and mentor to young athletes. He passed away in 1965, but his legacy lives on through the memories of those who knew him and the respect he earned for his contributions to the sport.

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE 90TH "SALVO" STAFF

Bert Pugh
Barney Lewis
Larry L. Jones
Boyd Hodges

George Nelson
Paul Brantley

Charles R. Mood
Joseph Mayfield

LATEST SCUTTLEBUT

Subscription Price—Good Will.
Temperature—Abnormal.
Rainfall—Without Warning.
Pulse—Weak.

When Do We Leave?—We Don't Know.
Where Are We Going?—We Don't Know.
When Will We Return?—We Don't Know.

And...
IWO JIMA

Spewed up from the molten mass of a submarine hell pot centuries ago, IWO JIMA splits the rolling Pacific swells at Latitude 24° 43' North, Longitude 141° 21' East. Dubbed the ugliest island in the world, bathed in blood and powdered with coarse black sand, IWO lies 658 miles South of Tokyo.

Iwo is raw, broken and rugged. Arid and rain-
soaked by turns, it sprawls out 2 ½ miles wide, 5 miles long. Mars stripped and scorched its scanty vegetation. Pre-invasion bombardment from sea and air and the crash of combat had shattered and split its peculiar rock formations combat raged, and the ruin and ugliness of war were everywhere when the 90th Battalioneers chain-laddered into the landing craft and went ashore. Iwo had been hammered as though by thunderbolts. Still, as these photographs show, the island has a weird and
strange beauty, awesome but unforgettable.

Time and a Seabee construction program brought changes. And when the smoke and dust and roar of battle settled into the ear-throbbing quiet of "all positions secured," Mother Nature began her first aid job. She poured on the healing ointments of sunshine and rain and wrapped many of the raw wounds in green bandages. Grass sprouted, struggled and grew. Here and there tiny flowers
bloomed. Easter Sunday morning, when sunrise services were held atop Mount Suribachi, found a tattered backdrop of bravely striving and sparsely spread floral beauty spread against the rows of white crosses, hallowing their areas of sand. By August, bushes screening the path that skirted "Banzai Gulch" had grown so thick that they tangled with Seabees' legs and had to be trimmed. It became a bit difficult to realize that when we came ashore the thunder of combat still rolled on and
smoke and fire ringed the tenaciously yielded Northeast ridge as we secured ourselves in foxholes on White Beach.

These photographs are a pictorial record of indescribable scenes. The howling, pounding sweep of high velocity winds and pouring rain joined in Storm on Iwo are dramatically shown on Pages 128 and 129.
In addition to great sacrifices of military personnel and the loss of vital inner perimeter territory, Japan experienced a vast and weakening drain of equipment in the Battle for Iwo. Shattered ships and landing craft, the latter crude-
ly comparable to our LST’s and LCI’s, littered the beaches. Alongside Motoyama airfield splintered Nip planes were piled high. Others blotched the landscape elsewhere, including the destroyed fighter planes shown here. Top right: a crude Jap roller, midget-like in comparison to the big construction machines the 90th Seabees turned loose . . . like steel juggernauts . . . when they took over as producing constructioners.
THIS WAS THE ENEMY — no longer arrogant and self-confident, no longer secure in their once formidable fortifications on Iwo, and now defeated. This, in a few photographs, is the carnage and the aftermath of war. This was the Jap defense of a tiny rocky island in its death throes. The Japs left their scars here ... in a discarded bottle of saki and a sun-dried chunk of hardtack, hastily dumped in the black sand ... in battered weapons, tossed aside with their courage and ability to stand up under the withering and destructive onslaught of Marine and Naval forces and pounding. Here are the desolation and the ruin and the memoirs of death ... left as a battlefield “museum” to lure sailors, briefly ashore, and to fascinate even the war-hardened servicemen stationed on the island.
Ruins of concrete-encased gun positions, tiny photographs of captured pre-invasion processed negatives showing Japanese military personnel, the deadly enemy mortar, an anti-aircraft gun, a ruined tank, caves, among them the "fancy" underground residence and operational headquarters of Lieut. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander on Iwo... all these are presented here as examples of what the enemy was... before and after combat. The breech-cloth clad Japs are prisoners, photographed after capture. Gen. Kuribayashi's cave is now a main point of interest to sightseers. The mark of war upon Iwo is as deep as its impression upon the minds of those who served there...unforgettable.
OUR FIRST JOB ON IWO — a torpedo storage dump. This steel and concrete "house" for the deadly projectiles was buried almost to the roof in
the sand and gravel soil. Again in the background is Mount Suribachi, invisible from only a few points on the island.
MOTOYAMA AIRFIELD, Iwo Jima — a pre-invasion threat to Marianas-based B-29's raiding Japan, was converted into a major U.S. asset when Seabees and modern airfield building equipment swarmed in. The long plateau which once harbored Nipponese fighters in their attacks on our bombers returning from raids is now one of the largest and most modern aircraft landing and maintenance facilities in the close-in Pacific area. By August, 1945, more than 2,000 Superforts, short of fuel or damaged, had found refuge there—sparing them the risk of the long flight back to Guam and Saipan. Motoyama airfield and the great plane-feeding tank farm were our No. 1 Iwo Jima projects. Working day and night, 90th crews ripped up blasted terrain, graded, smoothed, paved, and as they toiled they saw from sun to sun visual results of their
work as United States warplanes, large and small, came and went from the field.

Famed Mount Suribachi looms in the background. The center right photo shows the weather station. The photo panel (right) shows the first B-29 to land on No. 2 airstrip, coming in. This was prior to the laying of blacktop surface. The Superfort used the dirt strip.

Throughout the summer as all-out aerial warfare against nearby Japan was constantly stepped up, Motoyama Field was a vast plane-dotted arena of B-29's, Mustangs, Black Widows, Navy Avengers and Wildcats and Privateers, and the “flying boxcars” — huge long distance transports of the skyways. Here 90th Seabees helped to deliver the final knockout blows against the Land of the Setting Sun.
ON IWO JIMA, the ever hungry tanks of Superforts, fighters and other aircraft had to be nourished and 90th Seabees made sure they were fed. Thus, the great gasoline Tank Farm and the system of sustaining pipelines rated at the top of the list in our broad scale construction program. We made possible the supplying of the precious high-octane fuel that powered the fleets of Superforts on their destructive calls to Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe,
Osaka and numerous other B-29-t"reated" Japanese mainland strongholds. Here was a gasoline depot project of great size and of vital importance, urgently needed. The 90th "CAN DO" spirit and brawn and skill were "zeroed in" to the forward driving momentum of offensive warfare. The great tank farm required much work and presented multiple construction problems—but it was completed on time.
A great system of 90th-built pipelines, connecting with tankers-fed submarine pipelines, supplies the huge gasoline tank farm on two.

The system includes fueling loops from the tanks to the hard stands along the airstrips where planes are fueled.

In addition to construction, 90th men maintained and operated the fueling loops and pipelines for many weeks after the
system was completed. This sea-to-land system is a triumph of Seabee engineering skill and labor. Difficult terrain and other problems were encountered. All were solved. Soon, fuel-laden tankers stood offshore; pumps throbbed and the precious fuel, helping to speed V-J Day, poured ashore in a fast and smoothly functioning tanker to tank farm to airplanes stream. These photographic layouts graphically illustrate one of the most important forward area construction projects of the war in the Pacific.
Nineteenth-operated, this concrete batch plant supplied ready-mixed concrete to all island projects, thereby keeping work going at all points. Our operators worked in two shifts, providing two with a cement manufacturing plant of adequate proportions and output. A steady stream of dump trucks moved this vital commodity to jobs. This was
one of the most strenuous forward area tasks encountered by Seabees but concrete, like ammo, is essential in war­­fare, and the 90th men supplied it, despite intense heat and other unfavorable conditions under which they worked.
TRACK
MEET
Within our arsenal, to a great extent, rested our safety. The storage, issuing, checking, classification and care of pieces, ammunition and ordnance was a most important job. Of all these details our armorers had charge. Their functions were many,
their services well rendered. These photographs show our armory and a machine gun school scene on Oahu. Center photo: pieces and gear laid out for pick-up, immediately prior to our departure from Oahu. Top right: our Iwo Jima armory.
COMPANY COMMANDERS

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
MEMORANDUM:

From: Officer in Charge.

To: Men over “forty-two” receiving discharge.

1. To you men of this battalion who are about to receive the “over 42” discharge, I first wish to emphasize that I wish each of you a safe and pleasant trip home. I further wish that you will enjoy a happy reunion with your friends and loved ones and that you will soon be most successfully re-established in your community in the pursuit of life and happiness.

2. As your Commanding Officer, I also wish to thank you for, and extend to you my appreciation of, the valuable services you have rendered your country in its hour of need. It is to you older men of this battalion who have volunteered your skills, talents and experiences, and who have augmented those qualities with your steadiness and reliability, to serve as a proper guiding influence upon the younger and less experienced members, that a great credit is due for the success in the outstanding accomplishments this activity has performed to thereby rate for itself the highest in standing as a Naval Construction Unit.

3. May you ever bear with pride this patriotic service you have so unselfishly contributed, and may you long cherish in your memories the many experiences you have gained in the adventures of this organization. As you leave, my best wishes go with you. Your performance has been in keeping with the highest Navy traditions.

GEORGE S. BROCKWAY
Long separated from families and homes, 90th Battalion men showered their affection upon a collection of pets, small circus-like in variety. Most loved and best known was Rosie, beer quaffing canine "Mona Lisa," who "adopted" the Battalion while we were on Oahu, became a mother there, traveled to two with us and gave the stork another rush call.
soon after our arrival. "Grunt," air-minded mascot of the Oahu All-Seahee football squad, was left behind on Oahu. The miniature "poultry farm" (center) sprang from a former Jap-owned rooster and hen, captured on two. The "cute as punch" puppies, lower right, are offsprings of Queenie, blooded bird dog.
Brothers in ranks together and fathers and sons and brothers in joyous reunion were among the many pleasant features of life in the 90th Battalion.

Top left: Guy Woodward, 90th, and Myron Hubert Woodward, brothers, as they met on Oahu.

Top, second from left: O. W. Smith, CCM, and his brother, Coldwell B. Smith, who served together in the 90th.
Top, center: Eddie Almandarz of the 90th and his step-father, George Kelly, army, on leave together in Honolulu.

Top right: Charlie Bannerman, head of the area fire department on Red Hill and a 90th man, with his son.

Lower left: the 90th's twins—George and Joseph Casimere Gouveia.

Adjoining: Dewey Yancey, 90th, and his brother, Corporal Marvin Lester Yancey, during a meeting on Oahu.

Below, center: Charles Munroe Frazier, Jr., of the 90th, and his father, also a Seabee. Frazier, Senior, came to Iwo Jima from the Philippines for their reunion.

Lower right: The Navy’s 3 McElroys — left, John Dwight McElroy, Torpedoman third class, USN; center, John McElroy, SSLM1c, of the 90th, and Seaman James Earl McElroy. John and his two sons met several times while the 90th was stationed on Oahu.
A MUSTER OF THE OFFICERS
90TH U. S. NAVAL COM.

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WALKER, Reed P., 64 North First E Street, Cedar City
WARMER, Maurice Charles, 120 South Third Street, Salt Lake City
When the time is 12:00 noon at the International Date Line, it is 9:00 A.M. on Island "X," 1:30 P.M. on the Hawaiian Islands, 4 P.M. on the West Coast, 7 P.M. on the East Coast, and 10 P.M. on the East Coast of the United States.