

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

navdocks p-117

27 July, 1945

IN BRIEF NEW 30-DAY LEAVES FOR OVERSEAS VETS (P.1).....
REVISIONS IN GI BILL OF RIGHTS (P.1)...NAVY TO PAY FOR RE-
HABILITATION LEAVE TRAVEL (P.1)...SOIL-TESTING DETACHMENTS
FORMED (P.2).....ROLL-UP OF PACIFIC BASES UNDERWAY (P.4)..

WASHINGTON REPORTS

THIRTY DAY LEAVES for men overseas two years or longer were authorized by the Navy Department this week. Official text of the announcement, as released by the Office of Public Information, follows:

"Commanding officers of ships and stations outside the continental limits of the United States are now permitted to grant leave of 30 days in the United States to officers and men of the Navy who have not been in the United States for 24 months, as a result of instructions just issued by the Secretary of the Navy.

"Whether or not leaves are granted will depend upon the personnel needs of the individual ship or station. Granting of leaves is solely within the discretion of commanding officers. The degree to which this policy may be carried out will depend upon whether or not eligible personnel may be spared from their duties.

"The instructions stipulate that the number of personnel absent on leave from any ship or station at any one time shall not exceed five per cent of total personnel, and that replacements for men on leave will not be furnished.

"Travel time will be allowed in addition to the thirty days of leave.

"It is estimated that between 8,000 and 12,000 officers and men may receive leaves monthly as the result of this policy."

REVISED GI BILL OF RIGHTS, passed by House of Representatives this week, liberalizes loan and education sections of veterans' benefits measure enacted last year. Only minor changes have been made in hospitalization, employment, unemployment compensation, and administrative titles of the original bill.

Major revisions in education and loan titles are:

Education: Extends from two to four years after discharge the time in which a study course may be started; extends from seven to nine years after the war's end the time in which education or training may be given at Government cost; provides for short intensive post-graduate or vocational courses of less than 30 weeks; permits the Government to finance correspondence courses; increases from \$50 to \$60 the monthly educational subsistence allowance of a veteran without dependents, and from \$75 to \$85 the allowance for a veteran with dependents.

Loans: Extends from two to six years after discharge or the end of the war the time in which a veteran may apply for a Government-financed loan; permits a qualified veteran to negotiate with any established leading agency or any agency or individual approved by the veterans administrator for a loan for the purchase of a home, farm or business in any amount; retains the existing limitation of 50 per cent of the principal, or \$2000, whichever is less, on the amount of the loan the Government will guarantee; prohibits the negotiation of loans until 30 days after a veteran's discharge; provides that the loan application need be approved only by the lender, instead of by the Veterans Administration; and provides that the reasonable value of property involved in a loan shall be determined by the lender's appraisal.

Overall purpose of the revisions is to overcome complaints that have grown out of administration of the original law and to facilitate the return to civilian life of discharged veterans.

The legislation still requires Senate approval before it can become law.

REHABILITATION LEAVE TRAVEL will be at government expense from now on. New Navy order provides that enlisted men and women

returning from overseas for further assignment will be ordered to temporary duty at one of 36 Naval activities nearest their place of leave. They will travel at government expense with the privilege of delaying en route for all leave, plus travel time, to which they are entitled. They will draw full pay and rations.

PACIFIC REALIGNMENT has been announced by BuDocks. Rear Admiral C.H. Cotter, CEC, USN, has been made Director, Western Pacific Division, BuDocks, and Rear Admiral J.J. Manning, CEC, USN, has been assigned to duty as Director, Eastern Pacific Division, with headquarters in San Francisco.

Subdivision into two parts of the area formerly under Admiral Cotter's direction was made necessary by the greatly increased area in the Pacific taken over by Allied forces. Under the new plan of operation, Admiral Cotter will spend more time in the forward areas and will be able to intensify supervision of construction activities of Seabees in the forward zones.

BRONZE STARS for area service ribbons have been authorized for personnel serving in the assault and occupation of Iwo Jima (February 15 - March 16) and for Fifth Fleet raids against Honshu and the Nansei Shoto over the same period.

A NEW SOIL-TESTING DETACHMENT is helping speed construction on Okinawa and another similar unit is in the process of formation, it was disclosed this week.

Geographical considerations made formation of the new units imperative, a BuDocks spokesman said. Prospective invasion points no longer will provide the abundance of coral which speeded Seabee construction in the past. Engineers may have to base their calculations on new and possibly treacherous soil conditions. The newly formed detachments will bring well equipped soil laboratories directly to the invasion sites, perhaps within hours of the initial landings. With scientific test equipment at their disposal, engineers will not have to rely on rough judgments of soil quality in making pre-construction estimates. Early and assured knowledge of the character of the soil, the BuDocks representative continued, will be as great a factor in the success of campaigns now being planned as knowledge of terrain.

The two mobile laboratories are mounted in trailers and modeled after those used by the Public Roads Administration. Manned by Seabees and CEC officers, they are believed to be the first such soil testing units employed in military operations. Their cost, including equipment, is about \$6,500 each.

CEC RESERVISTS are moving up closer to the top, most recent survey of Civil Engineer Corps officers reveals. Two CEC commodores are reservists as are almost half of the men holding the rank of captain and more than three of every four in the rank of commander. (The CEC has a total of 110 captains, of whom 61 are USN and 49 USNR; 219 commanders, of whom 40

are USN and 179 USNR.)

Close to 94 per cent of CEC lieutenant commanders are reserve officers; they number 736 of a total of 785. Among the lieutenants, the reservists again are way out in front; they represent 99 per cent of the total of 2901. The 1941 jg and 1380 ensigns all are reservists.

LIVE-SAVING FACILITIES in the Pacific are at their peak in preparation for developments against the enemy, according to Rear Adm. Richard H. Laning, MC, USN.

Boding well for future naval and amphibious operations, said Admiral Laning, inspector of Medical Department Activities, Pacific Ocean Area, are improvements made in air evacuation of casualties, shipment by air of whole blood, deployment of newly added hospital ships, construction of additional fleet and base hospitals in forward areas and gains which have been achieved in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Admiral Laning described the Okinawa operation as "the best yet" with respect to efficiency and speed in the treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Barring unexpected factors of a handicapping nature, he said, conditions should be even more favorable in future assaults because of the vast gains that have been made in medical logistics since Okinawa.

He singled out for particular praise the use of Cub airplanes in isolated island areas for shipment of blood and other vital supplies and for transfer of sick and wounded to hospitals.

NEW YOKE-TYPE LIFE PRESERVER designed for wear with full infantry equipment has been developed by the Navy for the use of troops carried aboard transports.

A soldier can remove his pack without taking off the new preserver. Also, on reaching shore, he can quickly remove the preserver without disturbing the pack or other gear worn.

The new preserver has sufficient buoyancy to support a man fully equipped with helmet, rifle, ammunition and pack; and, when properly adjusted, will support an unconscious man with his face out of water.

STILL WANT TO KNOW WHEN WAR WILL END? The estimates and predictions are as varied as ever, but here's a sample of what prominent Americans were thinking this week:

Vice Admiral Daniel Barbey, commander Seventh Amphibious Force: Japan can be forced to surrender within a year.....a landing in Japan could be achieved without heavy casualties because American forces will be able to pick the spot for invasion and mass overwhelming gun and air power on it.....an invasion force could be readied within 30 to 90 days, depending upon the size of the force....landings may not wait until end of typhoon season; "it will take more than a big wind to stop us."

Commander Harold E. Stassen: Japan pro-

bably will not be defeated without a long, bitter struggle.

Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson: Japan won't quit; the Japanese soldier is "still just as willing to fight it out to the end as he was three years ago when he was winning his victories".....Japs are getting smarter on the battlefield.

Lt. Gen. Barney M. Giles: American land-based air power in the Pacific can hurl 3,000 planes at Japan in a single day but "there is nothing left as an individual target" that is worth even a 1,000-plane raid...the "fury of the B-29 program is about to be doubled;" they will concentrate their "full destructive weight where it will put Japan out of the war-making business as fast as possible.".... "Given time, the air war ought to be the decisive element in bringing Japan to our terms."

90TH BATTALION suffered 18 casualties--five of them dead--as a result of bombing and land mines during a month's work on airstrip facilities and base construction.

One enemy bomb killed an officer and one enlisted man, fatally wounded three other enlisted men and wounded 11 others. A demolition man for a cat operator was wounded when a cat struck a land mine and a dozer operator was wounded in another land mine blast.

Out of the action-filled month came numerous incidents of courage, including that of Elmer Harold Furrer, MMSlc, who braved being thrown against a barge by heavy seas in order to go to the rescue of his mates, who had been thrown into the water.

TACTICS OF THE FEUDAL AGES were adopted by Seabees on Iwo Jima who wanted the protection of a barbed wire fence but objected to the resultant inconvenience.

The 'bees handled this one by building an overhead draw-bridge. They lowered it during the day, making it easy to cross over the barrier; raised it at night, leaving the uninviting wire to discourage enemy infiltration attempts.

William J. Britt, CM1c; Paul Sullivan, CM2c, and George Best, CM1c, fathered the idea.

WELL-MILITARIZED JAP soldiers couldn't conceal their identity despite their clever disguise as native peasants. Lt. John F. Paulten, CEC, Richard P. Harrison, CCM and James W. Michal, CCM, of the 27th Battalion, were beating the weeds for a camp site when two of the "natives" strolled by.

Suspicious because most of the able-bodied natives had been taken away by the Japanese, Lt. Paulten called guards of the Allied Military Government, who told the Japs to march toward a truck. The "natives" started to flee, but halted when shots were fired over their heads. The shots brought a third one out of hiding and all three were ordered to march to a truck. They still, however, pre-

tended they were natives.

Suddenly one of the guards gave a quick command in Japanese --- all three "natives" snapped to rigid attention.

That settled it.

BANZAI ATTACK Japs launched on Iwo Jima one night was so ridiculous some Americans couldn't believe what was happening.

John C. Harmon, Slc, who was on guard duty the night of the assault, admitted he was almost among those taken in. "I spotted a group of men coming down the beach, but they were in marching order. They weren't making the least effort of concealment. I thought for a moment they were our own men. Then I saw the moonlight reflecting on the officers' swords.

"I shouted a warning and all hell broke loose. The Marines hit them from up on the ridge, men from the Army Air Corps hit them from the other flank, and we took care of the ones lucky enough to get by the others."

Dewey L. Yancy, CM3c, got a grandstand view of the brawl. He'd been working on top of a ridge overlooking the bivouac areas when the shooting began and was able to look down on the miniature battle.

"The Marines chopped them up," he said. "Some of the Japs broke and headed down the beach toward the Seabee camp; others dug in where they were and fought it out. By morning, we had them all pocketed and caught between a cross-fire from Army, Marine and Seabee positions. It wasn't long before the entire party was wiped out."

William A. Brown, MM2c, heard the firing but didn't have long to wait to find out," he said. "As I stepped out of my foxhole, a bullet landed in front of me, kicking sand over my feet."

"There's nothing wrong with my reactions. I made a beautiful swan dive right back into that foxhole."

Another Seabee, Holly D. Ransdall, Ptr3c, had the same idea. "My eyes were half shut with sleep when I poked my head out of my foxhole," he recalled, "but when I saw tracer bullets heading in my direction, I was suddenly wide awake. I pulled in my ears, grabbed my carbine and spread out in my hole. I decided to let the Japs come to me if they felt like it."

While Ransdall was sweating out the enemy attack, Ben T. Hinton, MM2c, was having an easier time. "I heard the racket," Hinton explained, "but I thought it was our own guards getting in a little shooting practice. I just turned over in my foxhole and went back to sleep until the next morning. When I got up to fix some breakfast when the sun came up, I noticed a lot of our men grouped around the supply dump. There were enough dead Japs lying around to have wiped out half our battalion. I didn't enjoy my breakfast very much."

JAP HUNTING is getting so scanty the 7th Battalion's volunteer patrols are going to have to start reading comic books and attending movies for recreation.

Once so popular that Thomas J. O'Fahl, CCM, had to ask the boys to stand in line and wait their turn on patrols, Jap-hunting now is slim picking. O'Fahl, veteran of 14 years Navy service, attributes the de-population to enthusiasm of the 7th.

Business boomed after a squad of Jap suicide boats penetrated the harbor near the battalion camp. Most of them were destroyed, but military authorities believe at least one boat put its personnel ashore.

That was when O'Fahl's line started forming--and after work hours at that. Volunteers swamped him--and the Japs paid and paid until there weren't enough left to pay much more.

"But maybe things will get better," the volunteers say as they join the O'Fahl line.

FAST DINING SERVICE was provided by the 7th Battalion's galley crew in a recent operation. Four hours after landing on their Island "X", the cooks had a makeshift headquarters set up and their mates were getting hot coffee and rations.

SERVICE BASES

ROLL UP OF BASES is under way in the Pacific wherever they are no longer necessary to area support. In very few instances, however is there a complete evacuation, BuDocks' Seabee Operations discloses.

Bases relegated to rear areas by the rapid advances in war are being maintained by BMUs as small as one officer and 25 men, but key bases are maintained in all areas.

Eventual roll-up is anticipated even before a landing operation is launched and advance base components are made so that they are 90 per cent salvageable.

In the roll-up process, all equipment is re-assembled for a pending move, then held for order. The Navy has top priority, either for new bases or for improving existing ones. Second priority goes to Marines, the Army is third and allied nations' requests are fourth.

Following a new plan, CBMU 515 went in with occupying forces to aid in early construction at a Pacific base, then take over maintenance as the base took shape. It was a new idea and it worked.

Previously, maintenance units seldom moved in until the full construction battalion was preparing to move out. The new plan however, has proved so successful that it will be followed henceforth.

FIFTY-ONE MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF DIRT were moved in a single year by Seabees and Army Engineers on Saipan. During that time, estimates CCM R.P. Day, writing from the great base, the construction men accomplished twenty

times as much as the Japanese did in the two decades they held the 72-mile-square island.

Some of the tangible evidences of a year of American occupation include a vast network of airfields, 230 miles of hard-surfaced roads, water-producing facilities which have jumped daily production from 300,000 to over 1,000,000 gallons a day, and enough cable laid on the island to reach from New York to San Francisco 335 times.

In addition to top-priority military projects, Saipan construction also included such "supplementary" jobs as the building of 65 chapels, 78 basketball courts, 81 theaters, 5 recreational centers, and a well-lighted night baseball field.

FURTHER INFORMATION on the operation in which a floating dry dock was moved through the Panama Canal ("Stand It On Its Ear," SNS, 6 July) reveals that the officer-in-charge of the maintenance unit involved was and is Lieut. William E. Johnson, CEC, USNR. Others who made substantial contributions to the success of the effort and who were not mentioned in the original brief summary are Lieut. Kenneth C. Griffith, CEC, USNR, and CCM Eugene H. Bender.

ASPHALT PLANT DUST COLLECTOR, first ever to appear on a western Pacific island, was devised by Seabees, working under the direction of Chief Carp. George E. Hull, using scrap metal, empty oil drums and an industrial engine taken from a rock crusher.

So efficient is the collector that 80 per cent of the fine particles, ordinarily blown out of the dryer oven stacks, are now redovered and used in the asphaltic concrete mix to increase density.

BUSY MONTH in any man's outfit was one turned in by a BCDD (base construction depot detachment) in the southwest Pacific. Here it is in brief:

Salvaged 16 tons of metal.

Reconditioned, crated or boxed and returned to stock 33 tons of assorted bolts and nuts; 31 tons of pipe fittings, 136 tons quonset hut materials, 80 tons cooling units and 64 tons of valves.

NEW JEEP MUFFLER, a departure from the widely-improvised shell-case type, has been tested and approved by the 49th Battalion. The shell case improvisation was discarded because the brass was too thick and the radiation of heat so slow that it could not be used alongside a fuel pump. Using a thinner stock --1/16" scrap black iron--Cecil Menshouse, sr., SFlc, built one that created no back pressure in tests up to 40 mph in second gear and eliminated 40 pounds of weight per jeep by doing away with flexible tubing, hangers. Parts used by Menshouse are: One inlet end, one outlet end or tail pipe, two end plates, two outside box pieces and four baffle plates.

DOZERSHOVEL CONCRETE is the 5th Brigade's answer to elimination of large pieces of equipment for small concrete jobs. A tractor-mounted front end loader fills the bill more rapidly and economically than any other machine yet tried. The mixer is an aged half-yard machine, but will pour a warehouse floor in five hours. Materials handling machine is a hydraulically controlled dozershoovel mounted on an International tractor.

"BEST SMALL DANCE BAND in the United Kingdom" was title won by dance crew of 30th Special, now in the British Isles. Band was publicized in a story in the Army's "Stars & Stripes."

AMERICA'S 100,000-SHIP Navy now includes nearly 1,500 combatant ships, of which 1322 have been built during the past five years.

Before the outbreak of war in December, 1941, the United States Navy had a combatant strength of 383 ships totaling 1,313,390 tons. As of July 1, 1945, America's 15-million-ton Navy included 4,433,418 tons of combatant ships.

During the past five years the Navy has built 10 battleships, 199 aircraft carriers, 45 cruisers, 370 destroyers, 548 destroyer escorts, and 210 submarines. The aircraft carriers included 18 27,000-ton ships, 9 10,000-tonners, and 112 escort carriers, 38 of which have been operating under the British flag.

Scheduled for completion during the next two years are 223 combatant ships. Except for heavier units, most of these will join the fleet before the end of 1946

They included two battleships, three 45,000 ton aircraft carriers, nine 27,100-ton aircraft carriers, two 24,500-ton carriers, 26 escort carriers, one large cruiser, 22 heavy cruisers, 19 light cruisers 87 destroyers, 16 destroyer escorts (11 converted to high speed transports), and 36 submarines.

The fleet now includes 23 battleships, 67 cruisers, about 100 aircraft carriers, 386 destroyers 368 destroyer escorts, and 240 submarines.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Navy had 7695 ships on hand; 12,001 when the Solomon Islands were invaded in August, 1942; 29,662 in November, 1943 at the time of the North Africa and Tarawa invasions; more than 51,000 for the Normandy and Guam invasions in June, 1944; 73,862 in January, 1945, when Luzon was invaded; 80,522 at the time of the Iwo Jima operation in February, and more than 100,000 when the Okinawa battle opened in April.

CONCRETE SHIPS, called the "crockery fleet" and "Green Dragons," are filling an important role as supply depots in the western Pacific. Scoffed at by sea-going men when first introduced during the first World War,

the concrete vessels are not as efficient as wood or steel craft, but nevertheless are proving their worth as storage vessels. They were built to conserve steel.

A KAMIKAZER AND 5 HITS from coastal batteries failed to halt the old, but rampaging USS Nevada off Okinawa, the Navy has revealed in a fight-filled sketch of this veteran of two wars. The Nevada was the only capital ship to get under way out of the Pearl Harbor bombing, was reconitioned at Bremerton in time to make the sweep through the Aleutians. She pounded the Normandy coast and then went to Toulon and Marseilles, did convoy duty, was reconitioned in New York and headed for Iwo Jima.

The Okinawa action, first a hit by a Kamikaze and days later five hits by coastal batteries, cost 78 casualties, most of them wounded. She was back in action in 24 hours.

SEABEE OF THE WEEK

RALPH A. TUCKER, SPlc of the 125th Battalion.

Tucker, at the dock when a Jap suicide plane crashed into an LST which 125th Battalion men were unloading, helped rescue three men from the water, went aboard and helped others off the stricken ship, aided the fire-fighting crew to get aboard and then acted as second loader on anti-aircraft guns. During a fire which broke out later, he was the only person other than the regular fire fighting crew, to stay aboard and help battle the flames.

WHAT THEY SAY

THEY'D NEVER RECOGNIZE IT! says "Time" magazine of the probable reactions of D-Day veterans to

what Iwo Jima looks like today.

"Eight thousand Seabees under Commodore Robert Johnson," the magazine continues, "have built some of the world's longest runways, moved four million cubic yards of earth and even sliced the top off Mt. Suribachi. A Japanese major who recently came out of a cave blinked around and paid the Seabees the ultimate tribute. Said he: 'Impossible!'"

TYPHOONS no longer rate as a Japanese weapon, says Richard Tompkins, writing for the Associated Press. "The twisting storms which twice turned back invasions of Japan in the 13th century have struck at the United States Navy twice in six months and didn't even interrupt an attack," Tompkins writes.

"Last December 18th, during the Mindoro landing operations, three destroyers were lost and an undisclosed number of other ships were damaged in a typhoon east of the Philippines. More than 500 officers and men were reported missing or dead.

"On June 5, another typhoon damaged 21

ships of Admiral Halsey's 3rd Fleet. While some units were forced to turn back, others proceeded to Japan, where on June 8 their carrier planes hit Kanoya airfield on Kyushu."

Tompkins defines a typhoon as "an extremely violent circular storm, 50 to 100 miles in diameter." The season they are most common is from June to October. They are particularly violent and frequent in September, the month of the autumnal equinox.

The 13th century invasions to which he refers took place in 1274 when some 900 ships which had been sent against Japan by Kublai Khan, Emperor of the Mongols, were turned back or sunk by turbulent winds and seas, and in 1281 when the Mongol Emperor ordered another and larger attempt. The hopelessly outnumbered Japanese fought a fierce battle with the Mongols on the shore near Hakata, delaying the landings until a great typhoon swept away two-thirds of the invading armada.

PONTOON CELL WHARVES built by Seabees on Emirau Island are described in an article by N. A. Bowers, Pacific Coast Editor, in the current Engineering News Record. The article uses two pages, two photos and a diagram. "It is believed that this idea," Bowers says, "developed here in an emergency, may be useful at other locations and quite possibly for larger craft."

NO ARMISTICE, NO TROOPS, was ultimatum laid down by Gen. Yasuji Okamura, Supreme Commander of Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China. The Tokyo radio quoted him as saying there would be no transfer of Japanese troops from China to help defend the home islands against invasion because such a transfer would necessitate an armistice with the United States and China. The armistice would be necessary, he said, to prevent the U.S. Fourteenth Air Force from raising havoc with the withdrawal.

Okamura's statement was made in an interview at Nanking, Tokyo radio said. It was speculated that he may have been under pressure from home to send his troops back.

"WELL DONE"

GOLD STAR in lieu of a second Legion of Merit has been awarded to Commodore Paul J. Halloran, CEC, USN. The award, made by Vice Adm. J.H. Hoover, USN, was "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as OinC of a Naval Construction Brigade on Tinian..."

SILVER STAR award has been made to Carp. Clyde Higel, CEC, who led an underwater demolition unit ashore during a Pacific operation. The presentation, citing his "bravery and courageous devotion to duty," was made by Rear Adm. J. T. Mathews in Houston, Texas, where Carp. Higel is now stationed.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDALS have been awarded to John M. Allan, S1c, and Anthony J. Sabadoso, S1c, both of CBMU 1034 (Special), for rescuing a drowning serviceman during landing operations.

Accompanying the medals were temporary citations signed by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

BOMBS AGAINST JAPAN were expedited by the 16th Special, said Brig. General Thomas S. Power, USA, CO of a bombardment wing.

"The willing and determined efforts exhibited by your organization in unloading incendiary bombs," he wrote, "were definitely instrumental in sustaining the bombing operation schedule directed against the Japanese Empire. Appreciation, on behalf of the --- Bombardment Wing, is extended to your battalion for contributing such valuable assistance."

SALVAGE OPERATIONS which recovered two sunken Japanese vessels have brought commendations to eight divers of the 301st Battalion. The commendation came from the Commander of Service Squadron Twelve.

"FAR IN THE LEAD," is the way the chief mate of a transport rated the Fifth Special.

"I have been in a position to judge and compare the different port battalions that have worked our ships," he said. "The initiative, skill and cooperation that your officers and men have exhibited while discharging and loading our vessel has placed them far in the lead of all such battalions I have encountered."

CBMU 532 won an Army Air Corps commendation this month for "the outstanding manner in which you have performed your mission with this command."

The commendation continued: "The cooperative spirit, desire to do a job well, and the profundity of your various specialties have been a great source of advancement to the activities and functions of this command. The long hours of toil which you have individually spent are a credit to your organization and a commendable tradition to your service."

77TH BATTALION'S "excellent performance" on a Pacific base roll-up brought a well-done commendation from the Commander Service Force Seventh Fleet and from the commanding officer of a Naval Base. The commendation directed that appropriate entry be made in the service record of each man and in the fitness report of each officer.

25TH SPECIAL has received another commendation, this one for "stevedoring...of the highest calibre and stowage aboard ship...carried out in a smooth seamanlike manner." The commendation was signed by the master of a transport.

FOR THE BOOK RAKE-WELDING SEABEE, 42 years old and just marking time while awaiting transportation home and honorable discharge, looked dangerous enough to two Japanese soldiers in the Philippines to encourage them to surrender on the spot.

John A. Taske, Y1c, wasn't doing anything

more warlike than repairing a small charcoal stove when he heard a noise coming from a group of nearby bushes. He picked up his rake and advanced to investigate. That was enough for the two Japs concealed in the foliage. They emerged, hands high.

MOTHER-IN-LAW'S PICTURE was the pin-up most desired by one Seabee at a Pacific base. He asked for not one picture but several. The flattered lady sent him half a dozen. She never did discover he was using them for a dart game.

A JAPANESE MASCOT on Iwo Jima proved smarter than his masters, deserting their cave hide-out when it was obvious the Marines would exterminate them. As a result, reports Edgar D. Renninger, 3lc, his Seabee battalion has a new pet.

Holed up in their cave and raked by gun fire, the Japs apparently had decided on a last desperate "banzai" attack. As soon as they began to whoop it up, the dog, sensing disaster, dashed free. Quickly putting a hundred yards between himself and his former masters, he kept running until he reached a Seabee camp. There he stopped. That was when Renninger adopted him.

A "LOST DOG BUREAU" was one of the regular features on a 50-watt radio station operated in the Aleutians by Seabee Edward J. Wolfe, EM3c.

Wolfe, a former CBS radio engineer, would broadcast descriptions of dogs lost by service men in the area.

"One case in particular," he said, "involved a pup called 'Spare Parts.' It seemed the whole island took a personal interest in this hunt. Seabees, Marines and soldiers all went out 'en masse' operating snow plows, bulldozers and any other form of transportation on which they could lay their hands. After a thorough search, 'Spare Parts' was finally located -- sleeping blissfully in a quonset hut not more than 100 yards away."

The service had its complications as all stray dogs picked up were delivered to the station. Many times Wolfe and his mates would find themselves operating knee-deep in yelping hounds.

"One day our 'Lost Dog Service' operated in reverse," the Seabee reminisced. "A collie adopted us. As no personal pets were allowed in the station, we tried to get rid of him -- but he stuck like glue. Finally we took him to the bay, miles distant, and left him there. When we returned in our jeep who should greet us at the door but the collie -- happily waving his tail."

SALVAGE CREW detailed to forage for anything that could do the Battalion any good, "logged in" the following:

A truck, a complete telephone switchboard, anti-aircraft ammunition, a two-man submarine and five live Jap soldiers.

"The truck," said R. K. Williams, CW2, "was a real find. So was the switchboard. The truck was converted into a bus, the switchboard is transmitting American orders, the Army got the ammunition and the Japs went into the prison compound."

"We haven't figured out a use for the submarine," Williams said. "But we're not stumped. It probably will wind up as an egg-beater in the galley or a washing machine."

SLOW TRAIN must have carried a certain letter addressed to Melvin Smith, Jr., SF3c. Smith, now at Camp Parks pending reassignment, reports that the letter took just 23 months and two days to reach him.

RETENTION OF HIROHITO is favored by most Jap prisoners of war, according to press reports, but they're

"FYI"

convinced that Nippon has lost the war. One captured officer said "the Japanese people must be blamed for the war and for absorbing the dogma that the Emperor is divine and descended from the sun." He was one who said the Emperor "must go," but most of them feel he should be retained as a figurehead ruler after the British system.

1,000 JOBS FOR AMPUTEES have been promised by Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, president of Eastern Air Lines. Rickenbacker says he's convinced the veterans have the ambition and courage to make them real assets to his organization, told them that every job is open -- except one. The exception, he said, is the pilot's job in the cockpit.

"Among the jobs that are open to you," he said, "is the 'hot seat' I'm setting in because it doesn't require two feet, hands or legs. All it takes is something from the chin up and from the heart and you've all got that or you wouldn't be here."

CAN'T BE FOOLED INTO FIGHTING BACK, Japs say. Their propaganda broadcasts assert that recent American carrier plane and shore bombardment attacks against the home islands were a complete failure because they failed to lure the Japanese Navy and air force into action. The Japanese did not attack because of "strategic" reasons.

"Admiral Nimitz' strategy to lure the Japanese air force out of a show-down battle with the United States 3rd Fleet ended in a complete fiasco because it merely showed the Japanese nation how poor was the marksmanship of American carrier-borne fliers," an enemy propagandist asserted. He added that some day Admiral Nimitz "will be surprised by the strategy worked out by our staff officers."

"CHOICE OF WEAPONS" is latest Jap propaganda theme. Nip broadcasters called this week's Anglo-American fleet and air mauling of the Tokyo area "insane" and "apasmotic" and said it was just a trick to revive a lagging American war effort.

B-29s could be doing the job just as well, a Japanese commentator averred.

MORE GERMANS DEMANDED BY FRANCE for forced labor. Allies have been asked for 1,300,000 more German prisoners of war to work in French mines and other industries.

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME... that in WASHINGTON, D.C., Sgt. Harry Bell, who pulled No. 156 out of the fish bowl to become the District's first draftee four years and nine months ago, is back home with a point discharge. He wore seven battle stars, the Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters... that in ATHOL, MASS., Mrs. Victoria Harchay died at the age of 85, leaving 91 descendants... that in CHEYENNE, WYO., a policeman complained that a woman he was trying to arrest for drunkenness kicked him in the neck... that in TELL CITY, IND., Herman L. Wolf collects homeless cats and sends them to a biological supply house in Chicago because he'd rather see them dead aiding humanity than alive, unwanted and unhappy.

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS... that in DES MOINES, IA., a motorist accused of speeding explained he was forced to race and retard the speed of his car because practical jokers had poured molasses into the gasoline tank. The judge admitted it was a novel alibi but still fined him \$25... that in NEW YORK CITY, the newspaper deliverymen's 17 day strike was over and the Daily Mirror carried a two-column resume of "what has happened to your favorite comics" ... that in GILLETTE, WYO., a lamb was born with eight legs and two tails, but died... that in MC KEESPORT, PA., S/Sgt. Peter Antonella was home after 35 missions over Germany and was injured when he ran into a post trying to catch a fly ball.

AND IT'S STILL MORE NEWS... that in BOSTON, MASS., Kjartan Peturson, a visiting fireman from Iceland, disclosed Icelandic firemen get \$74 a week, but pointed out that prices are up--an egg costs 25 cents... that in the same city, Walter Butler of Roxbury, who had fun for six months turning in false alarms, was given 28 months in jail to think it over--one month for every false alarm... that in SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Radio Tokyo was heard to announce cheerfully that civilians need not worry about American air raids because all war plants had been dispersed and hidden.

SHOP TALK

ENLISTED NEWS' PRESS ASSOCIATION, intended to "spread the news of common interest to all," has been formed by news writers for Navy papers in 12th Naval District. President of group is Bob Utecht, CM3c, editor of Camp Parks Log.

"SEABEE" bi-weekly magazine published in the Pacific, is now under the administrative control of DirWestPacDocks... plans to expand news coverage and circulation, continue under guidance of present staff.

HOW MANY COPIES GO STATESIDE? 111th Battalion, in the Philippines, figures the mates mail 476 personal copies of battalion paper, "Hear Now," home each week. Number doesn't include copies inserted in envelopes or those sent over official mailing lists.

THE BULLPEN

BOBBY FELLER is still the "Rapid Robert" who was fogging his fast ball past American League sluggers before the war, take it from a guy who should know. The guy is Walker Cooper, former Cardinal catcher and now backstop for the Great Lakes nine, who told reporters that Feller has "the same stuff, the same speed."

A chief athletic specialist, Bobby is pitcher-manager of the Navy nine which has a record of 17 wins against only 4 defeats. In 10 games he has whiffed 100 batters even though he seldom pitches a complete contest.

Cooper also reports that big leaguers who have faced the Navy nine this season figure Bobby could win 30 games or more if he was tossing 'em in for the Cleveland Indians.

As for Bobby, he says he's going back into baseball no matter when the war ends. "After all," he declares, "it's my profession."

MUCH DISCUSSED topic of track and field experts for 10 these many years, the four-minute mile drew nearer reality as a result of Gunder Hagg's record-breaking 4:01.4 mile at Malmo, Sweden, while out-running his countryman rival, Arne Andersson.

Andersson, who holds the accepted record of 4:02.6 (and an unrecognized 4:01.6), also bettered the old standard as he was timed in 4:02.2.

The last American to hold the record was barrel-chested Glenn Cunningham of Kansas, who ran the distance in 4:06.8 in 1934.

HOWLING MARINE of Griffith Stadium, alias the Forbes Field Screech Owl, Marine Sgt. Bruce S. McAllister, turned up on an island in the Pacific much to the discomfort of a Seabee team.

Thousands of miles from the haunts where he bellowed major league pitchers to the showers and himself to fame via the sports columns, the Voice's thunderous tones halted a game between the Third Marine Division's All-Stars and a Seabee nine, reported Sgt. Red O'Donnell, a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent.

"And he was just in time," O'Donnell said. "The Marines were behind."

"When the umpire returned to his job, when the fans wiggled their ears so they could hear clearly again, and when the Seabee pitcher resumed his delayed windup, the game was as good as lost," he continued.

"The Seabee hurler walked three men in a row. That was all the Marines needed. They won by a run."

BABE HERMAN returned to the big leagues and proved he was the same old Babe--his hitting was very good and his base-running very bad. In his first pinch-hitting role for the Dodgers, Babe cracked a clean single to right field, over-ran first base, fell down and nearly was caught off the bag. Durocher promptly sent in a pinch runner.