

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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IN BRIEF Search party evades ambush (p.2)...."Hot foot" routs caverful of Japs (p.2)....Emergency repairs save destroyer (p.2)...."Specials" use miniature training ship (p.5)....Downs "suicide" raider (p.5)..New Navy Unit Citation to 122 CBMU 515'ers (p.6).

WASHINGTON REPORTS

LANDING on Formosa, China Coast, or main Jap islands -- or wherever it will be -- will be bigger than anything previous, including Normandy.

For Normandy, supplies had to be transported 3,000 miles for stockpiling, then only few miles to beaches. In Pacific, supplies travel 5,000 miles to stockpile area--Saipan or Philippines--and then must go another 1,000 to 1,500 miles to prospective beach.

FIRE POWER "such as the world never before has known" to beat the Japanese into final submission is promised by the Navy's ordnance chief.

Rear Admiral George F. Hussey, Jr., declares that a peak monthly production of \$240,000,000 worth of "ammunition to hurl at the Japs" will be achieved this year. A third of the sum will go for rockets, a third for gun ammunition, and the remaining third for torpedoes, depth charges, mines and pyrotechnics.

NAVY'S V-12 TRAINING idea will be retained after the war as NROTC. Rear Admiral Edward L. Marshall, CEC, USN, declared in an address at Tufts College commencement exercises. He said the present college V-12 program will be absorbed by and become a part of the Naval ROTC thereby meeting the continuing wartime and post-war needs of the Navy.

INFLATED LAND PRICES are preventing one of every three veterans from acquiring farms with loans, I.W. Duggan, governor of the Farm Credit Administration has disclosed. He said FCA loans were based on the land's earning power over a period of years, rather than on current market values. Most of the men whose applications were rejected did not have enough money to pay the difference between the normal valuation of the farms and the present inflated price.

VASTNESS OF INVASION OPERATIONS IN PACIFIC

CEC OFFICERS SCHOOL, with an increased staff and courses formerly offered at NOB, Norfolk, is now in operation at NCTC, Camp Endicott. Officer-in-Charge of the school is Capt. Robert E. Bassler.

Courses of instruction include midshipman training for V-12 and V-7 officer candidates; indoctrination for officers newly-commissioned from civilian life or from enlisted status; refresher indoctrination for officers returning from overseas or officers without previous indoctrination; construction battalion training for all officers assigned to that duty. A staff course, utilities and transportation course also are given.

Officer training functions which have been in operation at Camp Endicott since May of 1944, were established by BuPers last month as the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School. Senior CEC officers visiting at Endicott will be invited to visit and lecture to the various classes. In addition, textual matter will be published for distribution among officers throughout the service.

Among officers who have joined the staff in administrative and teaching assignments are Lt. Comdr. Robert Esterly, CEC, USNR; Lt. (jg) Kathleen Lux, first WAVE CEC officer, Ens. Evelyn Day, assistant to Captain Bassler; Comdr. H. W. Ristein, CEC, USNR; Lt. Comdr. M. E. Jansson, CEC, USNR; Lt. (jg) J. K. Pownall, Lt. (jg) C. A. Wacker and Lt. E. A. Lakos.

U.S. TENTH FLEET, which never had a ship of its own but which helped the British and Canadians break the U-boat menace in the Atlantic, has been dissolved. From 1943, the Tenth directed the Navy's fight against undersea craft in the Atlantic from Iceland to Cape Horn, using surface and air forces of the Atlantic fleet and sea frontier forces to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines. By November, 1943, 150 U-boats had been sunk in the previous six months. By April 1944, German subs were sinking less than one-half of one

per cent of convoyed ships and losing more than one submarine for every Allied ship sunk.

TAX COLLECTOR won't trouble servicemen who stop off in this country enroute to the Pacific from Europe. A commissioner of the Internal Revenue Department has ruled that the postponement granted overseas servicemen will continue until they have been back in the country for a continuous period of 5½ months, not counting the month of return.

ISOLATED JAPS total 525,000 in the Central and Southwest Pacific, and 200,000 others are being squeezed by the Allies in Southeast Asia, Secretary of War Stimson has announced. The by-passed Japs are on islands around which Fleet Admiral Nimitz drove up the Pacific toward Okinawa and in the Netherlands East Indies, cut off from Japan by Gen. MacArthur.

COMBAT ZONES

been told by Spencer Davis, Associated Press correspondent, writing from Subic Bay. "Seabees have a way of combining combat with remarkable construction exploits," Davis said. "So the work of the 102nd Naval Construction Battalion at Subic Bay is more typical than exceptional."

The battalion was asked to organize a search party for six airmen, missing after the crash of a C-45 transport near Olongapo. One group, led by Lt. Olin Edigar set out with a Negrito guide who misunderstood instructions and led them into the heart of the combat area, which then centered around Purple Heart Ridge through Zigzag Pass.

The guide shouted "Japs" and fled. Then Lt. Edigar spotted them, clad in greenish khaki. "I called out and said we were Americans," the lieutenant said. "They answered and they weren't Filipinos, so we opened fire."

The return fire killed one Seabee, wounded two others. Lt. Edigar sent three men back to the other groups for more ammunition and litters to help his wounded out. One of them was killed.

Another group heard the shots and made their way toward Lt. Edigar's party. As they crossed a rocky stream, Japanese threw hand grenades, killing three more. Before the fight was over, Lt. (jg) A.J. Ponzo had killed a Jap captain.

Surviving one ambush after another, the three Seabee groups retired toward camp, five men dead and four wounded. Three members of the missing aircraft had been found earlier, the pilot and co-pilot were found in good condition near their plane, and the sixth member of the crew for whom the Seabees had been looking had failed to bail out when the ship crashed.

MAN OF ACTION is Ira A. Williams, B.Mc., of Denver, Colo. Since arriving in the Philippines, Ira, in a night rescue saved two PT men from drowning; later drove an ammunition-and-high-explosive-laden truck through a "no-man's land" to reach Filipino guerillas. Now he is accompanying an Army patrol in front of the lines to hunt for and neutralize booby traps and land mines left by the Japs.

A SEABEE "HOT FOOT" was enough to make a lot of Japs on Mindoro let loose with the Nipponese equivalent of "Uncle!"

The enemy soldiers had resorted to the by now familiar Jap technique of holing themselves in rock caves. From their barricades, they fought the Army to at least a temporary standstill. The doughfoots would toss in hand grenades -- the Nips would toss them back. They had good cover and bullets wouldn't reach them. Nothing was handy in the way of heavy weapons.

Things were at an impasse, said Seabee Norbert P. Van Gompel of Little Chute, Wis., until he and his mates introduced their "hot foot" technique. They hi-tailed it back to the Japs' supply dump and got some of the Nips' own gasoline. Then they scrambled about until they were above the dugout entrances. From their vantage points they poured in the gas, leaving a little trail from each entrance to serve as a fuse.

Fellow hot-foot'ers along with Van Gompel on the Philippines hunting party were Charles L. Crim of Jackson, Mich., Lewis J. Amstutz of Ann Arbor, Mich., Lewis M. Dunca of Gloucester, Va., and Edward P. Borkowski of South Boston, Mass.

SERVICE BASES

AN EMERGENCY SHIP-YARD they set up in the Philippines enabled four Seabees to repair an American destroyer which had been forced to beach with a gaping hole nine by eighteen feet just above the water line, the result of combat action.

"It was the worst job we ever tackled," declared Chief Harlan E. Plaum of Bussey, Iowa, who bossed the job. "You could have driven a couple of trucks through that tear. We honestly didn't think we could float her again."

"First", continued the Chief, "we had to remove the bodies floating in the engine room. That was the heartbreaking job. Then we set about patching the hole."

"We put in timber bulkheads and shored them up with steel, concrete, everything we could lay our hands on. It wasn't the sort of job a stateside shipyard would turn out, but it was watertight enough, and the ship floated nicely enough to be towed away. She should be repaired and back in action again by now."

Men who worked with Plaum on the emergency patch-up were Albert W. Insley of Bellefontaine, O.; Charles W. Lianides, of New Brunswick, N.J., and Raymond Brightman of Hartford, Conn.

BRITISH GENERATORS, going to the Pacific on reverse lend-lease, are giving the 42nd Battalion's electricians a re-designing problem. Designed to operate on 50-cycles instead of the usual 60-cycle current, the motors have been successfully re-wound and re-designed. Three of the converted generators are in use now.

The electric shop, under supervision of Lt. C.H. Carstens, CEC, keeps busy using three electricians: Richard W. Atkinson, EM1c, Lawrence A. Carithers, EM2c, and Roland D. Lafley, S1c. Atkinson has produced a resistance lamp bank, used for resistance and load tests of all kinds and for smoke tests on AC stators. He also uses it in place of the blow torch method usually employed on coils that have to be stripped, insuring warping of the iron of the armature or stator.

NAVY CHOW WITH A FRENCH ACCENT is dished up for mates of CBMU 628. One of unit's cooks is Robert LeBreton, SC2c, former chef at the Waldorf-Astoria, Hotel Barclay and Palmer House. Most recent issue of 628's newspaper described LeBreton's culinary achievements as "A gastronomic treat, with epicurean delights to please even the most critical gourmet." They must like it.

FASHIONED FROM EXPLODED GUN CASINGS and native wood, an altar built by Seabees in the South Pacific has been presented to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic University, Washington, D. C.

Upon its arrival in Washington, the altar will be assembled by Douglas H. Smith, S1c, through whom the gift was offered in a letter to the Archbishop of Baltimore and Washington.

The Rev. John J. Reilly, Shrine director, announced that "the first mass at the altar, when erected, will be read by me in memory of the gallant Seabees who have made such an outstanding contribution toward winning the war."

HIZZONER, THE MAYOR of Carrollton, Mo., now answers muster with the 111th Battalion when the chief says "Robert S. Morrison, S1c." In fact, Carrollton has had a tough time keeping its mayors. Morrison, then a councilman-at-large, was appointed mayor when the elected one left to join the service.

CAKE OF ASTRONOMICAL PROPORTIONS was produced by CPO Chet Boyer to celebrate the 75th's second anniversary.

Boyer's masterpiece weighed 897 lbs., included these ingredients: 410 lbs. of sugar, 122 lbs. of shortening, 210 lbs. of flour, 14 lbs. of baking powder, 4 lbs. of salt, 33 lbs. of eggs, 4 lbs. of vanilla extract, and (liquid) 100 lbs. of milk.

SHORTAGE OF JAPS in the quiescent Marianas has produced a natural dearth of enemy battle flags--high prizes among souvenir collectors. But Samuel J. Kieth, CM1c, had the answer. He began making his own.

Making no effort to pass them off as originals, Kieth had taken squares of cloth, preferably Jap parachute material, imposed the rising sun and a few Japanese characters and put them on the market. The characters are meaningless as far as Kieth knows. Kindly disregard it if the writing on yours gives directions to the nearest rice paddy.

CAPABLE OF CUTTING up to 20 gauge sheet metal are power shears improvised by 42nd Battalion's Raymond H. Kessler, CM1c. The cutters were made from bulldozer blade which was cut in half. The halves were sharpened and placed so they operate like the two blades of a gigantic hand shears. For the two pistons and guides on each side, Kessler used the shock absorbers from a dismantled plane, and springs were procured from the same source. The frame work is constructed of angle iron, half-inch steel plate and channel iron. Pressure applied to foot pedal provides necessary power to cut metal.

JAP SUGAR MILLS, which have supplied Pacific battalions with about everything but sugar, produced a 26-inch swing lathe for a battalion in the Marianas. At least the basic parts came from the war-wrecked mill. Assembled, it supplements the usual 12½-inch lathe which is a part of the mobile machine-shop trailer equipment in standard lists.

FAMILY AFFAIR is the word for the way the Clarks of Clearfield, Pa., and the Lucases of Houston, Tex., fight this war. The Clarks--father and son--are Earl Foster Clark, CM1c, and son Earl James, S1c, who were in rhino operations at Normandy together and are now in the Philippines with the same battalion.

The Lucas brothers, Joe C., SF3c and Arthur Leo, SF2c, were in the same battalion with the Clarks at Normandy and are seeing it through in the Philippines.

JUST AN OLD CRATE would do, said George L. Riggs, SF1c, the 117th Battalion's photographer, as he started scrounging for a photographic dark room in a place where you can't trade a string of beads for photographic dark rooms.

Riggs begged a refrigerator crate, wired it for electricity, cut in air intakes and exhaust, light-proofed it, installed a trap-door entrance and went to work.

He was processing film within 24 hours after the battalion landed.

FROM THE HOLD

MODEL SHIP has been built by the 34th Special as a training aid. Only materials used were scrap or salvage metal parts.

Ship is a model (scale, 1" to 1') of the #2 hatch of a Liberty ship (C-2 or C-3). Rigging consists of one scale model jumbo boom (50 ton) and four scale model five-ton cargo booms. A ten-ton (scale) swinging boom is mounted to acquaint trainees with this type of rig.

All parts are movable. Winches are driven by hand-powered turnstile, and actual working conditions can be reproduced in accurate detail.

Model also is equipped with an elaborate assortment of rigging gear. Miniature pallets, bridles, straps, and slings enable the instructor to reproduce every known type of cargo rig.

"**BEST STEVEDORING** in 16 years" was the way ship master described the work of the 23rd Special's ammunition unloading during a Pacific landing operation. The cargo ship skipper wrote a letter in praise of the work, saying it was the "best piece of stevedoring" he had seen in 16 years of freighting.

That "best stevedoring" was done under fire--and the crew were talking about trading life belts for parachutes in case an enemy shell should land on the heavily-loaded ammunition ships.

"**INCUBATOR LOAVES**" produced by two bakers of the 23rd Special might not have been the best bread their mates ever saw, but said one of the kitchen mechanics, "no one complained."

George W. Merb, Bkrlc and George E. Black, SClc, not only wanted hot bread, but wanted everyone else to have some. Without proper equipment to keep the dough warm enough to rise properly, they invented the incubator--the dough was placed in pans, then put into ammunition boxes which had been rigged with an electric light. The whole ammo box was wrapped in a blanket.

The dough responded.

DANCE BAND of the 30th Special, Section One, is in the groove, judging by requests for its services. Last month the boys were guest artists on the Allied Expeditionary Forces Program, appeared as special guests on a nation-wide hook-up, made recordings for "Navy Bandstand," and, in addition, played an average of five dances a week.

"FYI"

SEABEES WHO HAVE CROSSED THE EQUATOR are entitled to Neptune Certificates whether or not they have undergone the traditional initiation ceremonies which transforms "Polly-wogs" into "Shellbacks". Because it is often impractical to hold ceremonies during war, certificates are awarded simply upon satisfactory evidence

that a man crossed the line on a ship, in a submarine or in a plane. Certificates can be obtained from the CO of the ship or plane on which they crossed. COs may get blank certificates in quantities from NSD, Norfolk, Va., or Oakland, Calif.

50,000-FOOT RAIDS over Japan will be possible with a new "deadly effective" attachment to the Norden Bombsight, the Air Technical Service Command has disclosed. A spokesman said that "with its use, our B-29 crews will be able to destroy Japan with minimum loss of life and planes."

NAZI WAR SECRETS, now ours, will enable the United States to devise counter measures against German armament tricks turned over to the Japanese, Brig. Gen. William E. Farthing, Commanding general of the Pacific Overseas Air Technical Service has announced. He said tests will be made of German jet aircraft, radar devices, V-weapons and other instruments.

MORE THAN 7,000 MERCHANT SHIPS were lost by the Allies and neutrals during the war to VE-Day. U.S. losses were 1,554.

BOMBING OF U.S. with improved V-2 rocket bombs of pin-point accuracy was within reach of German scientists when the European war ended, Army ordnance intelligence experts have disclosed.

Within another six months, Germany would have been able to produce such a bomb on a scale which they believed would have been great enough to "neutralize any advantage our airplane superiority had given us," authorities said.

A month-long survey of a huge rocket assembly plant, built 800-feet deep in the mountains near Nordhausen, Germany and captured by the First Army in the closing days of the War, was the basis for the American opinions.

SPECIAL SERVICE MEDAL for all who serve honorably in the Armed Forces during the present war is provided by legislation passed this week by House and awaiting Senate approval.

AXIS COMRADESHIP and Appreciation Society which rumbled with the fall of Germany has been renamed, the Tokio radio has disclosed. It has changed its name to "The World Renovation Society."

"**SIGHTED ISLAND, SANK SAME**", was reported by British submarine Commander. Spotting through his periscope, the lieutenant saw two palm trees, clusters of bushes and other foliage moving swiftly through a calm sea; gave orders to surface and opened fire. Heavy explosion which blew the stern off the "island" disclosed camouflaged Jap landing craft and about 100 Japs abandoning ship. No survivors were reported.

NEW PLAYHOUSE of 75th Battalion has been named "Memorial Theater," for mates who have fallen in the line of duty.

ANTI-V2 WEAPON had been developed by British scientists assisted by Americans when the war in Europe ended, London's "Evening Standard" reports. The weapon to combat the V-2 rocket bombs is a gun capable of firing combination anti-aircraft and radio location shells. It is estimated the rockets would have been within range of the guns for 40 seconds and at least 10 per cent of them could have been shot down. Sites had already been chosen for the guns. The shells were designed and tried out in lonely parts of the U. S. and supplies of them were flown to England.

SEABEE OF THE WEEK

MALCOLM A. PEPPO, MM3c
of New Orleans, La.

Unloading cargo during the invasion of

Mindoro in the Philippines, Peppo volunteered for gun crew duty when an enemy plane attacked the ship. Slipping into the gunner's harness after two gunners had been killed and another critically wounded, he scored hits at point-blank range when the plane was less than 100 yards away. He continued to fire until the Jap crashed less than 50 yards from the ship.

After receiving treatment for his wounds, Peppo returned to his gun, standing by until relieved by a ship's gun crew.

For his heroism, the Seabee has been awarded the Silver Star.

THE FLEET NAVY

GIANT POST-WAR FLEET was called for this week by Admiral King and SecNav Forrestal. They proposed U. S.

keep a big pool of combat vessels in reserve rather than junk them, use the reserve fleet to supplement the active fleet as post-war world conditions demand.

AMERICAN SUBMARINES have sunk probably sunk, and damaged a total of 1,309 Japanese ships of all types up to June 19. Included in Jap combatant ship losses of 138 vessels are 4 aircraft carriers, 17 cruisers and 55 destroyers.

3700 JAP PLANES were shot down by Navy planes and ships between March 18 and June 12, a Navy spokesman has disclosed. He said the figure did not include planes downed by Army aircraft or shore-based anti-aircraft fire.

Also disclosed was the sinking of 30 American vessels and damaging of 44 others in the Okinawa campaign.

NEW SCOUT PLANE, the Curtiss-Wright "Seahawk," received its baptism in pre-invasion operations off Borneo, the Navy has revealed. The new observation-scout plane can fly higher and further and defend itself better than any previous Navy model of its type. It operates from battleships and cruisers and, in the Borneo operation, directed the naval bombardment which helped soften the Japs before troops went ashore.

GERMAN MINES planted in U. S. waters sank a tugboat at the mouth of Delaware Bay, paralyzed shipping for two days and blockaded the Port of New York for three days early in the war, the Navy has revealed. Mining of other stretches of water was so successful that ship traffic at Wilmington, Baltimore, Norfolk, Newport News, Jacksonville and Charleston was brought to a halt for varying periods.

BIGGEST LIFTING JOB in shipbuilding history came off without a hitch at the Philadelphia Navy Yard when the 193-ton prefabricated stern of the new aircraft carrier, Valley Forge, was swung into place.

Three 75-ton cranes lifted the structure 20 feet and carried it nearly 900 feet along the entire length of the ship to its position. The operation was completed in 25 minutes.

WHAT THEY SAY

PACIFIC WAR A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. Gen. Joseph Stillwell, new commanding general of Tenth Army,

implied to newsmen in Manila. He was tremendously impressed, he told them, that American forces were fighting in the Philippines in 1945 rather than a year or more later.

Retraining of European vets for Pacific warfare will not be as difficult as might be supposed he said, indicating there would not be too long a delay in redeploying troops.

BASES ALREADY BUILT or planned in the Marianas and Okinawa are "enough to lick Japan," Maj. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, commander of the 21st (Marianas) Bomber Command, told newsmen at a press conference.

Promising that "before long the raids will be up to 1,000 planes," Gen. LeMay declared that B-29s operating from the island bases can knock industrial Japan clear out of the war.

"We are capable of devastating industrial Japan and will do so unless they surrender," he said.

SLIM RAY OF SUNSHINE in storm-cloud of American bombers is seen by Tokyo newspaper, "Mainichi," which declares that long period of bombing which appears likely to precede invasion of Japan "will give us time -- precious time -- to prepare for the decisive battle."

AS A BOMBING TARGET, Japan will have ceased to exist by the end of 1946, declared Gen. H. H. Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces, on an inspection tour of the Pacific. She will be a country with no large cities and no industry, blockaded and stripped of fuel resources and, if fanaticism enables the Japanese to continue to resist, "there will be nothing left of Japan."

Twice the number of B-29s that were in the Pacific a month ago will be operating

over Japan, General Arnold said, and before 1946 is over, "we'll put three times as many bombs on Japan as we ever put on Germany"--an estimated total of 2,100,000 tons.

He revealed that Tokyo already had been removed from the list of high-priority targets, as the bulk of the city's industry has been destroyed. As far as Japanese industry on the Asiatic mainland is concerned, General Arnold said, "There are targets in Korea and Manchuria that we've also got to get and when the time comes we'll get them, too." He declared that "from Okinawa we can cover half of China and all of Manchuria."

500,000 JAPANESE, "perhaps 1,500,000" have been killed in Tokyo alone by Superfortress bombings, estimates Col. Alfred F. Klaberer, veteran of 20 B-29 missions over Japan.

BRITISH AIR FORCES will be active in the aerial attack on Japan. Authority for that statement is General H. H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces. He said his plan was "to send to the Pacific every plane for which a landing field can be found," including those of the Royal Air Forces. The Seabees and Army and Marine Engineers will take care of "finding" the fields.

EVERYTHING BUT A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE goes with the new handbook being distributed to "defense organs" throughout Japan by the Japanese Inspectorate General of Army Education.

In line with Jap home-front propaganda that an invasion by airborne troops is the first action to be expected in the event "the Japanese mainland is turned into a battlefield," the new pamphlet explains the essential points of Allied technique in employing airborne troops and then, according to the Tokyo radio, "gives 'sure-to-kill' assault tactics against invaders."

"WELL DONE"

FOR OUTSTANDING HEROISM in action against Japanese forces during the invasion of Guam, 122 Seabees of CBMU 515, serving with the First Provisional Marine Brigade during the assault, have been authorized to wear the Navy Unit Citation Ribbon. The CBMU'ers, reported to be the first Seabees ashore on the island, are the first of the builders to receive the recently-established award.

The ribbon is of standard Navy size, consists of a wide myrtle green stripe in the center with smaller cardinal red, Spanish yellow and royal blue stripes extending to the edge in that order on either side. It is worn next after the Presidential Unit Citation.

Award is made to those units which have performed service as a unit of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of a Silver Star Medal or a Legion of Merit to an individual.

ROOSEVELT RHINE RIVER BRIDGE was built with the help of the Seabees and won CBMU 629 an Army commendation.

"My sincere thanks and appreciation," wrote Col. James A. McCarthy, commanding officer of an engineer combat group, "for the construction of the fixed timber trestle bridge across the Rhine River at Wesel, Rhein, Germany..."

"The efforts put forth by your personnel enabled the whole construction team to complete the 4,257-foot-long project in record time and reflects credit upon themselves and your entire organization."

B-29 REPAIR JOB which put one plane back into action and established a precedent for the repair of other craft won a commendation for CMM C. E. Ramaley, S. J. Vadnal, SF1c, W. P. Foster, WT2c, and E. E. Barr, F1c.

The plane had returned to its base with the main spar chord of the wing -- comparable to the keel of a ship -- bent. Usual procedure would have been to scrap the plane. Three days' maneuvering by the Seabees, first attempt ever made to straighten a chord, achieved the desired results; when the wing was swung into place, it fitted perfectly. Experience gained in the first operation enabled the men to complete a similar job a few days later within an hour.

ADVANCE BASE SECTIONAL DRY DOCK was erected in six weeks by Detachment 1053. Said Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet:

"Expeditious assembly of this important dock is considered to constitute an important contribution to the war effort....(a) splendid accomplishment. Well done."

FOR SAVING THE LIFE of a Marine drowning in treacherous currents off an island in the Marianas, John E. Philbin, MM3c, of Seattle, Wash., has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal by Vice Admiral J. H. Hoover, USN, Commander Forward Areas, Central Pacific.

FOR THE BOOK

STATESIDE TRIP and American citizenship were the things wanted most by some Japanese landing troops captured on Okinawa, according to Palmer Hoyt, editor of the Portland "Oregonian." On a trip to Iwo Jima, Hoyt interviewed a number of the prisoners; found:

(1) They were in fear of being run over by American bulldozers if they surrendered; their commanding officer had told them.

(2) Now that they had surrendered, they were considered dead in their homeland and, with no future.

(3) Wanted to go to the United States to become citizens.

A ROAD FOREMAN'S LOT is not a happy one, in the opinion of Walt Randolph of the 96th. He hated the job. He wanted to switch, but no one would listen to him. So he put on his dress blues and went out to work with his road gang. The OinC found him working like that and asked what the idea was. "Well," said Walt, "it's the only way I can get anyone to listen to me." The OinC listened. Result--- Randolph is back in his greens..but he got the new job.

THE DAY'S ROUTINE at the 96th Battalion barber shop had a new twist the other day. When the barbers came in, they found a ten-foot four-inch python curled up under the floor, quietly waiting his turn.

SO SLEEPY he didn't have to count Japs jumping fences to induce slumber, William A. Deutschman, SF3c, spent a restful night on Iwo--but the Japs really were jumping. While Deutschman slept, a perimeter guard on a Marine-Seabee-Army bivouac area spotted the Nips advancing in a suicide attack, spread the alarm, and the combined forces handled the attack with dispatch. Deutschman was informed of the "incident" the next morning.

Cyril Botz, MM2c on the other hand, was troubled with Jap-induced insomnia--his tent was in the line of fire between the Japs and his own skirmish line.

He escaped; the next day counted 13 holes in his tent.

A NEW KIND OF FOXHOLE, complete with running water, came into being when Seabee James E. Chapman of Birmingham, Michigan, let his enthusiasm get the best of him.

It happened during the early days of the invasion of Mindoro, in the Philippines. Chapman had heard, how accurately we don't know, that the Nipponese fleet was headed back to the island. Via grapevine, he received unofficial hourly reports on its progress. With each report, he deepened his foxhole.

The last report put the Japs only 30 miles away. Chapman dug harder than ever. Suddenly his shovel cut through the soft sand belowhe struck water! Seabee and foxhole both were flooded.

The Jap attack never did come off. As far as Chapman was concerned, it was just as well. "I sure was glad to get out of that home-made lake," he said ruefully.

AUTO LICENSE PLATES from his home state of California have reached T.T. Burgess, SF2c in the Philippines. Somehow, Hollywood and Vine seems a little out of reach for a "72". Or perhaps Burgess means it as a delicate suggestion that a stateside leave is in order.

"ALABAMA" and Dixie accent was sufficient as a password in the early phases of the Peleliu, R.H. Matteson, CM2c, now in Camp Parks, recalls. Password on the night Matteson was doing guard duty was the name of an American automobile. Matteson heard a rustling off in the dark, sounded off with the usual challenge. Came the response:

"'Ford, Chevrolet, Plymouth, Buick--doan' shoot, suh--ah'm f'm Alabama!!"

WORLD'S LAZIEST SEABEE may be the gent who won the \$25 War Bond at a drawing in the 49th Battalion's theatre last Christmas and hasn't claimed it yet. To add to the confusion, the memorandum with the winner's name on it was misplaced.

Only possibility is Chaplain Harold F. Menges' belief that he could recognize the mate if he saw him. If he doesn't turn up soon, says the 49th's War Bond Officer, he's going to have the Chaplain make a personal inspection of every man in the battalion. "Let us hope," says the battalion paper piously, "the winner contacts Mr. Bobb at once."

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME... that in SEATTLE, WASH.

70-year-old J. B. Bonnar won an interlocutory decree of divorce when he testified that his wife not only preferred the company of nine cats to himself, but that he was forced to sleep with two of them...Hot weather notes: in PORTLAND, ME., sun shining through a plate glass display window in a downtown store set fire to a carton of eggs...in PHILADELPHIA, PA., while the city sweltered in 90-degree heat, one citizen was treated for cold exposure after he had fallen into a tank of brine, used to make commercial ice at the American Ice Co.....

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS... that in CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Ernest A. Hooten, Harvard anthropologist, advocated universal military training for women as the best way of gratifying their desire to wear the pants in the family. "The vigorous physical conditioning of females, together with practice in the art of judo, might go far to restore to the family an equilibrium of parental control," he said...that in TRENTON, N.J., voters are gathering signatures to force a referendum on the question of barring barmaids. A city ordinance says women can't tend bar....that in JERSEY CITY, N.J., a two-pound chihuahua dog was called a nuisance by neighbors because it bayed all night. When the owner was haled into court, the judge had the tiny dog placed on the stand to hear him bark. The dog was silent. Case was dismissed.

AND IT'S STILL MORE NEWS... that off PROVINCETOWN, MASS., a treasure-laden ship had been found in 14 feet of water. Evidence of the sunken treasure first came to light in 1879 when a chest of coins came to the surface ...that in SEATTLE, WASH., Grocer B.M. Hanon told police thieves had broken into his safe five times before Oct., six times since then. On the next trip they took safe and all..... in PHILADELPHIA, PA., police were called upon in one day to capture (1) a monkey, (2) a calf.

SHOP TALK

HOME-PLANNING SERVICE
offered by "Buzzin' Briefs" to 49th Battalioner's is one of best ideas developed by a Seabee newspaper in many months.

Scheme is to poll officers and men of battalion for their likes and dislikes in post-war home design, then provide a series of construction plans for the most popular models. Plans may be sent home to men's families.

CCM Harry I. Bosworth is doing the designing. His first model is a small home, costing less than \$5,000 and allowing for the future addition of a second bedroom. He's working off-hours, hopes to turn out a new set of plans every two weeks.

Battalion newspapers interested in sponsoring similar services can get details by writing him.

BI-LINGUAL newspaper, "Bon Mots," is published by a CBMU in LeHavre, France. Editors A.E. Catherwood, SIC, and F.J. Bogner, MM2c, run most copy in English, but a two-column feature, "La-Colonne Francaise," give the mates a chance to brush up on their French.

This is the unit, incidentally, which has a detachment on duty in Paris. Not a bad "Island X" at that!

BROKEN EQUIPMENT couldn't keep the Philippines-published "Trailblazer" from coming out on schedule. When the rubber rollers for the press collapsed, Editors Olson and Wedge teamed up with mates Kunze and Brown of the tire shop, toyed with old tires, inner tubes, socks, padding cement, water hose, tire patching and string, finally produced a replacement that, judging by the finished product worked as well as the original.

NEWEST SEABEE PAPER is First Special's six-page, semi-monthly, "Rigger."

PICTURE SUPPLEMENTS add a professional note to several Seabee papers this week. "Pilot," published by 130th Battalion, has six pages of line drawings of island life, "Bon Mots," published at LeHavre, has a center-spread of photographs of finger and phoenix piers, "Buzzin' Briefs," Guam weekly, has a four-page insert devoted to pictures of a wedding on the island.

A SOUVENIR BOOK marking two years overseas has been published by the 84th Battalion. The 54-page volume, which contains well over a hundred pictures and boasts a five-color cover, was produced in the battalion's own print shop. It was begun in the Netherlands East Indies, and completed at another, more forward base.

Frantz A. Werner, Y3c, wrote the copy; Robert Bannister, Jr., CPTR, was production boss; William McCuddy, PhoMic, H. L. Jacobs, PhoMic, and C. C. Webb, PhoMic, took care of the pictures; and Robert T. Sappia, WT3c, and Sheldon L. Myers, WT3c, handled the printing.

THE BULLPEN

DISCHARGE OF Capt. Hank Greenberg and his publicly announced intention to rejoin the Detroit Tigers, while boosting the club's pennant stocks, points up a problem which has been troubling major league owners since the beginning of the war.

Under the rules of the league, players returning from service are entitled to a minimum trial of two months at their former wages, regardless of their physical condition. Hank, when last in the employ of the Tigers, had a contract calling for \$55,000 a year. Thus, for two months' service with the club, he could command a salary of almost \$19,000, even if he doesn't pull on a pair of spikes.

Now 34, Hank admits he is uneasy about his chances of regaining his slugging skill, especially in view of the increased development of his shoulders and chest. "I'm too big," he told reporters, "and can't get my bat around fast enough. Somebody would have to do a job on me, breaking down those muscles before I could do myself any good. The other day, I was striking out on balls I used to murder."

The Tiger outfielder, who belted 249 homers and batted .325 over a nine-year stretch while pacing the club to three American League pennants, was one of the first big leaguers to enter the service. He was first inducted on May 7, 1941, and received an honorable discharge on December 5, 1941, two days before Pearl Harbor. He reenlisted (in the Army Air Forces) within a week and rose through the ranks from private to captain.

AFTER-MIDNIGHT gallivanting by his White Sox has been deftly eliminated by elfish Jimmy Dykes. Jimmy merely flashes a form letter on his erring player and the play-boy sees the "light."

The letter reads:

"Dear Mrs. ----: Your husband has taken to staying out nights after the curfew. I would appreciate it if you would find out where he goes and why and pass this information along to me. Sincerely yours, James J. Dykes."

That does it.

DISA AND DATA.....Beating the June 15 deadline, Giants traded Outfielder Joe Medwick and Pitcher Ewald Pyle to the Braves for Catcher Clyde Kluttz; Dodgers swapped Pitcher Ben Chapman for Catcher Johnny Peacock of the Phillies.....Comdr. James (Jim) Crowley, one of Notre Dame's legendary "Four Horsemen," getting discharge from Navy.....Veteran sports writer Sid Mercer died at 65 after long illness....Ration-thin Primo Carnera--a mere 243 pounds--threatens to come back to the United States and give "my fans a treat." Primo put on an exhibition for GIs in Italy to prove he is still one of the world's worst fighters.