

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

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ACTION IN THREE CAMPAIGNS

"We've seen anti-aircraft guns on shore knock down Jap planes within an hour after we unloaded the guns from our ship," said CSF John H. Ehrig as he told how he and his crew of 24 Seabee Specialists had worked around the clock to unload battle supplies in three major island campaigns.

At sea aboard a transport for nearly eight of the past twelve months, the detachment saw action during the invasions of Tarawa and Apamama in the Gilberts; Kwajalein, Roi and Eniwetok in the Marshalls; and Saipan, Peleliu and Angaur in the Marianas.

The schedule for winch operators and hatch tenders during unloading operations, Ehrig said, was to work 18 hours between rest periods. On at least one occasion a winch operator fell into exhausted sleep with his hands on the controls. "But," the CPO added, "they stay with it."

At Angaur, the vessel the Seabees were aboard was hit seven times but the Specialists, hard at work, didn't realize it until they were told later. In the Eniwetok operation, the fleet had to cease firing long enough for the ship to go through the line of fire and the Seabees unload its cargo. Then the big guns resumed their job.

SEABEE EARNS SECOND BRONZE STAR MEDAL

The first Seabee to win a second Bronze Star Medal is Samuel R. Davis, MM2c, who received the award for outstanding performance of duty during the invasion of Guam. He was presented a Gold Star in lieu of the second medal by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Still suffering from a serious head injury received in earlier operations and only partially healed, Davis operated a crane under enemy mortar and sniper fire during the initial assault.

His first award was for landing with the first wave of assault troops on Bougainville, where he salvaged a tractor, towed a gun to its assigned position, and later evacuated wounded Marines and delivered ammunition to the front lines.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Life was anything but dull for a Seabee pontoon detachment transporting supplies, ammunition and fuel to the invading Marines at Peleliu, according to Lt. D. Coder Taylor, CEC, USNR, the detachment's executive officer.

"It was 'Bloody Nose Ridge' that caused so much trouble," Lt. Taylor explained. "The enemy had dug deep tunnels into the hill and even our big naval guns couldn't blast them out. At night the Japs would crawl out and let go a few mortar shells and then duck back into their caves before our guns could pick them off. Off shore, where some of our barges were loaded with highly explosive fuel and ammunition, those random mortar blasts caused quite a bit of worry."

The reefs off Peleliu made supply operations difficult during the early phases of the campaign, Lt. Taylor said. Most of the supplies had to be unloaded at the reef and then transported to the shore over the pontoon causeways. During these operations, the Seabee pontooners lived on barges and causeways, ideal targets for the Jap snipers and mortars.

Besides dodging enemy mortar shells and sniperfire, Seabee pontoon bargemen and causeway builders had to keep a wary eye open for floating mines, the officer recalled.

After a few days, however, the reef was built up to serve as an unloading island with pontoon piers stretching out into deeper water where supply ships could tie up and unload. The supplies were then transported over pontoon causeways to the beach.

Now on his third tour of overseas duty in this war, Lt. Taylor, a veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign as well as the Peleliu operations, believes the latter was the tougher of the two.

EVIDENCE

A Filipino landowner, whose holdings of coconut trees had been tabulated by Seabee appraisers at 40, brought to their office visual proof that he had more. He spread on the desk 48 chips of wood. One, he explained, from each of his trees.

SQUARE DEAL FOR FILIPINOS

Seabee construction of the first new fleet stronghold in the Philippines has necessitated acquiring almost 2,000 acres of land from Filipino owners -- mostly small farmers. Some 6,000 Filipinos had to be moved, with their homes.

In carrying out this program, the Seabees not only are treating the Filipino people with scrupulous fairness, but are making certain the latter are convinced of it.

The land is being taken under indefinite leases, which may terminate in outright purchase. "Good faith payments" up to 50 pesos are being made, but the exact lease fees are being left to determination by joint action of the Philippines government, the U. S. Government, and the landholders involved.

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Many of the people have moved their thatched huts, piece by piece, on their backs or heads, but incoming Seabees have contributed trucks as moving vans when they were available.

Landholders are being paid for their land, the coconut and bamboo trees on it, their homes, and even for fox holes they have dug -- at the rate of five pesos (\$2.50) for a good raid shelter.

Employment has been provided for approximately 500 Filipinos.

JAPS LOSE 20 PLANES TO U S 1 IN PHILIPPINES

For every American plane lost in the battle for the Philippines during the past three months at least 20 Japanese aircraft have been destroyed according to a tabulation of official reports by the Associated Press.

During the period of September through November at least 4,000 enemy planes were shot down or destroyed on the ground while American losses slightly exceeded 200.

The costliest month for the enemy was October when 1199 planes were shot down over the islands and 523 blasted on the ground.

93RD KEEP 'EM ROLLING

The 93rd Battalion moved into its new construction area with all the mobility of a circus and about everything on wheels except the mascots.

Working on the principle that it is speedier to take the facilities to the men than to bring the men to the facilities, the 93rd has mobile galleys, spare-parts locker on wheels, a rolling photo lab and library and a portable movie projection booth that can go into operation anywhere there is room enough for the screen.

Even the battalion headquarters is mobile -- a trailer which unfolds like a tent to become a spacious office for Cmdr. Harold F. Lynn, CEC, USNR.

"The mobile units have made it possible for us to clip a matter of weeks from the time it takes to set up a camp -- vital time in days of invasion," Cmdr. Lynn said.

BUT NO FILET MIGNON??

The thought of Spam (again) for Thanksgiving, stirred four members of the 119th Battalion into the role of Pilgrims -- except the Pilgrims shot enough game to stage a feast.

The Seabees set forth in search of wild turkey, finally returned, but too late for Thanksgiving, with a wild boar and a buck. The new meat source is being exploited by additional hunters from the battalion in the hope of acquiring enough for a feast.

To avoid a sad ending, it may be recounted that the battalion's supply of shipped-in turkey arrived late, but was given appropriate action the following Thursday.

HUNGRY

Eating K rations without his false teeth was a rugged experience, CMM Larry Morris discovered after he lost his molars in a midnight dash for a foxhole.

The teeth stayed lost until a souvenir-peddling native showed up in camp with a set of what he called "Jap teeth." As Morris recognized the dentures, the islander explained that everyone in his village had tried them on but no one could eat with them. They were now for sale -- and for only ten bottles of scented hair tonic.

The chief didn't haggle. The deal was closed before the native could change his mind. Then, the teeth washed and back in his mouth, the Seabee dashed for the chow hall for his first solid meal in three weeks!

VERY LIKELY

Before joining the U. S. Army, PFC Clark Dennis was a vocalist on Ed Gardner's "Duffy's Tavern" radio program. A member of an Army entertainment unit now touring the Southwest Pacific, Dennis came ashore at Green Island to be greeted by Seabees James P. Duffy, S1c, and Joseph E. Duffy, CM3c, who escorted him to "Duffy's Tavern, Southwest Pacific Branch" -- the Seabee battalion's recreation hut.

Commented Dennis: " 'Archie' would be lost tending bar out here. The Seabees would soon get the best of him."

BRONZE STAR FOR D-DAY ROLE

Chief Carp. William R. Wooten, CEC, USNR, has been presented with the Bronze Star medal for his "heroic service while in charge of a ferry attached to a battalion during the amphibious invasion of France June 6." The presentation was made by Under Secretary of Navy Ralph A. Bard. Text of the citation lauded "Chief Carpenter's Wooten's expert seamanship, splendid initiative and tenacious devotion to duty under extremely difficult conditions."

SEABEE DEAD HONORED

The 12th Special Battalion's new recreation hall and recreation area have been named in honor of two members who died in line of duty this year.

"Blythe Hall" the recreation building, honors Robert Alvin Blythe, SC3c, 19, of Martelle, Iowa, who died in August of burns. The recreation area is named for George Maxton Burnett, S2c, 18, killed in a construction accident. Burnett's home was in Whiteville, N. C.

MONUMENT TO A MASCOT

A concrete miniature of the Washington monument stands on a lonely island honoring a mascot of the 93rd Battalion--Skipper, a Brooklyn pup who was bottle-fed across the Pacific, survived two landings and a brush with a wild boar.

The dog, owned by Rene A. Salas, S1c, died under the wheels of a truck. His epitaph: "Skipper, born October, 1943. Killed in line of duty, October 1944. A Seabee Mascot."

SEAPLANE RAMP BUILT QUICKLY

A suggestion by Cmdr. Earl M. Kelly, CEC, USNR, helped Seabees in the Philippines lop eighteen days from the construction time for a seaplane ramp. Instead of pouring concrete inside coffer dams or topping native coral with wire mesh, the construction men salvaged a pontoon barge which had been damaged in a typhoon and sunk it in grade to form a steel ramp. The job took twelve days as compared with the previous average of thirty.

HIGH COST OF WAR

The Navy spent enough money during November to run the city of Philadelphia for 30 years, Rear Admiral William B. Young, Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, declared in a radio address from Pearl Harbor. Admiral Young, citing incidents to stress magnitude of the task, declared the campaign to take Tinian required construction of an airfield which handled more traffic than the Washington National airport. More cargo was unloaded in the Marianas in 60 days than was put on the docks of San Francisco in 1940, he said.

The construction of bases and movement of materials in the Marianas operation, he said, are comparable to the shipment of the entire city of Peoria, Ill., to the Central Pacific.

73RD S MOBILE GALLEY IS FOOD INSURANCE

The prospect of drab combat rations didn't fit into the 73rd Battalion's plans for D-day operations. The thought was so unappealing to Cmdr. K. P. Doane,

CEC, USNR, OinC, he pictured a mobile galley, left the idea with the men. They used Quonset hut parts and salvage from a truck, came up with a culinary creation that handed out 3,000 well-cooked meals a day -- right on the beach.

Quonset hut sheeting and insulating lining, plus a screened roof ventilator assured a cool interior. Cooking equipment and utensils were fitted in compactly. Two gravity-flow water tanks were carried on the outside forward bulkhead with valved connections inside and outside the galley.

Along both sides of the galley, drop screens and plywood flaps drop doors were built in. Food was served from both sides. Although the 73rd now has a mess hall, the D-day galley still is in use -- as a photographic laboratory, but ready for quick conversion for another D-day.

SALES TALK

Naval Aviation News tells the story of a group of Canadian fliers who, eager to strike up an acquaintance with two members of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, got off to a shaky start when one of the pilots asked: "I say, what are you -- Seabees?"

PROVIDE OWN TRAILER

No longer will the 125th Battalion have to wait for a lowboy trailer to travel some 30-odd miles when heavy equipment has to be moved. Thanks to the mechanical ability of the men of the transportation department, the battalion now has its own "private" carrier.

The mechanics "rehabilitated" a 30-year-old 12-wheel flatbed, abandoned because its solid rubber tire wheels had been worn flat, by designing and manufacturing wheels to take pneumatic tires. Welders burned off the solid tires and rims, then welded solid blocks. The latter were drilled to take the studs which held the wheels. More than 75 pounds of 3/16th welding rods were used.

CORRECTION

The house-moving project described on page ten of the 10 October issue of the News Service should have been credited both to the 13th and the 129th Battalions.

SUPER SERVICE

Alton G. Widdows, SK2c, of the 12th Special, can't figure out whether someone had fouled up the international date line or the postal cancellation machine. He

received a letter from his wife in Atlanta, Ga., on the 8th of the month. The letter was postmarked the 13th of the same month.

AND DRAT THE EXPENSE!

Souvenir-selling natives of Pago Pago were baffled when one Seabee battalion dropped anchor there enroute back to the States. As the natives pulled alongside with their souvenir-laden canoes, one Seabee crowded at the rail, threw some money into the boat.

"Here comes \$40," he shouted to the native merchant. "Send me up \$40 worth -- I don't give a damn what it is."

AMERICANIZATION DEPARTMENT

When a native woman near the 141st Battalion's island base became so ill she required a transfusion, three Seabees stepped up as donors of American blood. They were Bob Olson, Leo Oldham and George Melzer.

NEW SHARK REPELLANT DEVELOPED BY NAVY

A newly developed chemical compound which Naval officials believe will reduce the danger of attack by man-eating sharks now is being incorporated into a packet which can be attached to any type of life-jacket.

The new shark repellent, developed by the Bureau of Ships in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory, was proven satisfactory after a series of experiments conducted off the coasts of Florida and Louisiana. The effectiveness of the new chemical combination proved high even when the sharks previously had been excited and made greedy by luring them with bait.

Previous tests and observations showed that sharks seldom attack dark colored objects and that the visual factor was important in shark feeding habits. The new repellent dissolves into an inky fluid when combined with water, and has the added advantage of letting the user see the extent of his protection. In addition, the chemicals have a peculiar taste and odor which have proved distasteful to sharks.

DIVER'S RIG

CCM Elmer H. Bolin, boss of CBMU 561's diving crew, started out with one battered shallow-water helmet and wound up with a complete diver's rig which, even if unique, has proved entirely serviceable.

The chief's first acquisition was an air compressor, recovered from a junked paint sprayer. Next, Bolin patched up and connected a bullet-riddled air tank

salvaged from another compressor. His diver's air hose was "borrowed" from an acetylene welding outfit. The weights were molded from plumbers' caulking lead. And to provide two-way communication between diver and diving barge, Bolin had the unit's electrical shop install aviators' head-phones in the helmet.

"With this equipment," reported Lt. F. V. Cornelius, CEC, USNR, 561's OinC, "the diving crew has performed valuable work in making underwater repairs to ships and docks, and in locating, reeving, and repairing buoy anchors in the harbor."

The crew -- Chief Bolin; K. A. Riffey, BM2c; George Protchenko, MM3c; G. E. Martin, SF3c; H. R. Mussetter, M3c; and R. E. Hoffman, S1c -- have been commended for their efforts by the commander of the base.

TRANSFUSION!

Coffee and orange juice poured into the hydraulic system of a crippled Ventura plane after a Jap shell had milked so much fluid that the flaps (air brakes) refused to function. Lieutenant John W. Pool, U.S.N.R., and his crew brought the plane in after Charles W. Scott, AMM, had suggested the "breakfast vintages" as a substitute for hydraulic fluid. The Ventura landed, wheels down and flaps down.

GREAT SCOTT! YOU HERE?

It took an appetite to reunite Graydon L. Scott, MM3c, with his father, Roy L. Scott, as Seabee forces settled down to work at Leyte.

The son introduced himself to a cook at a Seabee field kitchen for obvious purposes and learned that another "Scott who looks like you is working down the beach." He investigated, found his father who had been overseas 18 months. The younger Scott was in the Marshalls, and Marianas campaign.

SUNK BY RADIO

The Navy's Composite Squadron 66 has twice been "sunk" by Radio Tokyo, but nobody got his feet wet.

On April 15, 1944, while operating in the vicinity of the Marshalls, VC-66's carriers were attacked by a Japanese submarine which fired two torpedoes. Both missed. Several days later, squadron members heard "Tokyo Rose" broadcasting happily about their escort-carriers having been "sunk".

During a later cruise, while operating east of Halmahera, the squadron again saw torpedoes coming towards a carrier from an enemy submarine. As before, the torpedoes missed their mark, and, as before, Radio Tokyo claimed to have sunk the carrier.

"Our biggest regret about this," said squadron leader Lt. Gerald Trapp, U.S.N.R., "is that the Navy Department didn't receive word of the sinkings and give us all 60-days' survivors' leave."

CATS IN THE GALLEY

The presence of two Cats in the 12th Special's galley has the full approbation of BuPers and the medical department. These particular Cats are first class cooks. One is P. M. Catalanotto; the other J. P. Catalano, together since entering boot camp. Origin of "Cat" is not only obvious, but a stencilled fact on the clothing of each.

CAN'T HAVE ANY FUN AT ALL!

After a slight argument with a Boston policeman which left the officer minus a small mouthful of leg, "Skipper, the Bear," one-time Camp Lee-Stephenson mascot, has moved to the Middlesex Falls Zoo, Stoneham, Massachusetts.

When the cop tried to lasso him, after he had escaped, "Skipper" began to get rough. A couple of Seabees came along and quieted "Skipper" before any serious damage had been done, nevertheless "Skipper" appears destined to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

YOU MEAN HE CAN T COOK TOO!?

If the 101st Battalion's 20-year-old Gilbert Emilio Martinez, Cox., wore a rate for each job he does, he'd have on more badges than the mad bee of the emblems. Martinez acts as Spanish interpreter, plays a baritone horn in the band, sometimes works as a carpenter, operates a bulldozer, served at one time as an instructor in military, once worked as a yeoman and still can qualify for his coxswain rating. And for a 62-inch Seabee, that's a pretty full day.

TWIXT DEVIL AND SEA

Eight Seabees of CBMU 521 required the services of a bulldozer and cherry picker crane to unload their catch after a recent fishing expedition. The catch was a 700-pound devil-ray fish with a fin spread of 12 feet, 4 inches.

Two harpoons and a half-hour battle, during which the devil-ray towed boat and the fishermen far out to sea, were necessary before the fish was subdued.

THANKS TO HIS MEMORY

Aided by the unusual memory of CMoMM J. K. Van Raalte, 129th machinists have been able to improvise many of the small but important time and labor saving

devices so important to a well-equipped repair shop.

Pride of the shop, is a spark plug cleaner built from two pieces of scrap pipe, some sheet metal and a canvas bag sewed together by the battalion tailor. Details for its construction were supplied by Van Raalte, who had used a somewhat similar device in his stateside garage. Using compressed air and an abrasive cleaning compound, the machine cleans plugs impossible to recondition by hand.

For examining and repairing an average of 50 tires a day, the Seabees use a tire-spreader constructed from plans furnished by the chief after he had seen a commercial model in use at an island shop. The basic unit is a 2 1/2 ton hydraulic truck jack, with an attachment of levers and hooks that pull the tire open as the jack handle is worked.

An electric condenser tester was assembled by Van Raalte from the maintenance directions in a manual. Capable of producing 200 or 400 volts, the unit is composed of a transformer and radio tube, and also can be used to check armatures and distributor caps. A neon tube indicates the voltage the tester is producing.

Another improvisation is the attachments to the shop's brake grinding machine which enables it to be used for grinding fly wheels and clutch plates.

DINNER WILL NOT BE SERVED

Marshall Islands pet of Leonard L. Clanton, EM2c, is Philbert, a talented young hen who thrives on cigarettes. (She swallows 'em.)

As a matter of preservation as well as in recognition of her egg-laying abilities, Clanton and his mates have presented the hen with a leg band. It reads: "This is Philbert, a pet of the ---th Battalion. . . . Please do not eat!

ODDS AND ENDS

The 41st Infantry Division's security patrol on a Pacific island nabbed a Jap who thought he was in Florida because his commanding officer had told him so. . . . Tokyo finally got around to admitting the death of Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, who led the attack on Pearl Harbor --- a hari-kiri victim. . . . at the same time Tokyo likewise admitted deaths of 13 more admirals, many of them presumably in the Battle of the Philippine Sea

Fathers in the Navy Supply Corps training school at Harvard have published pictures of their off-springs under the title "Destruction Battalion" and call them "D-Bees." Great Britain has served notice on Japan that the worst is yet to come the English announced they now have two naval fleets to hurl against the Japanese , and about the same time, Tokyo's radio appealed against "over-nervousness" brought on by Superfortress attacks on the Jap capital

"if we get over-nervous we will get caught in the evil designs of the enemy" the appeal said which is exactly what happened to the Jap garrisons on Leyte, where, Lieut. Gen. George C. Kenney announced, there is a giant "hamburger machine" which is grinding up Japan's best infantry and thinning air and naval reserves

U.S. Armies in France are now receiving 75 per cent of their supplies through the ports of Rouen and La Havre, which the Germans did their best to destroy both ports have been restored and are handling more tonnage than before the war . . .

Production of rockets to blast the way onto enemy beaches will be increased 300 per cent, the Navy has announced, due to the "stepped-up" tempo of the Pacific war, success of the latest plane rockets, and to the fact that their Navy is now producing Navy-type rockets for all the armed forces

First Marine Division veterans inclined to pooh-pooh any insinuations that they are souvenir collectors, blushed when they were ordered to turn in "along with the other souvenirs" . . . all 40 mm. anti-aircraft guns taken from the Japs the weapons weigh 3,000 pounds.

VOILA! ALSO EUREKA!

Aleutian and Icelandic units may choose to ignore the fact, but Paul A. Wayne, EM2c, of the 12th Special has built an aquaplane of his own design after falling in love with one at first sight.

He couldn't buy one, couldn't barter for one, couldn't find plans or information on an aquaplane in the battalion library or athletic department, so he built one.

It worked!

THEY CAN DREAM. CAN'T THEY?

And now they're improvising Christmas trees! Where the 140th Battalion is stationed it would be just as easy to find a Christmas tree as it would Santa Claus himself, but there'll be a lighted "tree" for the Christmas party. Edward J. Velichka, Ptr2c, a former commercial artist, went to work on a sheet of plywood, etched out a reasonable likeness of a tree. Two hundred shopping days before Christmas --- in last summer's heat --- Lt. Lester A. Ehret, chaplain, wrote home for lights which have arrived to twinkle for the holiday season.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

Although Seabees in the Philippines are leading a rugged life, duty in the Commonwealth has its compensations. "Many mates," says a correspondent now in the islands, "have had their personal chores done by their brown friends and the Filipino women and girls are only too happy to do washing for them.

"On Sunday," he continues, "when the civilians do not work, the camp is filled with the villagers who come to trade, bringing ears of corn, live chickens, and Jap invasion money to trade for discarded clothes."

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

FOOTBALL:..Orange Bowl game and first half of Rose Bowl contest New Year's Day will be broadcast by Armed Forces Radio Service..AFRS also will short wave Orange Bowl and 2nd half of Sugar Bowl contests to European theater..On 2 January, AFRS will rebroadcast complete Rose Bowl contest (minus times-out, etc) to Europe ..War Department canceled all postseason football games for AAF teams except Randolph Field-2nd AAF's "Treasury Bond Bowl"..Ruling caused cancellation of Houston's Oil Bowl where former was selected as host team..AP College "All American": Phillip Tinsley, Geo. Tech (E); Donald Whitmire, Navy (T); William Hackett, Ohio State (G); Caleb Van Warrington, Auburn (C); Hamilton Nichols, jr., Rice (G); John Ferraro, So. Cal., (T); Hubert Bechtol, Texas (E); Leslie Horvath, Ohio State; Robert Fenimore, Okla. A & M; Glenn Davis and Felix Blanchard, Army (Backs)..Horvath, member of 1943 East team in annual East-West Shrine contest, accepted invitation to play for East again in 1945..will be first player ever to make return appearance.. Ohio State's Carroll Widdoes named coach of year..In pro leagues, Giants won Eastern Division championship for seventh time since 1933..Brooklyn Tigers and Card-Pitts failed to win single game in ten league contests..Redskins Frankie Filchok nosed out teammate Sammy Baugh for passing title..Filchok completed 84 passes out of 147 attempts for a gain of 1139 yards and average of .571..Don Hutson, Green Bay, captured his fifth consecutive scoring title with 85 points and his fourth straight pass receiving championship, snaring 58 passes for 866 yards..Ken Strong, Giants, took field goal kicking title with 6 out of 12 tries..teammate Bill Paschal became first player in league history to capture ground gaining title twice in a row..Paschal gained 737 yards for average of 3.8 yards per try..Detroit's Frankie Sinkwich won punting title with 45 kicks for average of 41 yards per boot; Steve Van Buren of Philadelphia was punt return champ with 280 yards and 15.3 average; Howie Livingston of Giants took kickoff return title with 291 yards for 24.2 average.

BASEBALL:..Annual winter Major League meeting notes: most valuable player awards each year set up as "Landis" memorial; NL reelected Ford Frick for another four year term; designated Boston as site of '45 all-star game with Red Sox the home club; barred professional football teams from baseball parks until baseball season was completed in those parks; voted to permit unlimited schedule of night games by AL..Judge Landis elected to Baseball Hall of Fame.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS:..Army will tighten control on release from service of athletic stars, stage, screen and radio figures..new policy will require all such cases be given special examination by War Department before discharge..Navy placed seven men on AP's Service All American for '44; Lt. (jg) Joe Stydakar, Fleet City NTS; Garrard Ramsey, Bainbridge NTS; Cadet Joe Strohmeyer, Iowa Pre-Flight; Russell Letlow, Camp Peary; Ens. J. Woudenberg, St. Mary Pre-Flight; Cadet Otto Graham, North Carolina Pre-Flight; Lt. Leonard Eshmont, Norman NAB.. Cpl. Michael Basca, former backfield star for Villanova and Philly Eagles, killed in France..Sgt. Jim Ferrier won Oakland open golf beating best pros..Sgt. Dutch Harrison won Miami open beating Gene Sarazen among others..

SIDELINES:..Lt. Cmdr. Benny Leonard of Maritime awarded Neil Plaque as man who did most for boxing during '44..U of Chicago dropped all sports but track.. Byron Nelson won San Francisco open..Willie Hoppe set new tournament record defeating Andrew Ponzi 50 to 20 in 20 innings in world's biennial three-cushion billard championship.