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SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

MARINE OFFICER PRAISES SEABEES IN SPEARHEAD OF
ALLIED ATTACK ON BOUGAINVILLE

"To the Seabees that go with us, we are damn glad you are on our side!"

Those were the stirring words spoken by Lieut. Colonel Alan Shapley, U. S. Marine Corps veteran of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to the Seabee detachment with the Marine Landing Team enroute to spearhead the Allied attack on Bougainville Island.

Speaking over the loudspeaker system of the ship carrying the invading Americans toward the Jap-held island, Col. Shapley, commanding officer of the force, addressed the members of the spearhead and emphasized the importance of cooperation by all hands.

"This is an All-American Team. An All-American Team has never been beaten, so we are bound to win", the Marine Colonel said.

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PLANE CRASHES INTO TRUCK; KILLS THREE SEABEES;
SURVIVORS RESCUE PILOT FROM BLAZING PLANE

The trapped pilot of a Navy fighter plane which crashed into a truck loaded with Seabees of the 34th Construction Battalion, killing three of them, was rescued from the flames and imminence of exploding gasoline by the dazed Seabee survivors of the wreck.

Returning from combat duty, the plane unable to land on the airstrip, attempted a crash landing on the beach, hit the sand and rebounded atop the truck. Several of the Seabees aboard the truck saw the oncoming plane and jumped clear before the collision.

However, when the plane burst into flames, CEM James Tidwell, CCM Homer Green and Charles Robinson, CM2c, with complete disregard for their own safety, fought their way through the fire to the plane, cut the straps which held the pilot to the seat, lifted him from the cockpit and carried him to safety.

The Seabees killed in the crash, William Williams S2c, James Bryant, Slc, and Zebbie Jones, SF3c, were buried with full military honors in the Naval Cemetery.

For their valorous deed, Tidwell, Green and Robinson were commended by Commander John P. MacBean, Jr., CEC, USNR, commanding officer of the 34th Battalion and later received letters of commendation from Admiral William F. Halsey, USN, commander of the South Pacific Force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

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SEABEE OFFICERS HONORED FOR PART IN RISKY MARINE PATROL

When three Civil Engineer Corps officers were needed to join a Marine reconnaissance patrol on a dangerous visit to a Jap-held island in the South Pacific, volunteers included Lt. William T. Maley, Jr., CEC, USN; Lt. Cleveland R. Horne, Jr., CEC, USN; and Lt. (jg) John H. Harker, CEC, USNR, all of whom were attached to Seabee Battalions stationed at advanced bases in the area.

For their achievements while on this mission, Lt. Maley and Lt. Harker have been awarded the Silver Star Medal. Lt. Horne has received a citation from Admiral Halsey.

The party's hazardous assignment was to obtain information concerning terrain, hydrographic conditions and hostile dispositions on the enemy-held island. Its members knew they were entirely on their own; they could expect no outside assistance from allied forces. The data they gathered is expected to be of considerable value in the conduct of future operations.

The citations which accompanied the award of the Silver Star Medal to Lt. Maley and Lt. Harker read, in part:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy.... (They) volunteered and embarked upon this hazardous mission without regard to personal safety, knowing full well that no assistance could be expected from our forces during the assignment..."

Lt. Horne's citation read, in part:

"For skillful and effective performance of duty....His courageous conduct contributed materially to the success of the mission and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

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ADMIRAL HALSEY COMMENDS THREE SEABEE BATTALIONS

Admiral William F. Halsey, USN, commander of the South Pacific Force of the United States Pacific Fleet, has commended officers and men of the 26th, 46th and 61st Naval Construction Battalions for their "...ingenuity and..ability to improvise with the limited materials at hand..", in a letter of appreciation signed by Rear Admiral Robert B. Carney, USN, chief of staff.

Expressing approbation for the excellent results obtained by the Seabees while engaged in a construction project, the letter also noted:

"..The high degree of cooperation between all hands and the general spirit shown which contributed in large measure to the successful completion of the work and is further evidence of the great effect of the Seabees in this area".

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TULAGI ACADEMY - SUH!

Not to be outdone by the Naval officers who wore U. S. Naval Academy rings, the Seabees on Tulagi Island in the Solomons fashioned their own out of snails' "cat-eyes" set in aluminum pounded out of Jap airplane wings. Questioned by admirers, the Seabees explain with just the proper degree of nonchalance that they are Tulagi Academy rings.

Himself the proud possessor of one of the rings, Lieutenant Commander Allen R. Carmichael, (CEC), USNR who recently returned from his command of the Tulagi Seabees, said the Tulagi Academy ring idea testifies to the financial acumen of a self-styled "pawnbroker" in the battalion, CMM Bernard M. Vinck.

"To amuse himself during his free hours, Chief Vinck rigged up his tent into a pawn shop complete with three coconuts hanging over its door," said Lieut. Comdr. Carmichael. "With this done, he had to have something on his "shelves" so he conceived the Tulagi Academy ring. He was an expert at handling metals and soon hammered some Jap aluminum and the "cat-eye" of a snail into an attractive ring. The demand was immediate, and he soon had more orders than he could fill.

"Business began to boom so much, he changed his "pawnshop's" name to "Vinck and Vinck, Inc." because that sounded more impressive, and he upped his prices. But the demand continued, until finally competitors entered the field. When I left, the Academy rings were selling for \$13 each," said Lieut. Comdr. Carmichael.

"Chief Vinck explained his price as follows: \$2 for materials, \$3 for government tools used, \$5 for spectators' time, \$1 for his own labor, and \$2 for labor costs brought on by the fact competitors has entered the field."

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DANGLE FROM ROPES, BLAST CLIFFS -- BEAT SCHEDULE

Roaring Aleutian winds and cold drenching rains, combining to harass a Seabee detachment building outpost installations high on the face of sheer cliffs, served only to spur the hardy builders to complete their assignment in even less than the scheduled time.

The Seabees swung from ropes to chisel footholes in the solid rock before they were able to pipe up compressed air and blast out level sites. Working under the constant threat of rock slides until overhanging loose rock had been removed, the trouble shooters rigged an "overhead tram" to bring materials and equipment up the sides of the cliff.

Sheaves were secured to a ledge on the face of the cliff and to a large anchor rock in the sea below. A "main gut" of 5/8" cable, strung at an angle of 50 degrees and stretching over a distance of more than 400 feet, served as "track" for a traveling carriage.

The "Cliffside Express" was operated by hand at first as no hoist was available. Later a bulldozer with an attached hoist was obtained from another project. Set at the water's edge, it furnished "tramway power", a new addition to the growing list of ingenious uses to which the Seabees have put their sturdy mechanical work-horses.

SEABEES HELP REBUILD MUNDA

Hard-working, hard-fighting Seabees, in the thick of it from the time the first beachhead was made on New Georgia July 5, have helped bring civilization to havoc-stricken Munda, according to an on-the-scenes report from Staff Sergt. W. S. Frank, Marine Corps combat correspondent.

Sgt. Frank wires, "The Seabees, who landed at much-bombed and shelled Lambeti plantation the day after the inoperative strip was secured, brought with them steam shovels, bulldozers and earth movers.

"The field, blasted out of action by our Air Force last April, was soon put right by the versatile Seabees.

"Modern two-lane, hard-packed coral roads have replaced the trails that jeeps so torturously made during the first few days of the offensive.

"Screened-in mess halls, kitchens and hospitals have been built... Where once marines and soldiers spent sleepless nights in rain-soaked fox-holes, tents with coral and wooden decks have been set up ... The millions of flies have almost completely vanished as the occupying troops cleaned up the area... Cold-storage boxes, laundries, radios and post exchanges -- luxuries accorded only those at rear bases -- are commonplace sights on this bomb-spattered battle ground."

Infantrymen returning from advanced positions "rub their eyes in amazement at the change wrought by the troops who followed them to occupy and fashion the crude Jap garrison into a modern Allied air base -- another strong step on the road which leads to Tokyo."

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SEABEES EXTINGUISH AMMUNITION DUMP FIRE; RECEIVE COMMENDATION

Despite the imminent threat of explosions that would have blasted them to bits, two Seabees of the 24th Construction Battalion, extinguished a fire in an ammunition dump which was caused by enemy bombs or shells.

The fire, which followed an explosion, was spotted by Eugene J. Donovan, CCM, and Harry Mitchell, Jr., CMM, who dashed to the ammunition dump and removed many powder cases before smothering the flames.

This deed which "...undoubtedly averted further explosions and loss of life..." was officially commended by the commanding officer, Comdr. Horace R. Whittaker, CEC, USNR, who also noted: "... (these men) are commended for their bravery and courage in performing this deed without consideration for their own safety and lives."

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"CAN DO'S" MAKE VILLA DO

With orders for "one hospital - quick!", Palermo Seabees transformed a bomb-damaged villa, summer home of an Italian princess, into a modern, efficiently layed-out American medical institution.

The Seabees worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The villa's kitchen became an operating room; the reception room, a laboratory. Kitchen cabinets were converted into instrument cases. And the pantry emerged as a sterilizing room.

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SEABEES HUNT DEER -- REGARDLESS

Navy Seabees, whose "out of the hat" construction achievements are legendary, take their hunting in the same believe-it-or-not stride.

In a rowboat off the shore of a South Pacific island, ordinarily the last place in the world a hunter would pick, Seabees Samuel R. Schutt, GMlc, of Bend, Oregon and Carmel Shaddox, MMLc, of Winslow, Oregon, were lamenting missing the open season for deer in the States.

A shout from Schutt and both Seabees stared unbelievably at a healthy young buck swimming unconcernedly in the ocean.

Don't ask how he got there. Even Schutt and Shaddox don't attempt to explain that. But, recovering from their surprise, the two Seabee sportsmen tugged at their cars in frantic pursuit of the now thoroughly alarmed deer.

After an hour and a half of skillful maneuvering, they finally caught up with their victim. A blow with an oar stunned the deer. Then one of the Seabees made the kill with a swift stroke of a hunting knife.

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ARMY GENERAL AND NAVY COMMODORE COMMEND COMDR. SNELL AND 35TH BATTALION

Commander Frederick C. Snell, CEC, USNR, OinC of the 35th Construction Battalion has been commended by Major General John H. Hester, U. S. Army, commanding officer of an advanced Army group; and by Commodore William M. Quigley, USN, commander of an advanced naval base, for the excellent construction work done by the 35th.

Maj. Gen. Hester's commendation stressed the engineering ability of Comdr. Snell in "...the construction and maintenance of roads..(and) the construction of an airfield..both of which (have been) accomplished in a very excellent manner.....under his direction..".

Commodore Quigley commended Comdr. Snell and the 35th for their "...part" in the speedy and efficient completion of the vital airfield project.. (and) enthusiastic cooperation and attention to duty under adverse conditions of weather and enemy action (which) has won the admiration and acclaim of all..".

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NAVY AIR OFFICER COMMENDS 34th BATTALION

The 34th Construction Battalion and its commanding officer, Commander

John P. MacBean, Jr., CEC, USNR, have been commended by Lieut. Commander Alfred D. Morgan, A-V(S), USNR, commanding officer of a Naval Scouting Squadron for their "whole-hearted cooperation and assistance..that enabled the squadron to operate efficiently despite the lack of specialized facilities."

Despite the severe demands on the equipment and men, the 34th more than responded to the requests for assistance, the commendation noted and listed among the services rendered:

The furnishing of an operator and drag line crane for eight float changes and two engine changes on seaplane type aircraft. Two of the float changes were emergency repairs and the aircraft were back in service within four hours of the call for the crane;

Laying out of a temporary compass rose which permitted compensation of aircraft compasses without delay;

The construction by carpenters, of an ingenious gig "with materials at hand" for wing repairs, speeding the return to service of a much needed plane;

Manufacture of several specialized tools, not otherwise available, by the blacksmith shop.

"The manner in which your men utilized their skill and equipment," the commendation concluded, "in the specialized operations peculiar to an aircraft squadron speaks for itself".

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HURRICANE FAILS TO HALT CBMU 516

Working up to their chins in barracuda-infested waters, and battling high waves rolled by the wind, the dock and stevedore crew of CBMU 516 fought through a tropical gale to salvage small boats and a derrick and crane which had dragged their anchors. During the height of the storm, the crew remained on watch continuously for eighteen hours.

Thirteen men were commended for "meritorious performance of duty". Special mention was made of the "initiative, resourcefulness and competence" of Chief Boatswain's Mate Paul S. Bryan, 1334 Northwest Forty-third Street, Miami, Florida, who was in charge of the detachment. Bryan entered the service less than two months ago.

The other Seabees to be commended were Bernard J. Sweeney, SF3c; H. E. Wyatt, S2c; R. R. Swartz, F2c; Alfred J. Merz, S2c; Paul B. Fink, F2c; Thomas F. Miles, F1c; Anthony P. Libonate, S2c; J. B. Smith, SF3c; Walter Olszewski, SF3c; Raymond A. Syvinski, SF3c; and J. J. Doyle, Ptr3c.

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4,000 'FLATS' A MONTH FIXED IN 'ISLAND X' SHOP

Using 18 lbs. of scrap iron and a few washers and studs (total value, \$5) to convert an adjustable sectional mould to tire sizes used by Seabee trucks

on the island, E. F. Shell, CSF, of the 51st Battalion has gradually built an advance base tire repair shop that averages 4,000 flat tires and 600 sections a month.

Not content with saving Uncle Sam \$1,200 by converting the old mould instead of ordering a new one from the States, Chief Shell has developed a shoepac recapping device that enables his shop to repair shoepacs originally costing as much as \$5 for only 2½¢ a pair.

The Chief has also gone in for the repair of damaged diving dress and foul weather gear. His improvised equipment does the job in less than half an hour and at extremely low cost.

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UNCONFIRMED WEATHER REPORT

Word from the Aleutians tells of a recent williwaw storm which buried Seabees' huts in snow so deep that special squads, armed with long poles, had to probe their way down to the buildings so the occupants wouldn't suffocate. The tenants want it definitely understood that they are NOT "dreaming of a White Christmas".

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SEABEES HEROISM SAVES STORM-TOSSED TRANSPORT

Despite the fact that it was the first ocean voyage for many of them, Seabees aboard a transport encompassed by a tropical hurricane, performed numerous acts of heroism which were credited with preventing disastrous damage to their ship, according to an eye-witness account written by J. H. Donovan, S1c of the Third Regiment for the "Sea Beacon", publication of the Third Naval Construction Regiment.

The storm--the captain of the transport, a veteran of the Royal Dutch Navy, said it was the worst in his 35 years at sea--struck suddenly in mid-day as the ship steadily pushed its way towards its "Island X" destination. Working parties immediately set about securing all loose gear and lashing heavy equipment topside as the heavily-laden transport pitched and tossed in the angry seas. The storm continued unabated and the following afternoon the accompanying ship, driven by the tumultuous winds and beaten by the lashing waves, dropped out of sight.

That night the storm increased its fury but the Seabee gun crews stuck to their guns until ordered to secure after one of the gunners, Norman Fen-drick, Flc, was struck in the head by a flying piece of steel and severely injured.

The storm reached its peak on the third day when the wind increased in velocity to almost 100 miles an hour and the ship rolled closer and closer to its capacity pitch. Launches and equipment piled high on the deck were swept over the sides and all hands were ordered to remain below decks. However, the hatches started to work loose, opening the holds to the wind and rain. It was then that Pat Geraghty, WTlc, Carp. Clyde Davis, CEC, USNR and another

unidentified Seabee, aided by several of the transport's crew, braved the storm to batten down the hatches.

Soon after, a motor launch broke loose from its moorings and with each roll of the ship crashed to and fro from rail to hatchtop. Realizing that it would only be a matter of minutes before the launch would crash through the rail and plunge into the sea, Seabees James Downey, S2c, Ted Forty, MMLc, and Chief Fred Simpson rushed onto the deck, pushed the launch against the wind to a hatch way and then, after many hour-long minutes, secured it.

Later that day the wind slackened and the water calmed. The Seabee working parties quickly cleared the wreckage and repaired what damage they could; the Seabee gunners climbed back to their posts; and the transport, a veteran of the Dunkirk evacuation, resolutely pointed its bow towards "Island X".

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WHISTLE FOR THEIR DINNER

The 3rd Battalion's bugler, who regularly works as a carpenter, isn't always on hand to blow chow call. When some of the more regular chow hounds nearly missed a meal as a result of his absence, they took steps to avert a recurrence of the near calamity.

The hungry Seabees improvised a whistle and hooked it up to the air compressor used to pump up the galley stoves. Now when the captain of the galley watch is ready to serve, he simply tugs at the whistle string and the customers come running.

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SEABEE TOM HEENEY UPSETS SLAPSY-MAXIE

Ex-light-heavy champ Maxie Rosenbloom, who has been touring the South Pacific, was ambushed by the Seabees the other day, according to the Washington Post.

Rosenbloom, visiting several bases each week, has been challenging any serviceman in the crowd to box four rounds. He had been doing pretty well until he hit the Fiji Islands -- then something hit him. A burly sailor accepted Maxie's dare and pounded his ears off. The bluejacket was Seabee Tom Heeney, CMLc, who a few weeks ago also boxed an exhibition with his one-time opponent, Commander Gene Tunney.

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SEABEES LEAVE THEIR TRADEMARK

Completing a Naval Air Transport Service building in a North African port, Construction Battalion men made sure visitors would know who had done the job ... they embedded a handmade mosaic Seabee emblem in the lobby floor.

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FOOD "PIPING HOT" AS FIRE ATTACKS GALLEY

The most habitual grumbler admitted the food was sufficiently warm when breakfast was served a few hours after fire had destroyed the roof and part

of the walls of the 4th Battalion's galley.

The blaze, which roused the Seabees at 2:15 A.M., was brought under control 45 minutes later and quickly improvised repairs made it possible to serve breakfast on time. The cooks also whipped up the mid-day menu exactly as scheduled.

Rebuilding was completed within 15 hours after the fire started, without any interruption of galley operations.

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"UNCANNY" -- C. O. DESCRIBES SEABEE CHIEF

"Tie up the bloodhounds and call out the chief," is what the boys of the 41st Battalion are saying about C.P.O. R. F. Robinson.

Chief Robinson has been commended by Lt. Col. Howard P. Shaffer, Commanding Officer of the theatre of operations in which the battalion is stationed, "for volunteering his services, and for his uncanny sense of direction in guiding a searching party to a lost Navy plane. Robinson was successful in finding the plane although an earlier party had failed.

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DRINK OF THE WEEK: THE SEABEE SLUG

Local intelligence from the Espiritu Santo Bar and Grill (Hospital Annex) reports two temporary Seabee guests.

These gents (both Chiefs) raided the refrigerator and hurriedly refilled their canteens without looking at the label on the jug. They then tossed down a couple of tall ones, the ingredients of which were battery juice exclusively.

The first Chief must have been on the sickly side; the sulphuric acid laid him low for eight days. The other thirsty Seabee, however, had the regulation C.P.O. cast-iron stomach. He reported back for duty the same day.

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"THRU DAILY BOMBINGS AND NIGHTLY SHELLINGS ... YOU HAVE MADE HISTORY"

When the Sixth Battalion departed from "Island X" some months ago, it took with it the highest praise of Commander J. P. Compton, c. o. of the task force of which it had been a part.

Commander Compton's previously unpublished citation said, in part: "With no previous experience to call upon, and no fore runners to clear the field, you immediately established yourselves as the backbone of development; and from all sides burdens and problems were thrown at you for settlement. With no equipment except your own bare hands and exceptional ability, plus Japanese scrap, you have performed wonders. Thru daily bombings and nightly shellings, rain, mud, dust and sickness, you have persevered and finished your job.

No matter what the future may hold you have done your part; made history."

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C. B. FIREFIGHTERS GET TRIPLE 'HOT FOOT'

Exasperated flame quenchers of the 120th Battalion submit the following diary of frustration:

- 20 September - ...notified of a fire on a sunken ship....investigation found smoke coming from an old smoke drum....was left to expend itself.....
- 21 September - ...notified of fire in vacant building near Shore Patrol headquarters...fire was found to be old rubbish burning on first deck.....
- 23 September - ...notified of a truck burning on coast road....found truck and fire was practically put out and truck ruined....

But when the pressure is really on, these men are second to no one. When an enemy air raid left a trail of smoke and flame in its wake on August 1, they were "on the ball". In commending them, their OinC, Lt. Comdr. George Rezac, CEC, USNR called attention to "...the promptness with which the fire-fighting equipment was dispatched"....and,...."the efficient manner in which (the department) handled their dangerous and extremely arduous duties throughout the day."

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SEABEES AGAIN LAUDED FOR AFRICAN ACHIEVEMENTS

Commendations for the Seabees' important role in both the African campaign and the subsequent Sicilian invasion are still coming in. The latest commendation for a "magnificent job" was addressed to a Seabee battalion by the Commander of Northwest Africa Waters. It read in part:

"...the larger part of the previously existing facilities and a major part of the installations were in a bombed and wrecked condition, or sabotaged by defeated enemy forces. Supplies were very limited and difficult of procurement. ...Despite these handicaps, you ... proceeded on a 24-hour basis to repair installations and facilities, and place them in an operating condition, and improve them. This you have done by your continuous endeavor, often in the face of enemy action, and often at the cost of severe hardship.

"Proof of your accomplishment is evident by the present size and activity of this Naval Operating Base, the largest in North Africa, the smooth functioning of which is dependent in large on your organization, plus the fact that all the landing craft assigned to the Sicilian invasion were able to sail on schedule, and for which craft your battalion worked night and day to have pontoons and other types of landing gear ready."

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SEABEES BUILD COURSE, WIN SOUTH PACIFIC GOLF CROWN

Puttering around in their spare time to build a nine-hole golf course suited Seabees on a South Pacific "Island X" to a tee. Only equipment available was a few golf balls someone had brought along from the States, so the men improvised clubs out of available scrap.

Army, Navy and Marine swing-and-miss addicts were invited to participate in the First Annual Competition of the Yankee Bee Country Club. Victor and runner up respectively were Seabees Timothy J. Sullivan, Mtl.1/c of Elmsford, New York and Emil Corrente, Mtl.1/c, of Springdale, Conn. First prize was a 16-inch trophy, hammered out of a 105-mm. shell contributed by a fast-moving passer-by who did not stop to leave his name.

Club membership cards, which are in great demand, are phrased in language as rugged as the Seabees themselves. Already in the hands of many high officials of all the services throughout the Southwest Pacific, the cards are in great demand and requests for honorary membership continue to pour in.

(Note: Wouldn't mind a membership ourselves)

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TWO SEABEES CITED FOR HEROISM

When Armando Rocco, Slc of the 26th Battalion was overcome in the sea while performing his duty with a dock detail, two fellow Seabees, "without hesitation or regard for (their) own personal safety", dove into the sea to rescue their exhausted mate and earned the commendation of Admiral William F. Halsey, USN, commander of the South Pacific Force of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, for their heroic deed.

John F. Redmond, GMLc and Russell C. Cowin, CM2c were the Seabees who were presented with the citations by Commander Clare A. Frye, CEC, USNR, OinC of the Battalion, during impressive ceremonies before their assembled Seabee shipmates.

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SEABEES COMMENDED FOR SALVAGING PLANE

Six Seabees of the 10th Construction Battalion have been commended by Lt. Herbert G. MacIntosh, OinC of an air unit, U. S. Fleet for their cooperation and skill in salvaging a PBX aircraft which ran aground on a coral reef and punctured its hull in several places.

The plane, surrounded by exposed coral reefs at low tide, appeared to be a total loss until the Seabees took a hand. After surveying the area, the men picked out a channel through the reefs, marked it with tin can buoys, and at high tide dislodged the plane and towed it to safety. Only the skillful handling of the long tow rope by the Seabees prevented further damage as the PBX was pulled through the jagged coral reefs.

W. H. Acheson, CCM; W. D. Brown, Jr., CM2c; H. Reno, GMLc; F. R. Goodrow, Flc; R. T. Maher, CM3c; and C. J. Oliver SFlc were the Seabees that participated in the salvaging operations.

SEABEE OFFICER COMMENDED FOR "INITIATIVE AND EFFICIENCY"

Faced with the necessity of refloating a grounded freighter before the next high-tide to prevent it from becoming a target of persistent night-raiding enemy aircraft, Lieut. Philip P. Pasqualino, Sr., CEC, USNR, of the 26th Naval Construction Battalion, displayed typical Seabee initiative and efficiency to earn the commendation of Commander Harry A. Rochester, USN, commander of a Naval base somewhere in the Pacific.

In order to sufficiently lighten the vessel, it was necessary to transfer part of its fuel oil cargo to a large tanker which, because of its deep draft, was compelled to anchor to seaward. Lieut. Pasqualino, in charge of the Seabee detachment, had an extra long length of hose rigged from the grounded ship to the tanker and "...kept pumping until the very minute that the grounded ship was hauled off, and successfully broke your connection due to your excellent rig".

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SEABEES MAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS UNTIL WOUNDED

Four Seabees of the 58th Battalion who volunteered to man the anti-aircraft guns aboard an LST boat and sustained injuries from bomb fragments and strafing during one of many enemy air attacks, have been commended by their commanding officer for their "courage and fortitude and determined effort..... beyond their prescribed duty..."

Roland A. Poulin, CCM; Stephen W. Pavlick, CSF; Samuel W. Barker, EM2c; and John J. Evans, GM2c were the heroic Seabees who, while being transported aboard the LST to the bridge head previously established, offered their services and "...courageously and faithfully operated their guns.....(until) injured..."

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MORE BROKEN PIPELINES, PLEASE

Strange though it sounds, the favorite assignment thus far for the Forty-Sixth battalion was mending a broken pipe line.

The monthly report of the battalion explains as follows:

"When the moon is full, it is a good indication that the Japs will send down a few bombers. They have shown greater ability to get down here than to get back to their base. Some thrilling scenes have been enacted at night when the anti-aircraft guns and our night fighters go to work. Perhaps the most enjoyable work this battalion has been called upon to do was the repair of a pipe line after one of these raids.

"A single night fighter shot down two enemy bombers within three and one-half minutes, some of the debris falling in the battalion camp area. One of the motors buried itself in the ground, cutting off a pipe line on one of the projects. It was a happy moment for those men who were called on for emergency repairs. They were looking for more the next night, but the Japs didn't oblige by sending any more bombers to be shot down."

Commenting on the battalion's morale, the report said: "The spirit of the officers and men has been exceptional. They take the attitude that if there is a job to be done they can do it better and faster than any other organization.

When it was decided that an additional fighter strip was needed in 30 days, it was completed in 20 and in such condition that it could have been used in an emergency in 10 days. A ship dock with a stem 38' x 190' and a tee section 60' x 500' was completed with concrete decking in 450 working hours."

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SHORT SPORT SHOTS

November 13-14. Passing records fell as Sid Luckman led Chicago Bears to 56-7 triumph over hapless N. Y. Giants...Sid tossed 7 touchdown passes; completed 23 of 30 aeriads for 453 yards...Bears set team record; gaining 702 yards from scrimmage and 508 yards on passes...Sammy Baugh passed for 4 touchdowns as Washington Redskins trounced Detroit Lions 42-20...Don Hutson paced Green Bay Packers to 35-14 victory over Chicago Cardinals, scoring three touchdowns...Dodgers upset Phil-Pitts Steagles, 13-7...Notre Dame defeated Northwestern 25-6...Northwestern scored on fluke when Irish quarterback pivoted in wrong direction and handed ball to opposition..Freakiest game of season won by Ohio State over Illinois...final gun sounded with score 26-all as Ohio pass grounded in end zone...players and spectators left but lineman called offside against Illinois; insisted on one more play...players returned after 12 minutes and 17-year-old sub back kicked field goal from 25 yard line to give Ohio 29-26 victory..Navy romped over Columbia, scoring at will to win 61-0...Army had trouble beating Sampson Naval Training 16-7...March Field handed Southern California surprisingly 35-0 trouncing...Iowa Seahawks tuned up for Irish by whipping Camp Grant 28-13 for eighth straight win.

November 20-21. Redskins scored greatest pro upset by defeating Bears 21-7..first regular season defeat for Bears in 23 straight games and worst beating since 1929..injured Sammy Baugh played only four minutes but set up first touchdown by faking pass; tossed for second...Steagles won 35-34 thriller from Lions...Packers romped over Dodgers 31-7..Hutson broke own record by snaring eight passes for a total yardage of 237 yards in single game...Giants walloped Cardinals 24-13...Washington leads Eastern Division with 6 wins, 1 tie; Bears top Western Division with 7 wins, 1 loss, 1 tie...Notre Dame eked out 14-13 victory over hitherto undefeated Iowa Seahawks when third string quarterback kicked winning point after touchdown...Purdue kept record unblemished winning 7-0 over Indiana...LSU selected for Orange Bowl after taking 27-0 pasting from Tulane and despite record of 5 wins, 3 losses.. Army tuned up for annual Navy game by trouncing Brown 59-0..University of Washington and Southern California to meet in Rose Bowl..Sid Luckman sworn in as ensign in U. S. Maritime Service...Cincinnati Reds attendance dropped to lowest in five years... Bud Metheny, Yankee outfielder rejected for military service..Tony Galento pudgy heavyweight passed Army physical; threatened to "moider dem bums".. Walker Cooper, Cardinal back-stop, accepted for limited service...World Champions Yankees received \$204,962.41; Cardinals, \$136,641.61 as share of World Series receipts..War Relief and Service Fund, Inc., received \$308,373.48, including \$100,000 for broadcasting rights..Montreal leads pro hockey league with 8 wins 2 losses..Beau Jack, 1-4 underdog, became second man in lightweight history to regain title (NY version) from opponent that dethroned him by scoring victory over Bob Montgomery..Giants Billy Jurges rejected for service..Merrill May, Phillies third baseman joined Navy..Primo Carnera, reportedly facing execution by Nazis after being captured when wounded with partisan army...Judge Landis ousts William D. Cox as president of Phillies for allegedly betting on ball games..New Phillie prexy, Robert Carpenter, Jr., will retain Freddie Fitzsimmons as 1944 manager..Senators regain veteran Joe Kuhel, first baseman on waivers. Elbie Fletcher, Pirates first sacker, to be inducted into Navy...Jimmy Wilson to manage Cubs.

SEABEE MAGIC: JUNK TO SWITCHBOARD

Electrician's Mates James F. Sewell, Charles A. Roberts and Kenneth E. Bush of the 51st Battalion were in the market for a remedy for graying hair after they were handed four lonely-looking dry cell batteries with the comment, "We need a PBX switchboard; this is the equipment available."

Their ingenuity put to the test, the Seabee communications crew began "hunting bear". First catch was the keys for the board, borrowed from a salvaged ship, underwater so long its equipment had previously been given up as useless. Line drops came from a pile of junk remaining after an Army conversion job. A discarded radio set provided a magneto; an ordinary door bell buzzer made a satisfactory common signal; and a ten-foot length of cable, stripped, furnished wire for the forms.

The completed set, built, with the exception of the batteries, solely from these leftovers and discards, measures 13" x 20" x 38", has 75 keys, operates with 12 extensions, and is tied to three main line trunks. As additional miles of field wire have been added and telex lines laid under the water of the nearby bay, the Seabees' improvised communication system has been extended to cover the entire base, including Army and Navy as well as their own encampments. It is now serving 25 local battery talking, common battery signalling, and magneto signalling stations over an area that covers many miles.

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22ND BATTALION COMMENDED FOR "HIGH-CALIBER" CONSTRUCTION

For their high caliber of work, in connection with the construction of a vital Naval installation, which has "set the standard by which all future Seabee organizations .. will be gaged", the 22nd Battalion has been commended by Commander Rhea S. Taylor, USN, commanding officer of the station.

Comdr. Taylor's commendation complimented Commander Charles M. Noble, CEC, USNR, commanding officer of the 22nd, for his "personal contact with officers and men under his command" ...(which implanted) ... "the will to push the job to the utmost" ... and for his cooperation and helpfulness in his dealing with Army and Navy commanders.

In an accompanying endorsement, Captain Aaron P. Storrs III, USN, Chief of Staff, by direction of Rear Admiral John W. Reeves, USN, Commander of the Sector, noted: "(The commander of the sector) heartily concurs and congratulates Comdr. Noble and the officers and men of the 22nd Construction Battalion for a job "well done"."

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ARMY AIR FORCE OFFICER COMMENDS DETACHMENT OF SEABEES

A detachment of 20 enlisted men and Ensign Eugene B. Maddex, CEC, USNR, of the 46th Construction Battalion have been commended by Lt. Thomas M. Good, U.S. Army Air Corps for their "... high degree of efficiency, expedience, quality of work and complete coordination .. (which)..made it possible to complete the air force supply warehouses (one of which has 8,820 separate and distinct bin pockets) and engineering hangar in a most remarkable short period of time..."

Lt. Good, Air Force Supply Officer, also noted in his letter of Commendation that "their spirit prompts all of us to do our work well, even under adverse conditions".

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Neatest trick of the week reported by the 22nd's "Dragline", which says, "Hats off to 'Double-Dip' Jones, the versatile man of Company C. Jones has been doing a marvelous job of manufacturing ice cream and at the same time handling the duties of a motor grader operator..."

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SHORT SPORT SHOTS

Nov. 27-28. Upsets marked close of College-Service Football .. Mighty Notre Dame was 28 seconds away from its tenth straight victory, and perfect season, when Steve Lach tossed 50 yard touchdown pass to Paul Anderson to give under-dog Great Lakes Naval Training Station 19-14 victory .. Notre Dame had scored apparent winning touchdown 38 seconds before, marching 80 yards in 20 plays .. Despite defeat, Irish selected as top college eleven by 113 writers .. As you all know Navy had one of its greatest days, beating Army 13-0 in roughhouse game at West Point .. Washington Redskins were upset by Phil-Pitts Steagles, 27-14 .. first regular season defeat for 'Skins in 16 contests .. Steagles, led by Roy Zimmerman, Redskin cast-off, stalled Redskin attack, smothered Sammy Baugh .. Chicago Bears clinched Western Division title by sinking Chicago Cardinals 25-24 as Sid Luckman threw 4 touchdown passes to set two new all-time records -- most touchdown passes in one season, 28; total yards gained by passing in one season, 2,198 .. Cards have failed to win game all season, losing 10 .. New York Giants trounced traditional rival Brooklyn Dodgers 24-7 .. Iowa Pre-Flight Seahawks rebounded from Irish defeat to trim Minnesota 32-0.

DEC. 4-5. Giants scrambled Eastern League race by beating Redskins 14-10.. Bill Paschal, ex-Georgia Tech, ran 53 yards for winning touchdown, 4 and one-half minutes from end .. Giants ran all over Redskins' line, hobbled Baugh .. Baugh captured pro passing championship title from Luckman by completing his 117th pass of season .. Giants play Redskins again Dec. 12 .. If New Yorkers win, East standings will be tied making play-off between Giants and 'Skins necessary .. Don Hutson ended football career by scoring 20 points and leading Green Bay Packers to 38-28 victory over Steagles .. Hutson again leads league in scoring with 117 points .. Montreal Canadians lead National Hockey League with 11 wins, 1 loss, 3 ties .. suffered only defeat at hands of Boston Bruins .. New York Rangers still bringing up rear, seeking first victory with record of 12 losses and 1 tie .. Carl Hubbell retired after 16 years as one of the leading southpaws to head New York Giants' farm system .. Herb Pennock new Philly National business manager .. Only major unbeaten, untied elevens were Purdue and University of Washington .. Tom Lombardo quarterback to captain Army's 1944 eleven .. Boston Red Sox bought Bob Johnson, outfielder, from Washington Senators .. Steve O'Neill retained as Detroit Tigers' 1944 manager .. Marine Angelo Bertelli, ex-Notre Dame, won Heisman Trophy as outstanding college player of year .. Tommy Harmon, lost in China, returned safely .. second time Harmon has turned up after being reported missing .. Yankees' Charlie Keller, pre-Pearl Harbor father of 3, re-classified as 1-A .. Johnny Vander Meer, Reds' star hurler and 4F, called for re-examination .. Luke Appling, 34, Chicago White Sox star, father of two, joined Army .. Lieut. Bob Savage, former Philly pitcher, wounded in Italy awarded Purple Heart.

BOWL OPPONENTS

ROSE BOWL - Southern California vs Washington University
 SUGAR BOWL - Georgia Tech vs Tulsa University
 ORANGE BOWL - Louisiana State vs Texas A & M
 COTTON BOWL .. U. of Texas vs Randolph Field Army

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