

WEST INDIES-BAHAMA CRÜIST 1957-1959

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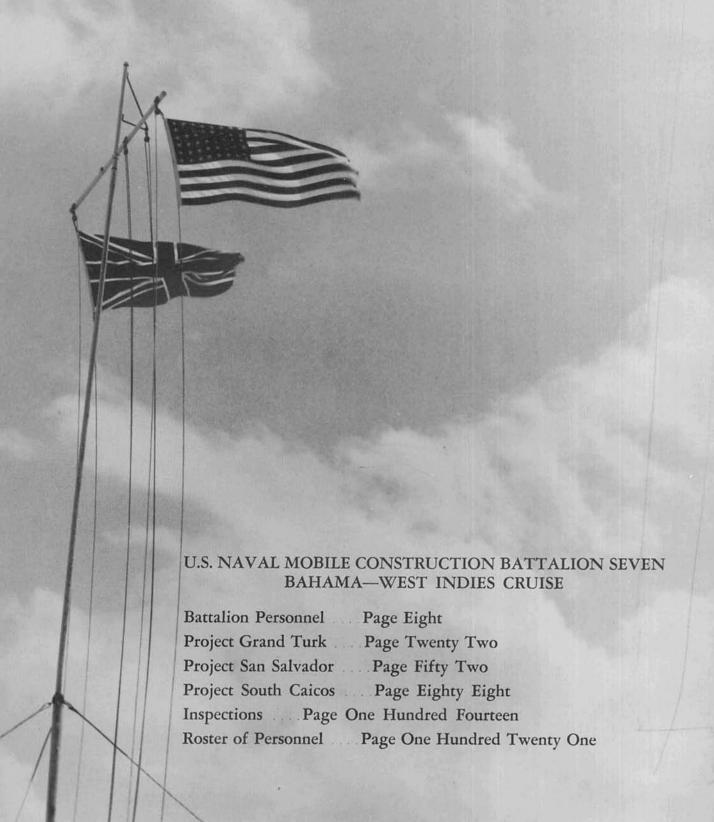
Glenn Walker (500F2)

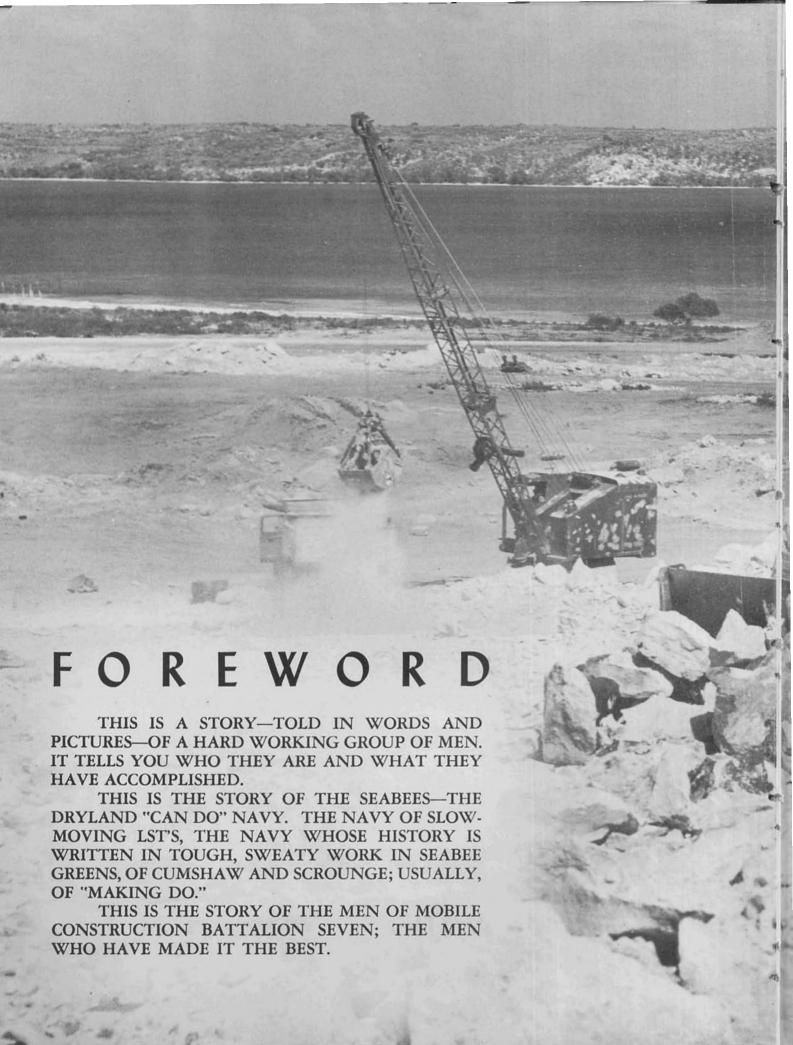
9 Holbrook Rd (1988)

Weymouth. Ma 02191

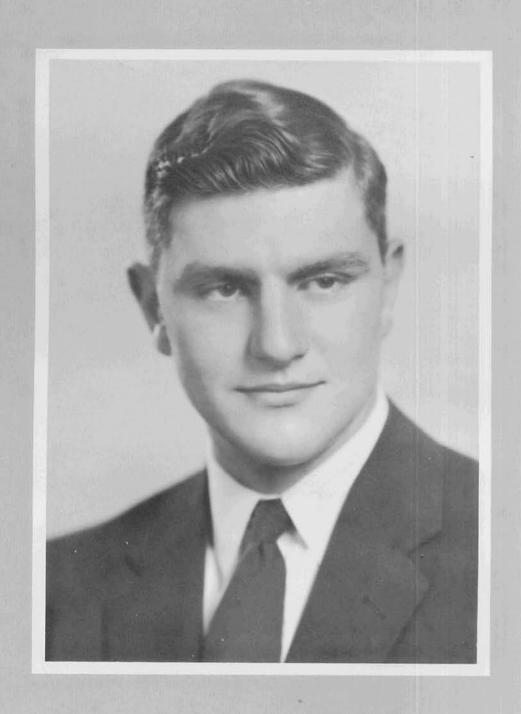
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LEW VITTOM
YOU BEAR CAMP POND ROAD
CENTER SANDWICH, NEW HAMPENIRE
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#### We dedicate this book to the memory of ARTHUR GERARD BULLARD

Utilitiesman (Water and Sanitation) Third Class, U. S. Navy
Who lost his life while serving on South Caicos with
U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN



#### COMMANDING OFFICER

Once again you have proven that the SeaBees "Can Do." You can take great pride in your accomplishments on this cruise. As you know, this has been the largest construction mission undertaken by any one battalion in the history of the peacetime Atlantic Seabees. Despite job isolation and tent camp living you have demonstrated rugged determination to get the job done in the traditional manner of the historic original Seabees.

You have mastered many difficult construction tasks as evidenced by the quality of the work— quality has been judged outstanding by our superiors. We should always remember that there is no substitute for doing the job in a proper and workmanlike manner to the very best of our ability.

I am very proud to have had the privilege of being your Commanding Officer on this deployment and trust that our paths will cross again in the future. A hearty "Well Done" to one and all.

E. HERBERT, JR. Commander Civil Engineer Corps U. S. Navy



#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

I am certain that we shall all remember the Grand Turk, San Salvador, South Caicos deployment of Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN in future years. We will remember the difficult living conditions, the crowded tent camp, the lack recreational facilities, and the lengthy separation from our families. I am confident, however, that above all we shall remember the final result of this the deployment-the two new Coast Guard Loran Stations and the two permanent Naval Facilities. The high quality of the work incorporated into these facilities is a credit to the ability of the men of the Seabees to rise above adverse conditions, to learn rapidly and to apply the skills that they have acquired. Personally I shall remember this tour with MCB SEVEN as most valuable. I value it for the friends that I have made,

for the experience and for the admiration and respect I have gained for the men who have done this job. I am confident that the men who comprise the peacetime Seabees, though younger and less experienced than those of the original Seabees, are fully capable of living up to the motto "Can Do", and capable of tackling any task which may be presented.

My thanks to all hands for their cooperation during this deployment, my congratulations on your achievement and my best wishes for success in the future.

> R. F. JORTBERG Lieutenant Commander Civil Engineer Corps U. S. Navy



JOHN L. PERSCHY LCDR, SC, USN Jan 1958—



EDWARD BELTON LT, CEC, USN Jan 1958—



RONALD SAGERMAN LT, MC, USNR Jan 1959—

B. S. ROSEN .LT, DC, USNR June 1957—July 1958



ARTHUR L. PHILLIPS LT, DC, USNR July 1958—



WILLIAM J. CLARDY LT, CHC, USN Sep 1958—Aug 1959





PENN P. SHELLEY LT, MC, USNR Sep 1958—Jan 1959



HOWARD H. HAYNES LT, CEC, USN April 1959—



JOHN WITKOWSKI LT, CEC, USN Feb 1957—April 1959

RICHARD M. ANDERSON LTJG, CEC, USN May 1958—May 1959



DAVID C. de VICQ LTJG, CEC, USNR June 1959—



JACK H. OWENS LTJG, CEC, USNR Oct 1957—





DONALD A. SPENCER LTJG, CEC, USNR Dec 1957—Jan 1959



GERALD G. FAIN LTJG, CEC, USN Nov 1958—



RICHARD H. STANTON LTJG, SC, USNR April 1958—Aug 1959

LAURENCE J. MARHOEFER ENS, CEC, USNR Jan 1959—



JOSEPH J. COTTER CWO-W4, CEC, USN Nov 1957—Oct 1959



CARNELL E. ACKERMAN CWO-W3, CEC, USN Aug 1957—Mar 1959





DONALD S. LEE ENS, CEC, USNR Dec 1957—Feb 1959



ARTHUR J. KOEHLER ENS, CEC, USNR Apr 1958—July 1959



PETER O'CONNOR ENS, CEC, USNR Sep 1958—

ALBERT R. THOMPSON CWO-W2, CEC, USN June 1959—



CHARLES L. NEUGENT WO-W1, CEC, USN April 1959—



Photographs of the following officers, who served on this deployment, were not available.

> HUGH GILLEN LCDR, CEC, USNR BLAKE VAN LEER

WILLIAM H. MULDER LT, CEC, USN

LCDR, CEC, USN

KEITH A. GARBER LT, MC, USNR

WILLIAM H. LISTA LT, MC, USNR

C. H. PITTS LTJG, CHC, USNR

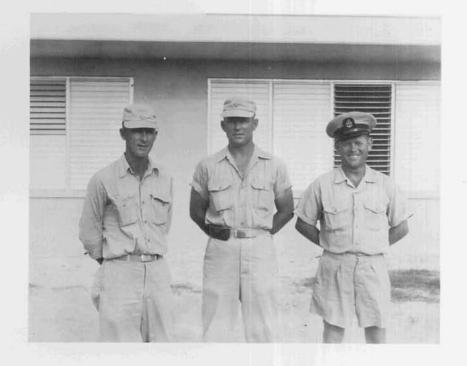
STEPHEN MCGLYNN LTJG, CEC, USNR

HOWARD S. EDELMAN ENS, SC, USNR



"A" COMPANY
W. Warren, UTCA
J. "D" Sherrod, CECA
L. Taylor, EOC
T. H. Oswalt, CMC
R. W. Rogers, UTC
E. Berkheimer, EOCS
C. H. Stein, EOC
C. R. Miller, SWC

"D" COMPANY
F. McDowell, BUCA
T. S. Peterson, BUCS
A. Stewart, BUC



### BATTALION CHIEFS

"C" COMPANY
J. N. Corner, BUC
W. Moore, BUC
E. E. Hall, BUCA
C. Aschenbach, BUC





"B" COMPANY
H. D. King, EOCA
J. M. Singley, CEC
A. G. Odgers, SWC
A. DeMarco, CMC
J. Nuceder, BUC



"H" COMPANY
C. M. Boydstun, DMCS
R. G. Allen, SKC
E. R. Cleveland, HMC
C. J. Limanni, CSCA



ALPHA COMPANY
First Platoon

# ALPHA COMPANY Second Platoon





### BRAVO COMPANY First Platoon

#### BRAVO COMPANY Second Platoon





CHARLIE COMPANY
First Platoon

# CHARLIE COMPANY Second Platoon





# DELTA COMPANY First Platoon

### DELTA COMPANY Second Platoon





DELTA COMPANY
Third Platoon

#### DETACHMENT SOUTH CAICOS

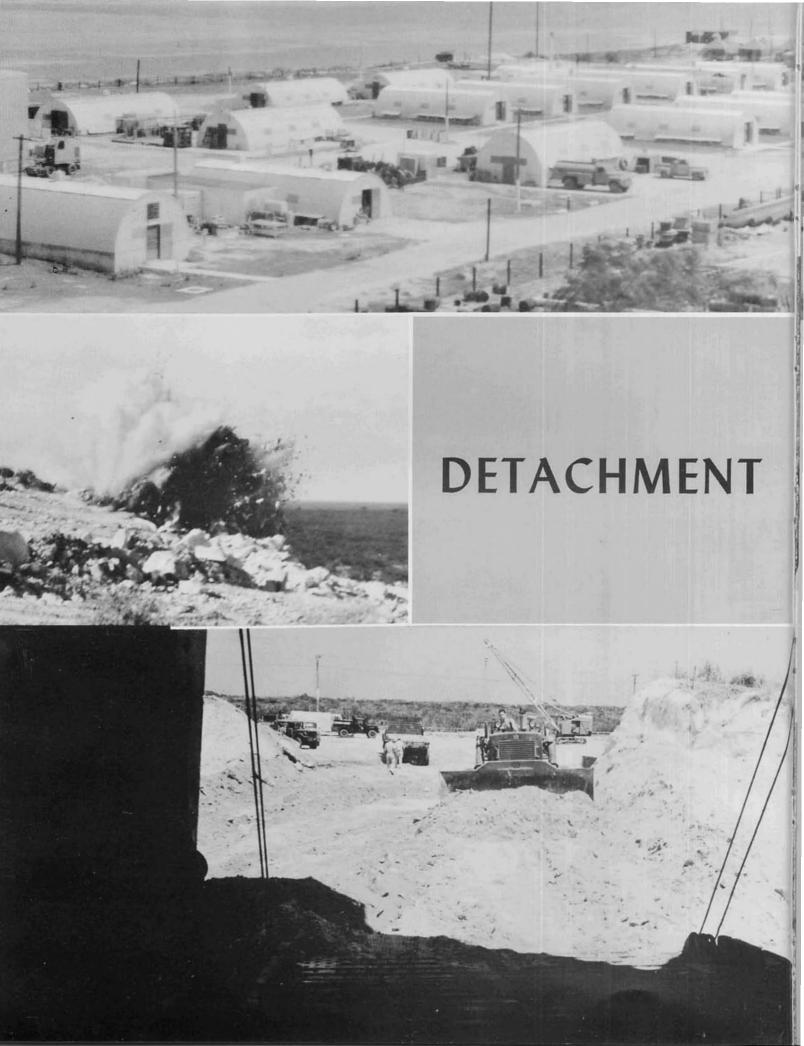


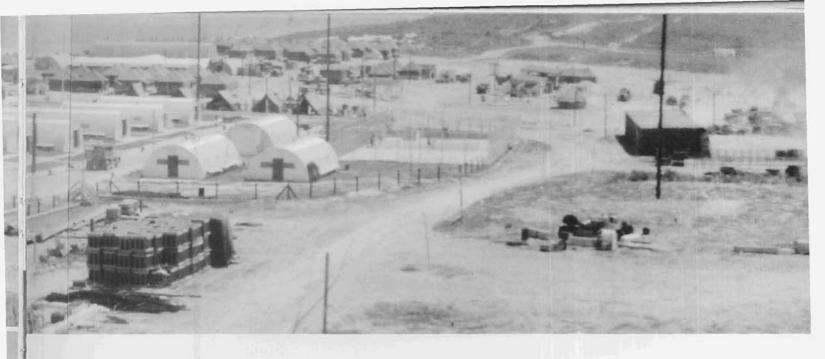


HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
First Platoon

# HEADQUARTERS COMPANY Second Platoon





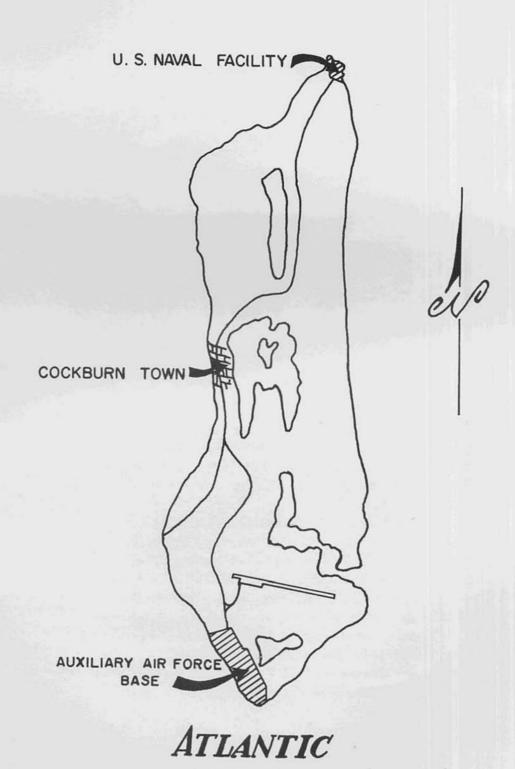


### INDIA PAVES THE WAY

Arriving at Grand Turk and San Salvador in October, Detachment India, the advanced party, had the task of preparing for the arrival of the main body of the battalion.

The early days were marked by wind, dust and mud and the need to prove the Can Do motto by "make do." They built the tent camps including galleys, offices and shops, and water and power systems. The rock crushers and concrete batch plants were set up to provide the essential aggregate and concrete.

During the period of February-April, the main body moved from Davisville to the islands. The final touches were put on the camps and the real project work began in April and May.

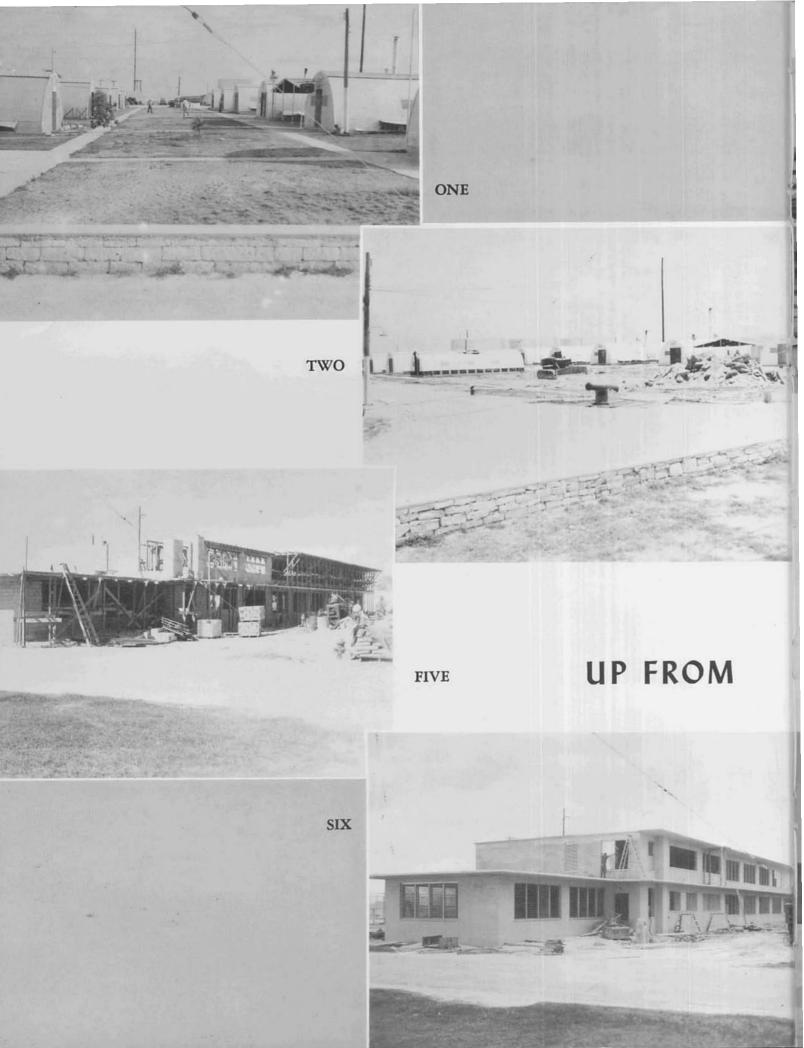


### PROJECT GRAND TURK:

THE JOB: —permanentize an existing Naval Facility by building new concrete block buildings some over and around existing quonset huts without interrupting the continuous operation of the Facility. This work included nineteen buildings, a 112 foot steel water tower, repaving seven miles of existing roads, a 35,000 square yard concrete water catchment, a new sewage disposal system, fresh and salt water systems and electrical, street lighting and communication systems.

To complete the work, over 75,000 concrete blocks were used, 2 miles of vitrified clay pipe, 250,000 pounds of reinforcing steel, 50,000 bags of cement and approximately 48,000 man days of productive effort were required.







THREE

FOUR

Here, in brief outline, are illustrated some of the steps in the construction of the barracks at the Grand.

Turk Naval Facility

ONE—The site

TWO—Removal of existing quonsets

THREE—Surveying

FOUR—Column forms

FIVE—Forming the roof

SIX—Installation of jalousies

SEVEN—The finished product

### THE GROUND





SEVEN



ONE



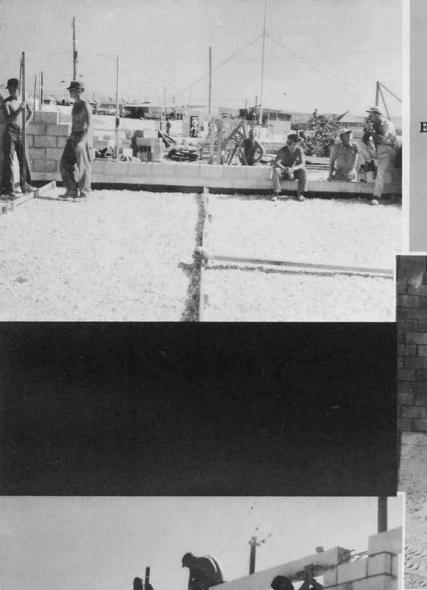


In any military unit, a spirit of teamwork must be developed and maintained. This spirit and pride of teamwork is inherent in the SEABEE organization. The seven construction rates—Builder, Utilitiesman, Surveyer, Steelworker, Electrican, Equipment Operator and Mechanic are closely unified in purpose.

The photographs on the following pages illustrate this spirit and offer justification for the proud SEABEE motto—"Can Do."

All supplies are moved by air and sea —in this case, an LST (one). From the LST the supplies are moved to the Supply Area (three) by truck. The Planning and Estimating Office (four) makes all estimates and requisitions the material. The survey crew (five) surveys the job and sets the batter boards (six). Then the excavation for the footings is dug (seven).





EIGHT

NINE



TEN



The builders take over (eight) and begin the blocklaying. The wall grows (nine) and soon (ten) it's time to cap the walls. Various units in the shops area (eleven) make their contribution to the effort. The carpentry shop (twelve), steelworking shop (thirteen) and machine shop (fourteen) make necessary parts and repairs for the field. Equipment is frequently taken from the shops area (fifteen) to the job site to lend necessary support.



**FOURTEEN** 



FIFTEEN



SIXTEEN



SEVENTEEN

**EIGHTEEN** 



NINETEEN

TWENTY



**TWENTYONE** 



**TWENTYTWO** 

**TWENTYTHREE** 

**TWENTYFOUR** 



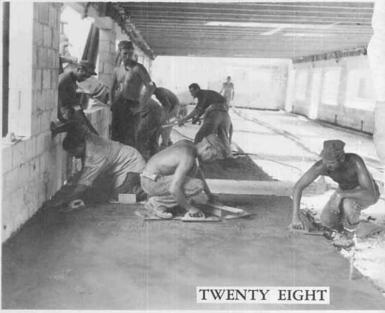
The Utilitiesmen are busy installing seawage disposal and water supply systems (sixteen and seventeen). In the meantime, the Builders have finished the walls (eighteen) and built the forms for the roof pour (nineteen). The electricians (twenty) go to work placing the electrical conduit (twenty one) and in the meantime, the Blasters (twenty two) and Equipment Operators (twenty three) work hand in hand in the rock quarry to provide rock for the crusher. (twenty four and twenty five).

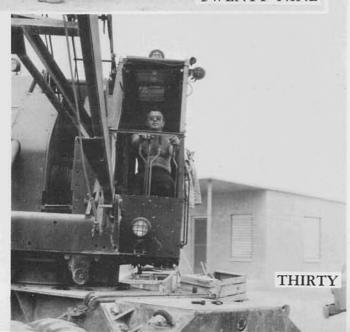












From the Rock Crusher, crushed coral and sand are moved to the Batch Plant for concrete mixing (Twenty six). From there, the concrete is moved to the building via transitmixers and the floors are poured and finished. (Twenty seven and twenty eight). By means of a crane and bucket, (Twenty nine) the cement is lifted to the roof (Thirty) where it is placed and finished (Thirty one and Thirty two). After the concrete has set up, the roof forms are stripped (Thirty three). The painters begin to paint (Thirty four) while interior electrical and plumbing connections are made. Interior finish work (Thirty five) is the last work to be done.



















### IN THE FIELD ...

















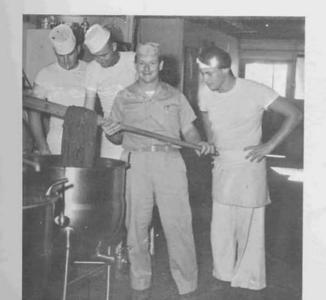








# SHOPS AND OFFICES











AA-CHEE-BOOM,







### JURY RIG and CAN DO!



















10.







WE WORKED HARD,















#### AND WE







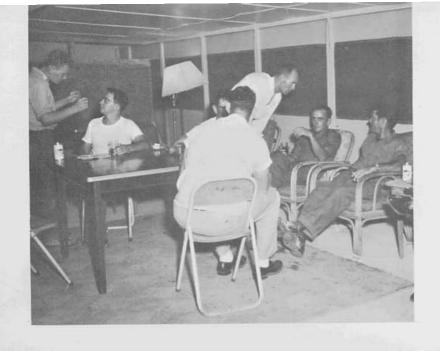


### PLAYED HARD











# ON THE BASE...









### AND ON THE ISLAND











### ... AND ON THE











### **BIG ISLAND**















WE WERE

















# ENTERTAINED...









### AND WE

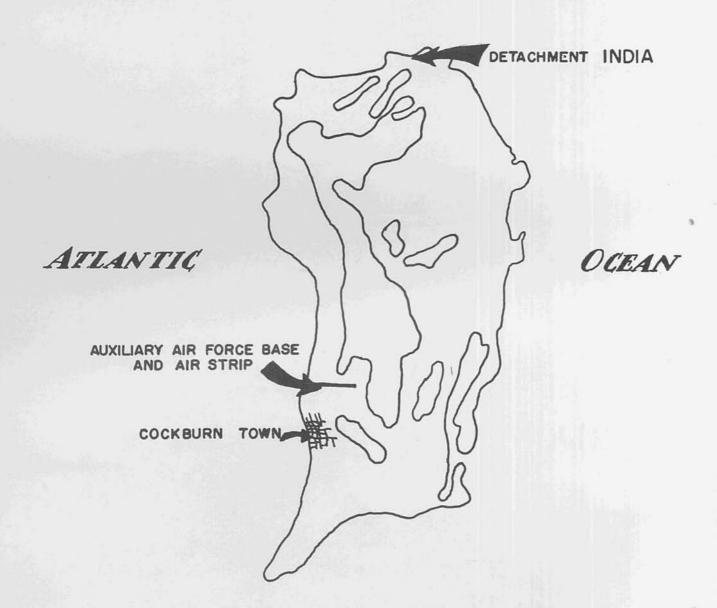




#### ENTERTAINED THE ISLANDERS



At Christmas-time, 1958, men who were hundreds of miles from their loved ones turned themselves to the thought of making Christmas a little more pleasant for the natives of Grand Turk. Fruit, candy and toys were given to the young and the festive spirit of Christmas prevailed.



# SAN SALVADOR IS.

**BAHAMAS** 

# PROJECT SAN SALVADOR

THE JOB: To permanentize the existing quonset hut Naval Facility without interrupting the normal working routine, and to construct a Coast Guard Loran Station.

The Naval Facility called for 19 buildings, three steel structures including a 108 foot water tower, four miles of road, a complete sewage system and fresh water supply and an electrical and communication system.

The Coast Guard Loran Station called for three buildings and a steel antenna, a complete sewage system and fresh water supply, and an electrical and communication system.





Steelworker



Surveyor



Utilitiesman

# **TEAMWORK**





Construction Mechanic

Teamwork and cooperation are musts among Seabees, as demonstrated by the fact that only seven of the over sixty Navy specialty ratings are directly concerned with construction.

The men of Detachment India, whose two-fold accomplishment included construction of a Naval Facility and a Coast Guard Loran Station, truly exemplified this spirit of teamwork and pride of specialization.



Builder



Equipment Operator





# BU: BUILDER









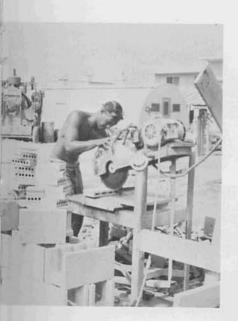




Perhaps the most basic of the seven construction ratings is that of Builder. Divided into three sub-specialties, Light, Heavy and Concrete, this rating is involved in the actual ground up construction of the buildings in a project.















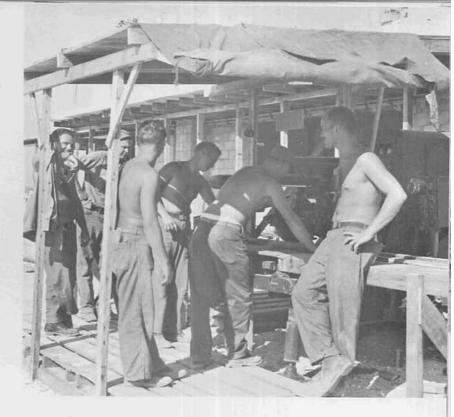


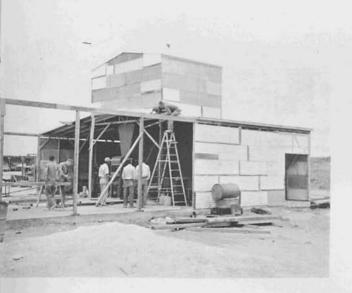




















# SV: SURVEYOR



The jobs assigned to the Surveyor carry him from the field to the drafting table; from the business end of a shovel to the delicate adjustment of a transit.

Upon the accuracy of his work depends much of the success of the project.

Working closely with Draftsmen in the office and independently in the field, their capabilities and versatility make them a small but essential part of the Seabee organization.















# CE: CONSTRUCTION











# **ELECTRICIAN**



Four sub-specialties divide this rate to more completely provide for Wiring, Power, Telephone and Shop jobs.

Their job begins before the project work is commenced. Battery-operated telephones and electrical wiring must be provided for the Battalion Shop, Office and Berthing area.

Project work calls for any and all phases of power and communication. The necessity of the Construction Electrician is obvious.





# EO: EQUIPMENT



The various equipment used in construction requires specially trained and skilled operators.

The sub-specialties, Construction and Hauling, provide expert operators for mechanized equipment all the way from a 45-foot boom Link-Belt to a Four-by dump truck.























# UT: UTILITIESMAN



The Utilitiesman has the task of handling the control of water on the project. To more completely handle the many jobs which are theirs, four sub-specialties are necessary; Plumber, Air Conditioning, Boilerman and Water and Sanitation.









CM:





The Construction Mechanics inherit the task of keeping the equipment operative. The two sub-specialties, automotive and heavy equipment provide for mechanical upkeep from lubrication to major overhauls.

As the only rate designed especially for maintenance, their work contributes greatly to the efficiency of the Battalion.



# CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC









## SW: STEELWORKER



The last of the seven construction ratings is that of the Steelworker. Two sub-specialties divide the rate; Fabricator and Erector.

The former of these performs various upkeep and repair jobs in the shop as well as in the field. The Erector is concerned primarily with the erection of steel structures in the project.









#### TOWER CREW

Under the capable supervision of John Wade, SWE2, two four-men crews constructed a 108 foot water tower at San Salvador and a 112 foot water tower at Grand Turk (see face page).

John Bohn, SWE2, Bill Peterman, SWF2, Dick Firebaugh, SWECN and Jim Coleman, SWECN, composed the crew employed on the tower at San Salvador.

Joe Hryhorysak, SWE2, Bill Veal, SWF3, John Bohn, SWE2 and Paul Arceneaux, SWF2, under the guidance of John Wade, composed the crew on the tower at Grand Turk.

The tower at Turks, the first, was 2-1/2 months in erection. The tower at San Salvador required only 2 months largely due to the experience gained at Turks.

The element of danger was constantly present and in the face of this a monumental safety record was maintained.





### **FLEET RATES**

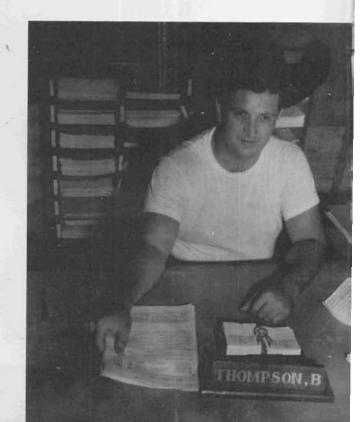






Lending support to the seven Seabee rates are some eighteen "Fleet" rates. Yeoman, Personnelmen, Journalist, Disbursing Clerk, Storekeeper, Boatswain Mate, Gunners Mate, Damage Controlman, Machinery Repairman, Electronics Technician, Photographers Mate, Draftsman, Commissaryman, Ships Serviceman, Shipfitter, Hospitalman, Dental Technician and Stewards Mate are these rates which offer invaluable though "non-productive" assistance. They prepare chow, keep all personnel records, pay the battalion, provide medical and dental care . . . in general, their purpose resembles that of the collective merchantmen in a community.

Although the glory of the project production belongs to the construction rates, the "non-producers" are to be commended on the manner in which they "Backed the Line."









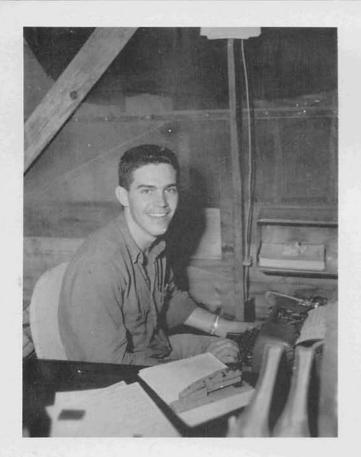
































JUST IN FUN

A very large factor in our morale was the spontaneous humor generated—and dictated—by our all-male society. The waterjug and coffee pot bull sessions, the 1600 beers with the fellows, the tent chatter after taps all helped build a mutual ability to laugh at the most heart-breaking upsets.

We carry home a fierce pride for our accomplishments, but through the years it will be the spirit of fellowship which will remain as a fond part of our memories.

Hard work is always rewarded by hard play . . . and play we did.











































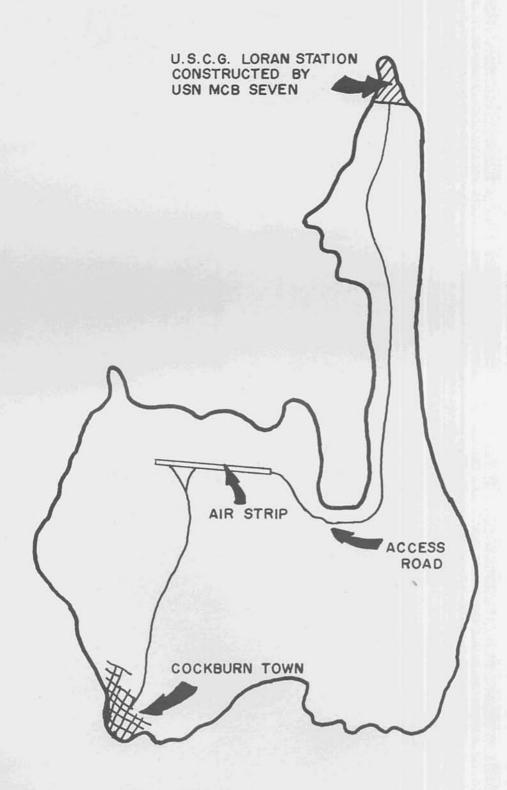












#### SOUTH CAICOS ISLAND

THE WEST INDIES

## PROJECT SOUTH CAICOS

Although the Coast Guard Loran Station constructed at South Caicos was the smallest of the three parts of the project, it was perhaps the most difficult.

A small crew of 1 officer and 60 men volunteered for this task. Seven miles of road was first chopped out of the undergrowth and then finished. Three buildings, two water storage tanks and a water catchment area were constructed once the site had been reached.

Problems presented in logistics, due to the isolation of the island and the difficulty in reaching the site of the Loran Station have made this job a monument to Seabee tenacity.



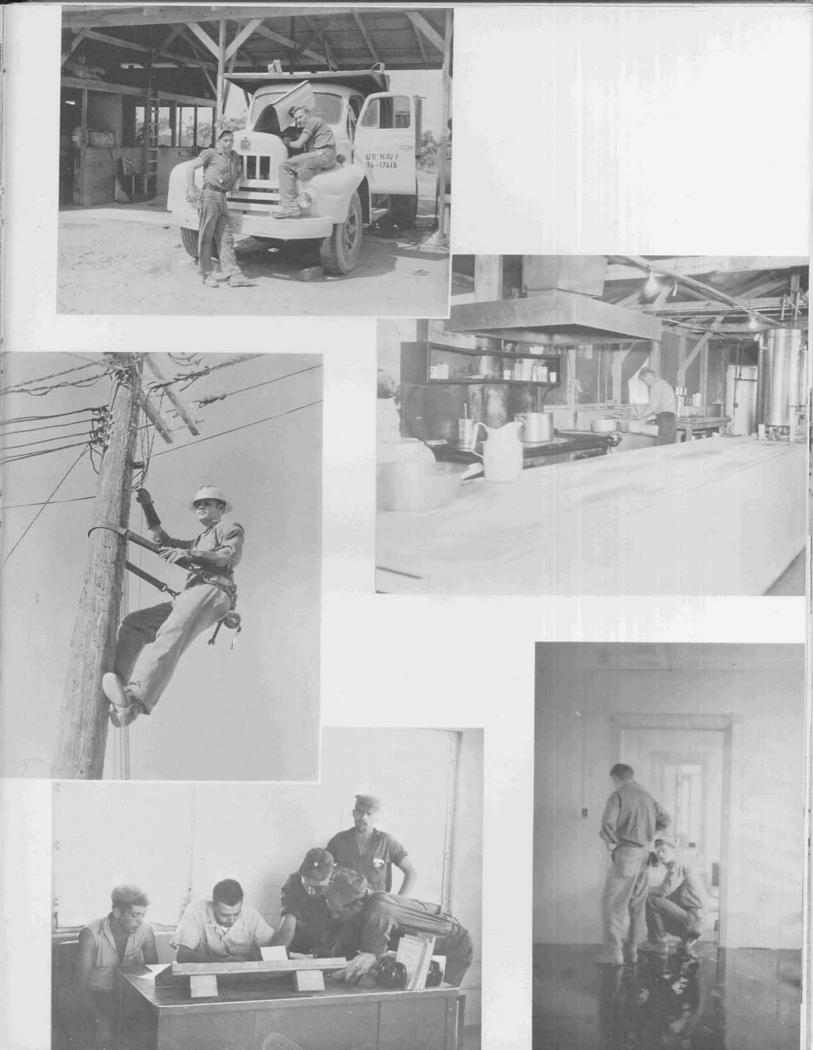














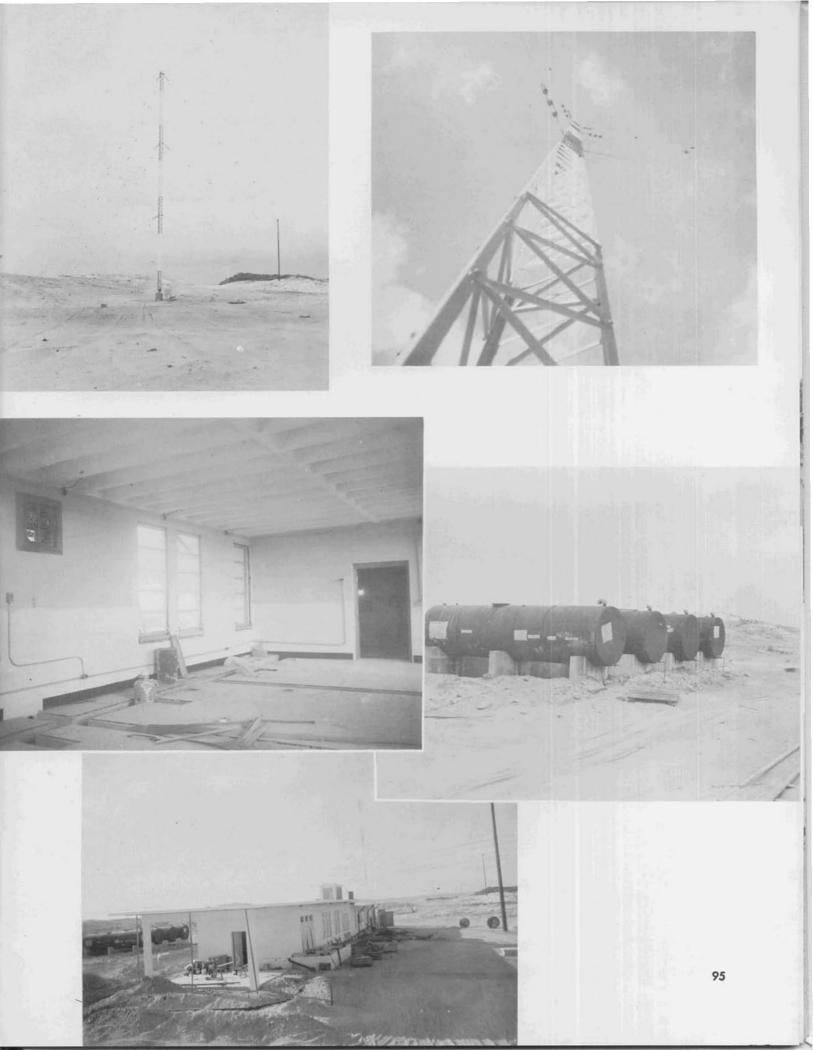


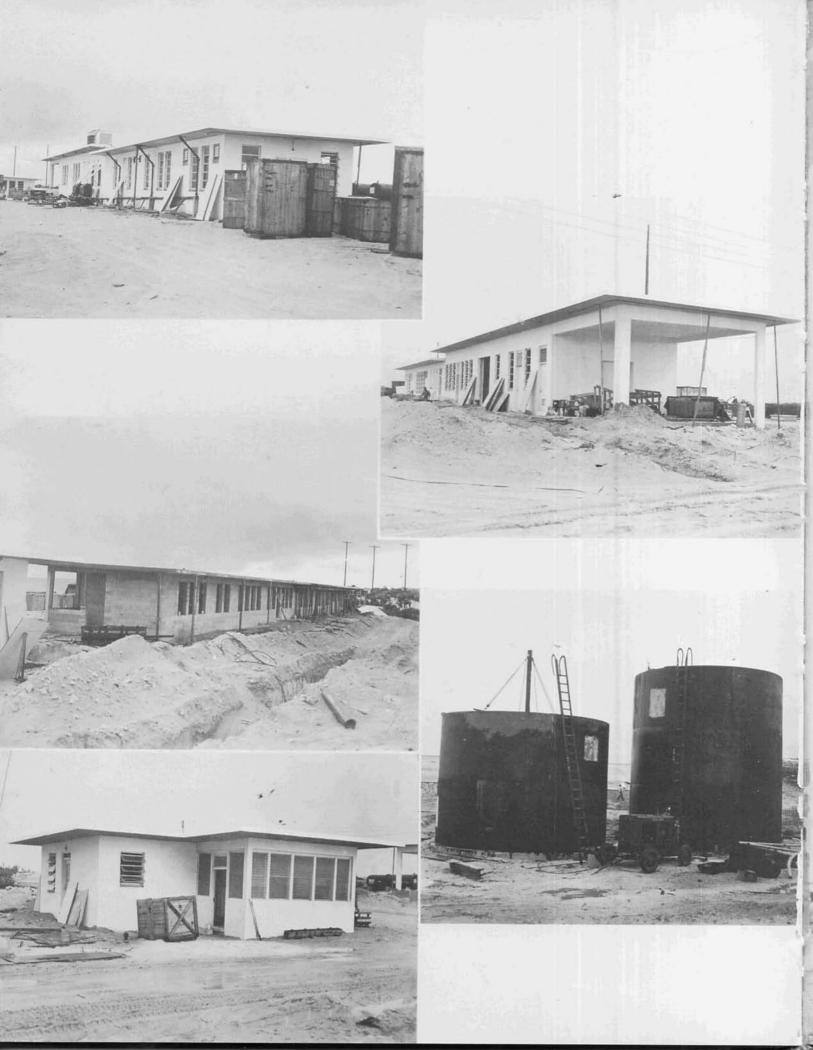


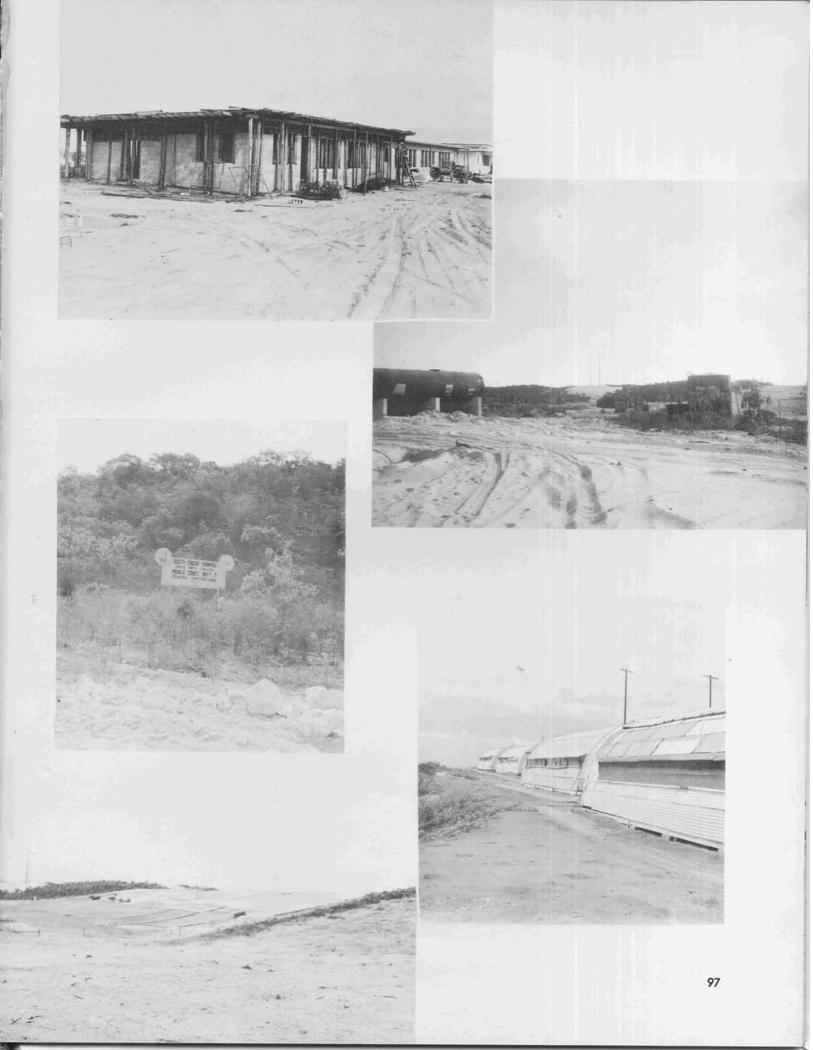




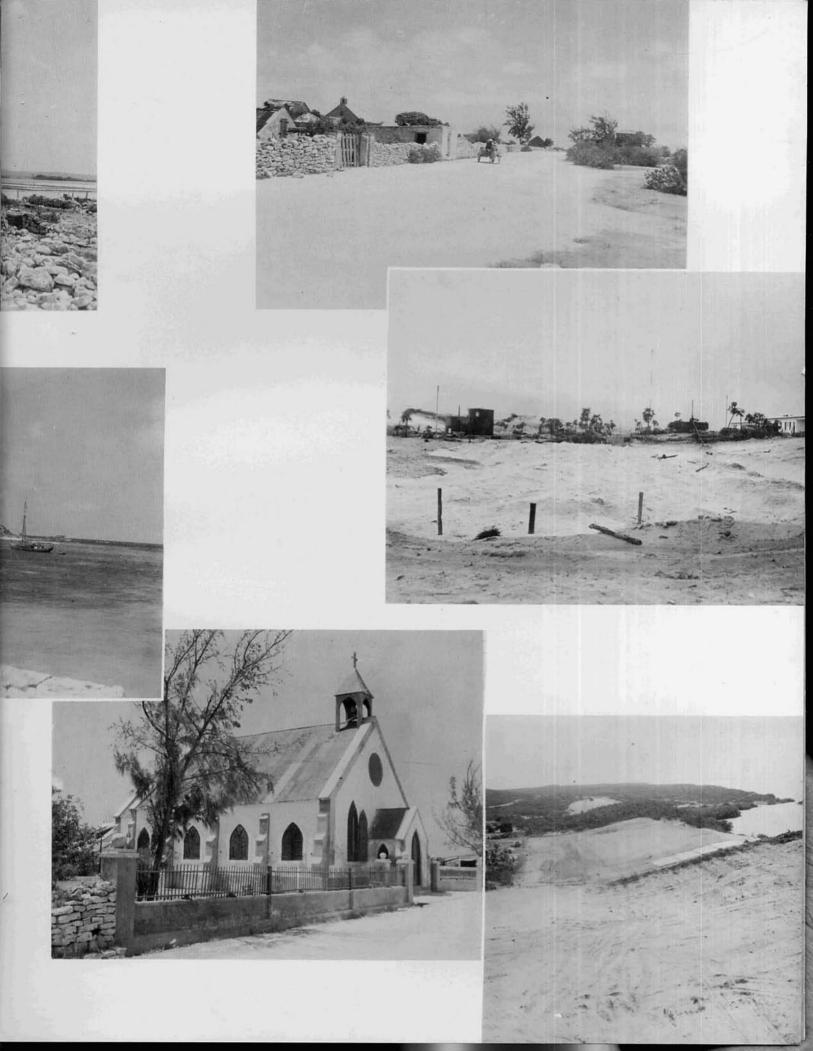


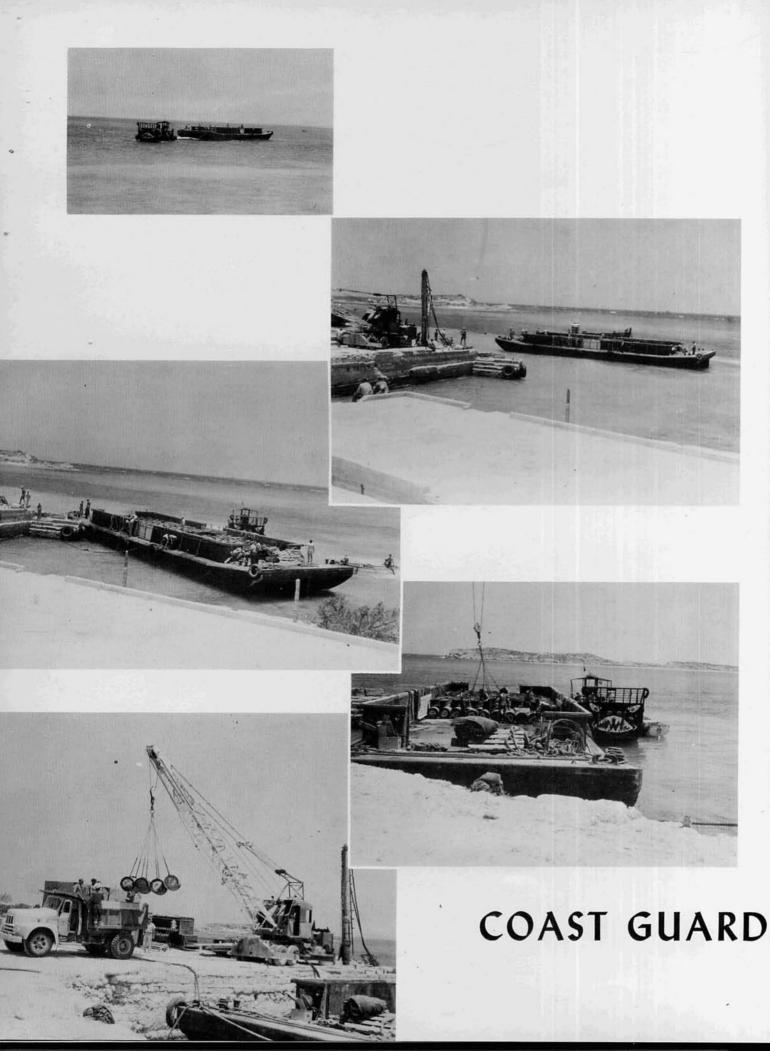




















That an undertaking the size of this endeavor is impossible without constant logistic support is obvious. Lack of materials, on many occasions held up the job progress. The problem of moving supplies to and from South Caicos and Grand Turk was no small one; but the United States Coast Guard solved this problem. The U.S.C.G. Cutter GENTIAN moved material via barge. The LCM, "Creep" was assigned permanently to the Battalion, and aircraft from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Detachment at San Juan, Puerto Rico lent frequent support.

### LOGISTIC SUPPORT









#### COAST GUARD AIR DETACHMENT SAN JUAN P.R.

The GENTIAN made 39 trips from Grand Turk to South Caicos, providing transport for 5330 tons of cargo. 14,000 miles were covered by the GENTIAN in the 15 months she assisted MCB 7. The "CREEP," a 50-foot landing craft, made 101 trips from Grand Turk to South Caicos. 1,425 hours of operation and 3,360 miles provided transport for 700 tons of cargo and 286 passengers.

In addition to the sea-going support—the Air Detachment lent support which totaled 61 trips— 1,016,464 passenger miles and 47,650 ton miles.

For their unselfish support and contribution to the overall project success, we owe a great debt of gratitude to officers and men of the United States Coast Guard.

Special thanks are extended to the crewmembers of the LCM . . . the "CREEP."

Patterson, BM1 Jones, BM2 Matusiak, EN3

Knight, SN

Sanchez, BM2 Milhoff, EN2 Bennett, EN3

Hailey, FN

Soave, SN



### **INSPECTIONS**

Personnel and material inspections are a basic part of military discipline in any armed force.

The fact that the tent camp and temporary shop and office facilities created many housekeeping problems did not excuse the men from personal and work area cleanliness.

Despite their primary task of hard, dirty construction work, the men of MCB 7 demonstrated that the Naval standards of cleanliness were well understood.





























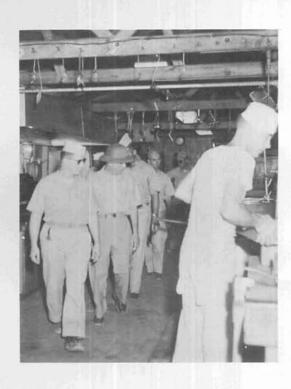






# COMBLANT INSPECTION OF MATERIAL...









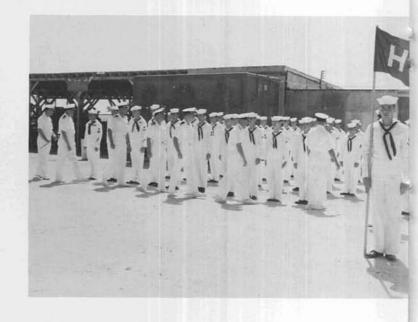


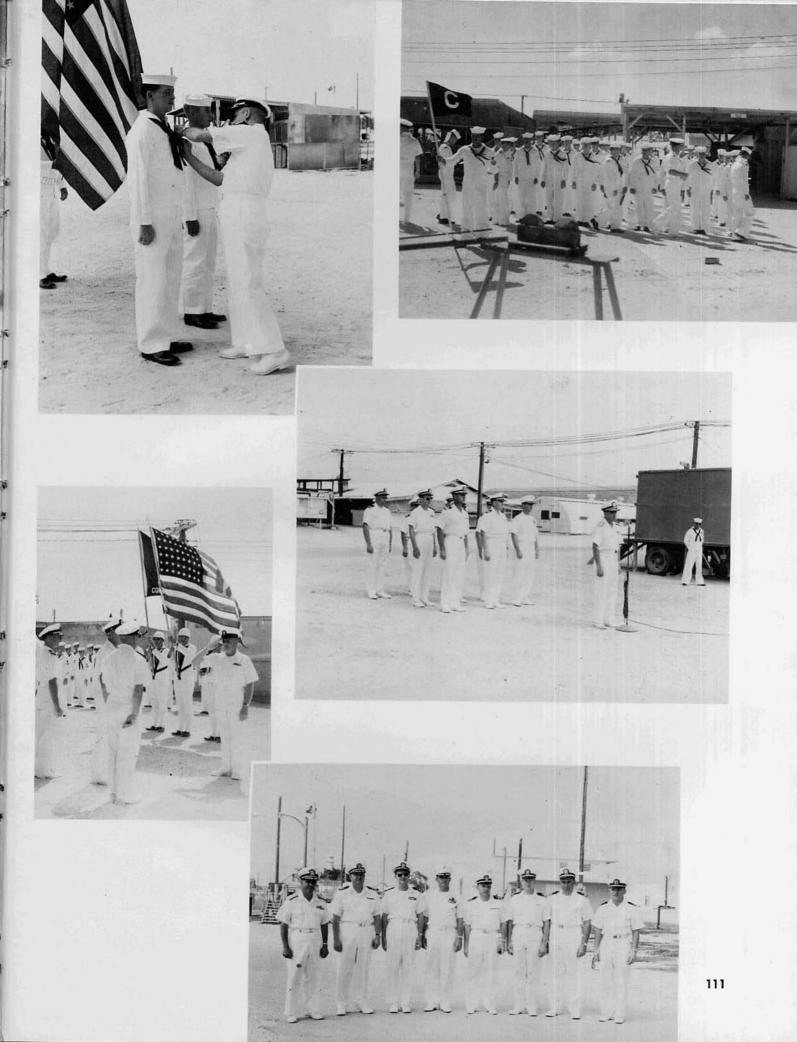


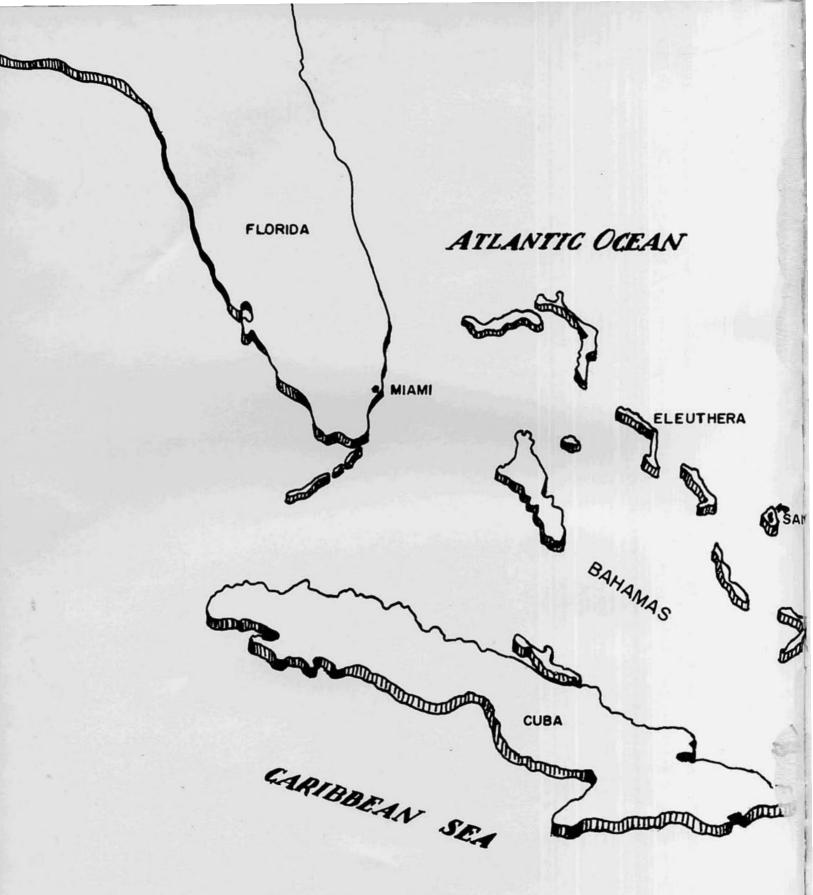
## ... AND PERSONNEL











## BAHAMA-WEST INDIES CRUISE

In August 1959, the main body left Grand Turk and San Salvador for Davisville aboard the LST 287.

The largest construction project ever undertaken by any peacetime Atlantic Construction Battalion is the accomplishment which proves the proud Seabee motto . . . "Can Do."

Two Naval Facilities, two Coast Guard Loran Stations . . . 42 buildings, 5 steel structures, 15 miles of road and 16 acres of concrete catchment area prove the MCB 7 motto . . . "Have Done."

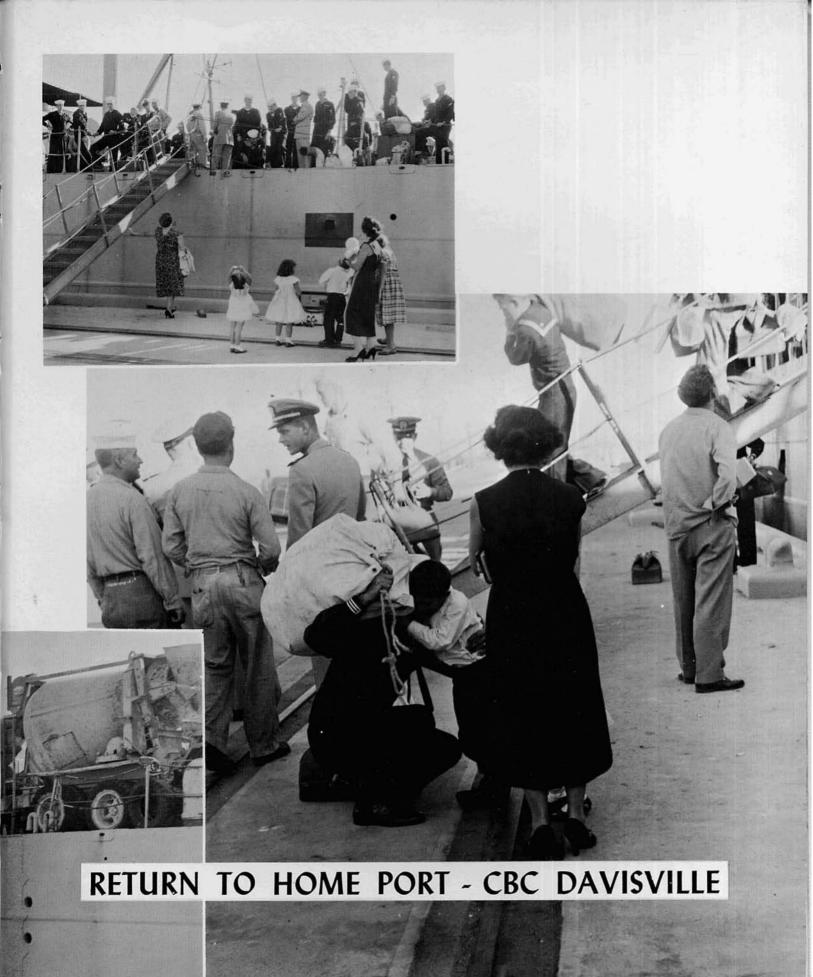
The voyage and arrival in Davisville was a happy occasion—for it not only signified the end of a long and difficult deployment, but the completion of a job "Well Done."



SALVADOR















A New Home ...

A New Scene ...







## Military Training In Preparation For Puerto Rico







## ROSTER OF PERSONNEL serving on this deployment with

James N. Abers, CN Boyd J. Acy, YN3 Allen J. Adams, CP Walter Adcock, SW2 Buddy L. Alexander, EON2 R. F. Alexander, CET3 Ralph G. Allen, SKC Willis J. Ammon, CN Raymond Anderson, BU3 John H. Andrews, UTA2 Floyd Andrews, CE3 William S. Anrig, BUL2 Paul Arceneaux, SWF2 Elmer D. Arnold, CN Richard J. Artymowski, CN C. Ashenbach, BUCA Harold R. Ash, CN K. W. Austin, BUL2 A. N. Bailey, EO1 Cecil H. Bailey, CN George W. Bailey, EON3 Howard T. Bailey, BUHCP Albert F. Baker, BU1 James Balk, CN L. G. Banks, CN L. M. Barbur, CN Corky L. Barnes, BUR3 Ned E. Barr, EON2 G. A. Basel, BUR3 J. A. Beach, BUR3 Norman Beachler, EON3 Billy R. Beam, SA H. D. Becht, CP Howard Beck, BUL2 Lester E. Beck, BUL2 Harry Bedell, BUC D. J. Beeler, SWF2 C. E. Bell, CEW3 Claud Bell, EON3 J. R. Bell, PN3 Boyd A. Bennett, BULCN R. D. Bennett, CN Myron Bentfield, CN Dan O. Berdahl, JO3 Ernest Bergevin, BM1 Edward F. Berkheimer, EOCS William F. Bernard, SH1 Alden Berry, EOC Floyd Berry, BUL2 Loys J. Berthiaume, UT1 E. S. Billanti, CP James F. Billington, CN Jack Bitner, CMA2 Donald Bittinger, CM1 Robert Black, BUR3 J. M. Blacker, CN John O. Blaisdell, BUR2 J. M. Blake, SWF3 Paul Blakeslee, SV3 W. H. Blanchard, CESCN DuWayne Block, UT3 Robert L. Blosser, CN Peter Bodlovich, BM1 H. J. Boerum, CMA3 John A. Bohn, SWF2 Henry Bohnhorst, CEL3 Arthur K. Bongartz, CMACN

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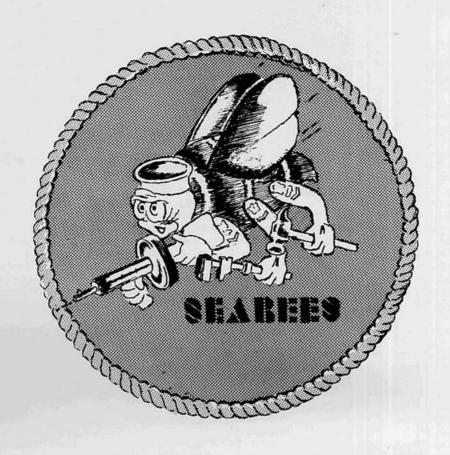
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