

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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IN BRIEF

Post-war construction programs shaping up (P.1)
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Seabee regimental plan credited with speeding construction
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WASHINGTON REPORTS

A TEN MILLION HOME
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
is blueprinted in a
bill submitted to
Congress this week.

The proposed legislation provides for a combination of private and governmental sponsorship of construction of a million small homes a year for the next ten years and would insure jobs for thousands of returning Seabees and other construction workers discharged from the Armed Forces.

The plan, as reported in the New York newspaper, "PM," has three main provisions:

(a) regular surveys would be made by the government to determine housing needs and to provide technical information about better housing at lower costs.

(b) from these surveys, housing needs would be determined, and private constructors would be urged to fill the demands.

(c) the government would undertake to take care of any residue.

In all its operations, the program would underscore local planning, financing and building.

Whether or not this bill is enacted, post-war small home construction appears assured of bi-partisan congressional support, "PM" declared.

The American Federation of Labor, through its president, William Green, hailed the proposal as "the most important step yet taken in Congress toward the positive assurance of full employment after the war."

CUSHION AGAINST POST-WAR UNEMPLOYMENT is a nine billion dollar expansion program planned by industry at home for the next twelve months.

The estimate, made by the Department of Commerce and based on a survey of 7,000 manufacturers, is predicated on the assumption

that the Pacific war would last at least until the middle of next year, a report in the New York "Times" stated. "Should it end much earlier," the "Times" continued, "that fact would not only assure fulfillment of the expansion programs but might, in the opinion of experts, considerably increase their size."

GREAT MANY POST-WAR JOBS are represented in the twenty-one-and-a-half billion dollar post-war construction volume which has been built up during the past two-and-a-half years, according to Engineering News Record. Forty-three per cent of this proposed total, \$9,272,334,000, has engineering plans under way or completed.

Projects ready for bids, with plans finished, and land, legal and financing obstacles overcome total \$743,982,000. An additional \$395,487,000 worth of projects have planning completed but lack financing, and projects valued at \$679,912,000 have funds available but planning unfinished.

The volume ready for bids is equivalent to an investment of \$5.60 for every person in the United States.

BRING MEN HOME instead of sending wives to them, President Truman said this week.

In an interview with "Stars and Stripes," the President declared that American occupation of Europe was temporary, but that in the meantime replacement and rotation would continue to bring veterans home.

Mr. Truman, recalling the first World War, when he was an artillery captain in Europe, said he wanted to go home when the war was over, just like American soldiers in Europe now.

"You fellows this time have the same gripes and the same problems we had the last time," he declared.

EXTRA GAS RATIONS will be given enlisted

men at the time of their discharge from the armed services, as a result of OPA action this week. Ex-servicemen will be eligible for a maximum of thirty gallons of gasoline.

COMBAT ZONES

SEABEE SPEED was demonstrated again recently when pressure from nearby enemy forces made it necessary to extend a runway on a newly-won forward base.

Orders called for the addition, in the absolute minimum of time, of another 1,000 feet to the length of the airstrip. The Seabees finished the job in ten days -- and they added 2,000 feet instead of the 1,000 feet called for!

When the grading job was done, measurements showed that some 80,000 cu. yd. had been moved in the ten day period and that at times as much as 9,600 cu. yd. was handled in twelve hours.

BOOK OF JAP MILITARY TACTICS was thrown at the 21st Battalion. After enemy infiltration a suicide plane attack, hand grenade skirmish and sniping, units of the battalion emerged with five men slightly wounded and racked up a score of at least 18 enemy dead and two captured.

Perimeter guards of the battalion camp halted an attempt at infiltration, killed 10 enemy soldiers and captured two. Three 21st men were injured when the suicide plane crashed into the side of an LST tied up at a dock.

Two men were slightly hurt when a Jap soldier tossed a hand grenade at one of the trucks as it rolled along a road from the camp area to the coral pit.

Battalion patrol, seeking snipers who had fired on coral pit crews, killed four enemy troops with grenades and rifle fire and then used demolition charges to seal a cave in which four more Japs were believed to be hiding.

SABOTAGE AND FOOD HUNTS by armed Jap stragglers have reached the "pestering" stage in the 71st Battalion's area, but the results must be discouraging to any Japs left in the weeds.

In 15 contacts with enemy elements, the Japs lost 14 killed and two captured. One of the victims was a Naval officer, another committed hari-kari after being wounded and one died when he tripped a grenade trap.

"None (of the Japs) showed a desire to surrender," a report said.

SIX JAPS WERE "SURVEYED" when surprised in a banana thicket by a Seabee survey crew, which then picked up instruments and went on about its chores.

Members of the party were: John G. Smith, CCM, Jack Hyams, CM2c, Samuel W. Williams, CM2c, Howard W. Floyd, S1c and John M. York, S1c.

"The Japs were hidden in the banana grove with a good supply of grenades," Smith said. "We threw a rock into the thicket to see if we could flush them out. One dashed out and ran straight for us and we pumped lead into him until he dropped. The remaining five wouldn't come out even after we set fire to the thicket, so we just sprayed the area with gunfire. Then we found the five--dead."

SUICIDE PLANE BLAST blew Lt. (Jg) T. H. Willis, 45th Regiment's cargo officer, through a plywood bulkhead. His only injuries were lacerations. Lt. Willis had remained aboard the ship to facilitate unloading and to protect the cargo from pilferage when the Kamikaze struck. Three enlisted men of the regiment aboard at the time were uninjured.

SERVICE BASES

SUPERFORT PILOTS' REQUEST for crank extensions for bomb bays brought quick service from the 13th Battalion. Twenty-eight units were turned out by the 13th machine shop within four hours of the time the request was made; others were produced as rapidly as needed.

Petty officer in charge of the shop was CMM John H. Dow.

40TH REGIMENT "UNIVERSITY" has more than 1,200 men enrolled in some phase of supervised study. A cross section of the studious 40th shows 402 men enrolled in correspondence courses, 522 in self-study and 188 in off-duty classes. In addition, 560 men of other units are participating in assistance, class books and self-study courses afforded by Comdr. C. G. Smallwood's regiment.

The regiment's educational service maintains a complete school file, supplies books and courses for class and self-study, assists educational officers with men who are planning personal programs under terms of the GI Bill and periodically visits battalions to conduct small group lectures.

The service has processed 198 applications for high school courses; 78 college courses and supplied 412 text books for classes and self study.

The 40th's widespread quest for knowledge is made even more remarkable in the fact of a work schedule calling for 6½ and 7 days per week, with a 9-hour day the rule rather than the exception.

RECORD USE OF SCRAP was made by Seabees on Tarawa when they built a three-land, 2,400-foot-long pier from scrap metal.

The story was published this month for the first time in "Engineering News Record."

The structure was rushed to completion when Seabees who landed after the assault troops were given a rush order to provide some sort of causeway over which unloading operations could be carried out through all tide stages.

Construction materials had not been brought in for any such structure. Coconut

trees on the island were too soft to make good piles. Even ordinary fill could not be used, as the entire length of the pier would be exposed to wave action and rock or similar protective material was unavailable.

The 'Bees turned instead to Jap stock-piles on the island, selecting T-rails, corrugated iron, and steel reinforcing bars. These were put together into a supporting structure for a coral fill.

Lengths of rail were sunk as piles. An inside lining, made of Marston mat, was laid up on edge with lapped joints. The mat provided a stiff side wall, could be easily spot welded to the steel rail, and then required only some sort of lining to prevent the fill material from going through the holes. This was accomplished by the use of corrugated iron and whatever other flat material was handy.

Salvaged cable or reinforcing rod then was put in as transverse ties, being run through holes in the sides and welded to the rails.

After the side walls were in place, filling started with a drag line which scooped up loose coral, working out from the shore and along the side of the pier selected for a channel. When the drag line reached a point where water depth permitted, it was placed on a barge and work continued as before.

The only "deck structure" put on the fill was a string of coconut logs laid along each edge as curbs. These logs were secured to the projecting tops of the steel rails.

THE HEAT'S ON when James A. Smith, GPM, uses his improvised, but efficient treatment of muscular strain, sprains and old injuries aggravated by climatic conditions on Tinian.

Smith submitted his idea of a heat treatment machine to the battalion engineering office, which drew up plans and had the device built. Through use of a two-way switch the amount of heat can be regulated.

JAP IDOL "FACTORY" is thriving business for Arthur E. Tomlinson, M2c, and Albert G. Soltys, SFlc, who found a cast iron idol mold in the Marianas rubble and put it to work. Tomlinson and Soltys, using metal from a Jap plane propeller, cast a few idols for themselves as an experiment. When a Marine offered to trade an enemy rifle for a set of the figures, the Seabee pair were in business.

FROM THE HOLD

COMBAT STEVEDORING RECORD of the "invasion-green" 23rd Special looks good even when stacked up against the performance of veteran outfits.

Participating in its first major invasion operation, the 23rd unloaded 240,000 measured tons of cargo in a ninety-day period and contributed 18,000 man-hours to a Marine field depot unit on the beach. During the first days of the landing, one gang voluntarily worked 33 hours without a break. Another time, six gangs working in two shifts unloaded 7,122 tons of high-priority cargo in 62½ hours.

All stevedoring was "off-shore." Men worked a steady 12-hour shift, living aboard ships they were discharging. While one shift slept on bare decks, atop cargo, or any other clear space, the other worked over and around them.

A veteran boatswain, after working with the 23rd during the hectic three months, testified:

"In ten years of Navy service, I've never seen a finer performance in spite of hardships and difficulties."

"NO EFFORT TOO GREAT, no detail too small" for the 22nd Special Battalion, Brig. Gen. Hugh Hoffman, First Cavalry Division, declared in a commendation directed to Lt. Comdr. M.B. Orr, O1nC.

The commendation came as a result of the battalion's aid in loading operations. "Many ingenious improvisations were employed to expedite the loading under the terrific pressure of working against time," the general said.

THE FLEET NAVY

NAVY RESERVISTS comprise 84½ per cent of the nation's naval strength. The total figure of 3,388,556 broken down, looks like this:

Reserves, 2,862,971 or 84.5 per cent.
Regulars, 378,263 or 11.2 per cent.
Inductees, 147,322 or 4.3 per cent.

The figures include both officers and enlisted men. The figure for the regulars includes war-time volunteers who elected to join the regular Navy.

SEA-GOING RESCUE opened new possibilities in ship salvage off Okinawa when an ARD, 500 feet long, picked up a war-damaged destroyer and had repairs under way enroute into an anchorage. The DD was secured in the basin with side shoring and wire ropes so that it easily withstood a 9-degree roll. Lt. (jg) C.L. Schiller, CEG, reported.

"The dock," he said, "reacted much the same as when the basin load was the carpenter's barge and other normal cargo. Only a motion, or working, too small to observe except by feel, was noted at the bilge blocks."

"Repair work on the (destroyer) went on as usual while underway and no time was lost."

BRITISH HEAVY BOMBERS will join in the war against Japan as fast as airfields can be built to accommodate them, Air Marshal Douglas Colyer, British Air representative on the Combined (Anglo-American) Chief of Staffs, announced in Washington this week.

"Where the United States Army Air Forces are fighting, I can assure you that the Royal Air Force is going to be found at that side," Marshal Colyer declared. "And let no one think that we aren't just as set and just as determined on the elimination of the Japanese military machine as you are."

"WELL DONE"

BACK ON THE JOB, the "Fighting Fortleth" holder of the Army's Distinguished Unit Citation for its outstanding accomplishments at Los Negros in the Admiralties and now on its second tour of Pacific duty, has been commended again, this time by Commodore Andrew G. Bisset, CEC, USN, Commander Construction Troops at a recently-captured island.

Veterans in airfield construction, the 40th was cited by Commodore Bisset for its "excellent work" in putting into operation a vital airfield.

"By careful planning, hard work, and tireless effort you have done in two months a task that many considered impossible," the commendation said.

"**SOMEBODY IS GOING TO BE MISSED**," said "Bremen Blast," USNAB paper published in Bremen, Germany, when the 69th Battalion left that base recently. "And that is the CB's."

The newspaper continued:

"We should be immeasurably grateful that we had such an organization attached to us. Without any red tape or hullabaloo they did what was expected of them in the right way -- but quick. Because of them you were afforded as soon as was humanly possible, the facilities for hot food, hot showers, movies, laundry and a host of other conveniences.

"The latest and biggest thing they accomplished and are leaving behind for you is the Recreation Building. That one feat in itself should be enough for you men of this base to recognize and appreciate any Seabee every time you come in contact with him."

71ST BATTALION'S work in keeping open roads in the Third Amphibious Corps' zone of operations despite 14 inches of rain in 10 days, is termed "an outstanding accomplishment of military engineering," by Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, Corps commander.

In a commendation directed to the battalion through Comdr. J. F. Cuniff, Cinc, Gen. Geiger said "the maintenance to a newly-constructed, dirt-surfaced road, passable to heavy military traffic....." is a remarkable engineering feat."

LEGION OF MERIT decorations have been presented to Commodore Robert Colton Johnson, CEC, and to Capt. William Mack Angas, CEC, for "exceptionally meritorious service" in Pacific base construction.

Commodore Johnson's citation was based on his work at Iwo Jima, Captain Angas' for his supervision of construction of 16 Naval bases from Australia to the Philippines.

HEROISM IN RESCUING CREW MEMBERS from a burning plane earned Navy and Marine Corps medals for CBM Elvin R. Driggers and Richard J. Lugo, MM1c, both stationed on Tinian.

Commended for participation in the rescue were Comdr. Thomas H. Jones, CEC, USNR,

Lt. Comdr. John A. McAllister, CEC, USNR, CSF William B. Newby, USNR, Francis R. McDonnell, MM2c, John T. Longerfeld, CM3c and Augustine J. Rotunno, CM2c.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL has been awarded to Lt. Comdr. Roger F. Neal, Cinc of the 84th Batt., for "heroic and meritorious conduct in operations against the enemy."

The citation, signed by Vice Admiral D. E. Barbey, USN, credited Comdr. Neal with "outstanding leadership" in rebuilding a badly bombed airstrip. The CEC officer, in turn, credited his battalion. Said he: "This award honors each and every one of us..."

53RD BATTALION'S "excellent" supervision and assistance in the construction of a quonset camp and filling and grading operations has brought a note of appreciation from the officer-in-charge, administrative command, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

"The officers and men placed in charge of the work carried the project forward rapidly and efficiently, displaying good judgment in the layout and construction," the commendation said.

WHAT THEY SAY

SEABEE ADMINISTRATION as well as construction prowess comes in for praise in the July issue of "The Engineering News-Record."

In an article on "jungle to air-strip in 10 days" and on the use of volcanic sand for landing strips, the magazine gives credit to "regimental control."

"The successful handling of the work is cited as an example of the advantages in the regimental control system used by the Seabees which is far different from merely superimposing a regimental staff on the regular battalion organization," the article says.

"The Seabee plan puts the facilities of the entire regiment under a single head. On this job, a regimental command could muster and assign equipment held by any part of the regiment. Nothing could be diverted to relatively unimportant work or to just keep a detachment busy.

"There was only one master priority list and this made possible the assembly of equipment that was used so effectively to finish this work in record time."

INVASION SUPPLIES are pouring into the Philippines and the islands are rapidly being converted into a mighty jumping-off point for the invasion of Japan, Lt. Gen. Wilhelm, S. D. Styer, commanding Army forces in the western Pacific, said in an interview this week.

The general, who is handling the logistics of the "on to Tokyo" campaign, said that during July, August and September:

Almost 1,000,000 more tons of supplies would pour into Manila and other Philippine ports than were unloaded during the entire eight months' Philippine operation.

The number of service troops, many coming direct from Europe, to handle supplies and construction would be more than double the number already engaged in such work.

Millions of square feet of storage space, equivalent to 205 city blocks, would be required to handle incoming war goods.

Rear bases in the South Pacific, Australia and New Guinea would be "rolled up" as rapidly as possible with troops and supplies moving forward to the Philippines.

HOPES FOR EARLY VICTORY are running high among officers and men in the forward areas, New York "Times" correspondent W. H. Lawrence wired from Guam this week.

"On the record, this is the pre-invasion period," he said, "but there are a surprising number of people here . . . who think the Japanese may be forced into unconditional surrender without the necessity of even a token invasion. The existence of that sentiment here is the more important because lots of the people who talk that way wear stars and may therefore be presumed to be in a position to know what they are talking about..."

"This correspondent has heard men wearing three stars predict that the Japanese will be out of the war by September, and he bet a one-star officer the other night \$10 even money that the conflict would not be over within three months.

"There are, of course, some flag and general officers who are not so optimistic -- who see the conflict lasting many months of a bloody cave-to-cave battle for the home territory of Japan..."

After considering both sides, Lawrence's conclusion was that "the battle of Japan could be won before invasion..."

SOBERING NOTE in recent surge of predictions of an early V-J day was Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's warning that Japan has "a relatively intact army waiting to repel an invasion."

"The Japanese war lords meant it when they said they were willing to fight a hundred-year war if necessary," he declared. "They figured that we would get so sick of fighting that we would agree to a negotiated peace. . . . Today (they) are facing disaster and I'm sure they know it. Continued pressure will force them to surrender or to be destroyed forever as a nation. I say we must exert that continued pressure until they acknowledge defeat."

His views were supported by Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, who commanded the air attacks on the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. Both emphasized that in all probability the Japanese Army would have to be defeated on Japanese soil. They indicated the belief that it would be a year or more before enough soldiers could be staged into a Japanese bridgehead to make defeat of the main enemy army a military certainty.

BOMBING AND BLOCKADE OF JAPAN is the beginning of the invasion, Rear Admiral DeWitt C. Ramsey declared in a broadcast from Guam. He promised that the actual landing itself "will be made by the most overwhelming forces ever concentrated in military history."

Declaring the task of whittling down the Japanese fleet already had been completed, he continued, "In all world history there is no more glaring example of a nation imposing disaster upon itself. For these people the language of bombs and guns is apparently the only convincing language."

TOTAL DESTRUCTION FROM THE AIR was promised Japan this week by three Army Air Force generals, one of whom declared the power of B-29 fleets to destroy Japanese air potential will soon be tripled.

General George C. Kenney, Maj. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay and Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle said the Nips would get "earthquakes twenty-four hours a day until they quit."

Gen. Kenney promised that when invasion of Japan comes, the enemy will have neither roads, bridges, trucks, nor locomotives -- "all essentials to the modern army." Japan's army, he said "will be immobilized."

"Every enemy gun will be taken out, every enemy concentration will be bombed and strafed, every enemy movement smothered," he said. "In the meantime the air blockade will prevent effective Japanese reinforcements of men or supplies. Air power will be the decisive element," he asserted.

Gen. Doolittle said: "The new 8th Air Force will be operating against Japan very soon, and when it hits its full stride the rate of destruction of Japanese air potential will be tripled. This Japan cannot accept."

Gen. LeMay declared: "If Japan wants another six months like the last six, she will get it -- and at an ever-increasing tempo. Our plans call for putting more and more bombs on the target. The target is Japan's ability to make war. It's up to Japan."

KEY TO STRATEGY in the northwestern Pacific, says Roy W. Howard, United Press correspondent now touring the Pacific, will be Okinawa. He described the island as "in the process of becoming the greatest military air base in the world" and said told the nation how Seabees and engineers are now building "1,100 miles of modern hard-surfaced roads, 22 air fields, and a thoroughly modern harbor with up-to-date piers and drydocks."

"The over-all job," he continued, "will be greater than the combined effort on Guam, Saipan and Tinian."

SITUATION IN JAPAN will be "very bad" in from four to six months, Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, former commander of the U. S. Fourteenth Air Force, declared in Chungking this week. He predicted Japan would be isolated from the Asiatic continent within a month.

With the enemy capable of holding out indefinitely in Manchuria and North China, however, Gen. Chennault declared an Allied ground assault would be necessary and that a port on the China coast would have to be opened as an invasion beachhead.

Pilots, not planes, are Japan's aviation bottleneck, Gen. Chennault stated. Although the enemy is able to build a limited number of planes in underground factories, the only training area Japan has available that is not subject to constant air attack is far northern Manchuria.

PEACE BEFORE OCTOBER is the qualified prediction of Senator Millard Tydings of Maryland.

The Senator, who recently returned from an inspection trip to the Philippines, declared that his sources of information "feel that events of great moment are possible before October."

"My own opinion," he said, "is that Japan is trying desperately to find some way out so she can sue for peace without too much loss of face. The ruin being heaped on Japan daily is having its effect. The Japanese want to end it. They are looking for a way out."

He cautioned, however, that "it would be unwise for us to assume that because there is a faint ray of light in the sky, peace is just around the corner. We must keep in mind that men are dying every day in this cruel and bloody war against Japan."

"THE NEXT SIXTY DAYS" will find the Japanese accepting the Allies' unconditional surrender terms, Senator Homer E. Capehart of Indiana stated in a press conference held in Indianapolis.

"If the Japanese do not quit," he added, he expects "Russia to join us in the Pacific by September 1."

WAR HAS BOOMERANGED, Jap radio admits, with fighting now going on on home soil, where Japan never intended the war to be fought.

"Frankly, the Japanese people never conceived the war as anything else at all but battles abroad," the propagandists asserted. Government and people were urged to renew their war efforts to meet the "unprecedented" situation brought about by the Allies' refusal to cooperate with Nipponese war strategy.

IF THE JAPS KNEW what General George C. Kenney, commander of Far East Air Forces, has in store for them, they'd quit now. Here's what the general promises, according to press reports:

.....The enemy's "goose is cooked and the jig is just about up, whether he knows it or not..."

.....The Japanese "will be bomb-happy long before our boys go ashore anywhere..."

.....Ten thousand bombers, plus carrier-borne warplanes of the U. S. and British

Fleets will hit Japan in "the biggest massing of airpower the world has ever seen..."

....."Something has got to crack....we can land almost anywhere with an almost total lack of opposition..."

....."There's no place in the entire Japanese Empire that can't be reached by Allied power, and there's nothing out of bounds for American airmen. And that goes for the Emperor's Palace as far as I'm concerned..."

"FYI"

65 HOURS FROM JERSEY

TO OKINAWA is schedule being maintained by ATC Ferrying Division when weather conditions permit. Via its Fort Dix Army Air Base, the Air Transport Command now is ferrying more than 500,000 pounds a month of the Army's highest priority freight along the world's longest supply route to far-flung Pacific bases.

Materials flown out on sixteen daily cargo flights range from 3,000-pound engines for B-29 Superfortresses to tiny vials of life-saving medicines weighing as little as two ounces.

726-M.P.H. NAZI PLANE was being tested when Germany collapsed, Major Alexander deSeversky, special consultant to the Sec. of War, declared this week in Rome.

Major deSeversky attributed German weakness in the air to three major factors: (1) German aircrafts' shortage of fire-power and bomb-carrying capacity; (2) the decision to switch to the manufacture of fighters and abandon bombers when the Nazi should have continued the strategic bombing of Britain; and (3) insufficient close coordination of German underground aircraft-manufacturers' establishments.

FLOATING AIRFIELDS on which land planes can descend in midocean have been successfully tested and are expected to be utilized in postwar development of air transport, British aviation engineers have revealed.

The floating airdromes already have passed British Navy experimental tests. The first one was built by Americans early in the war according to British-American designs. Improved types have since been built by the British, but thus far even the best is practical only for sheltered waters.

The platforms, some of which are 2,000 feet long, are composed of thousands of closely-linked pontoons which are coordinated flexibly to keep a level surface when waves are running.

FIRST CIVILIAN JEEPS--at \$1,090 f.o.b., Toledo--are ready for the market. The OPA, setting a ceiling price, disclosed the new jeeps have been rolling off assembly lines at the Willys-Overland plant in Toledo for several weeks. It was explained the new jeep "basically is not a light car, but rather a four-wheel drive, half-ton truck designed for utility truck and farm and country use."

"Extras" range from \$51.05 for a front body top to \$90.67 for a power take-off for converting the jeep's motor for use as a stationary engine.

FOUR-AND-A-HALF MILLION GERMAN CASUALTIES was probable price Nazis paid in human lives for World War II.

A document captured in Berlin shows total casualties for all services was 4,064,438 up to Nov. 30, 1944 and authorities estimate Germans lost another half-million after that date. The casualty record was found in the home of Gen. Hermann Reinecks, head of the High Command's Propaganda Department.

JAP GAS SUPPLY has been largely destroyed through constant air raids. Ninety per cent of Formosa's alcohol and butanol industry, source of vital solvents for Japan's aviation gasoline, have gone up in smoke, Lt. Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead, commander of the Fifth Air Force, reported from Manila.

As a result of the raids, it is estimated the Japs' annual aviation gasoline potential has been reduced from 3,612,500 to 870,000 barrels.

POST-WAR AUTO business began taking shape with announcement of two cars to be manufactured by the Henry Kaiser-Graham Paige-Joseph W. Frazer combine. One model will be under \$1,000; the other a higher-priced car.

FOR THE BOOK

LAUGH METER probably would have shown that the two real winners in the Dog Show recently sponsored by the 121st Battalion were a monkey and a baby bear.

With their GI owners, the two pets had been sedately watching the show on the stage of the 121st's theater. The attention the dogs behind the footlights were getting apparently aroused them and they decided to make their own appearance on stage. The monkey scrambled to the top of the microphone where he sat grinning and chattering. Meanwhile, the bear relaxed and settled himself near the footlights. There, contentedly and noisily, he began to drink a can of beer.

When the judges got back to business, canine entries of John T. Kelly, SClc; Larry Greenwell, Y3c; and John T. Byrnes, Slc, were declared the winners. Prizes were dog collars, dog beds, food pans and glass and wooden picture frames, all provided by battalion shops.

"MEET THE PEOPLE" is a column in which the 96th's "Trailblazer" each week gives a column profile of one of the mates.

"So far," the editors wrote this week, "we have 'met the people' to the tune of an artist, an Indian chief, a guy off the Marblehead, a railroad detective, and a street car conductor.

"It certainly makes a fruit salad of human endeavor."

To which SNS can only add "Amen."

(ALMOST) MADE IN JAPAN is a midget car built by James M. Cooper, MoM1c, from automotive scraps picked up in the Marianas. The 96-inch wheelbase is built in a trimmed-down frame of a wrecked enemy car, wheels and tires

are from Jap planes, and the motor is a B-model Ford of Jap manufacture. The hydraulic brakes came from planes. He gets 30 miles to the gallon and is deploring the fact the Japs did not leave a set of Alabama license plates.

A DEADLY SNAKE decided one leg of the trousers which Wilford W. Deal, EMLc, USNR, of Houston, Tex., had left hanging by his cot would make a comfortable place to spend the night.

Next morning, all went well as Deal put his foot into the right leg of the trousers, but as he struggled to get into the left leg, he encountered three and a half feet of very angry *Trimeresurus Flavovirido*. The snake bounced on the floor, and while it was making up its mind which of Deal's legs to strike, he smashed its head with the butt of his carbine.

Deal now hangs his clothes high before retiring. "The higher, the better," he says.

"FIVE HUNDRED pairs of dungaree trousers, originally consigned for overseas WAVES who never materialized," reports the 96th Battalion "Trailblazer," "were turned over to small stores for sale to the battalion."

Belle bottoms?

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME... that in MILLIS, MISS., George Ladish had to exchange 700 pounds of beef he won at a raffle for cash. The beef was on the hoof and Ladish had no place to keep the animal... that in CHICAGO, ILL., announcement was made that a dentist had perfected a new ouch-less method of drilling teeth by using a fine pin-point stream of compressed air with a finely-divided abrasive agent added... that in MILWAUKEE, WIS., the city's 27 aldermen inadvertently approved an ordinance which wiped out their own salaries; hastily called a special meeting to reconsider....

IT'S ALSO NEWS... that Sgt. Harry Truman, nephew of the Chief Executive, spent the night alone in the White House because there was no other place for him to stay. The "tenants" were gone and the domestic help on vacation... that in NATICK, MISS., a bleachers section seating 1,800 persons was stolen from the Natick High School athletic field... that in OGDEN, UTAH, City Commissioner William D. Wood was chosen rodeo foreman of the Pioneer Day celebration, rode to the center of the arena, was thrown from his horse and suffered a broken arm....

AND IT'S STILL MORE NEWS... that in HOLLYWOOD, CAL., Actress Joan Bennett paid a \$20 fine for smoking a cigaret while driving past a fire station in a no-smoking zone... that in BURBANK, CAL., two young gunmen robbed two Hollywood bank messengers of \$110,300 in silver and small bills... that in GREAT FALLS, MONT., Ole Olson was sentenced to five days in jail for drunkenness--his 58th appearance before the same judge... that the beer situation is bad all over... A Jap bomber ruined a cargo of beer near Okinawa and at Frankfurt.

Germany, AMG officials warned that if 18,000 volunteers to pick hops aren't forthcoming, the whole crop will be ruined...

NEW YORK CITY V-J CELEBRATION will be "almost riotous," says the New York "Times," and the city police department already has completed its plans to handle what probably will be New York's most tumultuous demonstration.

When surrender news is flashed, New York cops will be on a "no time off" and "no vacation" basis. Every available patrolman will be on duty.

AUTOS ARE BEING JUNKED at the rate of 3,300 a day, according to R. L. Polk & Co., statisticians for the automotive industry. Between July 1, 1941 and July 1, 1944, the research men said, a total of 3,485,089 cars disappeared from the nation's highways.

GI VALET SERVICE -- or the closest the Army can come to it -- now is available to veterans returning on furlough under the re-deployment program. Quartermasters and supply officers throughout the country will outfit the vets with well fitting, well pressed attire, Brig. Gen. J. E. Barzynski, commanding general of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, declared.

Special pressing equipment is being installed in reception stations all over the country, and officers at the centers have been instructed to alter garments where necessary to give the wearer a well groomed appearance.

It's a matter of morale, the Army says.

SHOP TALK

ADD TO YOUR MAILING LIST for one copy of each issue of your battalion publication the following address: Officer-in-Charge, Civil Engineer Corps Officers' School, NCTC, Davisville, Rhode Island.

If you are not already sending a copy to the Seabee News Service, also add: Seabee News Service, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, 25, D. C.

NEW TWIST IN PIN-UPS is featured by Camp Rousseau's "Coverall." Paper not only features sweater-flattering photos of glamorous models, but offers personally autographed pictures to Seabees requesting them. Photographs are supplied by Walter Thornton who operates one of New York's best photographic agencies.

SEABEE NEWSPAPERMEN and other editors of service publications were recognized as professionals this week by the American Newspaper Guild which voted to admit them to membership if they so desired.

The Guild, newspapermen's union, henceforth will allow admission of anyone working on a servicemen's publication. Applicants will receive a card paid-up "for the duration" in return for payment of initiation fee and one month's dues.

THE BULLPEN

SALE OF HANK BOROWY to the Chicago Cubs for \$100,000 and four players set off a loud chorus of "we wuz robbed" cries from American League club owners. Loudest in his protests was the venerable owner of the Senators, Clark Griffith, considered one of the shrewdest traders in the game.

According to sports reporters, Griffith threatens to crusade for a change in the present waiver rule at the next joint meeting of the two major leagues. Under the present regulations, owners may place players on the waiver list time and again, but are not compelled to release them if they are claimed. In fact, the Yankees asked waivers on Joe DiMaggio when he was in the midst of his 56-game hitting streak several years ago. Griffith was able to secure waivers in the AL on both Zeke Bonura and Bobo Newsom and then sold the former to the Giants for \$20,000 and the latter to Brooklyn for \$40,000.

So it wasn't surprising that Larry MacPhail could get waivers on Borowy, the Yankees' star hurler for the past three years. Biggest surprise was the sale itself, particularly in view of the fact the Yankees are only four games off the league lead with less than two months to go. That Hank wasn't losing his "stuff" is proven by the fact that he has won both starts in the National League.

DIMINUTIVE MONK MEYER, former All-American back at West Point and now a lieutenant colonel with the Army in the Philippines, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for single-handedly destroying three enemy pillboxes in northern Luzon.

Meyer's citation said that he was leading forward troops along a trail when he found the way blocked by an enemy strongpoint consisting of three interlocked pillboxes. After the usual methods of pillbox reduction failed, Meyer mounted the top of the first fort with an improvised charge of TNT. The explosive failed to detonate in the first two attempts due to a faulty charge and Meyer returned with a third charge, lowered it into the pillbox and held it until the last possible moment. The resulting explosion felled him but destroyed all three emplacements.

The star of Army's football teams from 1934 to 1936, Monk suffered a burst eardrum and other injuries from the explosions but refused medical attention until the Japs were mopped up in the area.

He previously had been awarded the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart with another cluster.

DISA AND DATA:... Robot-like **BYRON NELSON** boosted his 1945 golf winnings to \$45,000 by copping the All-American Open at Chicago with a record 72-hole total of 269, 19 under par... **BARNEY ROSS**, former world's welterweight champ and Marine hero of Guadalcanal, has sold his life story to Hollywood for \$35,000... **Dr. CLARENCE W. SPEARS** resigned as head football coach and athletic director at U of Maryland.