

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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IN BRIEF REPORT SEABEES INVADE BALIKPAPAN (P.2)...LABOR PRAISED BY V.ADM. MOREELL (P.1)...NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMISSIONS FROM RANKS (P.1)...ONLY 50 JAP WARSHIPS REMAIN (P.5)...CB SENTRY WINS BRONZE STAR (P.6)...LABOR LEADER ASSURES JOB AID (P.7)....

WASHINGTON REPORTS

COMMISSIONS FROM THE RANKS are available under a number of special procurement programs announced in the 15 June issue of the Navy Dept. Bulletin. In some instances, drastic waivers -- eyesight as low as 8/20, correctible to 20/20 -- will be allowed. Programs likely to be of greatest interest to Seabees call for supply officers, port director officers, stevedore officers, procurement expeditors, petroleum inspectors, materials handling supervisors, and packaging officers. Refer to BuPers circular letter 159-45 (15 June Bulletin) for details.

ORGANIZED LABOR'S contribution to war program was termed "magnificent" by Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of BuDocks, in a recent address to students in a Navy Civilian Orientation course in New York City.

"Far be it from me to minimize the importance of the interferences of strikes and slow-downs with the orderly production of implements of war," the Admiral declared. "But let us not condemn the many for the transgressions of the few.

"Addressing myself specifically to our own works, I will testify conscientiously to the magnificent contribution to our war program of the great body of organized labor.

"We will have a long, tough road ahead of us -- not only the combat forces, but those like the Bureau of Yards and Docks, whose problem is production and logistics. Developing the bases and maintaining the supply lines needed for the final and greatest assault on Japan will call for effort even more strenuous than any thus far.

"We are faced with problems of unprecedented proportions. We will need all the experience and the 'know how' that we have gained thus far, and in addition we will need all the equipment, the materiel and the manpower that can be poured into the task," he said.

NEW RATING REQUIREMENTS are listed in the Navy Dept. Semi-monthly Bulletin for 15 June. AlNav 114 modifies BuPers Circ. Ltr. 297-44 by deleting the half service time waiver in pay grades 3 to 1-A in addition to changes in sea duty requirements for pay grade 2. For official guidance, refer to page 21 in the 15 June Bulletin, 45-614 - Advancement in Rating.

NEW, SLOPING DECK PONTOONS, ramp-style improvement over the reversed T-7, have been added to stock lists, the Advance Base Section of BuDocks has announced. Known to the trade as T-8 and T-11 (two sizes), the pontoons are for use primarily in amphibious operations and will eliminate the sharp drop traffic took in riding off causeway ends. Special hinge ramps are provided with the new unit.

First developed at a training center on the west coast, tests and improvements were conducted in the field and by the Bureau before the units were placed on stock lists. ABS says the two sizes will be obtainable by official requisition for approved projects.

Also added to stock lists are: The model O-2D Diesel outboard propulsion units, designed to replace the gas outboard motors and pile driver (75-foot leads, skid rig and 75-foot leads, barge-mounted rig) with sheet steel piling.

CAMPAIGN RIBBONS may not be worn as a result of temporary or temporary additional duty in an area unless the individual's duties have materially contributed to the progress of the war, states AlNav 129, dated 13 June, 1945. Application for approval of area campaign medals and wearing of ribbons for such duty must, after 1 July, 1945, be forwarded to BuPers along with certification by the Area Commander.

ARMY PUBLICATION, "Maintenance Engineer," issued monthly by the Army's office of Chief of Engineers, will be supplied to all construction battalions in the field. Lists of

the most recent Army manuals and bulletins covering engineer equipment will be included in the publication. Requests for the "Maintenance Engineer" should be made to the Bureau through official channels.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR JOB in the Pacific greatest in Navy's history, has more than doubled during past year. During 1945, \$444,000,000 is required for spare parts for internal combustion engines alone. Estimates for '46 indicate the need will be even greater.

Factors contributing to the problem are clear cut:

Horsepower in service, generated by diesel and gasoline internal combustion engines, has increased from 500,000 horsepower on January 1, 1943, to 52,390,500 horsepower on January 1, 1945. Spare parts must be made available to keep pace with this increase.

Meanwhile, vessels are growing older. Twenty per cent are over three years old and an additional forty per cent have been in continuous service more than two years.

Losses of spare parts occur enroute due to enemy action and in storage because of climatic conditions and repeated handling.

Intensified use with no opportunity for routine preventive maintenance increases the rate of wear on equipment.

Operating personnel frequently have been able to receive only brief instruction. This, together with battle fatigue, lessens the care the operator gives equipment.

Combat damage adds greatly to demand for parts. Ship Repair Units must have spare parts available for on-the-spot repairs.

Authorities claim spare parts have developed into one of the major factors of the war. They serve as the control, determining what per cent of sea power will be available at any one time to strike at the enemy in each of the theaters of operation.

"Without an adequate supply of spare parts," warns BuShips, "no fleet or nation involved in the war can long continue to exist."

BETTER AND TOUGHER CLOTHES for Navy personnel are being developed by BuS&A at its recently expanded Clothing Research and Development Unit depot in Brooklyn.

Fabrics tested to withstand anything from arctic gales and tropic heat to burning gasoline and high humidity come from this enlarged laboratory, where scientists have simulated climatic and combat conditions of five continents and the seven seas.

By means of thermal conductivity testing equipment, the Navy can reproduce the temperature and humidity of the Japanese island of Honshu as easily as that of Brooklyn; can blow up the season's best rainstorm quicker than Mother Nature, and can turn on high-velocity gales without warning.

Other new equipment wears out new shoe soles in half an hour and puts a normal year's weathering wear on garments in 48 hours. These devices test the wearing qualities of all types of Navy clothing, from storm suits to the gold braid on officers' dress uniforms.

New camouflage fabrics are developed at the Brooklyn laboratory with the aid of a recording spectrophotometer, a superhuman "eye" which measures color variations beyond normal power of discrimination. It also is used to determine the effect of laundering, weather, and sunlight on colors used in Navy fabrics.

CARGO HANDLING and storing will be easier under a new Bureau directive which provides for designation of the method used in waterproofing and rust-proofing equipment for export.

Thus, crates will show by their markings whether they can be stored outside for a considerable time without additional protection.

For instance, crates marked "Export Packed -- Method IA" will contain equipment or commodities that have been properly treated against corrosion, wrapped securely in a waterproof package and sealed. Those marked "Export Packed - Method II" will have a complete moisture, vaporproof pack, with the use of a preservative when required.

MORE THAN 115,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS of high priority "hot" cargo were unloaded, and over 64,000 troops landed dry-shod over the causeways launched and installed by one of the Seabee pontoon battalions which participated in the early phases of the Ryukyus campaign.

Causeways were in operation 24 hours a day and, according to an official report, proved to be "one very effective method of transferring cargo and personnel across a reef which averaged more than 300 yards in width, with a five foot tide."

In addition to installing and maintaining the causeways, the unit operated pontoon warping tugs which proved extremely useful in salvage work, refloating a total of 300 stranded landing craft, including one LST.

The battalion, commissioned only recently and on its first battle assignment, operated at Okinawa, Ie Shima, Keramo Rhetto and Keise Shima.

COMBAT ZONES **SEABEES** **INVADED**
BALIKPAPAN vital Borneo oil center, along with Australian and Dutch troops
Twenty-four hours after the initial assault landing, the United Press reported, "U.S. Navy Seabees already were at work putting together causeways so cargo vessels could nose close inshore with supplies for the invasion."

Landings at the Dutch-owned port, lost to the Japs in January, 1942, were described as the biggest amphibious effort in the Southwest Pacific since Luzon.

71ST BATTALION'S plan of the day during May could well have anticipated almost daily enemy action of some kind. The official log reads like this.

May 4 -- sentry attacked by Jap naval officers; May 5 -- air raid; May 6 -- air raid; May 7; -- shelling by enemy land batteries; May 11 -- sniper fire; May 13 -- sniper fire, air raid and shelling; May 14 -- air raid and shelling; May 16 -- air raid; May 17 -- air raid and shelling; May 19 -- bridge blown up near camp by Japs; May 20 -- bridge blown up near camp by Japs; May 22 -- shelling; May 23 -- shelling.

"Air raids," says a footnote, "were a daily occurrence, but no bombs were dropped in the 71st area."

NEAR MISS by a Jap suicide plane was close enough for the crew aboard one of the 81st Battalion's barges. The barge was tied alongside one of the ships hit by one of six attacking suicide planes--and the wing of the enemy craft flopped onto the deck of the barge. The attack was nothing new--the battalion had raids on May 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 23 and 28, but until the barge collected the enemy plane wing, crew members had no watch-band and ring metal dropped right in their laps.

MIRACLE OF AN AIRFIELD on Okinawa is told in the current "Leatherneck" in an article by Sgt. Don Braman, Marine Corps Combat Correspondent. The fact that the airfield became operational during the first week of the American assault and that it has been operating ever since is the miracle, Braman said.

The miracle men were the control tower operators who worked in "mud and dust, often 30 hours at a stretch, who dodged snipers and dwelt in foxholes through strafings, bombings and shellings.

"A Seabee, Chief Electrician Paul J. Sollenberg, of Orrville, Ohio, had the one-man job of keeping the field's landing lights in operation.

"The lights always have been ready when the planes came in.

"That's all the recommendation Sollenberg needs," the author quoted Maj. William A. Simpson, operations officer. "He couldn't have done his job better."

SERVICE BASES

STANDARD LIGHT SOCKETS LACKING, the 42nd Battalion turned out several hundred of its own design. Materials consisted of a tent pole cut in two-inch lengths, a strip of tin from discarded cans, two short wires and a touch of solder. The tin was cut in a strip equal to the circumference of the socket, placed in a die and pressed together in a vise, thus forming the threads which receive the bulb.

Credit for the job goes to, CEM G.B. Daltzell and Clifford Davignon, MM3c.

THE BOURGAULT FOXHOLE RADIO--safety pin, coil of wire, wood base and razor blade--is becoming an institution in the Pacific. Sgt. Stanley Fink, Marine Corps correspondent, tells in "Leatherneck" the story of how Seabee Edward E. Bourgault, SC3c, came to feel like the man who had built a better mousetrap.

The world beat a path to the Bourgault foxhole door in a plea for instructions on the new radio. The Seabee obliged and with the aid of Marine Sgt. Phil Edwards, who began hearing the first requests, drew a diagram of the simple radio.

Mimeographs were made and thousands of copies distributed free as a courtesy of Edwards' paper, Bivouac Banter."

"You are now able to listen to your favorite program while fighting or sweating out a war--and there's no danger of the Nips listening too, even though they may be only a few feet away from you.

"Sharp, what?" says Author Fink.

MECHANICAL BOMB LOADER is one of the most important parts of the precision surface grinding and milling machine constructed by Bacyl E. Lonergan, MM2c, of the 135th.

The bomb loader, a Japanese product, was used by the Seabees in building the main milling table. Equipped with the same adjustments as an end-mill, the strengthened and reinforced loader is set on a frame made from salvaged rails and small I-beams, recovered from an enemy installation.

Power for the machine is furnished by an old one-horsepower motor. Aluminum belt shives were made from a Japanese airplane propeller, and a fly-wheel governor control from salvaged gears. Discarded truck winch bearings carry the propulsion to the grinding wheels, which are supplied regularly as they become too small for use on the various small emory wheels in the 135th's machine shop. Lonergan made his own cutting wheels from Jap steel.

The machine makes gears, does small milling and boring work, turns out keyways up to 3" long, and surface grinds an 8" by 24" object without having to be reset.

Ernest K. Moore, SF1c, and Ralph L. Good, MM1c, assisted Lonergan in its construction.

NOVEL POWER POST-HOLD DIGGER devised by 91st Batt employed steel-pointed and steel-reinforced 15-foot long wood pile driver in hanging drop hammer heads of Northwest #25 crane. Rig punched 7500 three-foot holes at rate of 40 per hour, and boulders encountered did not handicap operations. To use the approximately 1500 coconut logs used, a "fork lift" was fabricated and attached to a HS-7 tractor, replacing dozer blade.

CAPABLE OF SUPPLYING 2,500,000 gallons of water a day to ships of the fleet are water-er facilities constructed by 75th Battalion. One month after original project began the first LCT was furnished with 3,800 gallons; one day later, the first LST took aboard 210,000 gallons. In the first month of operation, 11,219,000 gallons were delivered to 282 vessels.

To provide original facilities, Seabees surveyed and laid 8,000 feet of 6" pipe line (placed by winch-truck, tractor, high-line and water buffalo), built a 126,000-gallon stove tank, and installed all pumps, mooring and servicing facilities necessary. All supplies and materials were brought 30 miles to project site by small craft.

System was expanded during subsequent months to increase supply to a daily average of 466,000 gallons; later was enlarged again.

A FEW ASSORTED GADGETS which went into the deep well pump built by the 58th Battalion included: A one-cylinder gasoline motor taken off a paint-sprayer; a Jap truck transmission, shop-made universal joint and rocker arm and bilge pump off a wrecked LCVP. The power unit was mounted on a welded frame of a salvaged Jap lightweight railroad rail; delivered 25,000 gallons of water per day for four weeks, then the deep well pump which had been ordered arrived on the base.

Chief Carpenter Edward S. Whittaker was the guiding hand in the construction.

A BEER CAN, bulb, batteries and bamboo were the materials with which Montford H. Welter, EM2c, of the 64th Battalion fashioned a practical flashlight.

The bulb and batteries had been cast aside by the battalion photographer, the bamboo came from the nearby jungle, and the beer can -- well, that's obvious.

Welter trimmed his bamboo to a length of nine inches. Diameter was two inches and the batteries fitted smoothly into the hollow stalk. Cut and soldered, the beer can provided the reflector.

To make threads to hold the bulb in place the Seabee first wrapped #14 copper wire around the base of the bulb, soldering it into the reflector. Next he coiled some of the same wire and made a contact at the base of the bamboo. This wire ran to the open end to contact with the reflector and complete the circuit.

The switch was made by shoving the reflector flange down to where it would contact with the batteries and wire.

PUMP CONSTRUCTION was a novelty for GBMU 511, but, in the parlance of an official report, "they rustled a miscellaneous assortment of pipe, shafting, plate, bolts, nuts and belting and came up with two turbine pumps installed and working. Nor as efficient in

horsepower consumption as some, but the pumps certainly get the water, which, after all, is the pay-off."

The 5th Brigade had installed a water system and storage tanks but was unable to install necessary deep well pumps. With no castings available for runners or bowls, and with no foundry facilities to produce them; the 511 machine shop crew had to select a design which could be fabricated from materials at hand and with the tools available.

The finished products, one driven by a Chrysler engine, has an estimated capacity of 200 gallons per minute, and the other, powered by a General Motors diesel which pumps 400 gallons per minute, have proved satisfactory. The work was carried out under direction of Charles C. Roe, CMM(S). Members of the shop crew: Norman W. Barron, MMS1c, Dane J. Borich, MMS1c, William D. Fredericks, MMS2c, Edward I. Mathes, SF3c, Truman L. Ziegler, MMS3c and Harold M. Acker, MMS3c.

91ST BATTALION'S SAWMILL turned out 576,500 board feet of lumber in one month's operation.

ORIGINAL IDEA for an automatic oil-can designed to eliminate frequent work stoppages caused by the necessity of using an oil-can in pipe cutting has been submitted to War Department by Edwin Singer, EM2c, with the 11th Batt, in the Philippines.

Oiler is so equipped that the correct amount of oil drips on the die while the cutting is being done and shuts off when the die is not being used.

In keeping with WD policy, Singer's invention is available for use free by the armed service units but steps will be taken to determine the patentability of the suggestion and the Seabee will retain all commercial rights.

No novice at inventing, Singer has secured patent pending rights for an adhesive tape dispenser for medical use which automatically heats the tape as it is removed and increases its adhesiveness. Another idea which he did not bother to patent, but has submitted to the WD, is a practice dummy machete working on a jack-knife principle which makes possible more realism in practice while removing danger to the opponent.

Singer and another Seabee also have submitted drawings and have patent pending rights for a shock absorbing valve to absorb ramp pressure in water lines.

WINDSHIELD WIPER MOTOR powers oxy-acetylene torch cutting machine devised by W. Deahlet, S1c, and W. Boehnke, SF1c, of 64th Batt. Machine, built of scrap with bearings salvaged from wrecked planes and hand-made wooden pulleys substituted for reduction gear, eliminates free-hand cutting of steel plate, turns out perfect clean edge circles from one-half inch to two feet in diameter.

Deahler also teamed up with W. S. Hamby, S1c, to rig up heavy duty clamp for tire tube vulcanizing. Also made of scrap, the clamp, can be operated by one hand. It exerts sufficient pressure to hold tube for vulcanizing without breaking or bending aluminum plate which holds it in place.

CCStd ELTON BROWN is no draftsman, but he knew what he wanted when the 42nd Battalion's new galley-building was proposed. After duty in galleys in many places with the widely-traveled 42nd, Brown went to work with the engineering division. The result was not only gratifying to the 42nd--but the plan has been copied by other units in Pacific areas.

One noteworthy improvement over many mess halls was the arrangement to keep the chow line under cover and out of rain.

CUTTING UP Quonset hut sheeting for dormer windows, doors and salvaging corrugated sheets for roofing on frame buildings where many mitre cuts are required was a little tedious until the 47th Battalion introduced its "electric tin shears." An electric saw with the blade reversed (the back of the teeth become the cutting edge) makes the cuts quickly and easily.

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR as well as Ship's Cook is Rex D. Terry, S2c, of Arbon, Idaho. En route to the Philippines with his battalion, Terry divulged his knowledge of Spanish, quickly found himself pressed into service as instructor. Aboard ship, he conducted two classes nightly; now that the outfit's camp is set up, continues the courses in his off-hours.

THE FLEET NAVY

ONLY 50 JAP WARSHIPS remain out of an estimated total of more than 300 vessels, Rear Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, deputy chief of staff to Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, asserted this week. Japan's once-mighty fleet, he said, has "ceased to exist." Only mopping up operations against those ships remaining are necessary.

The Japanese, Admiral Sherman said, have two partially converted battleships which they have attempted to make half dreadnaughts and half carriers, and two or three fairly large carriers. Thirty destroyers and a few cruisers also remain, he said.

Japs also have the Nagato, a battleship equivalent to America's old West Virginia, and two other old battleships which are not ready for action. In addition, the Admiral declared, "they have a small number of carriers which are alongside docks with camouflage nets over them."

Admiral Sherman lauded older type United States battleships for their part in the Pacific war. "It is a matter of historical record," he said, "that the old battleships the Japs thought were sunk at Pearl Harbor have delivered a greater weight of missiles than any other dreadnaughts in the history of the world."

DEEP WATER GUNS are ready to level on the Japs from the decks of the battleship Pennsylvania. Eleven of the 12 14-inch guns on the battlegoon were taken from the sunken hulks of the Oklahoma and Nevada at Pearl Harbor to replace worn-out guns.

Even more remarkable was the speed of the work. After preliminaries were over, actual regunning operation was started at 7 o'clock on a Monday morning and the last gun was in place at 11:40 Saturday morning of the same week.

"FAT" MONEY has saved the Navy's food bill \$50,000 a month through the sale of non-useable fats and oils to industries for production of glycerine, synthetic rubber and other vital war materials. Navy cooks salvage more than 15 million pounds of fats annually from ship and shore galleys throughout the world.

ATLANTIC FLEET is Pacific-bound, Admiral Jonas Ingran, USN, commander of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet, declared in Recife, Brazil. He declared that 40,000 officers and 350,000 men were being trained for service against the Japs and that "the hope of all persons in my command is to get into action as soon as possible."

LEMONADE, "SPIKED" with Vitamin "C" is being supplied men in U.S. Fleets--and they'll drink an estimated 40 million gallons this year. The war-born thirst-quencher is prepared from dehydrated lemon juice, fruit acid and pure ascorbic acid (Vitamin "C"). One 12-ounce glass provides more than half of a person's daily Vitamin "C" requirement and will supplement vitamins obtained from fresh fruits and vegetables.

"WELL DONE"

ARMY PRAISE for "an example of cooperation" came to the 84th Battalion at the Pacific during which the Seabees went "beyond the high standards set by the U. S. Navy," according to the report of their OinC, Lt. Comdr. Roger F. Neal.

In two weeks the 84th:

Completed temporary and permanent camps for the battalion.

Completed a 2,000-man mess hall and galley for the battalion and incoming flight squadrons and ground crews, and built a permanent camp in nine days.

Cleared 63 acres, subgraded 129,917 square yards, entailing 53,000 cubic yards moved, completed 45,444 square yards of finished surface for taxiways and hardstands.

Gave assistance to the Army in field analysis for suitable coral, operated and hauled coral to complete a 7,000 foot airstrip.

Completed, in six days, administration buildings and built 80 per cent of a base of

another unit.

Blasted and removed 19,000 cubic yards for a seaplane base ramp and hardstand.

Assembled two-self-propelling pontoon units from Army material for unloading of component units.

Then came the commendations:

Said Maj. Gen. Clarence A. Martin, of the 31st Infantry Division.

"I wish to commend you and the officers and men of your organization on their excellent work and cooperation with the 31st Infantry Division. Your cheerful and willing cooperation in carrying out work assigned by the Engineer, 31st Division, made possible the accomplishment of the engineer mission...."

"I wish to say that your organization as a whole has set an example of cooperation and desire to further the war effort. I hope that future operations by our armed forces may continue to profit by this fine spirit of cooperation between the engineers of the Army and those of the Navy."

Another commendation came from Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Hickey, of the 31st Division Artillery, who said the "combined operation" of an 84th Battalion boat crew in aiding in the capture of two "valuable Japanese prisoners," is "considered worthy of note in the unit history of our organization."

Forwarding endorsements from the field expressed "pride in the exceptional amount of work during the period covered by this report. Without the outstanding assistance given to the Army Engineers in the work of putting the strip in condition there would have been a much longer time before it could have been in operation."

VETERAN 17TH BATTALION added 10 more to its already long list of commendations and citations. Singled out by Brig. Gen. E. B. Whisner, USA, Commanding, for outstanding work during the construction of a number of projects at an Army Replacement Depot were the batt's OinC, Comdr. Robert S. Seddon, CEC, USNR, former exec of the Bobcats, Lt. Homes H. Smith, CEC, USNR, CMM Ernest Portfield, Lyle J. Melvin, MMLc, and William E. Sanderson, CMlc.

For assistance in the construction of civilian facilities, G. F. Boggs, W.L. Cotton MoMM2c, and R. H. Archer, SF3c, received commendations from the engineering officer of the Military Government Section.

CBM Charles S. Foote, the batt's chief MAA, was commended by Lt. Col. O. R. Durham, USA, Provost Marshall, for apprehending two criminal suspects, and Lorraine H.F. Kaufhold CMlc, was cited by Comdr. Seddon for preventing serious injury to a shipmate.

OINC OF 10TH SPECIAL, Lt. Comdr. Drue L. Murrell, USNR, has been awarded Bronze Star Medal for meritorious work supervising "the unloading and handling of large quantities of

material required for the establishment of... eighteen bases.... and the support of United States Naval Forces which prepared and engaged in the successful assault upon the continent of Europe..."

Adm. Harold R. Stark, USN, Commander, U. S. Naval Forces in Europe, praised Lt. Comdr. Murrell for "untiring efforts,.....resourcefulness, and executive ability....."

LONG DISTANCE COMMENDATION for the capture of demolition equipment landed by Italian paratroopers in Africa on 4 Sept., 1943, has come half-way across the world to reach Norman Fishman, S1c, of the 81st Battalion, now in the western Pacific.

The commendation, issued by the Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Eighth Fleet, lauded, "your performance of duty in connection with the recovery of demolition equipment landed by enemy saboteurs while attached to an advanced amphibious training base."

Aware that several accomplices of a captured Italian paratrooper were still at large, Fishman and a patrol found the equipment and captured it.

"Your courageous action undoubtedly resulted in safeguarding the ammunition and fuel dumps which the saboteurs were intent upon destroying," the commendation said.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL has been awarded Leonard C. Glover, MoM2c, now of CBMU 555. Medal is for Glover's heroism in rescuing a drowning seaman in a mine-studded sea. At the time, the Seabee was a crew member of a minesweeper.

APPRECIATION "for the highly efficient manner" in which the 27th Special Battalion discharged a cargo ship at one of the advance bases was expressed in a letter from the chief officer of the vessel.

"I cannot emphasize too much how this ship's personnel was impressed by the high morale and cooperative spirit with which the men worked," the letter said. "It is my sincere hope that for the remainder of this war, I always have the good fortune to be on ships that are handled by the Seabees."

SEABEE OF THE WEEK

ROBERT J. PETERSON,
S1c, of the 71st Battalion.

Peterson, of Erie, Pa., has been awarded the Bronze Star "for meritorious service as a sentry guarding the bivouac area of an isolated detachment." While on outpost duty, Peterson challenged a Japanese Navy Medical officer who attempted to infiltrate past his post and was immediately attacked by the officer with an automatic pistol and grenades.

Peterson answered the fire with carbine and machine gun fire, at the same time calling a warning to the area.

The award was made under authority of Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, U. S. Marine Corps.

WHAT THEY SAY

JOB PROMISE TO SEABEES was made in scheduled radio address by R. J. Gray, vice president of

the Building and Construction Department of the American Federation of Labor. "We are going to do more than say kind things about the Seabees. We are determined to see to it that when they come back home after the war is won, they won't have to tramp the streets broke and hungry and hunting a job," Gray's prepared script stated.

"I can assure the Seabees that their unions have kept them in good standing during their service with the Armed Forces and have protected their job seniority, their wage standards and working conditions. We are doing our part on the home front to help win the war and when the fighting is over, we are making it our job to find a good job for every worker who has served with the Seabees."

"A HELLUVA BEATING" is in prospect for Japan, promised Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, new commander of the U.S. Tenth Army, on Okinawa. He predicted the finale of the war will be fought on the ground -- and on Jap soil.

The beating he hoped to give the Japs, Gen. Stilwell said, was in return for the one they gave him in Burma.

"Look at that!" he ejaculated. "A couple of days ago it was a base hillside. Now it looks like a growing city. It's amazing to see...the mass of machines work a transformation."

"I stand by the side of the road and see a little fellow go by, riding one of those huge gadgets, like an ant on a horse. Then along comes another, 125-foot long, with teeth a foot long.

"And zit! Quick as that, the damn place where they've been has got airplanes landing on it. Anybody who gets tangled up with the United States is a plan damn fool."

"GUAM IS A MONUMENT to the energy of the Seabees," "Life" Magazine says in a 31-picture spread on the growing U. S. base in the Marianas. The Apra Harbor panorama, Marine Drive and various phases of Naval Construction Battalion activity are pictured--even to a photo of "Seabee playing basketball--for exercise" after work.

Also pictured is Commodore William O. Hiltabidle, jr., CEC, USN, the island engineer, and a full-page photo of Glenn Selby, Flc, at the controls of his bulldozer.

Mentioned is fact that a "tired battalion" of Seabees built a 1,500-bed hospital in 57 days."

PHOTOS AND EXPLANATIONS of a pneumatic drill bit designed by William J. Scott, CMLc, and the 122nd Battalion's hand-powered knife to cut corrugated sheet metal appear in the current issue of the "Engineering News Record."

FOR THE BOOK

"R-DAY" --- rotation day --- had finally arrived for veterans of the 121st Battalion. Six lucky men

shifted nervously from one foot to the other, sweating out their last minutes before boarding the transport, while they waited for the seventh member of their party to appear.

When Paul Neal, MoMM3c, continued missing as sailing time approached, a search party set out to find him. They located the Seabee in his barracks.

On the day of days, at the moment he was scheduled to leave for the ship, Neal was lying in his sack, sound asleep.

BUY BONDS - NOT SEABEE SOUVENIRS, an Army paper published in the Marianas is advising its readers. Its editors are alarmed at the amount of money soldiers are investing in Seabee-manufactured gadgets.

"Next thing we know," commented the Seabee newspaper, "Island-X-Change," "the Army will be organizing some sort of 'Dogface Protective Association'.....Maybe the Secretary of the Treasury isn't worrying too much, feeling it to be entirely likely that the Seabees take the money from the Doggies only so that they (the Seabees) can buy more bonds for themselves."

NEW YORK'S PACIFIC counterpart is progressing on schedule. Latest official report says: Riverside Drive was completed as well as the main cross-connections to tie it into the rest of the (road) system. The second lane of Broadway from 72nd Street south to Canal Street was begun and is now 85 per cent completed."

OUTMANEUVERING A P-51 with a motor grader is something Fulton G. Smith, MM1c, of the 133rd Battalion, will be glad to tell you about without solicitation.

Smith was operating the grader on a runway when the Mustang hit a softspot while making a take-off run on an adjacent strip; headed straight for the grader.

"I turned to see the thing coming full speed right at me, so all I could do was turn the wheel, give her the gas and duck. That pilot pulled up just in time.

"The rear wheel knocked off my oil filter and dented the exhaust pipe. The fighter went off on his run. After a few adjustments, I was back on mine."

STRANGEST REUNION YET came about recently when Seabee "Fletch" Edwards of the 81st met up with his best friend in the Pacific. The "best friend" was Edwards' dog, enlisted in the K-9 Corps more than two years ago. The dog had seen service in both the European and Pacific theaters, recognized the Seabee as quickly as his master spotted him.

"FYI"

SOME PACIFIC-BOUND TROOPS have left Europe by the Eastern route, it has been disclosed officially. Several thousand service troops already have sailed from Marseille for the Far East. The announcement said the service units "will begin the task of building bases for combat troops who will follow them."

ATOM SPLITTING would have been achieved by Germans within another six months, possibly destroying the world in the process, said Herbert Agar, special assistant to the American ambassador, in a speech in London. "I sincerely believe that in a very few years the human being will know how to destroy the human race," he added.

SOUNDPROOF HOMES are planned for the post-war era by the simple expedient of suspending houses on rubber pilings. The suggestion was made by the mechanical goods manager of the U. S. Rubber Co., who said that a room mounted on 14 rubber columns 16 inches high, with spun glass and accoustical material made for testing Navy radio equipment, proved so soundproof that a man could hear his heart beat.

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME... that just for the court record in GARDENA, CALIF., a 16-year-old girl threw 180-pound Douglas McLean over her shoulder--flat on his back, just as she did it a week before when he tried to attack her. McLean told the court he'd plead guilty "if a slip of a girl like that can throw me."...that in SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., radio reports told how an Australian motorist collected insurance for damages to his automobile when an American aircraft carrier, riding low tide, "leaned" on his dock-parked auto; squashed it.

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS....that in NEW YORK CITY, "Little Flower" LaGuardia read the funnies over the radio because a newspaper delivery workers' strike prevented distribution of papers....that in TOLEDO, OHIO, they unveiled a 61-foot model of what they hope Toledo will be after the war -- "as beautiful as old Athens, as modern as jet propulsion and as convenient as a hotel"....that in HOLLYWOOD, CALIF., Kelly Petillo, winner of the 500-mile Indianapolis auto race in 1935 and now owner of a cocktail bar, was charged with hitting a Marine over the head with a chair and shooting at him with a rifle.... that in PARKIN, ARK., Bosco, a small dog, reported in at home after a 2,300-mile journey from California which required seven months....

AND IT'S STILL MORE NEWS....that in NEW YORK CITY, Mrs. Kay Maloney, whose husband is stationed in Texas, turned in a false alarm because she was lonely and wouldn't mind spending 90 days in jail if she had someone to talk with....that in CLEVELAND, OHIO, Peter Weber, an industrial veteran of two wars, vows he won't retire until the Japs are licked. He's 72....that in GARY, IND., two undertakers fought over which would bury the body of a war worker. One of them was killed, and three other persons were wounded....

THE BULLPEN

FINAL WHISTLE BLEW for two of Wisconsin's great football players during the battle for Okinawa and, although the Japs made a hole in the Badger line that never will be forgotten by gridiron fans, they still failed to split the tackle and end. The tackle, Bob Baumann, was killed in action June 6, and 15 days later All-American End Dave Schreiner died of wounds. The story was told by a third teammate, Marine Lt. Leonard (Bud) Seelinger, in a letter to Wisconsin's Coach Harry Stuhldreher.

Seelinger wrote: "Dave's platoon was pinned down and Bob was working his way over to Dave to tell him tanks were on the way. He never got there. Dave and his platoon got out and as he was running up a trail he ran right by Bob. He walked back, took a look--that's all Dave told me."

Yale also lost one of its gridiron stars on Okinawa, Marine First Lt. Quentin (Monk) Meyer. The former All-American back was killed in action while attempting to aid a wounded member of his squad. Meyer had seen action earlier at Peleliu where he had won the Silver Star.

Baumann and Schreiner also were Marine Lieutenants. They entered Wisconsin as freshmen in 1939 and became close friends. After playing on Badger teams of 1940-41-42, they enlisted in the Marines, trained together and were assigned to the Sixth Division, where they were later joined by Seelinger.

RUMORS OF REVOLT by American League owners against giving baseball's new commissioner, Senator Chandler, a contract identical with the one under which the late Judge Landis held power, leaked out of "secret" meeting in Chicago.

Club owners are said to be balking at the clause which gives the commissioner blank-check authority over baseball's funds since financial report from commissioner's office disclosed that Landis' investments hadn't panned out and that the office was comparatively "broke."

According to one sportswriter, his "grapevine" reported that the original contract that was to be tendered Chandler was being circulated by mail to the various club owners for signature--but was never signed by all. It was conveniently "lost" he said, to hold up action until the contract could be rewritten to take from the office of the commissioner the right to invest baseball's funds.

DISA AND DATA... HANK GREENBERG celebrated his return to the Tigers' line-up after his four-year Army hitch by smashing out a 375-foot home run. More than 47,000 fans turned out to welcome Hank "home"....Senators' owner CLARK GRIFFITH has two sons-in-law in big league baseball, Manager JOE CRONIN of the Red Sox and Pitcher JOE HAYNES of the White Sox, and both have suffered broken legs this season....After 14 years, BABE HERMAN is coming back to the Dodgers--this time as a pinch hitter.