

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

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CIGARETTE-BAITED TRAP NETS JAP

The cigarette shortage is assuming international proportion.

At least a cigarette-baited trap, set by a patrol of the 101st Battalion, worked to perfection and produced one Jap victim.

The trap was set after a heavy equipment crew had reported that enemy activity was prevalent in the area and that Jap soldiers had been stealing canteens of water, mess kits and foul weather gear.

Using cigarettes, canteens and a few foul weather jackets as bait, the Seabees purposely walked away, quickly and cautiously doubled back. The Jap pilferer nosed carefully out of the brush and approached the gear.

Surrounded and ordered to surrender, he reached for a grenade at his belt; was mowed down in a burst of fire from Seabee carbines.

Two other Japanese were more fortunate. They wandered into one of the 101st's working areas and gave themselves up.

COMMENDATION RIBBON MUST BE AUTHORIZED

If you've been wondering whether or not the commendation you received entitled you to wear the green-and-white commendation ribbon, here's the information you need:

According to AlNav 11-44, dated 11 January 1944, only personnel of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard who receive an individual letter of commendation, signed by the Secretary of Navy, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, or a Fleet Commander of rank of Vice Admiral or above, for an act of heroism or service performed since 6 December 1941 are eligible.

The ribbon may not be worn for letters received after 11 January, 1944 unless the text of the commendation authorized its wearing, or for letters from Fleet Commanders received prior to 13 September 1944.

SEABEE FIRST MAN BURIED IN PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CEMETERY

First war victim to be buried in a new national cemetery in the Philippines was Seabee Richard Joseph Agnew, CM3c, of Maynard, Massachusetts.

Agnew, on duty at a warehouse in the Leyte area, was killed by bomb fragments and was buried with full military honors.

MILITARY STRENGTH POURED INTO PACIFIC

Even while the war in Europe approached its climatic peak, the Army and Navy continued to build up their power in the Pacific, Lieut. Gen. Brehon Somervell, head of the Army Service Forces, revealed in a recent statement.

In the last fiscal year, he disclosed, forty per cent of all Army cargo shipped out of the country had gone into the effort against Japan, while thirty per cent of the manpower sent overseas has gone to Pacific fronts or staging areas.

"Ours is a two-front war," Gen. Somervell said. "In no sense has the Pacific effort been a minor one, as the figures prove.

The ASF shipped a grand total of forty million tons of cargo overseas in fiscal year 1944, or more than double the figure for 1943, which was nineteen millions. For the last period, 2,600,000 personnel were embarked, including troops and replacements, compared with 1,200,000 for 1943.

DITCHER HELPED STOP JAPS

A dawn-to-dusk detail in No Man's Land is a grim proposition, but Clifford J. Dorian, MM1c, took it and came back alive.

Dorian was in on the Admiralty Islands invasion. When his LST reached shore on D-plus-one, the Navy construction man, driving a ditcher, was the second Seabee to hit the beach. His mates came pouring after him, their task to put the airstrip in shape.

But the airstrip was not in American hands. The first waves of Yanks were still on the beach.

Without hand tools, the Seabees were unable to dig trenches. All they could do was throw down their packs and squirm behind them for protection.

Dorian acted quickly. He unscrewed the seat on the ditcher and tossed it to the ground. Then, stretched flat on his stomach on the floorboards, he headed the machine for No Man's Land, while a mate stretched beside him, manning a machine gun.

As Jap snipers concentrated their fire, Dorian drove back and forth, cutting deep trenches in the sand. Frequently he rolled off and crouched beside the ditcher as he readjusted its blade so that he could stagger his work in slanting rows. His mate, Maurice O'Regan, CM2c, covered him, keeping a steady stream of fire headed in the direction from which most of the snipers' shots had been coming.

From morning until sunset, Dorian dug trenches. He knew the Japs usually employed sniper fire during the day, but waited until dark to make their major assaults. By nightfall he had finished fifty trenches and suffered nothing worse than a set of jumpy nerves.

The Jap attack that night was a heavy one. When the Nips retreated they left 1,100 of their dead behind them.

Dorian gives most of the credit for his part of the action to his gunner, O'Regan. The latter, on the other hand, disclaims heroism. "It's not so bad when you have a tommy-gun in your hands," he says, "but look at that poor Dorian -- he had nothing to fight with but a gear shift lever!"

... AND NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET

Because he wanted to be near his twin brother, CSF Harry M. Garrett, recently returned from 28 months in the South Pacific with the 15th Battalion, asked for an assignment at Camp Parks rather than at Davisville.

Returning to his home in Columbus, Ga., Harry learned his twin, Mark H., also a CSF, back from duty with the Seabees in the Aleutians had asked for --- and been assigned --- duty at Davisville.

PREDICTS JAP FALL YEAR AFTER NAZIS

Japan will be defeated within a year from the time Germany falls, in the opinion of Maj. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, newly appointed commander of United States Forces in the China theatre.

"But everyone thought the war in Europe would be over this year," General Wedemeyer told the Associated Press, "and it may run into early next summer."

He said that Japan is pouring a formidable army into South China, well trained and equipped, with the intention of fighting out the war on the Asiatic mainland rather than on her home soil. Defeats suffered by Japan's Navy and air forces are compelling her to shift from her original oceanic strategy to dependence upon this army, he explained.

JAPS CHASED FROM EIGHT MILLION SQUARE MILES

In three years of war, the Navy has helped clear the Japs from a Pacific area of eight million square miles, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal said in a recent talk at Minneapolis.

During that time, the Secretary continued, the Navy had convoyed, in the Atlantic and Pacific, troops and supplies in 61,000 ships. It has landed 1,200,000 assault troops on invasion beaches. It has sunk over 1,400 enemy ships totaling about 4,750,000 tons. And its air power has shot down or destroyed 10,000 planes.

AIRFIELD EARNS COMMENDATION FOR 77th

The 77th Battalion has been commended by Vice Admiral J. H. Newton, Commander South Pacific Area and Force, for their "efficient manner" and "cooperation and enthusiasm" in completing an airfield on an island base.

GUAM REBUILDING CALLED A WONDERFUL DEMONSTRATION

"The Navy's Seabees, the Marine and Army aviation engineers, all have their wars," said Bert Andrews, New York Herald-Tribune war correspondent, in a late dispatch describing the conversion of Guam into "another Pearl Harbor, within the limits of its capacity.

"This island of Guam, which not so long ago was a horrible example of America's failure to protect itself in the Pacific, now stands out in bold relief as a wonderful demonstration of how the United States goes to war," Andrews wrote. He told how the construction men's "bulldozers", and all other tools of construction that go along with the weapons of destruction, are being used night and day to transform Guam into a mighty base. . . .

"They have built scores of miles of military highways where the Japanese used trails," the Herald-Tribune writer said of the Seabees and Army and Marine engineers. "They have moved thousands of tons of coral for roads and for airfields -- airfields that have been built from the remains of the enemy fields, and have made them seem ridiculously inadequate. They have established everything from watch repair shops to small boat repair yards, in every case bringing all their Yankee ingenuity into play to overcome difficulties.

"And the pride they take in their deeds is heartening to see."

RESCUE

Chief Ship Fitter John Thompson of the 23rd Special today owes his life to six Seabees who formed a human chain to save him after he had fallen overboard dislocating his shoulder as he hit the water.

Thompson slipped from a gangplank as the ship on which his gang was working rolled in a heavy swell. With one arm useless, he managed to cling to the dock piling with the other until his mates were able to reach him.

The chief's rescuers, Auston Young, S1c; Willie Lee Melton, S2c; Andrew Gerald, S2c; Noah McCain, S2c; Lenzie Nixon, S2c; and Raymond Cook, S2c, were commended officially by the 23rd Special's OinC, Comdr. H. W. Heuer, USNR.

HONORABLE DISCHARGE EMBLEM

A new Honorable Discharge Emblem has been adopted by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. It is a cloth device with the same design as the

Honorable Service Lapel Button and will be worn on the uniform of all honorably discharged personnel.

The new emblem, worn as a badge of honor, will be sewed above the right breast pocket of all outer uniform clothing at the time of discharge. Honorably discharged personnel may wear their uniforms until they reach home, and thereafter, at official ceremonies.

The basic design of the emblem will be embroidered in gold, with the background material varying to match the color of the uniform on which it is to be worn. Supplies of the emblem are not yet available for distribution. Regulations pertaining to the Honorable Discharge Emblem will be published in the near future.

DETERMINED

Flying a Navy torpedo plane, Ensign Warren C. Burgess, USNR, and Robert A. Bullock, AMM, encountered a much larger twin-engined Jap patrol bomber, flying low over the water.

They immediately attacked the Jap aircraft and shot out the enemy turret gun. All of the main guns on the torpedo plane then jammed, however. Instead of turning back, Burgess simply flew his craft about two feet above the Jap plane and attempted to force it into the water. The Jap bomber actually hit the wet, but bounced back into the air and continued flying.

Burgess then attempted to "chew off" part of the Jap's wing with his propeller, but this maneuver was also unsuccessful. He then flew up beside the Jap plane to within three feet of the enemy wing tip and his aircrewman, Bullock, emptied his revolver into the Jap plane. Bullock reports that the shooting caused no visible damage to the Jap plane but it did make him feel much better.

When the revolver was empty, Burgess and Bullock waved to the Jap. Unamused, the Jap did not wave back. The Navy men finally got one gun working, and with that shot the enemy plane down.

LUXURY

It has finally happened -- stateside construction men have sought out the "luxuries" of Seabees in the islands.

At a construction project in Wilmington, Delaware, drinking water tasted so bad the workers complained daily, until Comdr. H. B. Buse, CEC, USNR, OinC of Construction, secured a portable water treatment plant from the Advance Base Division of BuDocks. Since installation, the water has been sparkling, clear, and pure.

The next pay day each workman found the following on a slip of paper in his envelope:

"We have just installed a water purification system. You are now drinking filtered and purified water. Your drinking water is filtered and purified in the same manner and by the same equipment as the drinking water used by our armed forces overseas.

50th BATTALION EARNS DOUBLE PRAISE

Two commendations for "high attainments" and "outstanding accomplishments" have been given the 50th Battalion as a result of base construction in the field.

The commendations were given by a Commodore and a Captain of the Navy who lauded the battalion's "highly skillful manner and cooperation.

NO ANESTHETIC WAS REQUIRED

It was a tense moment in the 73rd Battalion's sickbay as three corpsmen hovered over the operating table on a deft mission of mercy.

Corpsmen W. D. Compton, R. E. Spangler, and B. R. Gex, worked swiftly. Surgical tools, adhesive tape - even copper tubing - passed from steady hand to steady hand. The operation was successful.

The three stepped away from the table, revealing a unique dispensary water fountain - rigged with a hydraulic hand pump salvaged from a wrecked Japanese plane and attached to a five-gallon water can.

NEW ADDRESS

"Business as usual while alterations are in progress," was the 117th's watchword when the battalion moved a 25'x25' refreshment stand and four tons of bottled goods en masse to a new location. The Seabees kept the soft drink counter functioning without interruption while the stand was being hauled.

Stringers were attached to the bottom of the hut, heavy piping used as rollers, and the structure pushed to its new address by a ten wheel, five-ton truck.

The transfer was made without breaking a bottle.

PROVIDE THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT

First thing machinists of CBMU 511 did when they took over the machine shop at an advanced base was to build additional working space. The next additions were two lathes, equipped with tools mostly of their own manufacture. They then built a radical swinging arm press, with quick raising and lowering device, position locks, and a flat table with a vise for holding work. The drill press was constructed from a Black and Decker electric drill, part of its stand, pontoon plates, and the bottom straps from a cargo platform.

A semi-automatic power saw, powered by an electric motor from a discarded "reefer", was next off the production line. Operation of the saw is simple. Work is clamped in the vise, the operator pulls the starting lever, and feeds are automatic. When the cut is finished, the saw automatically stops and returns to the starting position.

The machine's entire lubrication stems from a three-gallon oil sump. Cutting fluid, carried in a separate compartment, is fed automatically. The saw's capacity is up to seven inches square of round material, and the holding vise swivel permits angle-cutting up to fifty degrees.

The CBMU 511 machinists also built an oil furnace for heat treatment and carbonization of metal parts. Carbon pots were cut from the ends of oxygen tanks. The carbon comes from coconut shells, of which the Seabees have plenty.

Other items constructed by the shop were a Whitney-type slitting shear, a foot-operated sheet-metal punch with various sizes of punches and dies, and a battery charger with a daily capacity of twenty batteries.

ART

Marine-Seabee cooperation has provided a Dutch transport with one of the most vividly decorated mess rooms of any ship in the Pacific service.

While on their way to a Central Pacific island, the Seabees --- A. H. Best, Ptr. 2c; Clifford E. Williams, S1c; and Charles J. Middlebrooks, S1c -- did the basic painting job . . . plain but glistening white overhead on the bulkheads. Marine Corporal Richard A. Sorensen, also a passenger, took over from there, adding a large, colorful mural. The mural, tropical in motif, features prominently a voluptuous hula girl.

Observed fellow-passenger Roy D. Miller, Pfc. in the Marines, "I'm glad I saw the painting and art work in process. If that picture had been the first thing I'd seen when I came aboard, I'd have thought the hospital had returned me to duty too soon!"

CAUTIOUS

A Seabee battalion stationed near Pearl Harbor approached its job of assembling a two-story prefabricated building with particular enthusiasm. The transformation of 94 crates of knocked-down parts into a completed structure--the second of its kind ever to be erected--was in the nature of a demonstration to other Seabee units located nearby. But that wasn't why the builders were excited. The news had just come through that the barracks had been earmarked for possible occupancy by WAVES, with the first group scheduled to arrive any day!

The prospective WAVE residence brought the Seabees at least one distinguished visitor, a high ranking officer who gravely went through the building, peering from the windows at every possible angle. He was making sure, he explained, that nothing they could see would be likely to embarrass the girls!

NAVY'S OCTOBER BOND PURCHASES \$32,000,000

The upward trend of the Navy War Bond program was again reflected in purchases in October, which totaled \$32,713,870. This represented an increase of 26 per cent over the October, 1943, volume of \$25,963,106, and brought the grand total through October, 1944, to \$829,693,412.

DEVISE INK PLATE

When the dismantled ink plate assembly from their printing press was missing after a recent battalion move, Anthony G. Manz, S1c, and Wilfred C. King, MM3c, printers for the 129th Seabees seemed doomed to go out of business. But a little initiative and the cooperation of the battalion machine shop saved their jobs.

Recalling that he had seen the same model press in a local newspaper plant, Manz borrowed the assembly long enough for Al Toth, MMS1c, to copy it onto a set of drawings at the battalion's machine shop. Using a piece of boilerplate and scrap steel for materials, Toth then reproduced a usable facsimile which is now in daily use on the press.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A Seabee detachment which landed early during the invasion of Southern France added insult to injury. The builders took over a German concrete pillbox which had been captured by assault units and converted it to use as the detachment's operations office.

EX-SEABEE AMONG FIRST TO APPLY FOR GI HOME LOAN

An ex-Seabee became one of the first World War II veterans to apply for a loan to purchase a home under the recently-enacted GI Bill of Rights, according to the Philadelphia Record.

Earl D. Davis, of Wilmington, Del., a former baker, third class, and holder of two Pacific campaign bars, was the first ex-GI in the Philadelphia area to have his application approved. Davis received a medical discharge from the Seabees three months ago.

Under the GI Bill of Rights, veterans can borrow money with the U. S. government guaranteeing payment of 50 per cent of the loan up to a maximum of \$2,000 to buy, build, repair or alter a house situated in the United States, the main purpose of

which is to be a home for the veteran and his family. He can also borrow money to clear up past due indebtedness on such a dwelling. The dwelling is limited to not more than four-family units, or a combination business and living unit.

GIs were cautioned, however, that the Bill of Rights does not in any way supersede or modify national or state banking laws.

EAGER

"Are we anxious to get our mail?" 117th Battalion Seabees chorus, "Say, when we got authorization to build our post office, we had the building half-completed before the foundation blocks arrived!"

When CCM Les Gartland got the green light, the Seabees had everything they needed -- except the materials. So the construction crew started by wrecking a no-longer-needed bomb shelter and used the heavy timbers as foundation beams and posts. By the time standard foundation blocks arrived, the building was half finished -- custom built with borrowed cement, Seabee-dug gravel, and hastily-built forms.

"We built our own forms, poured 92 blocks at a time for a total of 184, and didn't break a one," Gartland said. "And we came out exactly even on the blocks."

The crew of 20 put down cement walks and a driveway, erected two 52-foot Quonset huts connected by two four-foot passages with a frame facade across the front to form a U-shaped layout and issued a mail call two months ahead of schedule.

HOME WAS NEVER LIKE THIS!

Seabee transformation of a Pacific island into a comparatively comfortable haven has moved S/Sgt. Gerald D. Gordon, Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, to call an assignment there "stateside duty."

"The indefatigable Seabee is the wizard who waved the magic construction wand over this desolate spot," Gordon vows. "They've been on the job a little more than six weeks. Day and night you can hear the noises of their tractors, caterpillars, cement mixers-- digging, laying water lines, cleaning, paving, and building."

"At the shiny new mess hall they served turkey and ice cream one Sunday-- something almost unheard of in these parts--already they're calling it stateside duty."

FOR FINISHING CONCRETE

A new roller method of finishing concrete is being used by the 130th Battalion. The men use a six-inch pipe, the length depending upon the job. A 5/8-inch bolt is centered in approximately two feet of concrete in both ends of the pipe, and handles are attached. Using the improvised roller, the Seabees force stone aggregate into the concrete and produce a smooth surface in half the time and with half the effort previously required in rodding.

REFLOAT LCT

An LCT grounded on a coral reef and abandoned as immovable by other units was refloated by a 77th Battalion working party after the Seabees cut a half-mile of road through the jungle to reach the stranded ship.

The construction men first attempted to attach cables to the LCT from a DE offshore and have the DE pull while two bulldozers ashore loosened and pushed. The cables snagged in the coral at the edge of the reef and the idea had to be abandoned.

Instead, as the tide came in, the 'dozer operators lowered their blades and drove out into the reef in sea water. As the water level rose, the cats inched the LCT toward the sea. At times heavy waves completely covered the machinery, leaving only the operators' heads and the cats' exhaust pipes sticking above water. One wave momentarily engulfed both machine and operator. The diesel coughed slightly but kept running.

As the tide continued to rise, the LCT finally floated free. Then off-shore craft towed her off to drydock on a neighboring island.

Water had seeped into the LCT's hull while she was on the reef and Seabees manned the pumps at full capacity all the way to the docks.

The working party included Comdr. C. T. Wende, CEC, USNR, battalion OinC; Lieut. C. E. Duncan, CEC, USNR; Lieut. Sidney Mank, CEC, USN; Lieut. W. F. Henning, USNR; Chief Bill Klein, in charge of the crew of enlisted men; and John Farrell, Cox; Barney Feingold, SF3c; "Moose" McCullough, CM2c; Guy Harrod, SF2c; "Shorty" Jenkins, CM2c; "Short Stuff" Cantu, SF1c; Jim Cole, SF1c, Knox Wright, MME2c; Harvey Hanson, MME2c; "Tex" Harrison, Slc; George Javor, SF1c; and Jack McKinney, PhoM2c.

JAPANESE "PIONEERING"

Japanese forces in by-passed and isolated Rabaul, digging in for a "long war" and subsisting on a diet including snakes and lizards, have taken up farming, built a paper factory and started a newspaper, the Jap Domei news agency has reported.

The men, Domei says, are "absolutely free from ordinary mortal desires" and "everyone is at once a scientist, a farmer and a sage."

A steady increase in "disembodied spirits" also is indicated in the vital statistics of Jap life on Rabaul, but Domei says nothing about this.

MASCOT

Not-so-dumb claimant to the title of dumbest mutt in the islands is Stupid, current top-dog of the 17th Battalion. He has recently given up his favorite pastime of not-catching rats for the more spectacular sport of not-catching deer.

Stupid's lack of success as a hunter has been charitably attributed to a physical handicap. His hindquarters were injured in a fight (17th Seabees who know him say they suspect it was a General Sherman tank) and he ambles along more like a cow than a dog.

The canine originally had six toes on each foot, says his owner, R. R. Toney, EM3c, but the current count, made after the latest of his frequent brawls, totaled only 23.

Stupid, however, is satisfied. He severed his opponent's tail. Besides, he figures he's three toes above par, anyway.

BUILD IT -- N'V MIND THE BOMBS!

Two Chief Petty Officers of the 74th Battalion who continued the tasks at hand despite enemy bombing attacks, have received commendations signed by Captain Earl C. B. Gould, USN.

Daniel F. O'Connor, CEM, built communication facilities on Central Pacific bases in record time and Warren J. Minkle, CSF, supervised erection of a tank farm. Minkle was slightly off his beaten path--he manages one of the CPO clubs at his base.

COMMENDED BY MARINES

Five Seabees of the 121st Battalion have been cited by the Commanding General, 4th Marine Division, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, while serving with the Marines on Roi-Namur, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. The men are Karl A. Bernard, BM2c; Lawrence J. Halligan, Slc; Melvin V. Hansen, MM1c; Neill L. McNeill, CEM; and George P. Yelton, CM1c. Details of the action are lacking.

PROUD RECORD

Father-son reunions in themselves are not news, but the recent get-together of Edmond J. Pelletier, Jr., BM2c, and his dad, a Seabee CCM, called attention to a World War I veteran who apparently had been keeping mum about his activities in 1917-1918. The Chief, his proud son disclosed, won the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster; Croix De Guerre, and Fouragere for gallantry in action.

Patients in the 107th Battalion's sick bay are keeping busy by preparing V-mail for Christmas Cards the unit is printing.

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

FOOTBALL: ..Week's results established Army and Navy as two top-ranking teams thus assuring mythical national championship title to winner of December 2 clash .. Army, still undefeated, ran roughshod over Pennsylvania, 62-7, while Navy trounced Purdue, 32-0 ..Navy's victory considered greater feat since Purdue, one of nation's strongest, had bested Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Northwestern ..Middies-Cadet game will pit Army's high-scoring backs, operating from "T", against Navy's great line, judged one of best in history ..Army figuring on quick openings, fast breakaways for Glenn Davis, nation's top scorer ..Navy, working from single-wing, will rely on battering Tom Jenkins and shifty Clyde Scott ..Largest crowd of season, 83,627, watched unbeaten Ohio State, leading "civilian" eleven, move one game closer to first perfect regular season in 24 years ..Buckeyes' 26-12 win over Illinois was 8th straight this year ..Yale only other major college team still unbeaten ..Undefeated Randolph Field and Bainbridge Naval lead service teams ..latter has received 10 postseason bids including two bowl offers ..Once-beaten Georgia Tech and twice-defeated Tulsa, last year's Sugar Bowl opponents, selected for Orange Bowl ..Engineers beat Tulsa 20-18, last New Year's Day, with last period touchdown, in most exciting of Sugar Bowl series .. Oklahoma Aggies awarded Missouri Valley Conference title over Tulsa and Drake, only others in organization playing football this year ..Two upsets marked pro football games .. New York Giants stunned Green Bay Packers, 24-0, but latter backed into Western Division title when Detroit Lions dumped Chicago Bears, 41-21..Philly Eagles took over Eastern Division lead by crushing Washington Redskins, 37-7 ..In other games, Cleveland Rams trampled Card-Pitts, 33-0, and Boston Yanks nosed out Brooklyn Tigers, 13-6.

BASEBALL: ..Marty Marion, Cardinals' shortstop, named most valuable player in National League in 1944 by margin of one vote over Cubs' Bill Nicholson in annual balloting of Baseball Writers Assn ..Dodgers' Dixie Walker, unofficial batting champ, finished third, nine points ahead of last year's winner, Stan Musial of Cards ..Two pitchers, Bucky Walters of Cincinnati and Rookie Bill Voiselle of New York, tied for fifth ..American-National Leagues' joint committee recommended Judge Landis' re-election as commissioner and extended present agreement between circuits ..Because of illness, 78-year-old Landis may not accept new contract but, instead, announce his retirement before expiration of present term ..Clark Griffith, Washington Senators' owner, celebrated his 75th birthday and 57th year in baseball by announcing 1945 pennant plans ..James (Ripper) Collins, 40-year-old playing manager of Albany Senators, voted Eastern League's most valuable player for 1944 by baseball writers of league ..21 years in baseball, Ripper, veteran of three World Series, led league in batting.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS: ..Major leagues which sponsors baseball equipment fund for service teams has sent \$299,723 worth to troops in three years ..plus 1287 dozen balls thrown back to field by fans ..236 American League ball players in armed services with Detroit contributing most men, 37 ..First of five baseball units now en-route to entertain overseas troops ..included in group are Johnny Lindell and George Stainback of Yankees, Steve O'Neill, manager of Tigers, and "Beans" Reardon, National League umpire ..Parisians got their first glimpse of American football when 9th AAF team defeated First General Hospital eleven, 6-0, before 22,000.

SIDELINES: ..Toronto Maple Leafs leading National Hockey League ..Johnny Greco, discharged from Canadian Army, outpunched Bobby Ruffin, discharged from American Army .. Gil Dodds, American mile champion, will become missionary after graduation from Theology college in February.