

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS FOR BATTALION NEWSPAPERS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

ISSUE NO. 49

5 DECEMBER 1944

BATTLE-TESTED MAINTENANCE UNIT

Seabees of CBMU 515 are studying the dictionary to see if "maintenance" means what they used to think it did.

Men of 515 hit the beach under intense mortar and machine gun fire an hour behind the assault wave of Marines. They fought shoulder to shoulder with Marines during the first two or three hours of the landing, struggled through three days of operations under combat conditions.

A terse, but meaningful log of the first four days of the assault disclosed the fact that 515 underwent pounding to which few Seabee units have ever been subjected.

The unit made the beach in four groups at varying times. The first waded waist deep water under the withering hail of Jap mortar and machine gun fire, went immediately into actual fighting for the first two or three hours.

Unloading operations began, the men wading back and forth in waist deep muck under constant sniper fire, with ammunition as the burden. Unloading continued until 2200 on the first night when 515 tried to dig in for the night.

Enemy snipers were infiltrating the lines, maintained sufficient nuisance fire to prevent sleep.

Unloading operations began anew on the second day as ammunition and ration dumps were set up and organized. One Seabee group assisted in burying the Marine dead and three other groups were called on to set up a rear defense line on a ridge near the beach. Thirty Seabees were put behind gun positions to hold back the infiltration during the night.

The second night brought increasing sniper and machine gun fire. A counter-attack by a large enemy patrol was stopped at the last ridge by Marines and Seabees. Morning found 200 Jap dead just short of the last ridge.

A makeshift base began to take form during the third morning. A crew built a shed to house salvaged gear from the beach--it still stands as the first real construction work done. By nightfall, a bake oven, small hand tools, four tents and a generator had been brought ashore. Although enemy fire had diminished, the landing force's supporting artillery kept up its constant thunder and sleep was again intermittent.

A galley went up, the bake oven put into operation and a field hospital was started. By the end of the day Seabee trucks were handling hot coffee, hot bread and fresh water to the Marines in the front lines. Trucks carrying the rations would

return for more, loaded with Jap lumber, a saw mill and power generator. During the fourth night -- last night of heavy firing -- a mortar burst less than a hundred feet from the Seabee bivouac area caused Marine casualties, but no Seabee injury.

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AWARDS CAMPAIGN RIBBONS

Seabees and other members of U. S. and Philippine forces participating for at least thirty days in the present Philippine campaign will be awarded the Philippine Liberation Campaign Ribbon, President Sergio Osmena of the Philippine Commonwealth has announced.

The ribbon, newly created, will show two small blue-and-white vertical stripes in the center of a background of red.

A Philippine Defense Ribbon will be awarded by the Commonwealth to U. S. and Philippine soldiers who resisted the Japanese invasion of the Philippines for not less than 30 days from December 7, 1941, to June 15, 1942. The ribbon will have two small vertical white stripes one quarter of the length from each end on a background of red and three small white stars arranged vertically at the center. The colors are those of the Philippine flag and the stars represent the three large island groups of the Philippines: Luzon, the Visayans and Mindanao.

ROUGH ROAD TO TINIAN

Joseph F. Charvat, BM2c, had Jap mortar fire in front of him, a barge of high test gas on the right, and another barge of ammunition on his left as his welcome to the Tinian beaches.

Veteran of the North African invasion, the recapture of Guam, and the assault on Saipan, Charvat is ready to call the Tinian trip the toughest of them all. He was coxswain of a Seabee barge running supplies and Marines to the beaches as the Jap coastal batteries opened up at 2 o'clock one morning.

"The first Jap shell hit 50 feet from the bow of my barge," Charvat said. He ducked behind the wheel, steered the barge out of range while shrapnel rattled over the deck. The next morning he found a two-pound chunk of shrapnel buried in his blankets which were on the deck of the barge.

SOONER THE BETTER

The fact that Japan's apparent decision to do everything in her power to hold the Philippines may be a blessing in disguise to American servicemen was indicated in a recent statement by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.

If the enemy continues to make a fight of it there, "our Army and Navy forces can knock them off as well in the Philippines as anywhere else," Mr. Stimson said in part, and "if such a process is speeded up, we may be thankful."

BRITAIN HONORS SEABEE BULLDOZER FIREMAN

The Seabee bulldozer fireman, CBM Phillip L. Bishop, who was credited with helping to conquer what some observers called England's most spectacular and terrifying fire, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (Military) for his heroism.

Bishop, attached to the 81st Battalion at the time, was notified of the honor bestowed upon him in the following letter from H. V. Markham, Secretary of the Admiralty:

"I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have learned with great pleasure that, on the advice of the First Lord, the King has been graciously pleased to award you the British Empire Medal (Military) for outstanding bravery shown in an air raid, during the night of May 30, 1944, in fighting the flames of blazing petrol which had flooded from damaged oil tanks and for your courage and determination whereby immense damage to life and property was averted.

Details of Bishop's action was carried in SNS Issue No. 37, 12 September, 1944.

AAA-1 PRIORITY

After being scared out of a year's growth when a Jap bomber crashed in flames close enough for him to feel the heat on his neck, Edmund I. McKillip, SF2c, Leyte-based Seabee, figured the least he was entitled to was a couple of choice souvenirs. He went to work on the wreck with a cutting torch and annexed three shiny propeller blades. He was still working furiously to add to his collection when another figure climbed up on the plane with a shovel.

"Hey, get out of here. This is my part!" McKillip shouted.

The other fellow gave him a long, cold stare.

"In case you're interested," he said, "I'm the bomb disposal officer....."

THE IMPOSSIBLE TAKES A LITTLE LONGER

CBMU 592 was given 10 hours to lay 518 feet of conduit and wiring across a vitally-needed airstrip and Air Operations asked that the work be done in 9 hours if possible because all flights had to be cancelled.

Eighty minutes later, Carp. Edwin Richardson walked into Operations, announced the strip was open and ready for use -- the project completed.

Four separate crews were used --- one cut the ditch across the coral strip, another crew laid the pipe, a third snaked the wire through and the fourth packed the ditch.

IN THE CHIPS

Wads of money awaited Seabees who landed on Leyte. Trouble was that most of it, Jap occupation currency, was worthless. Marcilino Ebanes, 20-year-old Filipino who volunteered to help the Navy construction men, fished a roll of the psuedo-pesos from his pocket and said ruefully, "The Japs paid us all right, but the money was no good.

A quintet of Seabees found at least one use for the bills. They used them as poker chips.

The men, members of a pontoon barge and causeway unit which has gone through the Marshalls and Marianas campaigns as well as the present one in the Philippines, are James Hendrix, S1c; B. H. Foos, MM2c; Vernon West, CM2c; Louis Malovitch, S1c; and Mills Hoff, Cox.

66,655 JAPS ELIMINATED IN MARIANAS AND PALAU CAMPAIGNS

In the five months since American forces invaded Saipan, Marine and Army units have killed or captured 66,655 Japanese troops in the Marianas and in the Palaus, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, disclosed in a recent communique.

Although organized full-scale resistance on these islands has long since ceased, Admiral Nimitz said, fighting still continues against isolated enemy remnants. In the last month alone, more than 2,000 Japs were reported slain in the caves of "Bloody Nose Ridge" on Peleliu.

Giving figures through November 13, the admiral revealed that the enemy losses on Saipan, Guam, and Tinian in the Marianas, and Anguar and Peleliu in the Palau group totaled 63,388 dead and 3,267 captured. The communique emphasized the bitter-end nature of the fighting in the Pacific where it has been necessary to kill twenty Japanese for every one captured.

WHAT, NEVER?

The Tokyo radio has boasted that the Nipponese capital is "air tight." Still, the announcer continued, raid shelters have been built for 150,000 persons.

A LITTLE LATE, BUT UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED

A Filipino Scout who had escaped from the Japs after Bataan and fought them for two years as a guerilla, was a little late in reporting back for duty, but

he did it promptly when he could.

He stepped out of the Philippine underbrush, saluted briskly before John P. Hunter, CMM, who landed with Seabee forces at Leyte, and said:

"Private, First Class E---- B----from Bataan, reporting for duty sir."

"You know what I did," Hunter said. "I stood up, returned his salute, unstrapped my carbine and handed it to him. A man like him could do more good with it than I could."

CHURCHILL CALLS U. S. GREATEST WAR POWER

Hailing the United States as the world's greatest military power, Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared in a Thanksgiving Day speech that the Allies were moving irresistably "and, perhaps with God's aid, swiftly towards victorious peace.

The Prime Minister said Americans never had more justification for Thanksgiving than in 1944 "when we see that in three or four years the United States has, in sober fact, become the greatest military, naval and air power in the world.

"That," I say to you in this time of war, is itself a subject for profound thanksgiving.

PAPUANS LAMENT

It was a good song and dance routine the Papuan natives staged for Seabees stationed in New Guinea, even though the dancers were lamenting their treatment by the Japs.

Joseph Gallagher, CM1c, whose battalion was stationed in the Milne Bay area, tells the story of the dozen natives who approached the Seabee camp, offered to put on their show and received wild applause. It was not until after the performance that they learned, through an interpreter, that the natives' songs and dances told the story of Jap mistreatment, theft of chickens and pigs. At least the interpretation brought results. The native troupe left with cigarettes, candy and other such tokens of appreciation as the Seabees could muster for the occasion.

COFFEE MECHANIC, FIRST CLASS

Charles S. Borden, MM3c, came ashore at Tinian with a pontoon outfit, set up his coffee pot, brewed his first batch as the assault waves rattled off across the beaches. Since then, after supplying men with fresh coffee when it was needed most, Borden has been rated unofficially as Coffee Mechanic, First Class.

UNWELCOME VISITOR

A crippled Jap bomber tried to put a Seabee pontoon pier at Leyte to a new use. The Nip attempted to use it as a landing field.

The plane, badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, headed straight for the causeway. Seabees aboard the pontoons tensed for the crash, but seconds before the bomber would have hit the pier, a shore battery scored a direct hit. The Jap went down a flaming wreck barely ten yards away.

KEEP 'EM HIGH, NIP!

When a Seabee is on the trigger end of the gun, it's best to keep hands high--as one Jap learned. Now the Jap has a stomach ache.

Chief. Carp. William J. Thomas, CEC, USNR, of CBMU 515, noting a new path through some lush jungle, investigated. He came upon a lone Jap sitting on a box. Thomas drew his weapon, ordered him to surrender. The Nip came to his feet with the command, but on the order to march forward, made the mistake of reaching for a large knife on the box beside him.

Thomas fired, which accounts for the Jap's stomach ache.

PACIFIC WAR NEITHER EASY NOR CHEAP

However certain the prospects for victory in Europe, "we cannot assume that victory in the Pacific will be either easy or cheap," Ralph A. Bard, Under Secretary of the Navy, declared in a New York City address.

Though progress in the European theater of operations "has been so rapid that Naval combat phases have been practically concluded," the Under Secretary added a note of warning against over-optimism.

"The nearer we approach to Tokyo," he said, "the longer our supply lines and the greater demands on shipping."

To emphasize this point, he declared that where one ship was used to supply a beachhead assault in Europe, four ships must be used to supply a similar beachhead on Jap-held territory.

The transfer of equipment, supplies and troops to the Pacific from the European theater will take considerable time, he said, "but we cannot afford to slow up our schedule of attack to accommodate this time-consuming transfer.

"The Navy must likewise establish bases on conquered and liberated territories equal in population to many American cities, complete with docks, warehouses, electric power plants, adequate housing and other complex operations."

Urging additional purchases of War Bonds and attacking complacency on the home front, Mr. Bard stressed the need of different types of "planes, guns,

ammunition and road building machinery, food and medicine.

"You don't need a blueprint, therefore, to realize that this is no time to view the progress of the war with complacency, but on the contrary to continue to pour it on here at home and to step up production to meet the mounting demands of our armed forces."

NEW "RATES"

Wood butchers, abacus jugglers, flash men, and belly robbers all are members-in-good standing of the 17th Special, according to Lt. (jg) G. O. C. Johnston, SC, USNR, battalion supply officer.

"Wood butchers" is the battalion's private code designation for carpenter's mates. Shipfitters have become "pipe benders," disbursing storekeepers are "abacus jugglers," and supply men are "procurers," a term which has become a polite designation for thieves.

"Belly robbers," of course, are the cooks and bakers, those unfortunates who, no matter what they do, can never please everybody.

Other 17th Special designations are "tonnage rustlers" for stevedore checkers, "bad man control" for the MAA force, "flash men" for the electricians, "buzz men" for communications workers, and "the brains department" for the executive office.

RAIDS ON JAPAN BY CARRIER-BASED PLANES 'NEAR'

Raids against Japanese installations, involving more than 2000 carrier-based American planes, were predicted for the "not too distant future" by Rear Admiral John H. Cassady, U.S.N., Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air, in a recent speech.

Admiral Cassady, once commander of the aircraft carrier, Saratoga, said that the recent Philippines naval actions proved that carriers can now go "wherever there is water to float them" regardless of the proximity of land-based enemy bombers.

(The obvious implication of the Admiral's analysis of aircraft-carrier power, according to naval observers, was that the Japanese mainland --- perhaps even Tokyo itself --- may soon be subjected to 2,000-plane raids from American carriers.)

Recalling the assertion of General Henry H. Arnold, Commanding General of the USAAF, that recent Superfortress raids against Tokyo were only the beginning of pressure from the B-29s, Admiral Cassady said the same thing applies to carrier-based aircraft, and that 1,000-plane raids by American carrier forces are now "commonplace."

A SEABEE AND HIS DOG

"You know, it's funny. But there's something about a dog out here," wrote Joel Douglas, Y3c, from a Pacific staging area. "It's not just that you can pet him and talk to him. Or that he follows you around and makes himself a good subject for interesting conversation. Maybe it's that you can give him a little of the love you have in you for which the only other outlet is dreaming -- and remembering....."

"We're shoving off soon for an advance combat zone. But the dogs will stay. Well, not all of them. Some are right now yelping their disgust from inside shipping crates, pushing paws through the bars in their anxiety to rejoin the men who are sending them away to the States. Each owner who could manage it has emptied his pockets, scraping together the remainder of the considerable sum required from among buddies as broke as himself. Meanwhile he's wondering what the old lady is going to say when she receives through the mail a dog you really have to "understand" to appreciate!"

SPEED UP

A six man detail using four hydraulic jacks could crate only nine or ten huts a day and CBMU 511 had well over five hundred they wanted to pack quickly.

The contribution of C. C. Roe, CCMS, and W. A. Marci, CMM, was a portable press, improvised from a hydraulic dozer cylinder and a control reservoir box salvaged from a tractor. Mounted on a home-made boom-tractor, the press cut man-hours on the bundling job to a fraction of the time previously needed.

Another innovation was the use of left-handed screw drivers, pressed into service on Butler huts where thousands of screws had been used. Electric drills were used with a reversed field. Power was supplied by a small, portable 3kw generator.

EXPERIENCED

Back at Camp Endicott after a two year stretch overseas, Henry L. Medefindt, EM3c, says he'd like to attend a motion picture operators' school before he ships out again.

His job overseas, he says, was "motion picture operator at every base as soon as we were settled." The bases included Iceland, England, and France.

What we'd like to know is whether Medefindt plans to attend the school as a student -- or an instructor.

ON THE AIR

Detachment One of the 99th Battalion recently got a hurry-up call from the Army general in command of their "Island X" for an antenna for the post's radio station.

According to the battalion's publication, "Lone Star", construction had been held up by a "lack of equipment" before the Seabees were called in.

"The job was turned over to Bill Croft, BM1c, who promptly whittled a single five-ton Douglas fir down to the proper length of 100 feet; borrowed an Army wrecking truck; and by the skillful use of a winch slid the giant antenna pole into a prepared foundation," "Lone Star" said.

Not only is the Army now broadcasting regularly, the 99th newspaper added, but they even got their truck back!

HURRY UP BANQUET

CCS George Hubbard landed on "Island X" with 1,200 hungry Seabees -- and no galley equipment with which to feed them. Ten days later, his department served a complete roast beef dinner, topped off with apple pie for dessert!

To turn out the feast, the chief used several five-eighth inch armor plate "griddles" for frying. The steel had been abandoned by a cruiser which had limped into port after a brush with a Japanese submarine. Roasting pans were produced from quarter-inch steel plates from wrecked pontoon barges. The only drawback, said Hubbard, was that it took two husky cooks to lift the 21-inch pans!

Other discarded plates from the cruiser were converted into a sizeable oven. A Seabee ship fitter provided the heating unit from some odd lengths of gas pipe, and kerosene was used for fuel.

That left only coffee-makers on the "wanted" list. Seabee plumbers quickly knocked the heads out of a few galvanized gasoline drums and put faucets in at the bottom. The rebuilt drums produced a high grade of java and, Hubbard concluded, "dinner was served."

IN AND OUTER

One rainy night after an air raid, Carl F. Otto, SF1c, found a fellow Seabee huddled on a pile of sandbags around a foxhole, thoroughly drenched and scratched about the face. In complete possession of the dugout was one horny lizard--four feet long.

At the sound of the siren, this Seabee had dived for his foxhole. He dived headfirst--to discover the lizard. Before he could move, the equally frightened lizard leaped out, using the Seabee's face as a springboard.

Hardly had the startled mate caught his breath when the "leapin' lizard" apparently decided, after hearing a bomb go off nearby, that, crowded or not, the

foxhole was the place to be. Forgetting the Jap bombs, the Seabee jumped out.

But a moment later, he too decided the lesser of two evils was the foxhole and he jumped back in and--out jumped the lizard.

The in-again, out-again routine occurred three times before the raid was over, Otto said. "And believe me," he chuckled, "the next day my friend started construction on a deluxe foxhole, equipped with a padlocked front door!"

SEABEES IMPERSONATE PFC's

The crews of four Seabee barges ferrying munitions to Leyte's beachheads raced ashore, dug foxholes and became infantrymen in a hurry-up call against an anticipated enemy attack.

While a sea battle raged at the approaches to the harbor, the Seabees anchored their barges and went ashore to bolster defenses against the looming Jap counter-attack. The threat was turned back by warships, but two of the barges were sunk by strafing enemy planes.

The bargemen, all uninjured, were:

Carp. Terrence V. Monahan; Charles E. Moore, MM2c; John M. Hoff, Cox.; Z. S. Polich, MM3c; R. N. Hill, CCM; Charles L. Young, MM3c.; L. F. Ryf, Jr. CM3c; John Sanstra, SC2c; and Joseph Little, Cox.

CHEWERS

GI Joe is the champion gum chewer of all time.

According to Brig. Gen. J. E. Barzynski, commanding general of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, American soldiers overseas are using chewing gum at eight times the normal peacetime consumption. An average of 630 sticks per year is supplied to each GI.

BUILD OWN ROAD-STRIPING MACHINE

Loath to paint 33 miles of white dividing line on the main highway of their advanced base by hand, CBMU 559 built its own road-stripping machine from odds and ends around the base.

Major item entering into the new piece of equipment was a discarded iron-wheeled camouflage paint spray machine. The CBMU'ers mounted an air compressor on the chassis along with a salvaged gasoline engine to furnish the power. An air tank was mounted on the rear of the chassis, behind the compressor.

To support the paint pressure tank above the air pressure container, the Seabees welded a steel-legged platform to the chassis. The paint guide of one-quarter inch steel plate was welded with spacers five inches long, then welded to a U-shaped tongue. This in turn was welded to the front axle. A detachable spray nozzle was mounted on a bracket at the rear of the guide.

The steering rod, guided from the jeep which tows the machine, enables the operator to paint an even five-inch stripe.

The paint spray nozzle is operated from the jeep by pressure on a heavy cord which leads from the trigger of the nozzle to the handle of the guide rod.

The road ahead is kept clean for painting by running a rubber hose to the front end of the paint guide and connecting it through a pressure valve to the air pressure tank. Ten pounds of air pressure through the hose clean the pavement thoroughly.

The problem of obtaining rubber-tired wheels of proper size for the improvised machine was met by using rubber-tired wheelbarrow wheels.

GOOD EATING

Two Seabees are members of an all-service fishing crew which provides 1400 lbs. of fresh sea food daily for the mess tables of outfits stationed on the 50th Battalion's "Island X".

Two gasoline-powered whale boats, operated by Everett E. Baugher, CM1c, and Glen L. Hall, SF2c, together with a sampan which acts as a relief boat, comprise the fleet.

"After eight months of fishing in the Pacific," said Baugher, who had done his share of angling at home, "I'm not surprised at anything.

"One day we caught 370 lbs. of alua in less than an hour. That's a fish like a perch, weighing anywhere from five to fifteen lbs. and up.

"There was plenty of variety," the Seabee continued, "Our usual catches consisted of tuna, black groupers (sea bass), red snappers, wahoo, barracuda, and dolphins.

Trolling proved the most productive method of fishing, Baugher and Hall reported. They used either artificial lures or natural bait. The latter included octopus meat, light in color and easily seen in the water, and so tough that small "bait stealers" can't get it off the hook.

EVERY DAY WAS THIRSTDAY

The 91st Battalion went nine months without Coca Cola -- then was transferred to a base where the "coke" syrup was available, but no carbonation. The Seabees built a carbonating machine by altering an acetylene generator tank, installing welding gauges, hose and copper tubing. The "coke" flowed to all and the machine was copied by ten Army and two Air Force units stationed nearby.

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

FOOTBALL:..Servicemen, at home or abroad, will have opportunity to see play-by-play motion pictures of Army-Navy game..arrangements completed by War and Navy Departments to film practically entire game together with colorful sidelights and personalities..narration will be by sports announcer, Ted Husing, who will also broadcast the event for radio audiences..Navy's announcement says picture will be shown "wherever a projection machine and screen may be rigged up"..Army was 2 to 1 pre-game favorite to defeat Navy in traditional clash..82 experts, voting in AP poll to determine nation's outstanding eleven, gave Cadets overwhelming majority for fifth straight week..All 200 boxes allotted to War Bond Committee for game sold with a \$100,000 purchase the minimum requirement for each box..15 boxes sold for a million dollars each, many others for \$500,000 each..Ohio State's "civilian" eleven won Western Conference title by beating Michigan, 18-14, with last period touchdown..Victors in nine games this season it was first time since 1920 that Buckeyes won every game on schedule..Rose Bowl bid for Ohio State was turned down by Conference committee..Only eleven teams remained undefeated and untied with Army, Ohio State, Randolph Field and Bainbridge Navy topping list..Navy Department rejected bid for latter to play in "Oil Bowl"..New Year's Day bowl game lineups..with team won, lost, tied, records: Rose Bowl--Southern California, 7-0-2, vs Tennessee, 7-0-1; Sugar Bowl--Alabama, 5-1-2, vs Duke, 5-4-0; Orange Bowl--Georgia Tech, 7-2-0, vs Tulsa, 6-2-0; Cotton Bowl--Texas Christian, 7-1-1, vs Oklahoma A&M, 7-1-0.. Sugar Bowl contest will be shortwaved to servicemen overseas..New York Giants and Washington Redskins moved into first place tie in Eastern Division of Pro Football League when Chicago Bears, sparked by Ensign Sid Luckman, handed Philly Eagles their first defeat of season..Giants nosed out Brooklyn Tigers, 7-0; Redskins topped Boston Yanks, 14-7.

BASEBALL:..Fans, players, team owners saddened by death of Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, "czar" of baseball for more than 20 years..Rumors have former Postmaster General James A. Farley filling post..Baseball Writers' Assn named Tigers' pitcher, Hal Newhouser, as AL's Most Valuable Player of 1944..Second southpaw and third hurler to be named since award's inception in 1911, Newhouser nosed out teammate Paul (Dizzy) Trout by four votes..Winner of 29 games, Newhouser was league's biggest winner since Lefty Grove copped 31 for Athletics in 1931..Photo-finish by Newhouser and Trout marked first time that two pitchers of same team named one, two..Vernon Stephens of Browns finished third, followed by George Stirnweiss of Yanks and Dick Wakefield of Tigers.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS:..Mel Ott, Frankie Frisch, Bucky Walters and Dutch Leonard, representing baseball's first junket to European war theater, arrived in Paris..Seabees Barney Bartels and John Brabston of 125th Batt took on Admirals Nimitz and Calhoun in horseshoe pitching contest..batt's paper reports that although official scores are "military secret" Seabees upheld honor of enlisted personnel..Pete Przylexpa turned in perfect no-hit, no-run game in 12th Specials softball league..Monk Meyer, Army All-American, now Lt. Col. at Leyte..Commander Buzz Borries, Navy's star of few years ago, spent 42 hours on raft in Leyte Gulf after carrier sunk..Lt. Clint Castleberry, Georgia Tech football star, previously listed as missing, now reported as killed in action..Ensign Howard Callahan, former USC football and track star, missing in South Pacific..Cpl. Dixie Howell, Montreal Royals catcher, prisoner in Germany.

SIDELINES:..Harold (Red) Grange elected president of new 8-team pro U.S. Football League while Lt. Cmdr. Jim Crowley, released from contract to coach Boston Yanks, will serve as commissioner of All-American Conference..Both leagues slated to begin operations in 1945..NYU opened basketball season with 103-28 victory over Union Junior College..Jimmy Rafferty, NYAC, set a record of 51 minutes, 38 seconds to win 10,000-meter National AAU championship, bettering old mark by 2 minutes, 4 seconds.