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NAVY CROSS TO OFFICER RESCUED FROM PRISON CAMP

Comdr. Jerry A. Steward, CEC, USNR, of Fairfield, Texas, veteran of 26 years' service in the Philippines and rescued a few months ago by American Rangers after three years in Jap prison camps, has been awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism.

The presentation was made in Washington by Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, CEC, USN, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. Commander Steward also received the Purple Heart Medal with three Gold Stars during the same ceremony.

Since his return from the Philippines, he also has received the Army Distinguished Unit Badge and Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal with Star, Philippine Defense Ribbon with Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star and Naval Reserve Medal with Star.

Now the most decorated officer in the Civil Engineer Corps, Commander Steward also wears the Mexican Service Medal, the Victory Medal, and the Navy Good Conduct Medal with Star.

His wife, who accompanied him to the United States, is a registered nurse who was interned by the Japanese in 1941 and rescued shortly after Commander Steward was released.

Commander and Mrs. Steward have four adopted children who remained in the Philippines to attend school.

SILVER STAR AWARDED DEAD HERO

The Silver Star Medal has been awarded posthumously to CCM Elmer I. Carruthers, formerly of Hagerstown, Md. Chief Carruthers was killed on Bougainville in November, 1943. Fatally wounded while building a jeep trail five hundred yards ahead of the front line, he insisted that his comrades treat others whom he considered more seriously injured than himself.

DESTROYER ESCORT RESCUES 375

A little DE, one of four vessels which went to the aid of the escort carrier, USS Bismarck Sea, after the latter had been hit during an enemy air attack, rescued 375 survivors, twice the number of the DE's regular complement. The rescue was conducted after dark in moderately rough seas and despite continued air attack during the early stages of the rescue.

The DE's report estimated that at least one half of the officers and men of its crew voluntarily dived into the water one or more times to rescue or assist survivors.

LOOKS AHEAD

A self-winding watch which has been winding itself throughout its Seabee owner's 28 months' overseas duty in Samoa, the Ellice Islands, and on Saipan is going to find its time has run out one of these days.

"The day the war is over," says CPhoM A. B. Roth of New York City, "I'm going to smash it with a hammer so it'll stop at the moment I leave the service. Then I'm going to hang it on the wall as a souvenir."

ATTENTION ALL EX-11TH BATTALION MEN

"Southern Cross Duty," a review of the 11th Battalion's tour of duty from 1942 through 1944, is now in the hands of the printers and will be ready for distribution soon, according to Lt. Comdr. E. K. Bryant, CEC, USNR, OinC. All former battalion personnel are urged to write at once to the OinC, 11th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California, giving permanent home address, so they may be included in the mailing list for free copies of the book.

LIGHT WEIGHT CUTTING OUTFIT DEVELOPED

A new oxy-acetylene emergency cutting outfit, weighing only fifty-six pounds, has been developed by the Navy for use under battle-damage conditions.

The new equipment, contained in a fire-resistant canvas back pack, consists of two 22 cubic foot capacity oxygen cylinders, one ten cubic foot capacity acetylene cylinder, gas regulators, a hand-cutting torch, hose, gloves, lighter, goggles and tools.

This outfit can be carried and operated by one man, permitting him to crawl through narrow passages, cutting his way, if necessary, as he goes. It will replace for emergency uses the former type of equipment that weighs almost 200 pounds and requires two men to handle.

The gas capacity of one set of cylinders will cut approximately 225 lineal inches of one-inch steel plate.

NUMBER ONE

Latest report is that the first Seabee ashore on Iwo Jima was 30-year-old CCM A. W. Baker, of Fort Smith and Marianna, Arkansas. The Chief landed with a reconnaissance party of the Fourth Marine Division less than 20 minutes after H-Hour.

TWENTY DEGREES COOLER INSIDE -- ALMOST

Guam, only months ago a battleground, now has at least one air-conditioned building -- with probably more to follow. Seabee Elmer R. Grant, M1c, of Bangor, Maine, has designed and installed the island's first unit, planned to combat instrument-damaging humidity in a repair shop.

Humidity in the area of the 20' x 100' quonset hut shop averaged 85 per cent and temperature inside hovered about 83 degrees with a heat gain of 41,000 BTU per hour. Requirements were that the humidity inside be lowered to 35 per cent and the temperature to 72 degrees.

Grant, in civilian life a heating and air-conditioning engineer, hung overhead two 48-foot, 24-gauge galvanized iron ducts, 12" x 12" in size, and six rosette type diffusers. He connected the ducts with two 3 1/2-ton Carrier air-conditioning units, each of which delivers 1500 cubic feet of air per minute and absorbs 21,000 BTU per hour.

Commending the Seabee's work, Lt. (jg) John H. Eppler, (AL) USNR, declared the units performed as well as any he'd ever seen. The home-made diffusers drew particular praise. They assured balanced distribution of air in the hut, he declared, with absolute silence from the vents.

SIGN PAINTER

Three days after D-Day for American forces invading Guam, Frank E. Drohan, P1c, was at his regular job, painting signs. He was busy lettering beach and direction guides. His paint was a can of Jap lacquer; his brush, a frayed twig.

OIL SALVAGED FROM WATER'S SURFACE

Battling the enemy behind the Pacific war scene is the small but mighty "Juicy" Fleet, which sails about Pearl Harbor reclaiming the oil which scums the water's surface.

Chief objective of the fleet is fire prevention. Clearing oil atop the water eliminates a dangerous hazard. The by-product of the operation is oil salvage and the returns practically finance the maintenance of the "Juicy" Fleet.

Besides removing the threat of conflagration, the "Juicy" Fleet units last year scooped from the harbor 3,000,000 gallons, 40 per cent of which was reclaimed oil. The salvaged "black gold" is used chiefly for oiling roadways and also is utilized, in power plants in the Navy Yard.

The "Juicy" units maneuver about the harbor scooping the oil scum into a large tank, the water going to the bottom and the oil passing through the reclaiming process.

The "Juicy" Fleet derives its name from the titles of the four oil reclaiming units: Juicy Lucy, Juicy Suzy, Juicy Floozie, and Juicy Scoopie.

HE FELT NO PAIN

After the first few days on Iwo Jima, injuries were just an anti-climax. George J. Beaudin, MM3c, of Lowell, Mass. didn't even know he was hit until someone told him!

The Seabee had been hauling rations and ammunition to the airfield. "Suddenly my helmet flew off!" he said. "I didn't feel any pain at all. Maybe I was too scared.

"A Marine hollered at me to get down into a foxhole. When I got there I remember asking him where my helmet was. 'Never mind the helmet,' he said, 'you've been hit.'" Then, for the first time, I noticed blood running down from my shoulder and hip.

DUPED

A group of pretty little WACS have given Navy construction men on New Guinea a lesson in the fine art of "promoting" that has left every Seabee within a thousand miles as red-faced as a ripe tomato.

The WACS needed a recreation hall but, as Sgt. Ozzie St. George, YANK Staff Correspondent tells the story, had nothing on hand but the idea. That, as it turned out, was enough.

The girls asked some friendly Seabees over on their afternoon off and incidentally suggested that the boys bring along a bulldozer. The willing Seabees, panting for feminine companionship, brought the dozer and, at the further suggestion of some of the cuter WACS, cleared an area and agreed to leave the bulldozer there overnight.

The next day the WACS really turned on the Seabees and "took their names off the book." This meant the Seabees couldn't get back into the area and consequently couldn't reclaim their dozer. The WACS then proceeded to go out for the next few weeks with no one who couldn't produce something in the way of scrap lumber. The only way to a WAC's heart in those days was through mention of six sheets of plywood or a keg of eight-penny nails.

The Seabees finally got their bulldozer back. The WACS invited them over for a party one afternoon, after some other Seabees had built the recreation hall on their afternoon off.

Everyone, said Sgt. St. George, considered it a very nice gesture.

BELL CASTERS

They didn't have a ship, but a Seabee battalion in the Marianas wanted a ship's bell anyway.

First off, the boys had to put together a blast furnace. They used fire bricks salvaged from a sugar mill. Moulding sand was easy because the enemy conveniently had left some behind, but brass was more difficult to obtain. The 'bees finally got the amount they needed by melting five-inch Jap shell cases. Then crucibles were borrowed from a ship in the harbor, and metal forks for handling them were made in one of the battalion's shops.

CSF Mervin V. Campbell of Carlsbad, New Mexico; Eugene E. Witmer, M3c, of Dover, New Hampshire; and Lawrence E. Murray, SF1c, of Reno, Nevada, produced a forty-pound bell, then turned out two more for ships in the harbor.

ONLY QUALIFICATION NECESSARY

Despite his rate, C. J. McClam, BM1c, of Hawkinsville, Georgia, works in the galley of his Guam-based unit.

McClam figures he can get cross-rated any time he wants to. "Test? There's only one test for a Navy cook," he says. "That's his ability to make Spam taste like steak."

"HOT STUFF," HE AGREES

Dave M. Large, M3c, who went ashore on Iwo with the D-Day forces, found the company of a Marine tank named "Hot Stuff" anything but comforting, but agreed its name was appropriate.

Large rushed up the beach to a shell hole and took cover. Immediately, the tank rolled up and stopped beside the crater, and just as quickly, the Japs concentrated their fire on it. Large moved to another crater--and "Hot Stuff" followed.

Once more he moved--and so did the tank.

Finally it dawned on Large that the "tank" was traveling in a straight line to deliberately draw fire away from the beaches." He back-pedalled--but fast.

TAKES THE BITE OUT OF BARKING DOGS

The closest thing to an escalator at an air base in the Marianas is a vehicle the Seabees built to save themselves a lot of walking.

The personnel carrier -- that's the official name for it--keeps moving around the base at a more or less constant speed of six miles an hour while passengers hop on and off. Emil J. Chmelka, SF1c, of Hartman, Colorado, who helped build it, says frankly that considering what went into the carrier's construction, he's surprised it stands up under even that pace.

The Seabees used salvaged materials exclusively for the trailer's wheels and

frame. Two-inch wire mesh was considered good enough for the sides and ends, plywood for the deck, and canvas for the top. To make certain the trailer wouldn't wrench loose from its haul truck, the Navy men included a fifth wheel to help absorb and balance the twists, turns and dips.

The fifth wheel didn't mean the Seabees were hogging the island's supply of rubber tires, Chmelka says. All five came from Japanese trucks.

JUMPS THE GUN ON POST-WAR HOME

A construction man with seventeen months' duty overseas should be able to do more than dream about his post-war home, figured James H. Tallman, CM1c, of Sherman, New York. He ought to be able to build it.

So he did -- in miniature. The 1/4" model is complete in every detail.

SEA RESCUE

William F. English, QM2c, an MAA attached to a brigade motor pool in the Marianas, swam through a rough sea to rescue R. W. Ryan, PhM3c, who had been swept out to sea beyond coral reefs off the island.

English tied a rope around his waist, made his way through the heavy surf and (with other members of the MAA force pulling them in on the line,) brought Ryan back in.

HE'S BEEN AROUND

Twenty-five months' overseas duty doesn't exactly make William "Scotty" Lowson, P2c, of Oakland, Cal., feel cheerful, but the 48-year-old veteran can say he's seen worse.

Lowson was a machine gunner in the famous Scottish "Black Watch" Division in World War I. He served from 1914 to 1919 and saw action as a machine-gunner in Iraq, Irak, Palestine and France.

IN GRATITUDE

Hundreds of men in a Marianas-based battalion are voluntarily passing up an ice cream ration each week and contributing their share to a special "ice cream fund" for wounded servicemen being treated at the island's Army hospitals.

Credited with sponsoring the ice cream donations is 23-year-old Howard J. McPhillips, MM3c, of Long Island City, N. Y., who had the fingers of his right hand

mashed off while greasing a power shovel. Rushed to the hospital, he was faced with the realization that his hand was hopelessly maimed and his first reaction was that his life was ruined.

But he soon began to take notice of the wounded men who were in the ward with him, men recently evacuated from an invasion zone. Many had been painfully injured; some were grotesquely mutilated. But almost without exception, they were cheerful and looked forward eagerly to post-war activities.

In admiration for the courage of his fellow casualties, the Seabee developed a new interest in life and sought to make life a little easier for them. One of the things he did was to arrange to buy ice cream from his battalion.

When his mates heard of this, all were eager to contribute. The battalion publication ran an appeal which was enthusiastically answered by the entire outfit.

The first contribution totaled more than 130 gallons of assorted flavors.

POST-WAR PLANS

Twenty-one-year old W. L. Farmer, S1c, of Idabel, Oklahoma, intends to raise hogs and cattle and cultivate honey after the war. He kept bees on the farm at home and has six thriving hives on Guam. He tends them between bulldozer jobs. His big problem, he says, is to protect the bees from frogs who could eat a swarm in a very short time.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

A telephone maintenance man on Guam has two problems, relates Paul C. Kingsley, EM3c, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The first: "tree-climbing rats with a cultivated taste for wire." The second: "bulldozer operators who make no distinction between coconut palms and telephone poles."

NAVAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Hospital facilities built by the Navy within the United States since mid-July of 1940 would provide a bed for every person in Evanston, Illinois; Jackson, Mississippi; Atlantic City, New Jersey; or Phoenix, Arizona, the Bureau of Yards and Docks has announced.

From July of 1940 to March of this year, the Navy's continental hospital construction program has cost 210 million dollars and has increased capacity from 6,147 beds to 65,800. The total does not include some 26,000 beds in Naval dispensaries.

Largest single unit now under construction is the \$7,400,000 hospital at Houston, Texas, authorized for construction on a basis of 1,000 beds.

ANY SIZE

From eight to five, C. W. Bailey, MM1c, operates and services the heaviest machinery his battalion has with it -- shovels, draglines, bulldozers, cranes and carryalls. After working hours, the Maryville, Tennessee, Seabee, now on Guam, relaxes. He fixes watches.

FIGHT ON AFTER DEATH, JAPS TOLD

Japanese soldiers must fight "even after death to defend the imperial lands with your souls," they have been told by General Korechika Anami, Japanese war minister, the United Press reports.

At the same time, the Tokyo radio reveals that great amounts of steel will be diverted to the production of banzai swords, which Japanese officers traditionally flourish while leading suicide attacks.

SAD STORY

CSF Jack Ruddy of Milwaukee, Wisc. nominates a friend of his for the title of "Pacific Sad Sack." Ruddy's candidate and five other Seabees were sent to a hospital to have gall stones removed. Thinking he might get back to the States, the Chief's friend refused to have the operation performed at the advanced base.

The other five were operated upon and then sent to the mainland for recuperation. Hearing this, the fellow who had held out dashed to the hospital and asked to have his operation performed.

It was. But instead of being sent to the States, he was ordered back to his unit.

CORPSMEN?

They make no claim to being corpsmen, but two Seabees nevertheless did a first class job of tending the wounded under heavy fire. The wounded, in this case, happened to be their bulldozer.

Anthony B. Silvia and J. B. Porter, both MM1c, brought the 'dozer ashore, moved it up the beach and ran smack into a burst of mortar fire that sent shrapnel flying through the radiator.

The 'dozer was brought to a stop. Then came the first aid: a wad of mosquito netting, some white lead, and a piece of wood to make an emergency plug. The bulldozer was still operating with these makeshift repairs when American forces took over the airstrip.

VETERAN PONTOON UNITS LAND AT IWO

Best known to most Seabees as a former personnel officer at both Camp Allen and Camp Peary, Lt. Comdr. Charles Broadbent, CEC, USNR, has been revealed as the officer-in-charge of pontoon units which participated in the landings at Iwo Jima.

First reports of the assault neglected to include the activities of these pontoon units. Their participation maintained unbroken the record that pontoons have made in getting stuff ashore in every major amphibious landing since the Sicilian invasion.

Incidentally, the battalion (of which the pontoon units are a part) claims to be the first one entitled to wear all three campaign ribbons --- the European-African-Middle Eastern, the American Area, and the Asiatic-Pacific. Commander Arthur J. Benline, CEC, USNR, is the OinC.

NOOOO, YOU DON'T, BUB!

Lt. Stephen B. Luce, CEC, is no cynic, but when it comes to allowing a captured Jap soldier to chauffeur his jeep, he's dubious.

Lt. Luce, with a Marianas-based battalion, was driving along a new road with Donald V. Confer, CM1c, when four Japs emerged from the jungle, bearing a white flag and making surrender noises. The capture, of course, was easy.

After loading the captives aboard, one of the Japs amiably went through the motions of driving to convey the idea that he not only could, but would be only too happy to chauffeur the party to the nearest stockade.

Lt. Luce substituted logic for the extreme pleasure of riding into camp with a captured Jap chauffeur at the wheel.

"DUG IN"

Harry F. Souder, MM2c, and four tent mates took a lesson from the Marianas Japs, dug a 6-by-6-by-6 cave under the floor of their tent to make room for their rapidly-growing store of souvenirs.

A STITCH IN TIME

It's going to be just too bad for the next Jap who holes up in a cave in the vicinity of John P. Moore, CM3c, of DuQuoin, Ill., and Donald C. Libke, GM3c, of Detroit, Mich.

Demolition men with a battalion of Iwo Jima-based Seabees, the two were engaged in clearing a recently-taken battle area of dud shells and land mines. As an extra-precautionary measure, they also made it a habit to investigate all caves which might offer shelter to by-passed Japs.

The two spotted a cave, half hidden in the shell-torn terrain and decided to look it over. Libke kept his carbine ready while Moore tossed in a smoke bomb.

"It seemed like a good idea at the time," said Moore, "but a Jap inside the cave had a better one. When we tossed the smoke bomb, he set off a land mine just inside the opening of the cave."

Outside of a few minor cuts from flying dirt, neither Seabee was injured.

And here's the bad news for the next Nip hold-out: "Next time," vowed Libke, "we'll toss in a couple of fragmentation grenades first--just to even up the percentage."

LONG TIME NO SEE

Roman Styczykowski, Ptr3c, of Detroit, Mich., serving with a Solomons-based CBMU, peered intently at the CPO and, in answer to his OinC's question, shook his head negatively and answered; "Sorry, sir, I don't know him."

"Look at him again!" Lt. G. P. O'Rourke, Sr., CEC, USNR, the OinC, ordered.

Roman looked again. Suddenly it dawned on him. It was his brother, Francis, whom he hadn't seen since 1938. The latter, a chief metalsmith aboard a PT tender, had flown several hundred miles to effect the reunion.

The two were granted five days to get re-acquainted.

IT'S HUMILIATING

There wasn't enough gratitude to satisfy Herbert P. Daykin, Sic, when he played Paul Revere for the Air Force on Iwo Jima.

Daykin, on guard duty spread the alarm when Japs began infiltrating the area, poked his head into an air force pilot's tent just in time to hear a .45 caliber slug blast past him.

The first warning went something like this: "I'm a Seabee guard, there are Japs coming this way."

After the pilot's quick fire power, the revision stood as follows:

"Don't shoot, you meat-headed, so-and-so."

"I guess he figured no Jap could swear like I did," Daykin mused sagely, "so he apologized later." Meantime the Yanks cleaned up the infiltrating Japs, the Paul Revere guard getting credit for three of them.

UNDELIVERABLE PACKAGES

The Navy Mail Service and the Welfare Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel have established procedures to be followed for the distribution to other servicemen of certain undeliverable overseas packages. Plans have been made in accordance with the Post Office Department's instructions that packages may be marked by the sender "Abandon if Undeliverable," if the sender does not wish the contents returned.

Packages may be classified as undeliverable for one of three reasons: (1) badly wrapped articles found loose in the mail, without any attached address; (2) parcels to missing or deceased personnel which do not bear a return address; (3) parcels to missing or deceased personnel bearing the written or printed instructions to abandon if undeliverable.

Navy Welfare Officers are now authorized to receive packages in these categories from Navy Postal Officers, mail clerks and mail orderlies. Before turning them over, however, postal personnel are instructed to make every possible effort to deliver all packages to the intended addressees. After receiving the packages, Welfare Officers will also make additional attempts to effect delivery, before distributing the contents to other persons.

Welfare Officers will keep accurate records of the distribution made of all packages. The senders of packages endorsed "Abandon if Undeliverable" will be informed of the disposition made of the articles they sent. If packages with obliterated addresses are found to have a return address slip enclosed in the package, the parcel will be returned to the sender. And if the contents of non-returnable packages are found to be of personal or sentimental value, such as pictures, they will be destroyed.

The Navy has instituted this policy for the disposition of undeliverable packages in order to lessen the possibility of renewed grief for the families of battle casualties when packages are returned to them months later. Packages which contain valuable articles, or which the senders want returned, should not be marked "Abandon if Undeliverable." Additional protection will be provided if senders will insure or register valuable packages addressed to overseas Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel. Such packages will not be turned over to Welfare Officers, but will be handled in accordance with postal regulations.

JAPS BEST AT MINES

The Japs are better at mining an area than they are at planting booby traps, in the opinion of Seabee Lloyd M. Edginton, GM1c, of Forest, Ohio, who is with a demolition unit on Iwo Jima.

"We've found few booby traps," he said, "but the ones we have spotted have been heavily charged. I don't think the Japs use much imagination, however, in rigging them up or baiting the trap."

The Japs scattered many box mines, Edginton revealed, and usually concealed them well. Mines were often found in localities which had previously been explored and pronounced safe.

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

MAJOR LEAGUE baseball opened its fourth wartime season before the smallest crowds in years. Inclement weather at the eight openers held attendance to an average of 12,468, compared with 17,334 a year ago. The total was 99,747. Largest gathering was at Cincinnati, where 30,069 watched the Reds take a 7 to 6 11-inning decision over the Pirates. The smallest crowd was at St. Louis where the AL champs swamped the Tigers, 7 to 1.

Opening day saw seven new records set, six of them by Manager Mel Ott of the Giants, the other by First Baseman George Metkovich of the Red Sox. Ott established a new NL record for being with one club the longest span; it was his 20th year as a Giant, surpassing Gabby Hartnett's 19 seasons with the Cubs. He also bettered five of his own marks; drew two bases on balls to increase his total to 1631; one RBI gave him 1778; a double gave him 1026 long hits and 2076 extra bases on long hits; and his three runs scored, raised his lifetime figure to 1787.

Metkovich established a new AL record and tied Dolph Camilli's NL mark by committing three errors in one inning.

A survey by the AP showed that 79.2 of the 1941 opening day line-ups, or pre-Pearl Harbor season, have either gone into service or become essential war workers. Of the 144 performers who opened the prewar season, only 30 remain on major league rosters, several on borrowed time, as some have been accepted for military duty while others are waiting reclassification.

DUGOUT DIRT: Although Cooper brothers threatened to quit unless their salaries were upped to \$15,000 each for a season, both were in uniform for opener... Both had signed for \$12,000, the club's ceiling salary as stipulated by government under Wage Stabilization Act, but demanded raise when they learned Marty Marion had been given contract calling for an above-ceiling salary... Case under advisement by Leslie O Connor, chairman of baseball's advisory council... Pete Gray, the Browns' one-armed outfielder, cracked out a single in four tries in his big league debut. Bill Klem, dean of major league ump's, now 71, missed his first opener in 41 years... Chick Fewster, one-time major leaguer, died... Ray Mack, Indians' second baseman for five years, inducted into Army... Dodgers returned Howie Schultz, their 6-foot, 7-inch first baseman, to St. Paul... CSp Bob Feller will be permitted to pitch for the Great Lakes NTS team, he recently was appointed to manage.

CHALKY WRIGHT, ex-featherweight champ and a veteran of 20 years in the ring, was suspended for life by the Maryland Boxing Commission for "not trying" in his bout with Jackie Wilson. Wilson, also an ex-featherweight champ, and Wright, were to have gone 10 rounds in the feature bout but Lee Halpenny, referee, declared the bout no contest at the end of the seventh. Wright's Manager, Eddie Walker, was given a clean bill, as were Wilson and his handlers. Wright also lost his end of the purse.

DISA AND DATA... President Truman said ban on racing will stick; gave no assurance that restrictions will be lifted even when European war ends... CSp Johnnie Lucadello, ex-St. Louis Browns' second baseman, appointed athletic director for 67th Battalion... Ann Curtis of San Francisco, swept 5 events at Women's NAAU swim; won 100,220,440 free-style; anchored winning 300,440 relays. Now holds more world and United States titles than any other woman... Welker Cochran, Champ, set world 3-cushion record by beating challenger Willie Hoppe, 60 to 22 in 20 innings...