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U.S.N. CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

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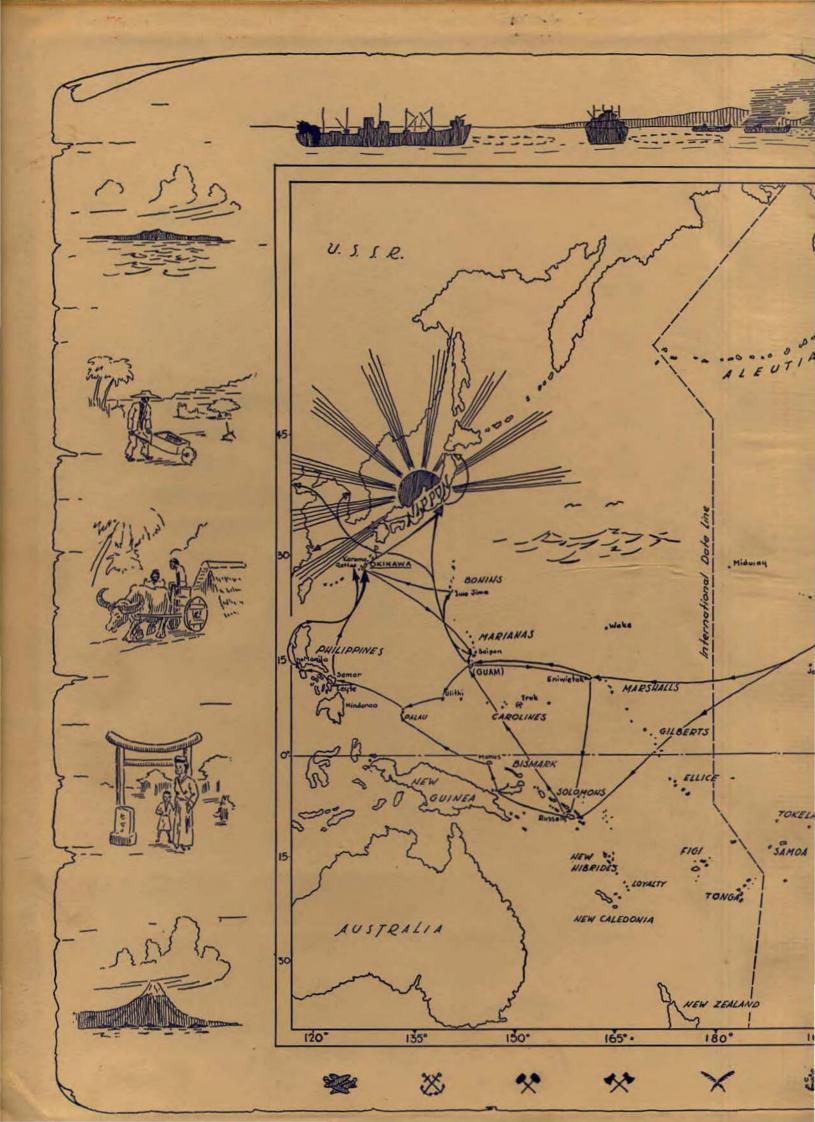
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the skipper's message .

the skipper says . . .

To the officers and men of the 128th NCB(P)

The personnel of this battalion were especially selected to ride pontoons in amphibious assaults. From the day we were commissioned all hands, from the youngest boot to the "Old Man," were convinced that this was "The Outfit" to be in, one that would go places and do things. A wonderful esprit de corps, made up of loyalty, pride, and confidence in each other, has been the outstanding characteristic of the 128th. It shows in many ways; especially in performance under fire. Although we took part in only one major amphibious assault, the success of pontoon causeways at Okinawa is already a part of the SeaBee saga. By the grace of God none of us lost his life for his country. Quite a few of you were wounded in action; many more of you made tremendous personal sacrifices that will never be recognized. To me the command of the 128th has been a source of great pride and satisfaction. I consider each of you a personal friend, and I look forward in seeing you again, wherever our paths may cross.

A. C. HUSBAND



to the causeway men .. of the navy

who have worked - fought - and died on the beach heads of Europe and the Pacific who maintained through the heat of battle and wrath of the elements that vital link from ship to shore ———— to these men this book is dedicated

Five

foreword · ·

The Navy pontoon is a steel box 5' by 5' by 7'. Originally designed by Captain J. N. Laycock, CEC, USN (Ret), as the basic unit of a readily transported barge lighter, its amazing simplicity and flexibility in use made it an immediate success in countless jobs. By this reputation it became known as "the Magic Box."

During the initial stage of planning for the assault on Sicily, the Army and Navy sought some means of solving the problem of discharging troops and material into the surf as standard landing craft must do when they landed on the shallow, sloping beaches of Sicily. BuDock's answer to this problem was the causeway... a double string of pontoons, thirty units long. In Narragansett Bay the causeway was tested against the Army counterpart, the pontoon bridge. To the astonishment of high Allied officials, the causeway was put through its paces and was discharging cargo before the Army had well begun construction on their bridge.

This was only a dry run. The actual trial by fire came at Gela, Sicily . . . at Salerno . . . at Anzio . . . at Normandy, and on every other beach where causeways landed. On every beachhead it was a test . . . a trial, to meet new and difficult conditions, which were never twice the same. It was the adaptability of the causeway and the resourcefulness of the men who rode them that marked its name and theirs in the annals of Amphibious Warfare.

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pacific offensive • • •

a story of

the one hundred and twenty-eighth naval construction battalion-pontoon

section $1 \cdot \cdot \cdot$



the rough log

stateside • • •

In order to give the complete picture of the birth of the 128th USNCB(P), it is necessary to take you back to July and August, 1944. Camp Endicott (Davisville, R. I.) was the center of SeaBee activity in the East. Men were pouring in from every part of the globe—England, Africa, Italy, Newfoundland, the Carribean, Puerto Rico, Iceland, The Azores, Panama, the Galapagos, the West Indies, etc.; the 128th NCB(P) eventually was to become the "melting pot" for a good many of these returnees.

About this time, the Navy was taking a great interest in pontoon potentialities. Their performance at Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio was extremely noteworthy and proved that the pontoon could be used as a highly effective offensive weapon. And so a great number of these newly returned Sea-Bees were collected, forming the 1047 CBD, one of the first units of its size to specialize mainly in pontoon training.

Here at ABD (Advance Base Depot) future 128ers prepared themselves for pontoon duty. (The larger portion of 1047 became part of 128.) Besides pontoon, seamanship, coxswain, signal and welding schools, each man had the opportunity for actual pontoon experience. The men did everything from scraping paint to experimenting in launching barges. Stringing pontoons, breaking them up, sinking drydocks, floating them again, raising causeways, launching them-and then, after a hard day's work, taking their pontoons for a joyride, the same "Magic Boxes" that later took them into the invasion beaches of the Pacific.

The articles below appeared in "The Bulldozer" a few days before the formation of the 128th NCB(P): SEABEE PONTOON BATTALION NOW FORMING HERE

Formation of a new type of SeaBee Battalion was under way here this week. To be known as the 128th NCB, it will be composed mainly of pontoon specialists and will be a provisional unit until its officer-in-charge is appointed, when it will be commissioned.

This, and other "pontoon" battalions will have, according to a recent announcement, a complement in line with those of regular construction battalions; majority of the personnel will be in the boatswain, coxswain, and seaman rating.

Because of the invaluable job Sea-Bee Pontoon Detachments have been doing on "round-the-world" invasion beaches, emphasis has been placed on this type of work. The assaults on Sicily, Salerno and Anzio proved to the Allied Commands that the pontoons—"Magic Boxes" of the SeaBees —could be classed along with tanks, planes, and big guns as an offensive weapon of this war.

Most notable of the many tasks performed by SeaBee pontoon-men has been the manning of the "Rhino" ferries and the floating causeways made up of pontoons, which have transported men and materials to the invasion beaches from LSTs and



other craft standing as far as 500 ft. offshore.

Officially, the 128th NCB(P) was commissioned September 28, 1944, but most of us remember the night of October 18, 1944, in connection with this event. It was at the Howard-Johnson Restaurant, Camp Endicott, that the colors were presented by Captain Fred F. Rogers, USN(Ret), the sponsor being Mrs. A. C. Husband, wife of Comdr. A. C. Husband, CEC, USN, Officer-in-charge of the 128th NCB(P). All hands were invited to attend and they came with wives, mothers and sweethearts. With solid and sweet renditions of popular and perennial favorites by our own 128th Swing Band, and with sandwiches and soft drinks plentiful, dining and dancing was at a premium. It was an enjoyable and very successful evening and marked the 128th as being the first battalion that did not stand in



Uh wunt-two-reep-foah!-G. I. jive at Davisville.

review for the presentation of colors. So you see from the very beginning we started breaking records.

It would be folly to skip over this period in 128th history without scribbling in a few words about what the Navy lists as a privilege—liberty. It's amusing when we look back and recall the many excuses we used to cook up to "finagle" a special liberty pass. Always somethin'—sick grandmother, wife stuck in Providence without a room, an auto that must be sold before leaving, or just unfinished business. (Quite a number of items fell under this heading.)

Providence sure was a grand old town; had plenty to offer, too. Remember the mob waiting for the Navy



Comdr. Husband and Lt. Comdr. Byrnes receive Battalion colors at Commissioning Party,

Pirate's Den, Port Arthur, Campbell's, Wagon Wheels, or maybe the Triangle, Dooley's or the China Clipper. Others, who weren't diggin' the green, had their dizzy whirl on the carrousel at Crescent Park and then headed for the USO, YMCA, or the City Girls' Club. For the swabbies who yearned for wax under their itchy patent leathers, the Arcadia Ballroom was the place, while our naturalist buddies sought peaceful refuge at the Roger Williams Memorial Park.

A few of the "gold braid"



Chow line at Commissioning Party.

bus outside the gate? Many a guy wore a purple heart from wounds suffered enroute from Camp Endicott to Providence. How we used to burn when the bus driver would bellow, "Step in! Step in! There's plenty of room in the back of the car." Even as he said it, your nose was flat against the rear bulkhead and you were wondering what the lower portion of the carcass was doing in the middle of the car.

For some reason, many of the boys became unusually thirsty during that long ride, and as the doors of that "Turkish bath on wheels" flew open, SeaBees took off in every direction, depending whether it would be the





Le's dance, chillun!

For many of us, Providence was merely the means of getting home on those oh! so welcome week-end passes. If we had the cash it might be that Providence train to Boston. If not, we bummed a ride and usually had to listen to some 4F give out with his troubles and a line on how he was winning the war in the factory. (Listening often proved more than compensation for the ride.) Or perhaps you were one of those characters who took that mad dash by taxi to catch the 9:55 p.m. out of Kingston to the Gay White Way, and then, on the way back, sweating out Father Time, while

Chief Clown Lambert turns band leader.



shivering in a rear coach and swearing under your breath,

"NEVER AGAIN."

The morning of October 23, 1944 found us lined up in groups that spread the battalion over the entire drill field at NCTC. Then an order was given. The band struck up a rhythmic air and the 128th NCB(P) marched out of Camp Endicott as homesteading friends shouted their goodbyes and fond good wishes.

As we gathered in our sections along the station platform, Red Cross ladies served us coffee and doughnuts. After this we boarded the train, received our combination seat and sack numbers, found them, and made ourselves comfortable.



Winners of the jitterbug contest

At 1300, amid the waving of a small, scattered group of railroad officials, Red Cross workers and officers, and the stirring notes of "Anchors Aweigh," our train rolled slowly out of Camp Endicott, and after a fleeting moment of recollection, our thoughts, as did the train, switched over on the track toward the future.

There were four different trainloads of 128ers and each travelling a different route, so before we reached California the boys had the opportunity to see a good part of the 48. The trips as a whole were alike as far as activities within the train were concerned, and all had their share of



Denver—The Red Cross was 'Johnnie on the spot.'

the human incident and out of the ordinary.

During the ride the men played cards, sang, read, tried to write letters, or just watched the scenery fly by until they dozed off. Meals were served in the diners on the train or at the Fred Harvey Restaurants along the way—and it didn't take us famished "Bees" long to polish off one of those chow offerings.

If there was any one thing that all of us were made conscious of on this journey, it was the kindness and warm sincerity of our own people. Wherever we stopped there was always that heartwarming welcome, fol-

Cross country train trip—this started a travel-log of letters.

lowed by a shower of fruit, picture postcards, maps, and edibles of all kinds. In many instances whole towns lined up along the tracks, shouting good-natured hellos and tossing the town paper and the morning's groceries into our car windows. Whether North, South, East or West, American hospitality reigned supreme, and as we pulled into Camp Parks, we were possessed with an overpowering determination to help rid the world of all fanatical despotism, so that men everywhere could breathe the air of freedom.

Sunny California! We knew none of it. Waking up on those cold, dark, bleak mornings—standing muster at attention as frozen fingers twitched painfully and icy toes desperately tried to wiggle off rigor mortis—that long hike to the parade grounds for colors, and just when the thought of seeking the warmth of our quonset huts was nearing reality, having to listen to the story of Joe Blow and what he got for being 2 days AWOL. (Ah, sweet memories!)

If you recall, we never did very much work at Parks, but we did have quite an extensive training program. No matter whether it was the BAR, the mortar, the Thompson submachine gun, or friend carbine, one

-with coffee, doughnuts, etc., and WHAT ETC!



Golly, how that coffee went fast.

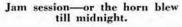
could always find the boys poppin' away at the targets on the rifle range. Often we wondered how they ever expected us to pick up a piece (rifle), no less fire it, after that long trek to the range. (We called it "The March of Death.") Many a K.O.ed "Bee" would welcome the peaceful repose of the prone position, only to be rudely awakened by a very unpleasant chap, red of face and frothing at the mouth-an instructor they called him. (Anyone with a mania for wearing a sun helmet, blessed with the knack of not getting along with the boys, having a disagreeable disposition and possessing an irate, frog-like quality that this same individual would invariably call his "verse," was immediately pulled out of ranks and tagged with an instructor handle.)

Highlighting our stay at Camp Parks was the 128th NCB(P) Dress Parade. Smartly strutting down the parade grounds as the band blared forth with traditional Sousa, and under the watchful eyes of the base bigwigs, we felt more than ever before like a well-balanced and perfectly functioning outfit.

Many an enjoyable free moment was spent at the Recreation center in the camp... sipping a coke, listening to the juke box, shooting a game of

Rolling plains and foothills of Utah.





pool, bowling a few frames before showtime, making that long-distance phone call home, seeing those all-star Hollywood revues, or jiving to our own Swing Band at the Guest House. Whatever was cookin', we were the guys to devour all of it. Liberty was good and recreational facilities within the camp, the best. Standing in that never-ending bus line gave a fellow plenty of time to build up quite a store of anticipation for a liberty spree, and once 128ers hit town you could bet on a merry whirl.

Some went into Oakland and branched out to the Pagoda, Valen-



Going aboard the Sibley.

tine's or waltzed around to a name band at Sweet's Ballroom. Others took in a movie, ate a bite, browsed around a Penny Arcade, and then started that very disheartening search for a room-the payoff usually was sharing a broken-down couch in the lobby of a second-rate hotel with a very much inebriated mate. (The latter filling a room already reeking furniture polish with another deadly fume.) Or maybe you headed for San Leandro and spent a pleasant evening in The Cave partaking of the three "D's." (Ed. note: dining, dancing and drinking.) Then a morning snack at Leandro's cafeteria, and hitchhiking back to camp. "Hey fellas, let's go into Frisco!" "Swell!" And so we took the car ride over the Oakland Bridge and sought our fortune among that gay city's night spots. Why did we always forget those overnight reservations? Too late. All filled up. No vacancies. Nothing today. Come back tomorrow sometime. So sorry, So sorry, SO SORRY. Yes, we know, lady, but we need the room tonight. So sorry again, and so we would find ourselves curled up in some twobit movie dive, trying to catch a few winks and waking up screaming to discover we were plum in the middle of a Kentucky hills shotgun brawl. And so out we go, cussing our fate (to the groans of others sleepers and the "Aw shut-ups" of more attentive cus-

There was always music.

tomers) and vowing for the one hundred and skateieth time,

"NEVER AGAIN!"

The morning of November 25, 1944, was born cold . . . that penetrating, frosty coldness inherent to California, that seems to almost mock "the land of warm sunshine." And through the gray light of dawn one could distinguish a group of men. These men, with all earthly possessions at their feet, were hopping about beating hands against sides in a futile attempt to keep warm. Who else would be lined up exposed to the weather, but the men of the 128th?

Take a good long look, fellas. Long time—no see, again!

Sixteen

After loading our gear aboard trucks we all piled into the waiting buses, very conscious of the female at the wheel. Naturally, there followed a barrage of wisecracks and snickers, all bringing forth the inefficiencies of the woman driver. Some of our more sympathetic friends immediately sided with the female, who took all of the aforementioned as part of the day's routine; and so the verbal free-for-all ensued.

At last we arrived at the Frisco docks and our mind turned to more important things than the shortcomings of the weaker sex.

Boarding the U.S.S. Sibley was old

Church service aboard Sibley.





Some were inclined to exerciseothers watched.

stuff to the salts, but a brand new and exciting experience to the Endicott and Thomas homesteaders. Gear and equipment were stored in the hold while we paraded up the gangplank and were taken below to our crowded quarters.

Looking back on that trip, many vivid associations come to mind: passing the Golden Gate, our convoy, only sky and water, guard duty, deck watches, KP, section passes for chow, card games, crap games (illegal as they were), a swing-session in the galley, a band concert on the main deck, water hours, shots, and SEA-SICKNESS.



hawaii • • •

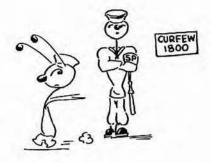
The morning of December 2nd found us cruising just off the eastern end of Oahu Island, Territory of Hawaii. We thronged to the ship's rail to get our first glimpse of these famous islands. The volcanic formation known as Diamond Head could be readily recognized, and faintly in before, when the Japs struck without a warning. There was no sign now of the almost fatal blow we had received. The entire port teemed with the activity of a great nation at war. We felt a thrill of pride in the mighty display, as we arrived to do our share in the conflict.



ALOHA—from Hawaii. "—no hula—no lae—just Aloha."

the distance could be seen the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, located on the beach of Waikiki.

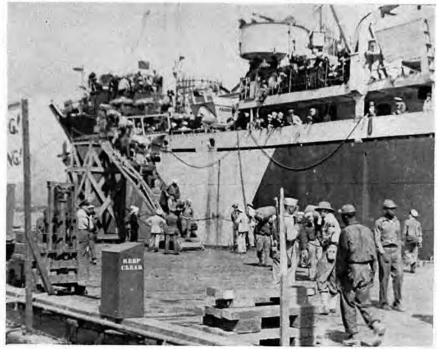
Later in the morning, the ship proceeded slowly into the inlet leading to Pearl Harbor. Our eyes opened wide at the vast amount of ships in the harbor. Everywhere we looked there were forests of masts and huge piles of supplies. We tried to imagine the scene in this busy harbor on that Sunday morning almost three years



The ship finally docked and preparations were made to disembark. Staggering under our heavy burdens of sea bags and other gear, we proceeded down the gangplank. The battalion assembled in the storage space adjacent to the dock. Headed by our band, we formed and marched to our new home at Iroquois Point. The prevalence of the fine, reddish-colored, volcanic dust, which filtered in everywhere in spite of the most strenuous efforts to keep it out, soon gave our area the nickname of the "Dust Bowl."

Once settled in our Quonset city, jobs were assigned and we started work. Inasmuch as we were a Pon-

"Once again we touch that good old terra firma."



toon Battalion, it was to be expected that our principal work would be with those steel boxes. The majority of the men soon became employed in assembling and fitting various pontoon structures at Intrepid Point. The spirit of "Can Do" imbued every one from the shipfitters to the pencil pushers in the skipper's office. Even the distasteful assignment to guard duty was borne with a minimum of griping.

Liberty? Oh yes-with Honolulu in the offing! An occasion, our



"Gear, gear, and more gear."



"liberty hounds." After a short trip across the bay, enlivened by frequent cascades of salt spray into our faces, we completed this first leg of our journey.

With good luck, we find a bus awaiting to carry us on. It is crowded here also, but Honolulu, the city of which we have heard so much, is the next stop, so we gain strength to carry on.

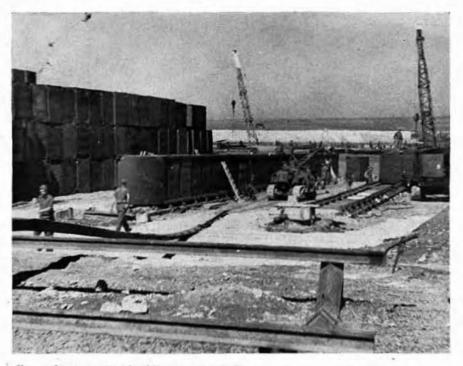
The mess hall at Iriquois Pt. is opened.

"To H --- with it-where's my sack?"

moldy whites were excavated from our seabags—usually the bottom and we arrayed ourselves in liberty dress. Dressed in approved style and polished to perfection, we obtained a few dollars by varied means and sallied forth to the battle.

Our first bottleneck was the liberty boat, and after standing in line and keeping our fingers crossed for indefinite periods, we boarded the boat and were sandwiched in among other





". . . then we start building causeways."

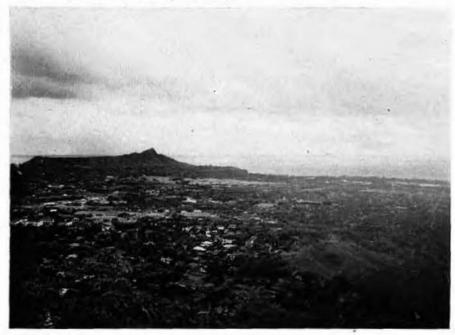
Our trip to Honolulu is not complete without a visit to Waikiki Beach, which lies just outside Honolulu proper. Here is found the glamorized Hawaii which has been publicized in song and story. We sit in the shade of a giant banyan tree and watch the surf rolling in at our feet. We enter the ocean for a dip and try our hand at riding the surf board on the unending processions of white crested waves.

Our music fans find the "Breakers" and "Royal Hawaiian Hotel" equipped with splendid Navy bands. The "Royal Hawaiian" is no longer

Once arrived, we start out to do the town. There are crowds of servicemen everywhere. We look with interested eyes at the people and the curious blending of Occident and Orient. Souvenirs of all descriptions are to be found in the numerous small curio shops. We look with interest at miniatures and pictures of Hawaii and the hula girls. Other items of interest shown are grass skirts, rugs, linens, and crockery.

Old Diamond Head rises above Honolulu

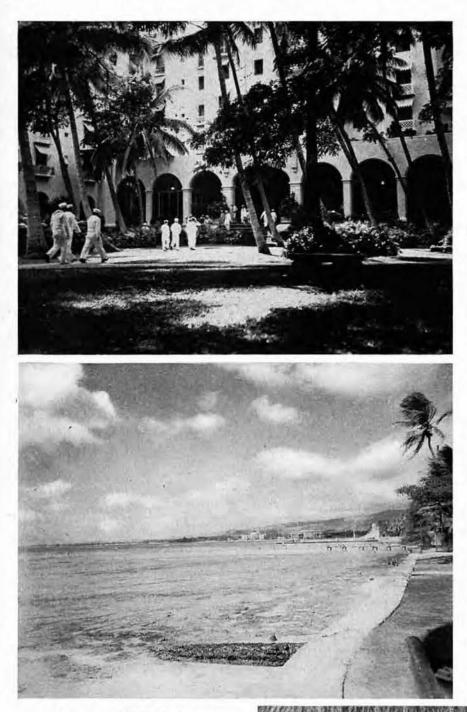




"Christmas Tree Deluxe—compliments 43rd CB's."

a place for prosperous vacationists, but has been taken over by Uncle Sam for the benefit of his men in khaki and blue. It is principally used as a recuperation center for submarine crews. It was very amusing to note sailors' laundry hanging in every window of the once elite hostelry. We enjoy the fine recreational program given here for service personnel. Yes —they even provide a genuine native

Twenty



Royal Hawaiian Hotel-Serviceman's Center.

ant crowded conditions. We arrive back in camp with divided opinions regarding liberty in Honolulu. Nevertheless the experience will always be remembered.

On occasional Sundays we were allowed recreational trips around Oahu. These trips were organized through the Chaplain's Office and were supplied with chow, coke, and beer to add spirit to the occasion. The trips were very interesting. There were the green vistas of sugar cane undulating gently upward to steeper slopes which in turn were crowned with jagged summits of volcanic rock. There were also the neatly planted pineapple plantations, looking like a huge diagram of sorts. We viewed the occasional native village with great curiosity when passing.

When tired of riding we halted at some inviting beach. While chow was being prepared, we spent our time shell hunting, swimming, and exploring the vicinity.

"They weren't all like this, by golly!"

Famous Waikiki Beach.

hula show, which is well received by all.

The beer halls do a rushing business, and moving picture theaters are open for those who desire them. The USO or YMCA provides a quiet spot to write letters or to follow special programs.

The approaching curfew hour makes us realize our liberty is almost over, but not quite. There is the same route to retrail with the attend-

\$



Royal Palms and residence on Nuuanu Pali.

The next stop after chow would usually be the Mormon Temple. It was magnificent in a setting of beautiful palms and coconut trees. Everyone got out their cameras and took pictures. Most of us also gathered a few coconuts as souvenirs.

In spite of the beautiful scenery, there were many reminders that we were not here on a vacation. Inasmuch as the island is one of our strongest military outposts, it was inevitable that we would be reminded that we were a nation at war by the sight of many military installations. Machine-gun nests, anti-aircraft guns, and air fields were to be seen on all sides. Toward the end of the trip we ascended the long snakelike highway which leads over the mountain range. As we climbed higher and higher we were shown a panorama of the sights we had been passing through earlier in the day. It gave a very adequate summation of the day's activity.

The Christmas season found us still in Hawaii. All of us felt pangs of homesickness. We were filled with

"Waianae Beach-better swimming."







"Another stop for coconuts on the Island tour.

thoughts of Christmas trees, presents, laughing children, and turkey dinners. It all seemed so far away. However, we had to make the best of it and called forth what little Christmas spirit we could muster. Ship's service stores were ransacked for gifts for sons, daughters, wives, or sweethearts.

A nearby camp had a wartime Christmas tree which might be likened

The Famous Blow Hole.

to a plumber's dream. It was the conventional evergreen with trimmings of colored lights, candles, and sparkling icicles, but was made entirely from pipe with miniatures of bulldozers, jeeps, cranes, pontoons and other playthings of the SeaBees.

Last, but not least, was the bountiful dinner prepared by our galley with plenty for everyone. Following the dinner we were entertained by our own battalion swing orchestra, together with a program arranged by our chaplain. A community sing gave all the lusty basses and higher pitched tenors an opportunity to display their technique. The songs varied-barber shop tunes and old familiar rounds were interspersed with Christmas carols. In the evening, a Christmas service was given, aided by a choir of thirty voices and our band. It was a very impressive service.

All of us knew our sojourn at Pearl Harbor was only temporary and that we were slated for duty in the forward areas. Everyone became increas-

Mormon Temple Grounds.

ingly eager to get started. Shortly after Christmas, the first contingents were issued combat gear and boarded LSTs for duty in the battle zones. One by one the detachments left until the entire battalion had left the island—to remember Pearl Harbor as only a pause in their naval career.

Yes, Hawaii is indeed a true tropical paradise. —But in spite of her sun-kissed beaches, her ranks of swaying hula girls, her beauty and enchantment, we can only say—

"NEVER AGAIN!"

Brigham Young Fountain (Mormon Temple).



Twenty-three

the beach head

Preparations for our first invasion as the 128th NCB(P) were started early in December, 1944. Officers nominated for this operation were briefed by staff officers of the amphibious command. Every possible contingency that might arise was discussed thoroughly. Some of the subjects analyzed were weather conditions, surfs, reefs, terrain, natives, Each operational platoon consisted of one officer and twenty-two enlisted men. These platoons had been trained as units, in fact they were teams. Each man knew his job and knew it well. He also knew he could depend on the other members of his team to do their job at the right time. It was this mutual confidence and respect that had earned the 128th praise in



Shellbacks and Pollywogs crossing the line.

pontoon equipment, and possible enemy opposition. Final plans as far as possible were completed. Equipment was assembled at Intrepid Point on the Island of Oahu. We benefited greatly from the experiences of veterans of amphibious operations in the Mediterranean and those officers and men of other battalions who had participated in previous Pacific invasions.



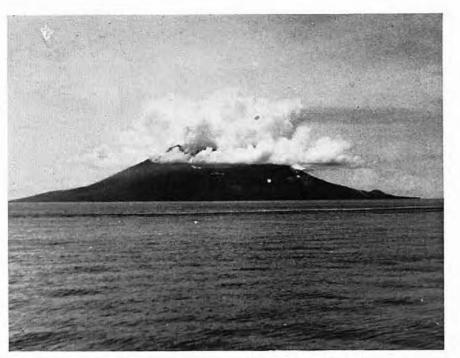
past performances and was to be the battalion's greatest asset in the trying days to come.

The first units left Honolulu late in December. Other units followed at intervals, with the last group leaving March 4, 1945. Causeway and barge platoons were on LSTs and the repair crews and warping tug crews boarded PAs. Scuttlebutt ran riot as to where the operation was to take place. Many points were decided upon the ultimate objective, due principally to the fact that units were scattered all over the Pacific, picking up Marines, Army units and Army engineers. Many interesting tales were brought back from Guadalcanal, Ulithi, Saipan, the Philippines and

"-then a short visit to Tulogi."



other places scattered throughout the Pacific. To most of the men, the many and strange sights of the Pacific islands were a thrilling adventure. Places that had been mere dots on the map now became reality. Odd names, formerly just part of a geography lesson, now became everyday bywords. —But everything was not romance and adventure. Daily drills, continued checking of equipment, ship's duties kept the fact before the men that this was business. Some of the units were plagued by storms. Mountainous seas surged at the con-





Isle of Bam off New Guinnea.

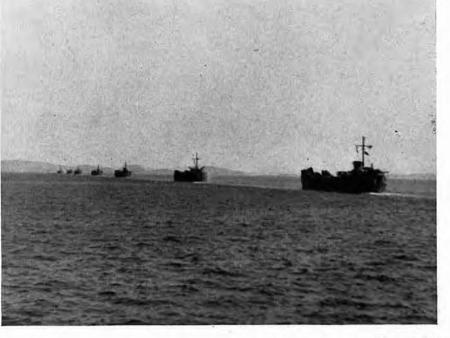
tem came the news—"The objective of this invasion is Okinawa." Each man received the news with a different reaction. Japan's homeland! Closer than Iwo Jima! An island of half a million hostile people! Last letters were written. Equipment was checked again and again. What was in store for us, participants in this greatest of Pacific invasions? The tenseness was so thick that it enveloped each ship like a pall. Chips were

Convoy approaching Okinawa.

"-and native peddlars at Samar."

voys, sometimes breaking completely over the ships. Causeways and barges took a terrific pounding. Crews stayed on duty in double shifts, drenched to the skin, and struggled against almost superhuman odds to save the equipment. It is a matter of justifiable pride that we lost only three causeway strings out of the entire group.

The last port of call was behind. Suddenly over each ship's P.A. sys-





Japs, yet causeways crews manned their posts throughout the daylight hours, seeking cover only during air raids. The air raids weren't heavy, but a bomb dropped nearby is still a bomb, whether as a result of a one plane raid or a dozen planes.

The main force hit the western beaches of Okinawa on L Day, April 1st, 1945. As the convoys crept close to the island early that Easter morning, the thunder of heavy guns from the warships, the staccato rip of the twenties and forties, the whoom of the

"-followed by causeway run to beach."



down fellows! This was what we had trained for, practiced for, drilled for endless hours. Could we deliver? We would soon know.

The first units consisting of three causeway units landed on the small island of Korama Rhetto on L-4 day, with a force of Marines. Opposition was light and the island quickly taken. Marine equipment poured ashore over our causeways. There was continual sniping by isolated

"-then LST approaches for connection."

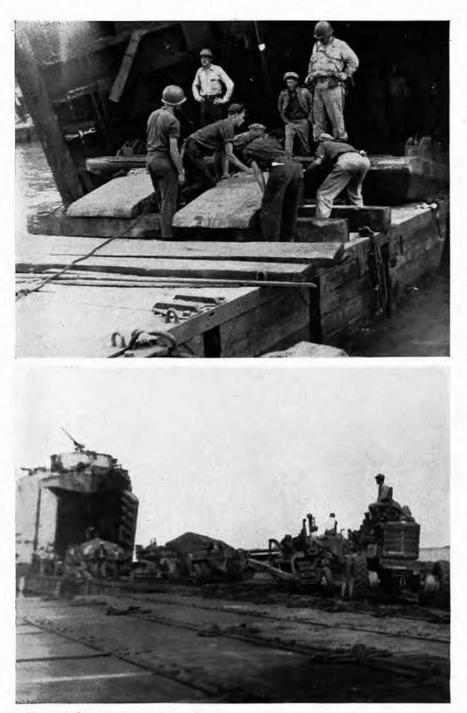




bombs, were all heard. Surprisingly —and it must be said—with relief, it was found that opposition on the beaches had been extremely light. The first set of causeways was in the water by 0800. By 1200 several sets had beached and were unloading LSTs. Barges were in the water, propulsion units mounted and hauling hot cargo, ammunition and gasoline, to the beaches by L plus 1. By L plus 2, a fourteen hundred foot pier was in operation at Red Beach. At Orange

Twenty-six

\$3



". . . and equipment pours ashore."

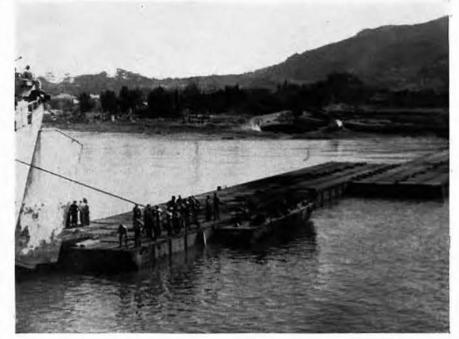
Beach and Purple Beach, due to better reef conditions, several smaller piers were in operation. Cargo and troops were pouring over the "cans." Once into action, the men behaved like veterans. Camps were set up. Close liaison was maintained with the Beachmasters. Causeways that were damaged enroute were repaired. The piers were manned twenty-four hours a day. A storm blew up on L plus three, breaking up the piers at the

"Marriage to LST completed-"

South Beaches and interrupting operation of the beaches on the northern or Red Beach. Within two days, all piers were operating once more, a feat which in itself drew praise from the Army, Navy and Marines. Barges rode out the storm and one barge crew saved two vitally needed 155 guns after they were given up as lost by the Army. Soon, operation settled down to a routine. SeaBee ingenuity was beginning to appear. Showers were erected, a mess-hall was constructed and bomb shelters were built. Even a twenty-four hour coffee hut was put up on the beach and many a weary Marine and Army lad was gratefully surprised when he found that all branches of the service were welcome as far as the SeaBees were concerned.

—But routine work was accompanied by a daily schedule of air raids and shell fire. The units operating the south beaches were close to the Kadena air field. The Japs were shelling this field every night with

Several causeways form larger pier near Nago.



Causeway installation at Nago.

artillery and mortar fire. Their objective was apparent, but their aim was notoriously poor. It did not take the men long to discover that a bomb shelter was a swell place for certain conditions. Several times the camps were strafed by planes that got by the outer screen. On these occasions the barrage put up by our AA guns was so thick that it seemed as if no living thing could survive that curtain of fire. The danger of falling flak from . AA guns was a constant source of peril. The causeway crews on duty were particularly vulnerable as they had no cover. The courage of these men was emphasized still more when at the conclusion of our part in the operation, Commander Husband listed two pages of casualties most of them from shrapnel and gunshot wounds. Fortunately, there were no fatalities.

About a week after the initial landing, a group of three pontoon crews landed at the island of Ie Shima,

Causeway installation near Nago from hill beyond.





The famous warping tug.

about fifteen miles west of Okinawa. This little island produced the hottest beach resistance of any of the landings. Previous reconnaissance had indicated that the island was practically deserted, but the Japs returned to their "hole in the ground" defensive tactics and greeted our first wave of assault with a hot reception. Our troops needed food and ammunition and they got it—over pontoon cause-

\$

Twenty-eight

The beach at Ie Shima.

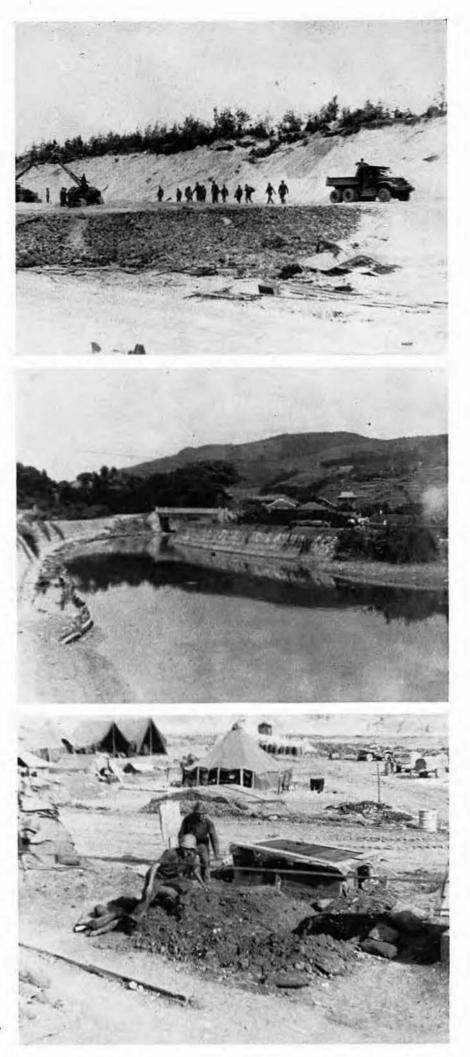
ways and barges. Many times the barges were under direct fire. In one instance a crew from a barge had taken cover behind an abandoned Jap boat on the beach. Jap mortar fire was bursting nearer and nearer until they had to leave and sought cover behind a sea-wall. The next mortar was a direct hit on the Jap boat. Despite all of this, the barges kept up their runs, the causeways were put in place and manned no matter what the difficulties were, and these men contributed their share, and more, to the eventual success of this operation.

This narrative would be incomplete without a special section devoted to the warping tug. This squat, ungainly monstrosity was to the sea forces what the bulldozer was to the land forces. Making their first appearance in the pontoon warping tug proved to be invaluable at Okinawa. The barges were carried to the rendezvous area at Karama Rhetto by two LSTs. Here the deck gear was placed on them

Mortar shells fell thick and fast here.

from a PA. The tugs, assembled and manned by 128th Battalion personnel, proceeded to the Okinawa Leachhead escorted by two LCIs. At the invasion beach they were immediately put into use, holding the piers and causeways in place during the storm that raged on L plus 3. After the storm abated, the tugs proceeded to clear the beaches of the scores of LCTs, LCMs, LCVPs, LVTs and barges beached by the storm. On one day

"Say! You guys, there's only room for one in that slit trench."





"The boys on Orange beach get their ears lowered."

alone, forty-three craft were salvaged by these little giants. The tugs were used to reset the causeways when necessary, set anchors, and act as moorings for other craft until suitable anchorage could be provided.

On the second phase of the operation, three of the eight tugs were sent to Ie Shima where they did yeoman service. Here they were called on frequently to assist craft when fighting was just off the beach.

Champ 'dog bisquit moocher' of Okie.

It goes without saying that this powerful tug, designed, developed and manned by SeaBees, is a source of pride and satisfaction. It has earned its place as a "must" on all future amphibious operations.

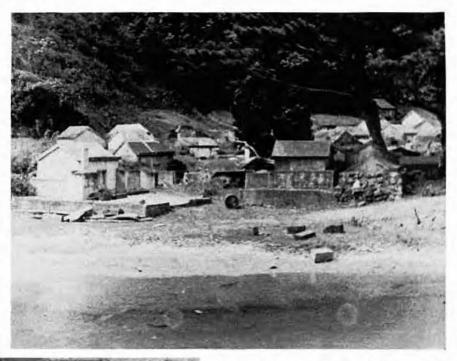
The pontoon crews were called on for a number of jobs beside the operation of barges and causeways. Kamikaze planes were playing havoc with the screen of ships protecting the invasion forces, so the Navy once more called on the SeaBees to apply their skill and ingenuity. The repair crews, originally assigned as maintenance units for the barges and causeways, plus every available welder and shipfitter that could be spared, were pressed into service to do one of the most difficult of all jobsrepair battle damage at sea. That they did their job well is attested by the fact that the screen was kept intact. The Japs did not get through. Ships were put back into operation sooner and subsequently, many lives were

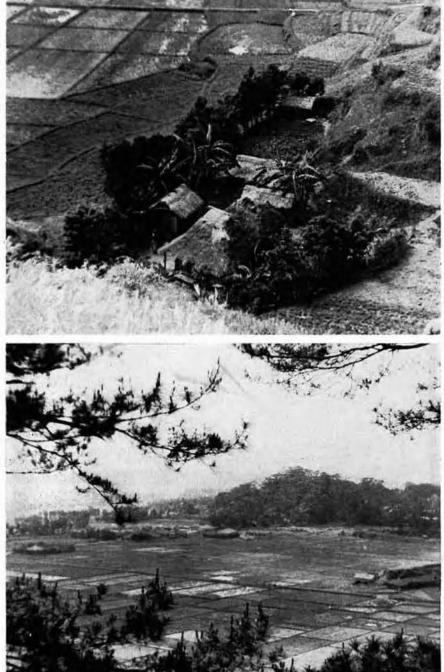
Street in Nago soon after a bit of fighting.

saved by the ceaseless efforts of these men.

The Island Command wanted a small boat pier built at the mouth of the Bishi Gawa River. It was to handle fleet small boat traffic and cargo from LCTs and barges. The location was picked and the Island Command proceeded to draw plans for the pier. The plans were approved on April 29. They were somewhat surprised to find that the pier had been completed and was carrying

Typical rural settlement in Okie.





Typical village in Okie.

two way traffic about four or five days before the plans were completed and approved.

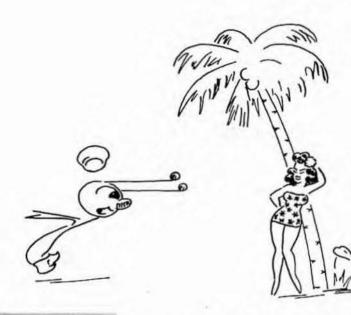
The last of the 128th NCB(P) crews left Okinawa May 15, 1945. We left as we had arived in one respect, in the middle of an air raid. A Kamikaze plane hit a battleship about two hundred yards from us, inflicting considerable damage and numerous casualties. As the shores of Okinawa faded into the distance we experienced that feeling that comes to all men who have done their job well. Every man had done his part. The battalion, working as one big team, had made the spectacular seem commonplace. Individual exploits had been the order of the day, not the extraordinary. With confidence in ourselves and our buddies we were ready for the next operation. A fitting conclusion to the report of the Okinawa operation is the message of Admiral Turner to Commander Husband. "Well done!"

Rice fields above Nago.

quam

It was our 22nd day out from Pearl Harbor. The men had come on deck earlier than usual. Singly and in pairs, they made their way to the railing and looked toward the Horizon. Each wanted to be the first to sight land.

Our destination was not secret to us. It was Guam. We knew this when we boarded the LSTs at Pearl Harbor. Still, knowing our destination, our imagination failed to uncloak this



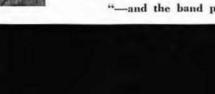


"From this hole-a camp grew."

island of its mystery. We knew that we were being sent to a strange land inhabited by strange people. None of us had been here before, yet there wasn't a man on board ship that hadn't traced its geographical position upon every available map. Guam . . . a lonely island anchored in the Pacific. Guam . . . our destination.

Those who had hoped to sight land in the early dawn were disappointed. The Eastern sky gradually changed from light grey to a palette of indescribable colors. The men who had





crowded the railing, grew tired of watching and returned to their compartments to finish packing.

"Land Ahoy!" yelled an excited gunners mate from his perch in the forward gun turret.

There was a rush to the railing. A narrow strip of purple was slowly rising above the distant horizon. Guam had been sighted, but there were still many miles of ocean to be covered before we would reach the harbor. In the meantime, there was much to be done. Hungry stomachs had to be fed . . . gear carried to the

"-and the band played on!"



top deck . . . compartments swept and swabbed.

At 1000, the ships filed cautiously into Apra Harbor. Once safely inside the protective submarine netting, they broke formation and slowly sought their respective moorings. It was a thrilling sight to watch the heavy anchor start its downward dive for the bottom of the bay. Engines were secured, the ship relaxed and lay motionless on the still water. The advance eschleon of the 128th Pontoon Battalion had reached Guam without mishap.

We were informed by the ship's loud speaker that we were to remain





"Buffet supper-Guam style!"

came alongside to take us off. Heavy gear and equipment were transferred by lines. Last moment good-byes were exchanged with the congenial crew members.

It was close to noon before the boats completed discharging men and equipment on shore. It felt good to feel the firm ground beneath our feet after 22 days at sea. The sky was cloudless and the noonday sun, beating mercilessly down upon us brought out the sweat that made our clothing

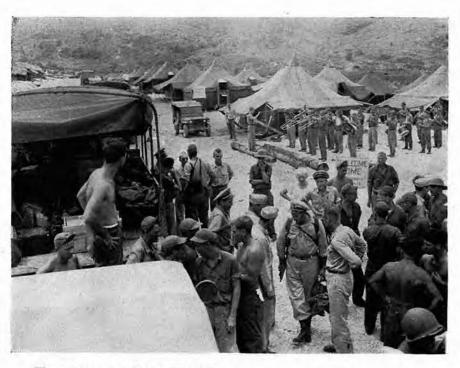
The camp from Mt. Tenjo.

"NOUZAK & CO. in the coral pit."

aboard ship overnight. It did not cause disappointment. The harbor was bustling with activity and there were many interesting things to see. Most of the day was spent looking over the railing—pointing out little things others may have overlooked. When night fell a movie was shown on deck. Those who didn't care to attend enjoyed the beauty of the harbor lights. Ships winked back and forth, gossiping in silence.

The next day was Saturday. Shortly after breakfast several Higgins boats





After unloading our gear, we were assigned by platoons to the fifty tents that had been temporarily set up. Each man was issued a folding cot complete with mosquito netting.

We didn't need the sound of a bugle to inform us it was chow time; our empty stomachs had been sounding chow call for hours. The menu was all neatly printed on the sides of the small boxes handed us. So began our daily meals of *K*-rations.

We were dirty and tired but the day had gone well, and we were cheerful in a quiet sort of way. Many of us had grown beards and mustaches; to a passer-by we must have looked like a group of Hollywood

The veterans of Okinawa return.

stick close to our damp and dirty bodies.

It is impossible to list the many things we had hoped to find when we reached Guam. Whatever they were, there was a feeling of disappointment when we received our first view of the camp site. We couldn't understand why—of all the beautiful spots on the island—this barren and desolate tract of land had been chosen. There wasn't a level spot in the whole area; not a single tree to furnish shade from the hot tropical sun.

"Recuperation week at Hoover Park."

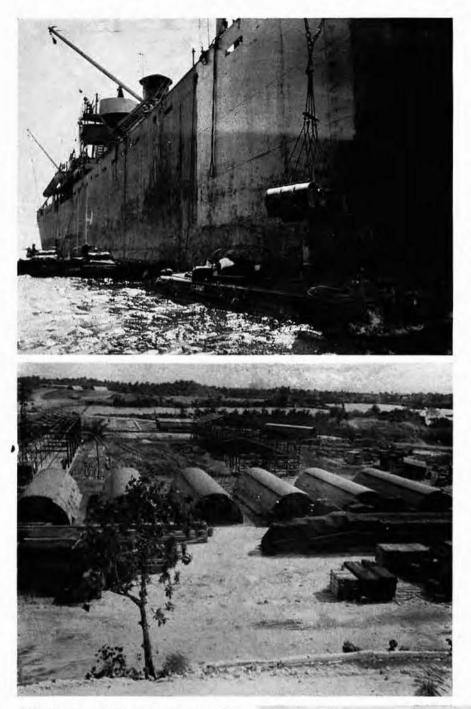


". . . and the tales grew each time they were told."

extras standing by for a frontier scene. We were told that mail would be collected that evening so many of the boys sat on the ground and wrote letters. Writing however, was difficult for there was little we could tell. Others read detective magazines and funny books that they had rolled in their blankets. Still others took advantage of the water that had been hauled to camp, filled their steel helmets with cold water and washed and shaved for the first time in days.



Thirty-four



PHIBSPAC administration construction.

The camp took up a weird look as night fell. A string of lights were strung up to push back the walls of darkness. Beneath this, members of the swing band dusted and tuned their instruments for a jam session. Sentries, walking their lonely posts, were denied this touch of state-side entertainment, for the safety of the men depended upon their alertness. The training period was finished—the shells in their guns were no longer blanks. Those little men hiding out in the hills weren't marines with yel-

\$

Ship unloading detail at Agana Bay.

low jaundice. They were Japs who would steal and kill if given a chance. They must be made to keep their distance.

The next day the rains came, such rain as only the tropics can afford. How we wished that Mr. Blakeley had been perched on a cloud high above us to stop them from opening wide every tap and main the sky, but alas, the heavens knew nothing of the water shortage. We were quick to learn that the mud and not the Japs were to prove our worst enemy. The entire hillside became an oozing carpet of muck and slime. There was no escape from it. It rose above our shoe tops and sucked at our feet like quicksand.

Conditions inside our tents were little better. Drainage ditches we had dug proved inadequate; rain and mud flowed unchecked across the dirt floors of our tents. We had no chairs, lights, or tables. The nights were hot but tent flaps had to be let down to keep the rain from soaking our bedding.

Clothing became sticky with mud and stunk offensively of perspiration. Even if washed they wouldn't have dried.

PHIBSPAC camp site construction.



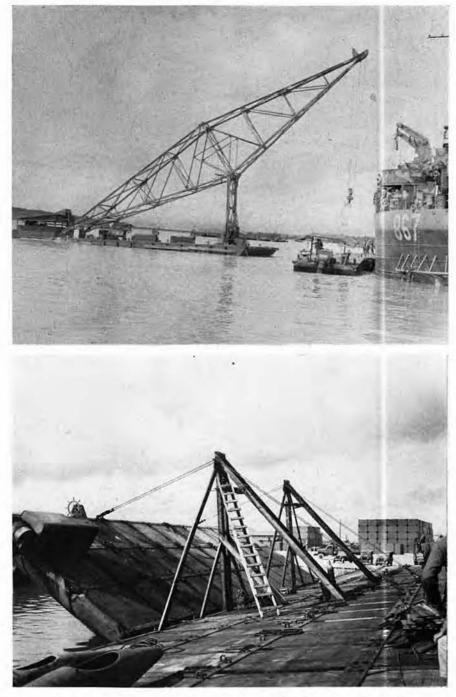
75 ton AFPAY Crane.

On Tuesday—despite the rain and mud—men were assigned to work details. Blue prints were unrolled and carefully studied. Bulldozers dropped their blades and charged angrily at the hillsides. Men were despatched to the harbor to unload ships. Trucks, working day and night, began pouring vital materials into the compounds. The surrounding hills became vibrant with the sounds of hammers and saws.

The days that followed differed one from the other only in regards to the small pleasures they brought with them; Wednesday we had our first taste of hot coffee; Thursday we were shown our first movie; Saturday brought our first mailcall; Sunday our first church service was held.

So the days passed. There was so much to be done that time never dragged. Huts begain to dot the area. A ship store was set up. The temporary chow hall began to serve hot food. Coral roads and walks made their appearance and brought relief from the ever present mud. Water was piped into camp and showers were built. As each hut was completed, it was quickly inhabited.

"The 'homefront' at Telefof—or Ten Nights as a Blood Donor."





Practice loading barges with dozer.

Liberty? There was none. Because of the ever present danger of Japs, we were never permitted to leave the camp area unless on official business and official business didn't include searching the island for Dorothy Lamour's. We will never forgive the Japs for this. It was bad enough when they bombed Pearl Harbor, but when they put a crimp in the sacred institution of CB Liberty, they made fighting men of us all.

"How would you fellows like to take a trip around the island next

Thirty-six

Red Cross Carnival—"Spit some fire for me, Bud."

Sunday?" casually asked Chaplain Walker one day. "We can take a lunch and drink Cokes and beer."

How would we like to take a trip around the island? Eats . . . Cokes . . . Beer . . . hey! Liberty, here we come!

We left camp early in the morning traveling in open trucks. The road led through the ruins of the once beautiful town of Agana. It was little more than a rock pile. The town had died a courageous death in the struggle for Victory. The bits of walls left standing were like tombstones

Red Cross Carnival—"Swing it on down, George!"

marking the graves of picturesque homes and buildings. -

After leaving the gutted and burned town of Agana, we turned off onto a little road that winds its way into the interior. We passed through miles of dense jungles and large groves of coconut and banana trees. Here and there, hiding among the trees, were the little primitive native huts. There were always several half-naked and barefoot children playing about the yard. As one of the mates put it: "Gee! looks like recess—huh?"

The natives owned no automobiles. Their sole means of transportation was the carabao, or water buffalo. It became a common sight to pass young children six or seven years of age, riding them bareback along the highway, or to see these animals harnessed to crude wooden carts taking the family for a visit.

When we reached the picturesque village of Inarajan, a wedding fandango was in progress. (Fandango is Guamese for blowout.) We were politely invited to join their singing, dancing, and eating. It didn't take much persuasion; especially after we discovered that the young girls could

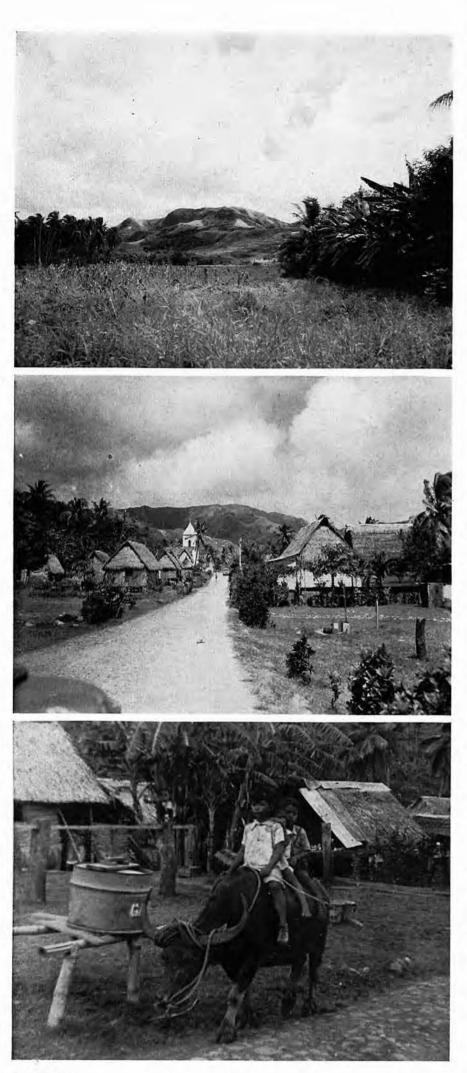
SHAPE AHOY!—"You can say that again!"







Thirty seven



Range of mountains below Inarajan.

jitterbug. (Chaplain, you deserved a Medal of Honor for this. Stateside ... that's what it was.)

These friendly people, liked to think of themselves as Americans. Although they speak a native tongue, English is taught in the schools and we were able to talk with them in our own language. The girls were particularly interested in hearing us all talk about the various states we were from. What a field day it was for the boys from Texas and Brooklyn! We were sorry when the evening sun went down and we had to return to camp.

Main drag in Merizo.

It was a happy day when we moved from the 70th Battalion Area into our own well built and carefully planned camp. Not that we didn't get along with our neighbors down there. But... well, this "one big happy family" stuff was beginning to cramp our style. Besides, we had built the best chow halls, beer gardens, and recreation huts on the island and we were anxious to try them out.

As the construction work neared completion, training programs were inaugurated. Groups of men were sent to Talofofo Bay for Pontoon training. They lived in pup tents and renewed acquaintance with K-rations. Other men left camp daily for the Pontoon Assembly Yard. Theirs was the task of making ready for the future operations.

Late in May—flushed with victory, secure in the knowledge of a job well done and with expressions of commendations ringing in their ears, the Operational units of the 128th Battalion returned to Guam from a highly successful pontoon operation in Okinawa. The Military Band was on hand to welcome home these men who had brought credit to themselves

'3 Men on a Horse' as per Guam.

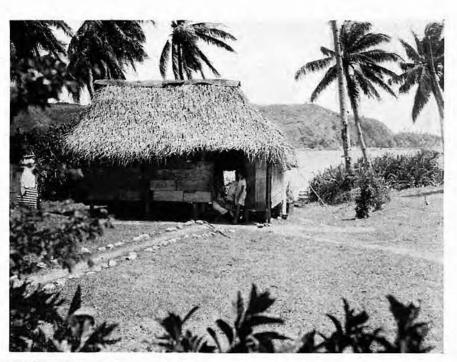
Thirty-eight

Cottage by the sea — Inarajan

and our Battalion. Each man had his own story to tell of the invasion, and what tales they were! Not one found difficulty in collecting eager listeners.

During the months of June and July, platoons were outfitted and sent to various locations to await the day of a new invasion: The Russels, Philippines, Saipan, etc. Japan was crumbling under the weight of Allied sea and air power. There was speculation that the next strike would be Japan herself.

"Chamorro family in Sunday best-things were tough all over!"







August came and with it the Harvest. Two new mysterious bombs fell on Japan, two large cities disappeared from the face of the earth. Russia entered the war and her military machine raced across Manchuria. Japan felt the death rattle in her throat.

Then it came! We thought it would, but we weren't sure: "Japan sues for Peace!" Days of anxious waiting. ... Will America accept? ... Will Japan accept? ... What are they waiting for? ... Why does Japan delay? At last one day the radio broadcast: ... "JAPAN ACCEPTS SURRENDER TERMS!" Beer gardens were opened. The band struck up! The War was Over!

As peace came and points were counted we became eligible for discharge and returned to our normal lives. Sure we were glad to leave heaven knew we waited long enough for that East Bound ship to stop and pick us up. But well, we had to admit that it gave a fellow a sort of queer feeling inside. It wasn't easy to be separated from the old gang when we got back to the States. But as for the island of Guam . . .

"NEVER AGAIN!"

Coral reef below Merizo

japan • • • •

When we of Headquarters found out that what we had hoped for so long was to be a reality, we were jubilant. At last we "homesteaders" were going somewhere. It was an exciting and very welcome prospect.

It seemed ages before we packed, boarded the PA and shoved off. Although we left Guam a few days after the Japanese surrender, living conditions aboard ship were excellent—we were the only passengers and were treated fine. Our destination was Manila, and we pulled into this famous Philippine capital five days after our departure.

The first evening in Manila we saw the movie "Bataan." Quite a coincidence! Just a few hours before we had passed this celebrated battleground of the Pacific. Our detachment was held up in Manila for three days because of a typhoon, but as soon as weather permitted, off we shoved again . . . this time aboard an LST. Destination—Tokyo.

We were in an 18 ship convoy and seemed to be barely crawling along. The sixth day of our journey we arrived at Yokohama, Japan. The sight of the U. S. fleet and units of the British fleet in the bay was one that stirred our emotions. Hospital ships were there, too, busy evacuating American prisoners of war. Many other vessels were being unloaded.

We wasted no time when told we could have liberty. A group of us procured a jeep and drove into Tokyo. The entire city seemed in ruins. Only a few blocks were not completely destroyed. The Imperial Palace stood as it had for centuries, but even it had been hit by a stray homb.

We looked in vain for a beer joint, but did come across something that bore a slight resemblance, a Saki testing laboratory. The Japs inside evidently thought we had come to take the place over, for they immediately offered us Saki and some other kind of wine, which, of course, we accepted. That evening we returned to our ship a little worse for wear.

After hanging around another 5 days we once more headed out to sea. This time on an LSD headed for Aomori. Our ships were the first American ships to enter this port. In fact we arrived a day before the minesweepers, and three days before the Army. We went ashore on Green Beach and immediately painted signs "The SeaBees Welcome the U. S. Army." When the Army came, some of our barges were on hand to help them unload their supplies.

We stayed in Aomori 8 days and took turns either sleeping in tents in the middle of the town's park or on a PB. The city was nothing but a shambles. The civilians were more frightened than they were curious.

Again we took off! This time on the PB. In two days we arrived at Otaru, Island of Hokkaido, still Japan to us. Like the rest of the towns we visited, this also was completely wiped out by our air and naval bombardment. After souvenir hunting for two days we received our orders to come back to Guam.

The adventure was enjoyable and interesting. We kept on the go constantly and observed firsthand the results of American military might and how it destroyed an enemy.

korea • • • •

It was during the first week of August that our causeway group left Guam. First we went to Saipan. From there we shoved off for Okinawa. We traveled on an LST and were quite comfortable, being the only ones aboard.

We arrived at Okinawa in five days and stayed there ten, taking pictures and going on liberty. During this trip, news of the Japanese acceptance of our surrender terms was flashed over the radio. The DE in our convoy thundered a 21-gun salute, while the smaller craft fired automatic weapons and set off flares. There was beer for all aboard that night. It took us five days to get from "Okie" to Korea. We were the first to launch causeways there. In less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours we beached our two causeways; then we turned them over to the Army.

Because of the 30-foot tide, only one ship at a time was allowed in the channel. This of course was during hightide. At the waterfront there were warehouses, and a little further in we could see a railroad.

We were not in the main city of Korea but in a town called Inchon. From what we could see, Korea was not bombed. The people gathered about the docks and watched as we worked. It was evident, by the way they watched us launch the pontoons, that they didn't have the slightest idea of what we were doing.

The inhabitants of the town were Japanese, Chinese and Korean. They all told us that they didn't like the Japs. Most of these people lived in two or three story brick houses, clustered together on dirt or cobblestone roads. Sanitary conditions were poor and the town had a foul smell. The people dressed simply, and ate, for the most part, fish, rice, and potatoes.

The women seemed to be better dressed than the men. They scuffled behind their husbands, with their babies strapped on their backs. The Chinese and Japanese women were better looking than the Koreans. The Jap women, however, refused to let us take pictures of them and hid their faces with their parasol. Later we found out that according to their beliefs they are not permitted to have their face in a picture. Most of the natives smoked, including the women. All one had to do to have a crowd gather 'round was to give away a few cigarettes. One of the oddest sights was a Korean mother nursing her baby while puffing on a cigar. Money didn't talk. It was cigarettes and gum.

All over town we saw signs "Welcome Americans!" The main streets were moderately populated; the side ones were congested. Almost everyone walked. Even the natives with ox-carts walked beside them. The only vehicles were American jeeps and trucks.

Though many stores sold only dolls and other small souvenirs, one large store with wide display windows, offered silks, blouses, and kimonos for sale. There was a surprisingly modern theatre in town. The pictures shown were Japanese or French, and admission (for us) was one stick of gum. The Catholic Church resembled many of our own small country churches. Built quaintly of red brick, it looked beautiful though somewhat out of place in its drab surroundings.

After staying in Korea nine days, we returned to Okinawa aboard our LST, waited nine more days for air transportation, and then flew back to Guam on a Marine C-47.

shanghai • • •

Those of us who were fortunate enough to go to Shanghai, take much pride in our story . . . we believe it to be the most interesting of them all.

Our barge units left Guam during the last days of July. We hopped over to Saipan and then headed for Leyte, arriving about the middle of August. We were at sea when the Jap surrender came through, but there was no excitement aboard and everyone took the wonderful news in a matter of fact way.

From Leyte we made about four round trips to Samar—picking up supplies, so it wasn't until the first week of September that we shoved off for Okinawa. While enroute we ran into what we later discovered was a *light* typhoon. It lasted about 36 hours. Only SeaBees were allowed on deck, standing watches to keep the barges secure.

After reaching "Okie" we again loaded supplies and started out for the much talked about city of Shanghai. It was during this run that we hit a deadly typhoon. Raging winds and mountains of water were the furies that nature hurled against us. For 48 hours compartments were sealed and tenseness reigned; all hands were at General Quarters. The ship rolled 49 degrees—after 47 degrees an LST is not considered safe. —But it did end; the result among our convoy being a few minor cuts and bruises and the loss of five causeways. Worth mentioning is the fact that no causeways were lost on the ships with SeaBees aboard.

We anchored in the Yangtze River, and then later went down the Whangpoo River into the great port of Shanghai. We were the first American ships to go into this city and had to pull over to the port side so that the LST behind could destroy a couple of magnetic mines floating nearby . . . so nearby, in fact, that the ship had some of her seams ripped by the explosion.

The welcome we received here will never be forgotten. Thousands of Chinese lined up along the docks, cheering, shouting and waving small flags of the Allied nations at us. The blast of fog horns and the screech of whistles added to this din and never before had we seen people so delirious with joy.

Hundreds of junks came out to meet us and they clung to our ship like burrs to a wool coat. We couldn't believe what we saw. They were fighting to get their nets under our garbage chute. What we threw away, they lived on, battling over the most trivial objects—a board, a line, a box. The fighting didn't cease at possession. We saw one native jump from his sampan into another, take away a piece of plywood, drag the other man into his boat, and then take off up the river beating him brutally.

Many ships in the river weren't of the scavenger variety, but sold their various wares. They came up to the ship shouting out their prices in a sing-song manner, which was as interesting as it was unintelligible. Quite a number of these natives were hired by merchants so that their goods were the first to reach the customer.

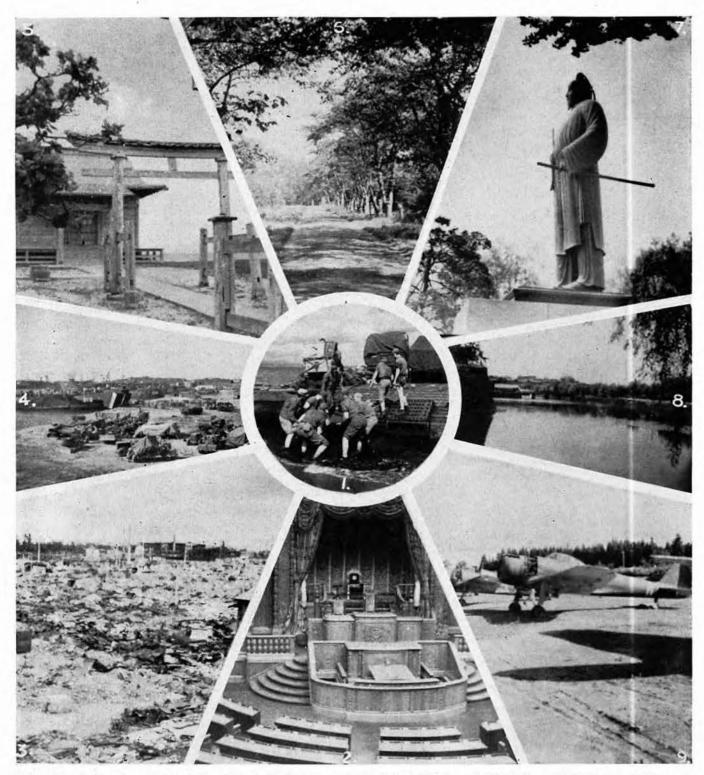
Finally, we pulled into the docks, formerly Jap, and secured our barges there. Japs up and down the river were a common sight, for the task of rounding them up had not yet begun on a large scale. Watching our enemies roaming about in perfect freedom was a strange sight.

That night there was a big celebration—one of those fantastic displays one sees only in the Orient. There were parades with costumes of expensive silks and dragons made out of paper mache with seven or eight men inside performing the traditional dances. The air was filled with the whining tones and the clashing cymbals of the Chinese musicians, and also the noise of firecrackers. This spectacle, witnessed and cheered by an unending throng, will color our memory the rest of our lives.

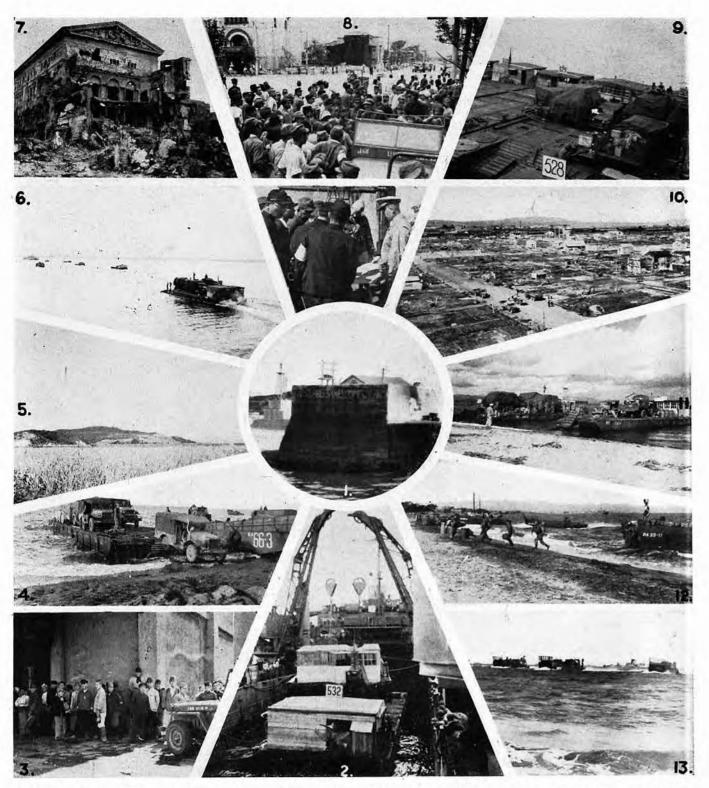
The climate of Shanghai was comfortable, and either whites or blues could be worn. The modern section of the city consisted of about 40 square blocks. The rest of the town was narrow cobblestone side-streets, reeking with antiquated things and jammed with the teeming millions. Wherever we went we had to push our way through. One means of travel was the pedicab or rickshaw. The standard price for this accommodation was 3000 yen an hour. It sounded outrageous, but the rate of exchange was 150,000 ven to one American dollar, so what it really amounted to was 2c an hour. Naturally, all of us grossly overpaid the coolies. The civilians used the trolley, but the lines waiting for this conveyance were always two or three hundred feet long and these cars over-flowed with humanity. There were a few automobiles, but they were charcoal operated.

Shanghai seemed to be the refuge of all who were oppressed. There were Frenchmen, Poles, Austrians, Russians and an entire section of Jewish refugees. Although in the better portions of the city there were modern hotels, large department stores, and restaurants with orchestras playing within, we were all advised not to eat at any of these places and were forbidden to drink any of the city's water supply. The natives drank from the muddy Whangpoo. We were not even allowed to wash in it and wouldn't have even if permission had been granted.

We stayed in Shanghai a month, living on our barges. On one of these barges an elderly Chinaman lived with the boys, waiting on them, lighting their cigarettes and opening their cans of beer. When half of our crew left (those of us with points) the old man actually broke down and sobbed. He had someone write a letter for him thanking us for our kindness, describing his happiness in serving us and wishing us a speedy and safe return home.

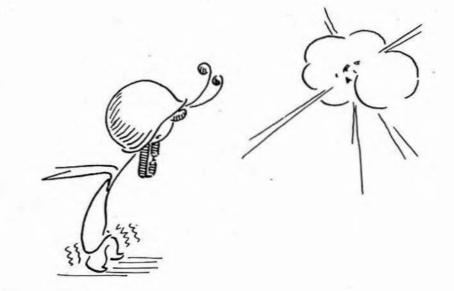


1, Barge crew lowering ramps. 2, Jap Diet Building (interior). 3, Ruins of Tokyo. 4, Unloading at Yokohama. 5, Entrance to a Shinto Temple. 6, Cherry blossom lane, near Ominato. 7, Statue of a Shogun. 8, Moat to Emperor's Palace. 9, "Zeros" parked along Aomori Airfield.

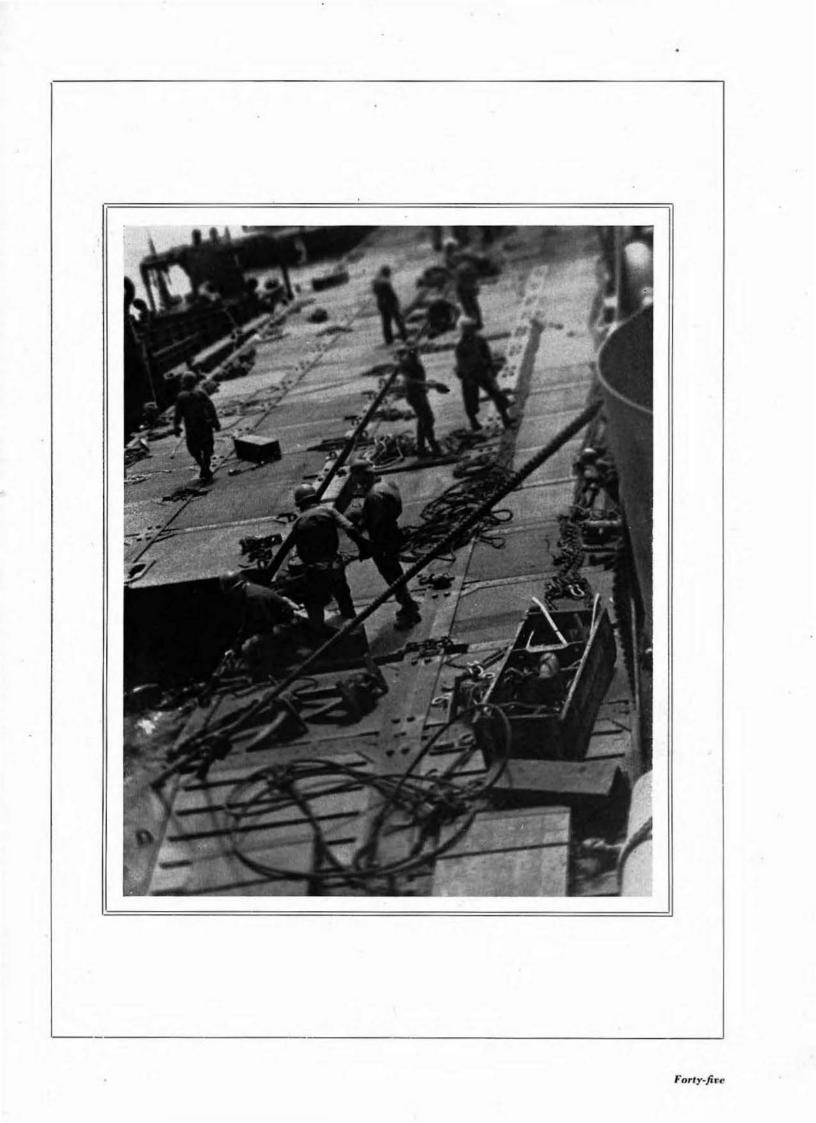


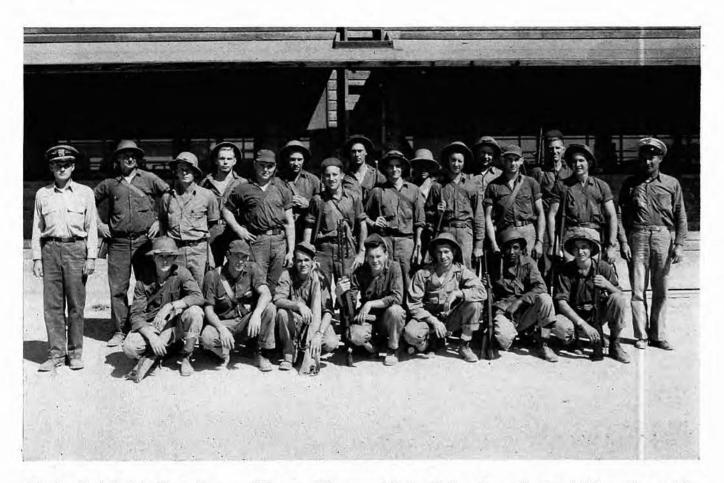
1, Breakwater at Aomori with Seabee Welcome Sign. 2, Unloading barges at Aomori. 3, Jap youngsters—Aomori's Dead End Kids. 4, More Army gear comes ashore—courtesy 128NCB(P). 5, Jap rice fields. 6, McGurks barges steaming for Aomori. 7, Ruins of Philippine Legislative House, Manila. 8, Seabees interviewing Japs. 9, Barges alongside LSD. 10, Ruins of Aomori. 11, McGurks barges swarming ashore 3 days before. 12, Army troops, ready for combat, swarming ashore. 13, Army landing craft coming ashore.

section 2 · · ·



\cdot \cdot the causeway corps





A-1—Lt. (j.g.) Faehnle, Hurst, Simmons, Culpepper, Milcs, Lettieri, Garcia, Dreyfus, Wilson, Waters, Heinseman, Cuetovich, Isaac, Allen, Underwood, Ward, Erlenbusch, Williams, Bossham, Tilton, Devitt, Olszewski, Bryan. A-2—Lt. Hedges, Jones, Crawley, Leighton, Keane, Johnson, Macauley, Damico, Rogers, Washburn, Hyer, Baldacci, Jarrells, Copeland, Haverty. Martin, Bailey, Heer, Poynor, McCullough, Jones, Johnson, Chief Mead.





A-3—L1. Cooper, Legato, Sherman, Schilling, Lebel, Calmbacher, Jones, Babbs, Ashcraft, Label, Esposito, Jefferson, Napaver, Simpson, Wilson, Milner, Patterson, Macoubray.

A-4—Lt. (j.g.) Boone, Connel, Stringhom, Jones, Warmack, McPherson, Barry, Dini, Keilitz, Butler, Blockus, Bates, Chalmers, Boone, Alexander, Cartwright, Passapae, Chandler, Powell, Starr, Bernier, Crapsey, Turner, Gandolph.





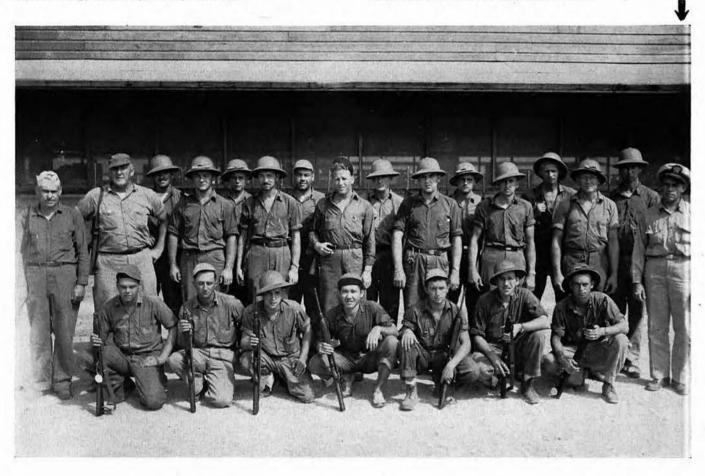
A-5—Ens. Hammock, Macarages, Gordon, Fritz, Lacaze, Farwell, Donovan, Morgan, Epley, Bakeman, Bourgeois, Vasquez, Price, Trotta, Taylor, Webb, Turpin, Solt, Davis, Schnitzel, Browning, Martin, Leyda. C-7—Ens. Carter, Mentzer, Abel, Viera, Moore, Wyatt, Reoppelle, Ball, Poist, Farmer, Kidd, Hupp, Pearson, Holt, Underwood, Smith, Seek, Clan, Sparlin, Dodd, Willard, Rochelle, Bower.





A C-8—Lt. Ziegler, Crook, Sternberg, Strube, Lehman, Casey, Lamberson, Quail, Mitcheltree, Gregori, Austin, Forren, VonDollen, Lanphier, Durkin, Kemble, Heard, McGlasson, Byrd, Young, McCauley, Yates, Sullivan.

C-9—Lt. Wallace, Shoun, Sanders, Dumont, Torres, Mangan, Graubard, Irwin, Bauman, Wieck, Krygier, Mathes, Walker, Rieley, Stiverson, Bensman, Wallace, Malone, Jones, Parrish, Rushton, Britton, Leighton, Herera.

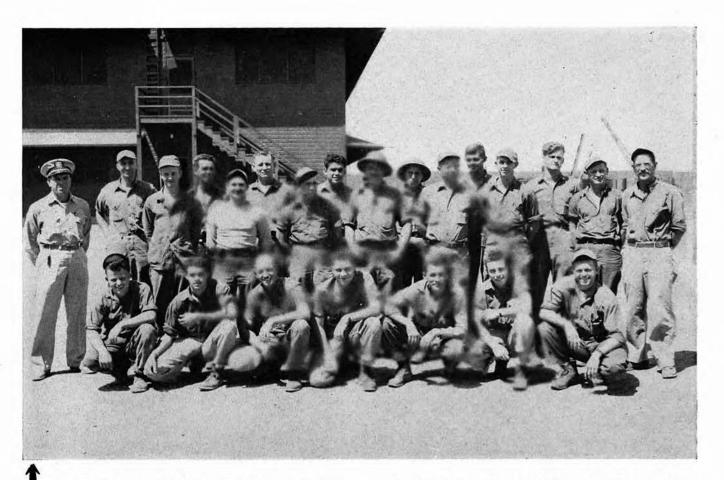




C-10—Ens. Shelfer, Richardson, Hahn, Clifford, Callahan, Smith, Backstrand, Daly, Fraser, Melendy, Hale, McCullough, Bandfield, Wenslaw, Paper, Krusich, Carling, Hall, Milner, Sampsell, Mayhew, Olsen, Cohen.

C-11—Lt. Riley, Clements, Froclich, Hacking, Donalson, Fleissner, DiFilippo, Kinder, Souders, Koch, Crane, Holland, Ferk, Flanagan, Layshock, Cave, Parr, Snyder, Smith, Stofko, Lake, Hall, Hoover, Kelly.





C-13—Lt. McKay, Hall, Huggins, Herold, Lenz, Bonner, Vanderhoef, Thomas, Schwartz, Evans, Robb, Jenkins, Wells, McCollum, Gonzales, Morris, Campeau, Kuykendall, Kemble, Laster, Baker, Nicholson, Wolfe.

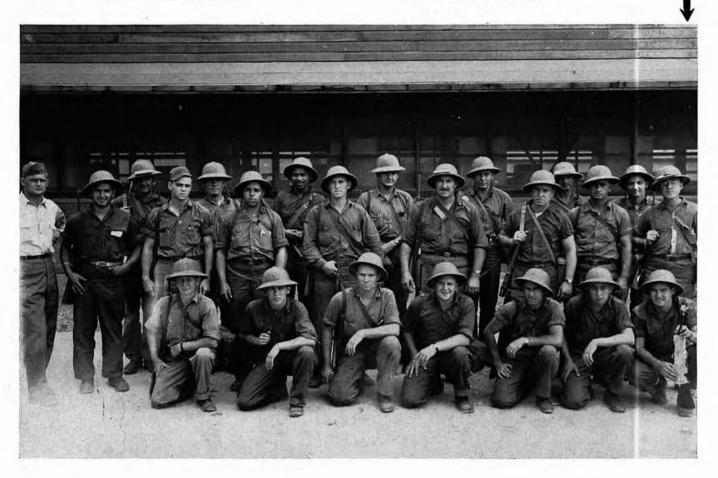
C-12—Ens. Johnsen, Bubnich, Grindle, Smith, Jones, Miller, LeBoeuf, Higuen, Frantz, Enderby, Kitts, Holcomb, Clark, Stone, Reel, Luciano, Cooper, McEwan, Bennett, Mc-Allister, Rowan, Barrett.





T C-14—Lt. Roberts, South, Comer, Miller, Haden, Dickard, Thompson, Frye, Fortino, Severson, Parker, Kunze, Groel, Thorpe, Braman, Grieme, Stoutenberg, Downs, Finley, Rinehart, McWilliams, Blackton, Moser.

C-15—Lt. (j.g.) Cobb, Stubergh, Estep, Welch, Tobianski, Kizzia, Hatley, Harrell, Pozorski, Wilkes, Hauser, Olson, Martinelli, Engle, Dryden, Herring, Stober, Hall, Terry, Wasung, Brooks, Moran, Moyer.





C-16—C.W.O. Robertson, Doss, Costa, Rickard, Torres, Bonsall, Bilous, Fisher, Wierzbicki, Marsaglia, Straub, Tilley, Mason, Nelson, Johnson, Patch, Wilson, Geyer, Hawkins, Arnswald, Brown, Elledge, Kauffman.

C-17—Ens. Halper, Crabtree, Bryant, Dupe, Dosher, Stone, Whelan, Maranto, Stanko, Munn, Squires, Spielberger, Ihrig, Kintz, Vitale, Wilbanks, Newgard, Rohr, McCann, Thompson, Cascio, Syvinski.





C-18—C.W.O. Johnson, Proctor, Gatto, Thorn, Brohawn, Toth, Titus, Wassmer, Mihn, Johnson, Woods, Stewart, Witteman, Mollitor, Blue, Hoffman, Will, Wood, Schiltz, Sites, Damron, Koester, Heberlein.

C-19—Lt. (j.g.) Intlekofer, Anderson, Riedel, Landrum, Keeley, Lane, Lawler, Robertson, Crowther, Colt, Manuel, Webb, Sacksteder, Bruce, Taylor, Scarborough, Blake, Comer, O'Brien, Buckley, Helms, Devine, Spuhler.





C-20—C.W.O. Cantey, Warwick, Wandell, Wheeler, Lambert, Hunsinger, Friess, Beck, Sadak, Sutton, Porter, Cooke, Howerton, Broberg, Ombrello, Cantey, Thompson, Hicks, Langford, McQueen, Knott, Ponci, Taylor, Johnson.

C-21—Lt. Bryan, Jason, Delcenio, Winchell, Speece, Service, Umstot, Kerr, Sweet, LaFrance, Allen, Burke, Bare, Sanderson, Ziegler, Burt, Gable, Little, Partain,, Luonuansuu, Jowers, Lindbom, Bates.





C-22—C.W.O. Moseley, Funk, Caruso, Sechel, Lyons, Davis, Cirone, Koski, Manetta, Parker, Graff, Breier, Mosser, Knight, Leonard, Brent, McCollum, McCoy, Marcum, Birchenough, Robertson, McKee, Perry.

C-23-Lt. Motoh, Anderson, Poole, Meaney, Taylor, Fulton, Davis, Lundquist, Finnegan, Fanelli, Mariner, Anderberg, Shaw, Newman, Peeler, Sears, Howell, Hines.





C-24—Lt. Macdougall, Stolgitis, Kieth, Rapp, Brasier, Patterson, Montoya, Calabrese, Rester, Bush, Locklin, Howard, Riddlebarger, Dent, Bartlett, Nelson, Bath, Kaminski, Morrison, Herring, Despain, Fairbanks, Ray.

C-40—W.O. Stingle, Harmon, Fanoli, Heffern, Parks, Gill, Williams, Clark, Edelberger, Howard, Mendenhall.





C-41—Ens. Leth, Glode, Small, Wade, Ferndon, Miller, Leth, McCollum, McPeters, Floyd, N. Klotz, A. Klotz.

B-31—C.W.O. Logan, Jacobson, Chinn, Upton, Lindsey, Fuselier, Tuttle, Krajenta, Fox, Duttlinger, Kane, Wildman, Capps, Burkemper, Hammett, Alchemes, Logan, VanLiere, Cannon, DeMauro, Grasso, Sexton.

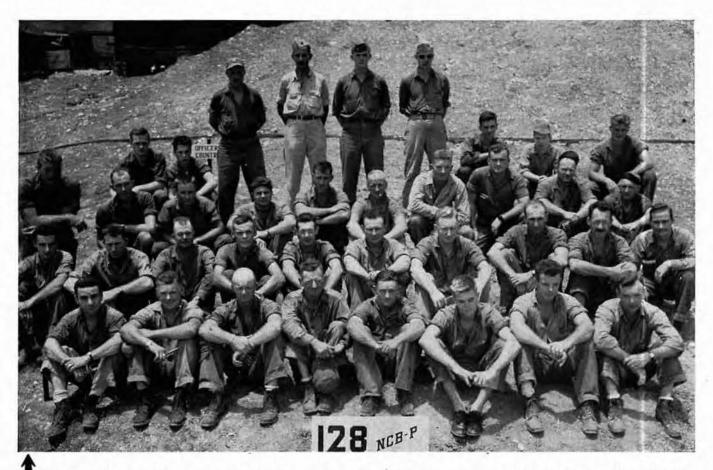




W.T. "G"—C.W.O. Goldsmith, Adams, Zamorski, Cundiff, Wilson, Perez, Milton, Vinson, Goldsmith, O'Rourke, Platel, Allatt, Richmond, Berg, Luttrell, Zeigler, Simanek, Schoellhorn, Martin, Hart, Difazio, Retalic, Nielson.

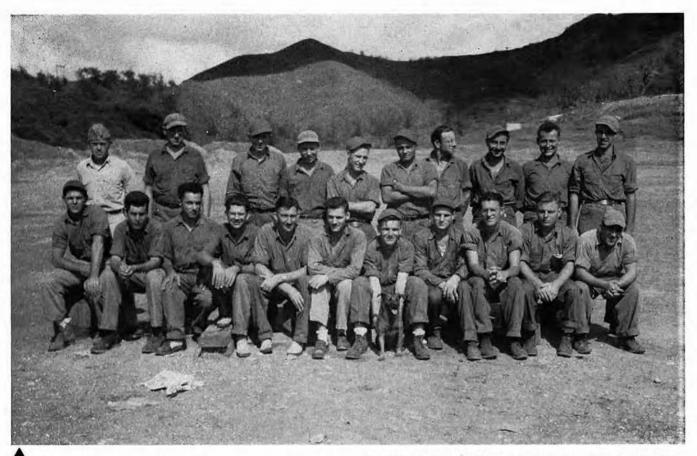
WT "L"—Lt. Feeney and Lt. (j.g.) Lee, Schwagger, Vanlovan, Wiley, Molis, Granger, Jacobs, Minnick, Kelly, Koopman, Adams, Helton, Snyder, McInerney, Lewis, Blazer, Geary, Guernsey, Albert, Peletier, Feeney, Lee, Small, Lorman, Forget, Grosshouser, Caldwell, Lupo, Pittman, Shelden, Hulbert, Blaney, Marshall.





Lt. Roes, Ens. Benscoter, Blum, Cervenok, Barton, Parsons, Nowlin, Johns, Gordon, Hughes, Deliil, Ufken, Olsen, Meador, Baker, Fransen, Bailey, West, Cross, Shepherd, Kettles, Reppa, Paxon, Derillo, Oullette, Diebold, Bates, Drennen, Little, Tomson, Rackey, Fredrick, Schantz, Roes, Benscoter, Corruth, Pope, Trent, Kordis. Lt. (j.g.) Gates and Ens. Wright, Gardner, Davis, Mobus, Basten, O'Brien, Frost, Hoskell, Iseman, Odell, Ferguson, Hayes, Wells, Judge, Burdette, Hurray, McVicker, Taylor, Gilliland, Pimental, Piechowski, Clark, Purdy, McGinley, McNicholls, Mills, Johnson, Keith, Lombardo, Doyle, Trevino, Gates, Wright, Lockwood, Garland.





Stndg. L. to R., Joslin, Ritenour, Wells, Weaver, Schuh, Jackson, Trombetta, Palermo, Zyla, Kolendo.

Seated L. to R., Lee, Iruin, Janigian, Junck, Shore, Boles, Luckie, Stoke, Ghezzie, Kava, Buckley. Not in picture— Irwin, Madden. Lt. Chamberlain, Felkner, White, Bannerman, Distefano, Lovell, Nadeau, Wright, Lambert, Croster, Chamberlain, Salsman, Everete, Lillo, Hickman, Abreau, Landry, Myer, Burksteiner, Knox, Nowak, Luchi, Brunn, Borgwordt, Schmidt, Harris, Beckler, Lungsford, Dople, Ledbetter, Lewis, Roman.





Lt. Manning, Mendenhall, Miller, Moore, Young, Harlan, Caizza, Moulton, Ferdon, Fanolio, A. Klotz, N. Klotz, May, Gill, Wylie, Williams, McCullum, Hughs, Roess, Parks, Harman, Pavelka, McPeters, Martin, Gallagher, Heffern, Manning, Clark, Floyd, Fuller.

Lt. (j.g.) Hill, Garrett, Mangan, Sampsell, Sandfield, Motika, Costa, Hill, Olson, Hale, Pierce, Hahn, Bensman, Butler, Steck, Britton, Macollogh, Herrera, Backstrand, Walker, Leighton, Malone.





Lt. (j.g.) Huffty and C.W.O. Hewitt, Pearson, Sheppard, Merullo, Wollman, Seats, Williams, Cohen, Pawlowski, Puig, Meyers, Petrucci, Bouchard, Traverso, Melarky, Janawiak, Eldred, Dean, McComb, Groves, Martin, Lojan, Vierra, Goldstein, Green, Greer, Whitmire, Rider, Sioan, Zuber, Mance, Saunders, Gifford.

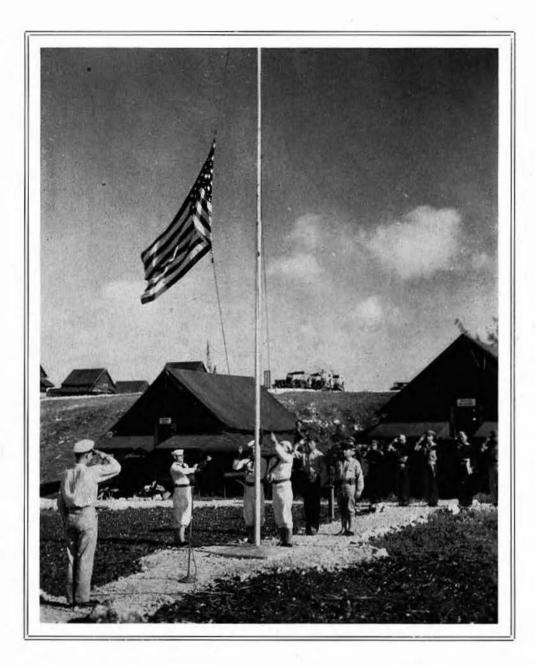
Repair Crew—C.W.O. Wilson, Bailey, Cantwell, Carter, Grattage, Arsenault, Achim, DiStephano, Harkins, Lupinski, Koch, Canterburg, Cavanaugh, Campbell, Perace, Johnson, Bresee, Wilson, Ebright, Cobb, James, Peterson, Spivey, Collier, Dean, Leba, Bray.



section $3 \cdot \cdot \cdot$



\cdot \cdot camp services

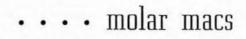


• • • morning colors



Medics and Pharmacist Mates







"Uggg - Doc, Yer Killin' Me!"



"Dr. S. Steinman, Senior Dental Officer"



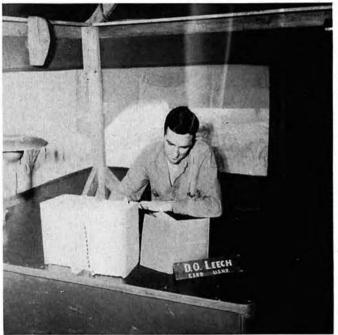
"Doctors Nims and Sartic with Corpsmen McGowan and Chase."

\cdots the eagle



Lt. (j.g.) Ralph Trisko, S. C. USNR, Disbursing Officer

"Chief, those books had better balance!"





"Old Money Bags" forks over the cash.

• • • the storekeepers



Lt. Curlee and Martin figure another angle

Chief Walsh and Supply Crew



"Shoy comes across with the goods."



The GSK Compound

••• the sky pilot



"There were other stories that were tougher."

Chaplain Walker celebrates communion.



"What's your pick, chum, 'Tale of Two Cities' or 'Tom Sawyer'?"

• • • personnel



Lt. Dutton and Staff

"Chief Sheldon speaking . . ."





"Records — records and more records."

Mr. Bleistein—"the whip for discharges."



grease monkeys

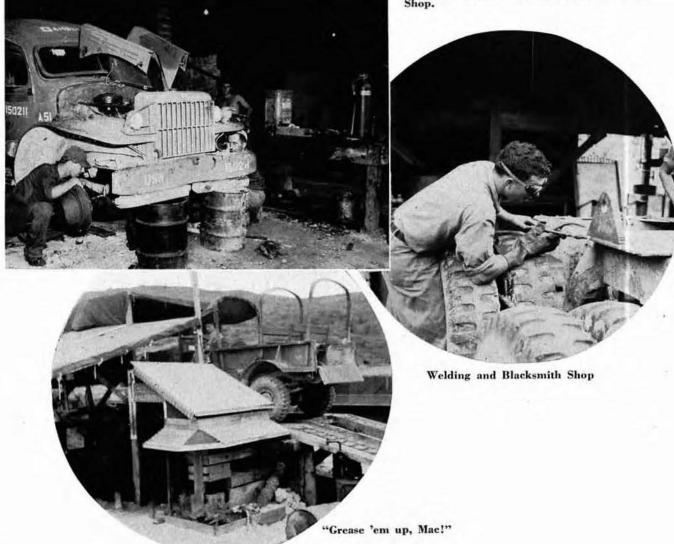
"Transportation gang"



"Transportation Boss Huffy"

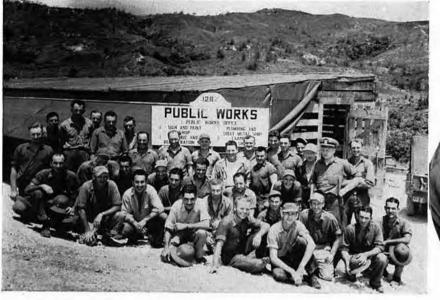


Mechanics overhaul an ambulance — Repair Shop.



"If anything's wrong - this gang'll fix it."

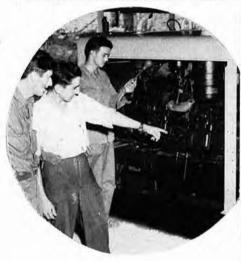
•••• public works



Blakeley to Murph, "Tell that man to make out a work order first."



"Simchek instructs generator watch."





Dolan, Inc.—"almost stateside, huh?"



"See, fellas, I put my finger in the saw like that and—there goes another."

• • • • commissary



Workin' out the menu with Chief Cronin.



Chief Gros and his chow line crew.





Lotsa dough in this racket, chum.

Maybe it couldn't beat Mom's cookin'—but they did better than average. Scullery crew takes a breather.

•••• chiefs' mess





• • • officers' mess

The Chiefs' Mess-nice, huh?

'way up on the hill-the Officers' Mess.



Officers' Stewards and Mess Attendants.

• • • laundry

Every day is laundry day.

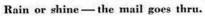


CENSORED

The laundry's Iron Men

•••• post office







• • • country store

"Every day is bargain day."



•••• foto - macs "Brown and crew—without a camera between 'em."

••• clip joint

"Barber, spare that lock!"

•••• drape shaper

• • • • the band



Our own 128th Band needs no introduction—it has made a name for itself and the 128th Battalion all the way from Camp Endicott to Guam. The Swing Band, with the show "Music Under the Stars," has played for approximately 500,000 servicemen on Guam alone and has been featured via shortwave on stateside hookups, as well as V-discs and WXLI broadcasts.

George Liberace Director of the Swing Band
Kenneth Stilwell Director of the Military Band
Harold Atkinson Band Maintenance
Bob Babbitt Sax-Vocals
Maurice BuckleySax—Vocals—Pontoonairs (vocal group)
Gordon Catching Trumpet—Impersonations
Sid Clarkson Sax—Songs of the West
Don DalenSax—Vocals—arrangements
Lloyd EllisGuitar
Joe FiorellaDrums
Al Fitzgerrel Trombone—Vocals—Pontoon- airs
Ray FrittsTrombone—Pontoonairs— arrangements
Guild HolmesDrums
Charles Hrudicka, Trombone—Pontoonairs— arrangements
Thomas Jepperson Drums-Comedian-Publicity
Charles McConnell Bass—arrangements
Donald Miller Technical staff
Tommy Nelson Trumpet—Vocals in Jive
Art Novak
Carl Olderr Technical staff
Ray Ousley Drums
Joe Previte Sax—Comedian
Edgar Read Trumpet
Bill RufoAccordion
Ernest ShaefferDrum Major-bass
Andy Skubish Sax—Vocals
Harry Toney Comedian-Advance
Bernie WarnerTrumpet—Comedian





• • ye hoppe shoppe

"Most popular spot in camp" (Beer Garden)





"Where good fellows get together."

• • • • armory

"You shoot 'cm - we clean 'em."



• • • da cops

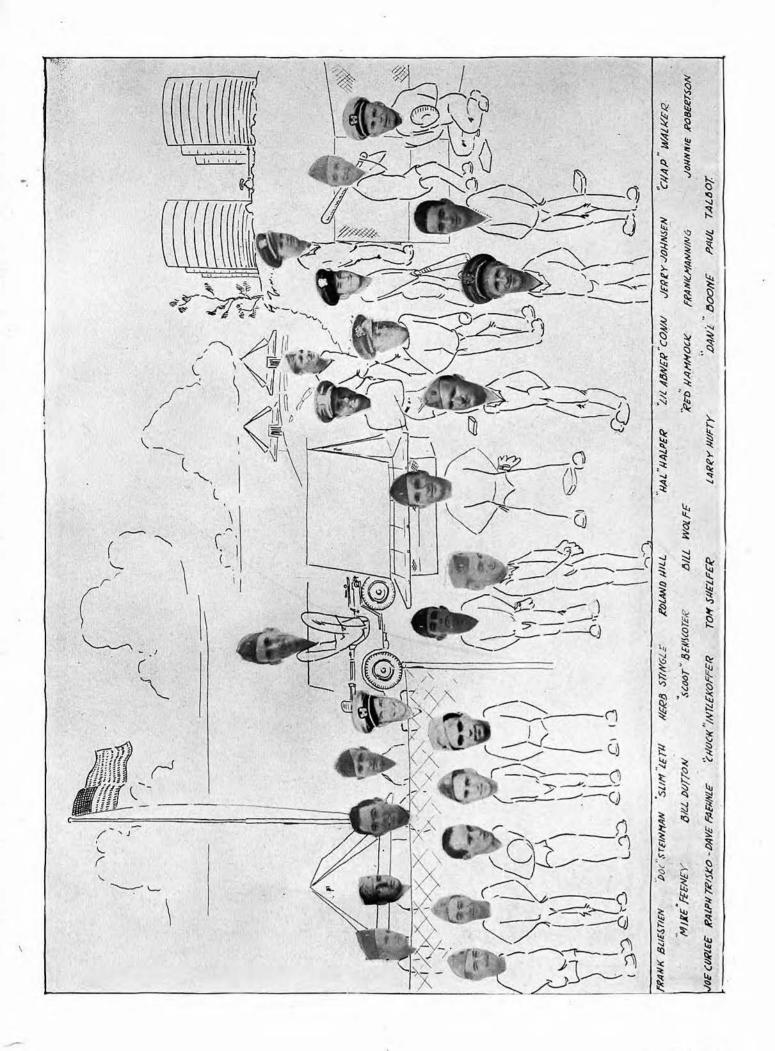
"Can they be as tough as they look?"

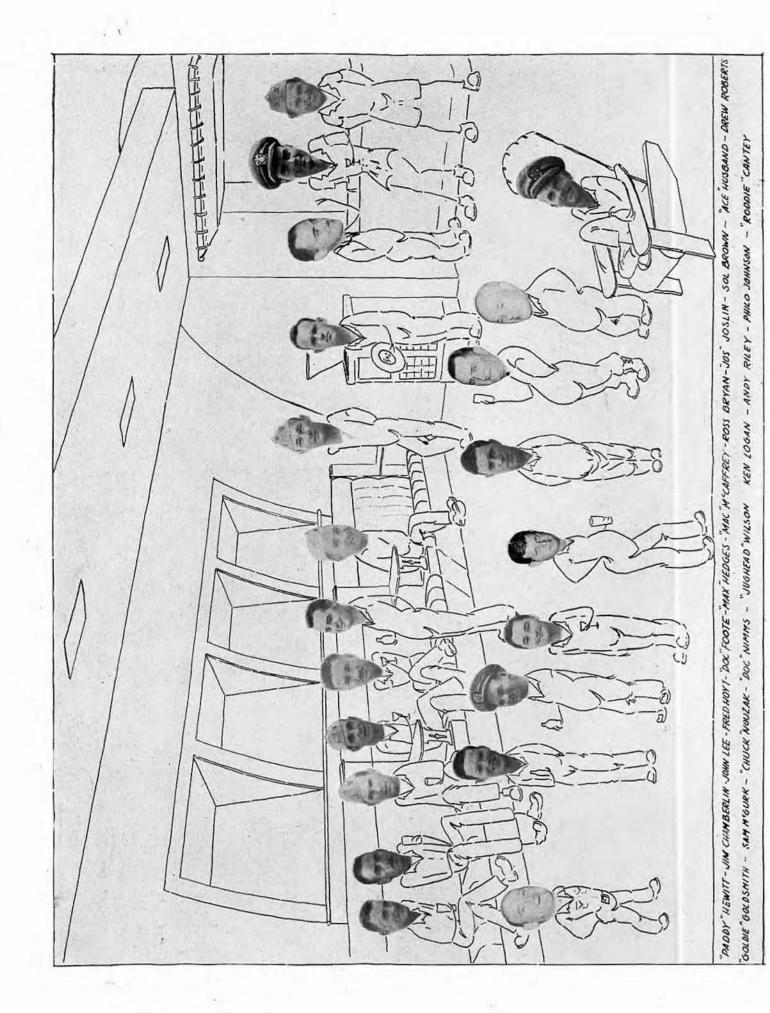
Seventy-nine

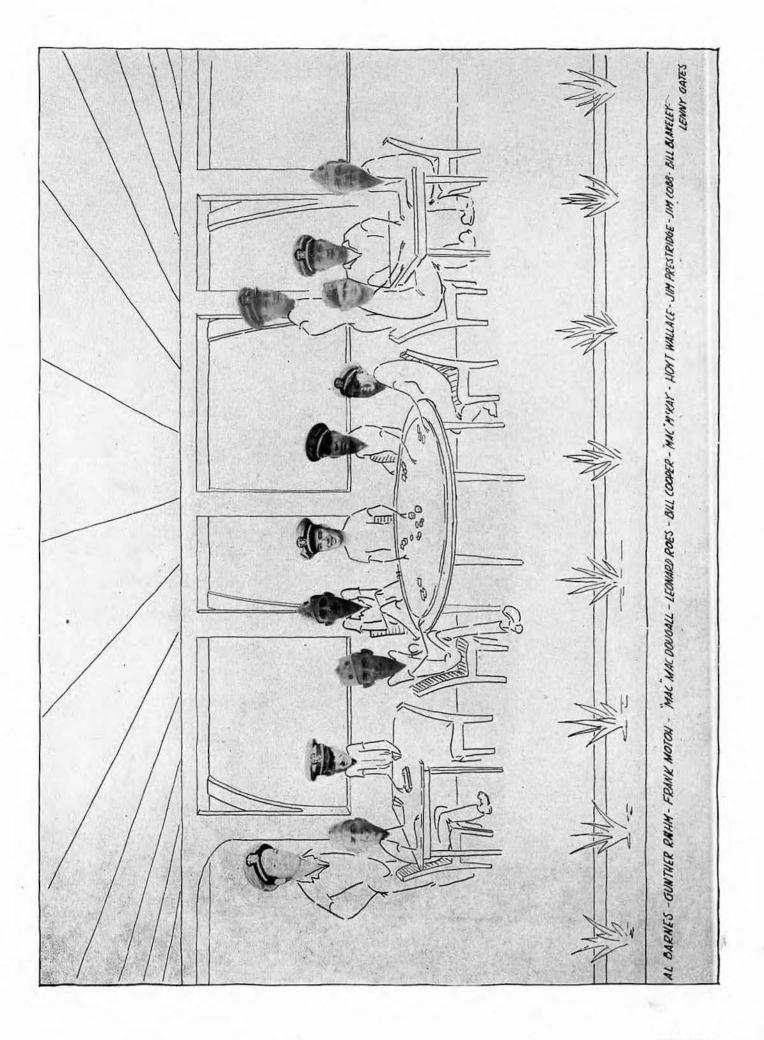
section 4 · · · ·



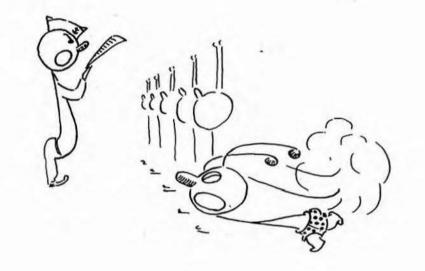
\cdot \cdot the gold braid







section $5 \cdot \cdot \cdot$



\cdot \cdot roll call

A. H. Barnes 1262 E. 142 St. Cleveland, Ohio

R. B. Benscoter 26 Chestnut St. Kane, Pa.

W. J. Blakeley R. R. #9 Garrison Rd. Kalamazoo 89, Mich.

F. E. Bleistein 116 N. Jackson Ave. Kansas City, Mo.

G, F. Boone 2569 Dover Rd. Westlake, Ohio

S. H. Brown 1835 Jefferson Ave. Miami Beach, Fla.

R. H. Bryan 315 South 6th St. Independence, Kan.

W. J. Byrnes 2916 Barkley Ave. Bronx, N. Y.

R. H. Cantey 1511 Fair Street Camden, S. C.

R. M. Carter Plainview, Texas

J. W. Chamberlin 1624 N. Alexandria Los Angeles, Calif.

J. F. Cobb Lake City, Iowa

H. C. Conn 709 S. Main St. Atmore, Ala.

W. H. Cooper 197 Bellaire Ave. Louisville, Ky.

J. H. Curlee Box 217 Sinton, Texas

J. R. Decker 102 Greenwich Ave. New York City, N. Y.

M. W. Dutton 1039 Hamilton Blvd. Hagerstown, Md.

D. M. Faelinle 2367 Southway Dr. Columbus, Ohio M. J. Feeney 114 E. Pleasant Dr. Pierre, S. D.

T. H. Foote 1 Central St. Ipswich, Mass.

L. C. Gates 116 Fulton Ave. Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

W. C. E. Ginner 2362 Marin Ave. Berkeley, Calif.

H. Goldsmith 35-15—84th St. Jackson Heights, N. Y.

H. H. Halper 474 E. 55th St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

M. L. Hammock 1502 E. Willette St. Phoenix, Ariz.

M. T. Hedges 212 E. Lemon Ave. Monrovia, Calif.

A. E. Hewitt 2917 W. 46th St. Los Angeles, Calif.

R. D. Hill P.O. Box 121 Farmerville, La.

F. E. Hoyt Fairground Avenue Ballstown, N. Y.

L. Hufty 3925 Morrison St., N.W. Washington, D. C.

A. C. Husband c/o Navy Dept. Washington, D. C.

C. F. Intlekofer 325 6th Ave., S.E. Minneapolis, Minn.

J. A. Johnson 2300 N. Prospect Oklahoma City, Okla.

P. A. Johnson 292 Congress St. Bradford, Pa.

G. W. Joslin 20 Roseland St. Cambridge, Mass. H. A. Kelley 127 Springton Rd, Upper Darby, Pa.

J. J. Lee 4305 Marble Hall Rd. Baltimore, Md.

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S. W. McMyler 208 E. Fleming Ave. Ft. Wayne, Ind.

J. A. Mosley Appomattox, Va.

F. Motoh 2460 Muscupiabe Dr. San Bernadino, Calif.

R. V. Nims 5640 First Ave. Minneapolis, Minn.

C. J. Nouzak Wallings Rd. Breeksville, Ohio

J. A. Prestridge, Jr. 223 N. Church St. Brookhaven, Miss.

G. E. Rahm 4626 Matilda Ave. New York 66, N. Y.

A. J. Riley 161 Calhoun St. Charleston, S. C. D. M. Roberts e/o G. E. Kennedy Warasso, Fla. or

Mrs. Rena Roberts Quincy, Fla.

J. L. Robertson 120 Monroe St. Cumberland, Md.

L. H. Roes Apt. C., 411 Lowerline New Orleans, La.

P. W. Sartick 150 So. Lincoln Salem, Ohio

T. B. Shelfer 804 Elm St. Minden, La.

C. G. Smallwood 25 Lake End Drive Merrick, L. I., N. Y.

H. Stingel 3543 Shelmire St. Philadelphia, Pa.

S. Steinman 1009 Tripp St. Scranton, Pa.

S. H. Sutton 323 West St. Joseph St. Lansing, Mich.

P. H. Talbot 98 Mill St. Newport, R. I.

R. L. Trisko 4412 Maple Avenue Bethesda, Md.

J. E. Walker 319 E. Lincoln Ave. Belvidere, Illinois

H. R. Wallace 9933 Riverview Dr. St. Louis, Mo.

J. L. Wilson 403 G. St., S.W. Ardmore, Okla.

W. H. Wolff Box 472, Selby Lane Atherton, Calif,

V. G. Wright 230 Block St. Port Neches, Tex.

A. E. Ziegler 27 Sammis Place Hempstead, N. Y.

OFFICERS

ENLISTED MEN

D. Abel Sonora, California

T. E. Abrecht 132 Goodall St. Great Kills, Staten L, N. Y.

F. A. Achim 348 Broad St. Providence, R. I.

R. A. Acosta 2817 N. Lincoln Park Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.

A. K. Adams 4485 Elmwood Riverside, Calif.

K. J. Adams 701 W. 53rd St. Indianapolis, Ind.

L. E. Albert 74 N. 17th St. Harrisburg, Pa.

W. J. Alchermes 862 Union St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

J. M. Alexander York, Ala.

E. F. Allatt R.F.D. #2 Mays Landing, N. J.

F. H. Allen 90 Swanson Parkway Portsmouth, Va.

H. T. Allen 4429 So. 5th St. Louisville, Ky.

R. E. Allen 425 Asher Ave. Taft, Calif.

W. H. Anderberg 3949 14th Ave., So. Minneapolis Minn.

K. Anderson 1804 Pennsylvania Ave., E. Warren, Pa.

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H. C. Peopelle Rt. #1 Green Acres, Wash.

E. M. Reppa 509 Walnut St. Perkasie, Pa.

G. H. Rester Rt. 2 Franklinton, La.

E. L. Retalie 35 Forbes Pl. E. Haven, Conn.

II, E. Rice R. R. #5 Decatur, III.

R. W. Rice 210 Utica St. Ithaca, N. Y.

R. O. M. Richardson 101 Lucerne Ave. Lake Worth, Fla.

J. M. Richardson 13135 Catalpa Wyandotte, Mich.

W. Richardson Rt. #1, Box 104 Pinewood, S. C.

A. W. Richmond Frye, Maine

F. C. Rickard Genl. Delivery Florence, Ala.

A. Rico 1117 Dart St. Houston, Tex.

C. D. Riddlebarger 226 W. Water St. Ridgeville, Ind.

E. W. Rider Box 114 Camp Hill, Ala.

G. W. Riedel 464 6th St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

R. E. Riiska 143 Dexter Ave. Meridian, Conn.

L. E. Riley 358 Texroy St. Phillips, Texas

R. E. Rinehart 224 E. 9th St. Davenport, Iowa

E. L. Ritenour 7013 Windsor Mill Rd. Gwyn Oak Sta. Baltimore, Md.

G. A. Robb 264 Moultree St. San Francisco, Calif.

R. L. Robertson 1418 Homeview Dr. Louisville, Ky.

M. J. Robertson 18 Wellington St. Springfield, Mass.

R. S. Robertson 301 Fairmount Ave. Jersey City, N. J.

M. C. Robertson 60 Oak St. Willits, Calif.

M. C. Robertson 601 Dorce Wichita, Kan.

R. R. Rochelle P. O. Box 48 Tampa, Fla.

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E. N. Rogers Box 1564 Fort Myers, Fla.

H. R. Rogers Box 27 Alva, Nebr.

H. W. Rohr 5471 Lincoln St. Detroit, Mich.

E. L. Roman Box 35 Knott, Tex.

K. W. Rose 409 W. Herndon St. Springfield, Ill.

E. F. Ross 331 Montgomery St. Jersey City, N. J.

C. A. Rougeau 17 Lincoln St. Marlboro, Mass.

J. W. Rowan Princeton, N. J. Midshipman School

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B. J. Sacksteder Alexandria Pike Cold Springs, Ky.

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W. E. Sahlin U.S.N. Hosp. 14 Oakland

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R. C. Sample Hot Springs, Ark.

A. Sampsell 131 River St. Oil City, Pa.

G. L. Sanders McLean, Va.

B. J. Sanderson R.F.D. #2 Crewe, Va.

R. E. Saunders Wimberley, Tex.

F. B. Scarborough 223 Lafayette Rd. Audubon, N. J.

E. Schaefer 116 S. 19th St. Philadelphia 3, Pa.

A. L. Schantz 727 E. Clinton St. Hastings, Mich.

A. S. Schemp 523 W. Center St. Madison, S. D.

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W. N. Schilling Box 545 Dayton, Tex.

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R. L. Schippers 2817 N. 2nd St. Milwaukee, Wis.

C. J. Schmidt 915 Metropolitan Leavenworth, Kan.

J. J. Schnitzel 7238 67th St. Glendale, L. I., N. Y.

H. Schoellhorn 5723 Sprague Ave. Spokane, Wash.

E. E. Schoenbaum Studebaker Distr. Cumminsville, Ohio H. A. Schousen 3041 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, Ill.

F. R. Schuh 20 Williams St. Pawtuckett, R. I.

H. C. Schultz R. R. #1 Ailliards, Ohio

P. Schwager 202 Van Sicklen St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

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H. V. Schwartz Ada, Minn.

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E. Z. Sechel 1437 W. 75th St. Cleveland, Ohio

A. H. Sedlar Rt. 7, Box 135 Toledo, Ohio

W. C. Seek Poteua, Okla.

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M. R. Severson Nora Springs, Iowa

J. E. Sexton 4935 Winneste Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio

L. E. Shaffer Groton St. E. Pepperhill, Mass.

M. D. Shaw Gen. Del. Headley, Tex.

R. E. Shaw Summer St., R.F.D. #3 Middleboro, Mass.

J. F. Shea 72-34 Austin St. Forest Hills, N. Y.

J. J. Sheedy 23 Brook Ave. Roxbury, Boston, Mass.

N. D. Sheehan 169 Branch St. Spartanburg, S. C.

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M. T. Sheldon Box 185 Blue Hill, Neb.

V. T. Shepard 4 Chestnut Pk. Melrose, Mass.

L. F. Shepherd 305 Pennsylvania Ave. Cumberland, Md. V. F. Sherman 366 Main St. Sougus, Mass.

A. A. Shore 137 N. Marie St. Hicksville, N. Y.

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Reading, Pa. A. C. Simmons

A. C. Simmons P. O. Box 4 Humansville, Mo.

R. R. Simpson Box 1 Nowata, Okla.

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D. M. Sites Box 154 Dansville, Mich.

A. Skubish 1633 W. 9th St. Gary, Ind.

J. D. Slaven 33 Maner Ave. Oaklyn, N. J.

J. H. Sloan 730 Bay St. Brunswick, Ga.

D. L. Slocum 406 N. Main St. Wilkes Barre, Pa.

N. G. Small Box 82 Newport, Me.

D. G. Spurlock Rt. 2

St. Albans, W. Va. J. R. Staiger

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B. E. Staley R.D. #5 Washington, Pa.

E. R. Staley Upton, Utah

C. R. Stark Altura, Minn.

J. P. Stauffer Ringtown, Pa.

N. Staurakis 40 W. Housatonic St. Pittsfield, Mass.

Wm. A. Small Concord Rd. Wayland, Mass.

C. M. Smith 4518 Academy Dearborn, Mich.

C. P. Smith Marion, Mont.

Dock Smith R.F.D. #3 Onida, Tenn.

H. C. Smith Elliot, Miss.

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R. E. Snyder 826 Woodville St. Toledo, Ohio

P. V. Solt 33 Railroad St. Walnutport, Pa.

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C. D. Souders 1860 Logon St. Denver, Colo.

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A. W. Spellenberg 319 E. 4th St. Emporium, Pa.

F. E. Spencer 73 Key St. Eastport, Me.

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L. J. Spielberger 610 W. 163rd St. New York, N. Y.

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D. H. Stringham 106 Lafayette St. Schenectady, N. Y.

H. W. Strube 612 Maywood Ave. Maywood, N. J.

T. W. Stubergh 26 Linden St. Waterbury, Conn.

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N. O. Stiener 243 Amit<u>r</u> Muskegon, Mich.

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T. S. Storey Ellaville, Ga.

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R. A. St. Pierre 90 Prospect St. Biddeford, Me.

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D. E. Stubbs Riceboro, Ga.

M. Sturtz 2000 Daly Ave. Bronx, N. Y.

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W. Szost Box 3 Groveton, Pa.

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H. L. Taylor 1121 Virginia Blvd. Albuquerque, N. M.

M. B. Taylor Bartow Bread Co. Cartersville, Ga.

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R. C. Taylor 724 Florida St. Vallejo, Calif.

Y. K. Taylor Grancer, Ky.

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J. Thorn

C. W. Thorpe 301½ E. 2nd St. Muscatine, Iowa

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F. S. Tomson Akten, Minn.

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F. Torres 1643 Madison Ave. New York, N. Y.

P. M. Torres

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G. Trevino 817 McClerry San Antonio, Tex.

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L. L. Tuttle Colony, Kan.

L. C. Tyner 163 Seminole Ave. Palm Beach, Fla.

J. G. Ufken 126 5th Ave. Le Mars, Iowa

S. W. Umstot 77 Paxton St. Piedmont, W. Va.

B. H. Underwood Saloma, Ky.

A. W. Underwood 933 E. Haley St. Santa Barbara, Calif.

J. R. Upton Tahlequah, Okla.

F. Valiente Ponce, Puerto Rico

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C. E. Van Horn

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M. Vasquez 2311 Santa Rosa St. Austin, Tex.

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J. G. Viera 615 4th St. Antioch, Calif.

A. G. Vierria Rt. 3, Dist. 10 Marysville, Calif.

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G. J. Vitale 330 Congress St. Bridgeport, Conn.

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T. Voyles Murphy, N. C.

L. O. Wade Rothbury, Mich.

E. A. Walker Worthington, Ky.

A. J. Waggener 57 Rae Ave. San Francisco, Calif.

F. P. Walker 405 S. 6th St. Pocatello, Idaho

P. M. Walsh 31 Auburn St. Wilkes Barre, Pa.

F. L. Walters 1584 S. Clarkson Denver, Colo.

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D. W. Webb Selma, N. C.

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J. J. Welch Clopton, Ala.

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H. B. Wells 1809 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, Ore.

Matt Wells Rt. #2 Powell Station, Tenn.

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J. M. Wentzell 304 W. Glenwood Ave. Wildwood, N. J.

J. J. Wesolowski 2549 N. 48th Ave. Omaha, Neb.

B. C. West 264 Massachusetts Ave. Providence, R. I.

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E. E. Weston 408 Freeman St. Anna, Ill.

C. A. Wheeler Woodville, Miss.

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T. D. Whitaker

C. D. White 4514 S. Emerald Ave. Chicago, Ill.

W. E. Whitmire Box 411 Jenks, Okla.

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J. S. Wierzbicki 3337 W. Cermak Rd. Chicago, Ill.

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L. Williams Box 1001 Homestead, Fla. B. Williams P.O. Verona, Kentucky T. E. Williams Bushnell, Florida

A. E. Wilson 404 "S" St. Eureka, Calif.

H. B. Wilson Rt. 1 Rowland, N. C.

H. G. Wilson Gen. Del. Leedey, Okla.

N. J. Wilson 25 Evans St. Hamburg, N. Y.

R. C. Wilson 718 15th Ave. East Moline, Ill.

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K. W. Withrow 7th Ave. St. Albans, W. Va.

W. E. Witteman 173 Eckford St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

L. V. Wofford Mitchelsburg, Kentucky R. L. Wolfe West Point, Virginia W. Wollman 134 Lorimer St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

G. Womble Rt. 3 Lillington, N. C.

C. L. Wood Milledgeville, Georgia

C. V. Wood Box 185 Pine Bush, N. Y.

J. Woods

W. H. Wood RFD 2 Milledgeville, Ga.

T. J. Woods 423 So. Pine St. Richmond, Va.

O. L. Wood Box 246 Beach Bottom, W. Va.

M. R. Wooley 90 Glenwood Dr. Attica, N. Y.

B. F. Wortham 8112 Bleriot Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.

J. J. Wright 161 Oakland Ave. Staten Island, N. Y.

H. E. Wyatt 18618 Shawnee Ave. Cleveland, Ohio

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C. D. Wylie 4814½ Cahuenga Blvd. No. Hollywood, Calif.

G. W. Yates 408 N. Solano Albuquerque, N. M.

J. P. York 307 S. Roan St. Elizabethton, Tenn.

E. E. Young Beaumont, Virginia

M. O. Young Kings Mountain, Kentucky

M. M. Young 709 Jones St. Dalton, Ga.

E. F. Zamorski 111 Feltus St. South Amboy, N. J.

A. J. Zdun

L. I. Zeigler 254 Vine St. Salem, Ohio

J. T. Ziegler 5127 Broad Pittsburgh, Pa.

E. V. Zuber 1825 W. 4th St. Davenport, Iowa

J. S. Zyla 285 High St. New Britain, Conn.

Dispatch 12 April 1945.

From: (R. K. Turner, Admiral, USN.). To: (A. C. Husband, Commander, CEC, USN.).

"The industry and initiative shown by you and your task group which prevented serious damage to causeway piers . . . after two days bad weather has materially added in the unloading of cargo. Well done,"

Special Report, Part V, Comdr. Task Force X.

"... it is hoped that the excellent results obtained from causeways installed off the Northern Beaches will restore lost faith in the value of these installations. Too much credit can not be given to ... officers and men of the 128th Construction Battalion, who rapidly installed and efficiently maintained the causeway, even through extreme weather conditions."

* * *

Amphibious Group Twelve.

 From:
 Beachmaster, Amphibious Group Twelve.

 To:
 Lt. Drew M. Roberts, CEC, USNR, Acting Commanding Officer, 128th NCB(P).

Subject: Commendation.

1. "... the brave and effective conduct of the crews under your command have been outstanding during the vital campaign. During blackout, strafing, bombing and artillery attack by the enemy, your officers and men have manned their stations ... and have made possible the continued loading and unloading of ammunition, gasoline, troops and urgently needed supplies for the soldiers at the front lines.

"... this is in itself evidence of your leadership, the leadership of your officers and petty officers and the loyalty of your men."

> L. C. Leever Commander, USN.

Bureau of Yards and Docks Navy Department Washington, D.C.

From: Chief Bureau of Yards & Docks.

To: OinC, 128th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (Pontoon).

"Admiral Cotter has sent me a copy of a letter from ComPhibsPac regarding shipwright work done by men of your battalion.

It is a pleasure to receive such reports . . . of the work of the Civil Engineer Corps and the SeaBees . . ."

/S/B. Moreell

Vice Admiral, CEC, USN.

* * *

Construction Battalion Replacement Depot Camp Parks

Shoemaker, California.

From: Civil Engineer Officer in Command.

To: Officer in Charge, 128th Naval Construction Battalion (Pontoons).

Subject: Review, commendation for.

". . . an outstanding appearance was presented as to neatness, military bearing and the smartness with which the maneuvers of the review were executed.

". . . particularly outstanding and rates special commendation."

/S/ J. D. Wilson Capt. CEC, USN.

* *

USS SIBLEY (APA-206)

From: Commanding Officer USS SIBLEY.

To: Officers and men of the 128th Construction Battalion.

"The Commanding officer wishes . . . to express his appreciation for excellent work and cooperation with ship's company . . .

". . . with your cooperation . . . a large number of necessary improvements which the Repair Base could not do have been accomplished."

> E. I. McQuiston Comdr., USN.

commendations

USS Mt. McKinley

From: Commander Task Unit.

To: Commanding Officer, 128th U.S.N.C.B. Detachment of the 128th U.S.N.C.B.

Subject: Commendation for.

1. The invaluable service and splendid cooperation rendered by the officers and men of a detachment from your battalion which has been temporarily assisting this activity, is worthy of commendation.

> Carl H. Holm Commander, USNR.

USS LST 769

From: Commanding Officer, USS LST 769. To: Officer in Charge, 128th Naval Construction Battalion Detachment.

*

Subject: Commendation.

1. "... It is a pleasure for me to state that I consider this ship fortunate in having Mr. Johnson and his men attached to this unit.

". . . If Mr. Johnson and his men typify the caliber of officers and enlisted men in the Sea-Bees, I can understand the splendid reputation which the SeaBees have made."

E. B. Bertini

USS LST 829

From: Commanding Officer.

To: Chief of Bureau Personnel, CEC, Bureau of Yards and Docks.

Subject: Commendation of members of 128th NCB(P), aboard this vessel.

1. "... Their initiative, industry, and desire to perform helpful work for the benefit of the ship has been exemplary. My respect for the SeaBees and the excellent job they are doing, has been even further increased by my association with these men."

> J. H. Judge Commanding.

Individual Commendations:

128th NCB(P) Band Personnel. Gates, Leonard C., Lt. (jg). Hufty, Lawrence Jr., Lt. (jg). Madden, Harry S., CCM. Nouzak, Charles J., CWO.

awards

(A number of additional awards were still expected at the time of going to press.)

Legion of Merit: Riley, Andrew J., Lt.

Bronze Star: Johnson, Philo A., CWO Husband, A. C., Comdr. Riley, Andrew J., Lt. Wilson, Judson L., CWO

Commendation Ribbon: Leonard, E. J. CSF Moseley, John A., CWO Riley, Andrew J., Lt.

Presidential Unit Citation: Weston, Eugene, BM1/c

Purple Heart: Anderson, Alfred, CBM Bonner, L. E., SK2/c Bray, Philip F., GM1/c Brazier, James G., MM2/c Gilstrap, Russell E., CM2/c Jenkins, Stewart W., S1/c Hoffman, Thomas, CM1/c Lenz, Frank J., S1/c MacDougall, Neil E., Lt. Meaney, Michael J., BM2/c McCorpin, Eddie G., S1/c Mollitor, Anthony J., MM2/c Lee, John J., Lt. (jg) Mariner, Francis F., Jr., BM2/c Stewart, Harry A., MM2/c Rapp, Henry J., MM2/c Wilkes, Harvey E., PhM2/c Wilson, Judson L., CWO So ends the book, But, Not the tale. For, as each is told and retold, "Twill grow—and grow As prodded memories Add Bits that were forgot.

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