

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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In Brief: Pump Washes Out 23 Nips (P.2).....Writers Describe Seabee Jobs (P.3,4)....Call Okinawa Base "Another Miracle"(P.6) Power Shovel Is Weapon (P.5)...Fleet Asks More Flat-Tops(P.2).

WASHINGTON REPORTS

BASES IN PHILIPPINES must be maintained after the war, SecNav Forrestal declared at Washington press conference. "to put it simply," he said, "in this fashion, the United States will continue to bear responsibility for the security of the Philippines and will have to have bases and strategic areas supporting those bases necessary to carry out its responsibilities. Negotiations are under way to that end."

TEN THOUSAND OFFICERS YEARLY are wanted by the Navy after the war, according to testimony given at a Senate hearing. The Naval Academy at Annapolis now has 3,100 enrollees. Senator Walsh, chairman of the Naval Committee said the Navy wants to double that. "The plans now call for 10,000 young ensigns a year," he declared.

AIR SCORE in the Pacific war during the first three months of this year has given Navy and Marine fliers a 9.4 to 1 victory. American fliers destroyed 1,782 Jap planes while losing but 188 and brought the three-year-war ratio to 5.8 to 1.

The over-all figure, which probably will increase as complete reports from outlying units become available, shows 11,801 enemy planes destroyed since the beginning of the Pacific war, compared with 2,070 plane losses by American forces.

In 1942 the ratio was 3 to 1; in 1943, 6.3 to 1; 1944, 5.7 to 1 and the first three months of this year--9.4 to 1.

INCLUSION OF BERMUDA in an item in the 22 May 1945 issue of SNS as one of the Islands where certain Naval personnel on permanent duty may now apply through channels for per-

mission to bring their families to live with them was in error. It should be emphasized, too, that the application privilege extends only to personnel assigned to permanent duty in the areas affected, and that families may come only for the purpose of establishing residence, not just visiting.

COMBAT ZONES

NOW PLANNED TO BE MIGHTIEST ADVANCE

BASE in history Okinawa did not figure that prominently in Army-Navy plans until American troops set foot on the island. Until we landed, we had not believed the territory was as satisfactory for development as we found it to be.

This information was wirelessly to the "New York Times" by correspondent W. H. Lawrence after on-the-scene interviews with Commodore Andrew G. Bisset, CEC, USN, Commander Construction Troops, Okinawa, and Maj. Gen. Fred C. Wallace, Island Commander.

Present construction operations will result in a base from which heavy bombers conceivably could make two strips a day to the southern parts of the Japanese home islands, carrying maximum bomb loads on both runs, the interview disclosed.

Primarily an air base, Okinawa will bristle with all types of bombers and fighter planes. Its coastline includes several good anchorages for the fleet that could be employed to facilitate virtually continuous carrier attacks upon every part of the Japanese Empire.

First American construction units landed one day after the assault forces. Five days later, two Japanese-developed airstrips -- Yontan and Kadena, -- had been cleaned up and were being used by our fighters and bombers.

WATER PISTOL TECHNIQUE worked well for Seabees helping the Army round up Jap stragglers on Iwo Jima.

After the soldiers cornered an enemy group in a cave, the Seabees flushed out the quarry by pumping in more than 500,000 gallons of sea water. The bag was 23 thoroughly soaked Japanese.

SERVICE BASES

"THEY ALSO SERVED who only stood the heat, the flies, the brackish water showers, the unrefreshing diet and the shadeless coral sand," wrote "Atlantic Monthly" reporter Edgar L. Jones.

In an article entitled "Marooned on the Rock," which described life on Tarawa since it became a rear base, Jones gave credit to the Seabees and the men who "made Tarawa livable and are keeping it that way."

Of the island veterans, he said: "These men are sailors who never have been on a ship except to come to Tarawa via Pearl Harbor. Many of them...chose the Navy because they wanted to keep on the move, see new places, enjoy life on the ocean. They have been nowhere except Tarawa. For the first six months they were busy, exceptionally so. Now they are in the backwash of the war.

...."Feeling useless on Tarawa and unnecessary in the war effort, they hate themselves for what daily seems more and more to be the most precious years of their lives.

"Today they are deadened, stagnant and apathetic; many of them have lost their girls and a few their wives; in their opinion they have been in solitary confinement for more than a year. Yet once they are back in the States and find a few of the things they have been doing without, once they feel sure that their life on The Rock was not spent in vain, once they are confident that civilians understand...then the Tarawians will return to normal."

PHILIPPINE DUTY HAS ITS REWARDS, recent word from a battalion on Zamboango indicates. OinC declared a fiesta as reward for battalion's top performance. Day-long feast started with fresh eggs for breakfast, led to dinner of fresh roast pork, pineapple juice, sweet potatoes, apple sauce, beets, apple pie, iced tea, and three cold bottles of beer per man. Filipino band played throughout dinner, Seabees' own swing aggregation for dancing later.

GOOD RELATIONS WITH FILIPINOS are another reason why Seabees are enjoying duty in the Philippines.

Comments "Pillar News": Right from the beginning, townspeople and Pillarmen took to each other; and, as the weeks pass, they like each other more and more. It is natural that we should like the girls, who are pretty, shapely, modest, and friendly. But you'll see more Seabees talking to men and older

women, and playing with the kids. Several of our married men have been heard to say they would like to adopt a Filipino youngster and bring him up in the states."

The Seabee newspaper also gives this description of night life in town: "Sitting around a table in the incredibly tiny cafes, drinking rice wine by the light of a coconut-oil lamp. The lamp is a beer-can with a rag wick - no chimney. The wine is served in beer bottles. Boys pick up the empties in camp after every beer issue and sell em to the cafe proprietors."

RIDING HERD on pontoon string which had broken loose in a storm and were strewn over two miles of beach, 73rd Battalion bulldozer jockeys had a 1000-ft. causeway back in operation on the short side of 24 hours.

The 'dozers worked in about two feet of water as amtracks were not available.

"HALF THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME" was allotted a battalion in New Guinea to prepare for a forward jump. Unit's OinC had been asked to estimate least time needed to prepare for move; later received orders slicing his requested schedule in two.

News of the move came through on a Wednesday. By Thursday, camp was being dismantled and plans drawn up for life aboard ship. Transportation problem was intensified because vessel was Liberty ship, not transport.

Battalion engineers built galley, head, and showers on deck, installed three-decker bunks in holds, replaced ladders with stairways. Seabees' plans worked out without snafu. Despite crowding, voyage was more comfortable than battalion's trip to New Guinea; men liked the idea of deck installations instead of having them in the airless hold, as had been the case during their previous trip.

LAUNDRY CREW of the 135th has earned gratitude of the mates for dependable one-day service, better than almost any stateside civilian establishments. Unit likes the service to the point of publishing unsolicited "thank-you's" in the battalion newspaper.

THE FLEET NAVY

MORE CARRIERS is the Navy's order in the face of lagging production because of manpower shortages. The world's greatest carrier fleet must be increased and soon, the Navy said. The United States now has 26 carriers and sixty-five escort flat-tops and is building more. The carrier fleet may face its "most serious tests as the Pacific war reaches the principal Japanese islands and, in turn, more and more enemy land-bases air power," a Navy spokesman said.

100,000 UNIT has been added to the United States fleet since December 7, 1941, when the Navy had 7,695 vessels and craft of all kinds, BuShips has announced. Since Pearl Harbor, more than 17 billion dollars has been spent on eight million tons of new construction and 3000 other ships and craft have been acquired and converted.

In the combat category, 1,150 ships of the line have been completed since Pearl Harbor, with landing craft representing 82,266 of the 100,000 total.

"PREPARE TO BOARD" is a command anti-quoted by modern naval war's high-powered, long-distance shelling, but the Navy pulled it out of history and dusted it off to capture a German submarine in June of 1944. An escort carrier force hunted down, attacked, boarded and captured the Nazi submarine U-505 off Cape Blanco, French West Africa.

It was the first time since 1815 that the U. S. Navy has boarded and captured a foreign enemy man-of-war on the high seas. Prize was towed 2,500 miles to NOB, Bermuda.

ELOQUENT BREVITY was the word for it when the skipper of the escort carrier Crosstan received an order to "hunt and destroy U-boat in designated area." He went the "sighted-sub, sank-same" pilot three better. He tracked down the sub and replied:

"Complied."

"ANOTHER MIRACLE performed by 'our good left arm,' the bulldozer," is the way the New York "Times" described construction progress on Okinawa.

"Fighting is only a part of modern war, as any doughfoot can testify after a few months in a front area handling stores on a sandy beach in the rain or pushing a bulldozer through the jungle on a twelve-hour trick," the "Times" said editorially. "Construction is a large part of the battle. And here we have a major advantage over the Japanese..."

..... "Bravery alone will not win wars. Not will fanaticism. To win you have to know how to fight, but you also have to know how to build. This is one of the great weaknesses of the Japanese; they don't or cannot. Our forces do."

GOOD CONSTRUCTION CORAL isn't found just by digging into any hill on a Pacific island, Commodore John R. Perry, CEC, USN, reveals in an article in May, "The Military Engineer."

"Often," wrote Commodore Perry, "The officer concerned with locating suitable coral was not able to determine from maps or aerial photographs just where it could be found. So he went in with one of the earliest waves of the assault, and hiked (or crawled) around

with his carbine on his back to make a visual inspection." Commodore Perry's article, eight pages long with 10 pictures, credits the Seabees this way in the article entitled "Coral: Our Pacific Lifesaver": "The personnel of the Naval Construction battalions from the lowest ranks to the highest, have a splendid breadth of experience and knowledge of almost any line of work can be found among them. So, in the beginning, many heads were put together over the problem of using coral. The pool of general knowledge of earth work, thus inspired improvisation, enabled the early battalions to produce results quickly."

"THEY'LL BE EXPERTS in construction work" says The Commercial Record, Boston, Mass., in an editorial on Seabees and Army Engineers.

"It has been authoritatively stated that more than a million men in the Navy Seabees and Army Engineers are having first-hand experience and training on construction on the battle fronts. They have been trained to work fast and to make the best use of what materials are available, but back of their miracles of construction are weeks and months of careful planning and training and their battle front products are not 'thrown together' but are the result of intensive training in time-saving methods.

"These men--many of whom will be interested in going into construction work after the war--will be of immense value to the construction industry, for the postwar period, with labor costs and material costs high, and a public hungry to build but fearful of too high costs, the time-saving methods developed by these battle front builders can be a big factor."

SECRET WEAPON Number One is what the Bureau of Ordnance magazine "Firepower" calls the Seabees in a four-page layout of type and pictures. Presenting an over-all picture of Seabee accomplishments, the magazine says:

"That is the way the Seabees have made themselves 'Secret Weapon No. 1' in the eyes of Army, Marine and Navy men who still marvel at the speed with which Seabees turn a jungle into a fighting outpost."

"BATTLE OF ASAN POINT," a road job as it is done in the USA, is described in the May issue of "The Excavating Engineer." Written by GCM R. P. Day, it was prefaced by an editor's note which read:

"Seabee battalion uses excavating equipment that had just completed 18 to 24 months of continuous hard service to hurriedly construct an eight-mile, four-lane permanent highway through a hill containing 200,000 cubic yards of excavation, mostly rock, on a Pacific island. Pure American guts and hard work plus proper servicing and maintenance bring success."

Said Day: "The hell of it was, this battalion thought it was going home. Out 23 months, slogging through tropical jungles, working at fever pitch, it seemed right that these boys should draw a lucky stub. Some are lucky; some not so lucky. All take their part in the great scheme of war. That is why this early autumn day of 1944, a bunch of

weary, homesick construction boys found themselves looking at Asan Point. They had a road job to do.

"Work was carried on seven days a week and even the idle hours between 2 and 6 a.m. were utilized for servicing equipment and making spot repairs.

"The day the job was visited for "The Excavating Engineer," somebody brought out a hot lunch at noon. Slabs of Spam, bread and spinach. One Seabee slapped some spinach on his Spam and chortled: "They're really puttin' on the dog today; wonder what's up?"

"How in hell can you beat a bunch of guys like that?"

PELELIU AIRFIELDS AND SHORE CONSTRUCTION procurement are discussed in two articles, written, respectively, by Lt. Comdr. Peter Corradi, CEC, USNR, and Captain C. T. Dickeman, CEC, USNR, which appear in recent issues of "The Military Engineer."

Captain Dickeman's article, carrying three pictures pointed out the "field maintenance by Seabees in the Aleutians---such work reduces the amount of new equipment which has to be sent overseas."

Commander Corradi, using several pictures to illustrate his four-page article, told of the difficulties of combat conditions and construction of the Peleliu airfields and considerable technical information on rebuilding of Jap strips.

FLOATING CONNECTION for pier pontoons is the subject of an article by Comdr. Marvin Y. Neely, in the current issue of "Civil Engineering," Commander Neely told of the difficulty of maintenance encountered by a Seabee pontoon unit at Tinian because of the heavy ground swells. New pier design worked out by Capt. P. J. Halloran, CEC, USN, is described in the article, which used one photo and one diagram.

NORMANDY OPERATIONS, including wide use of the Mulberries and pontoons, are described in an article and 17 pictures in the May issue of the National Geographic. Seabees at Omaha beach are shown with one of the pontoon causeways. The picture is captioned: "Seabees landing on D-day built this Omaha beach road which rises and falls with the tide."

DOUBLE PLAY on Guam's road building feats was produced with appearance of a two-page, six-photo layout in the April issue of "Our Navy." Pictures and story were by John F. Mason, Photo, now on duty in the field.

"NOT SO GOOD" is the way a captured Japanese army lieutenant described Japan's war situation to an American newspaperman in China. The 39-year-old officer said the situation was going "from bad to worse," but that, as a Japanese officer, he could not admit Japan was doomed even if he believed it to be true.

The lieutenant predicted that an Allied landing on Japan proper would shorten the Pacific war, "because there is no purpose for the rest of the Japanese on the Asiatic mainland to fight."

HEADING FOR TOKYO is the veteran U. S. First Army which played a leading role in cracking

FYI

Hitler's European fortress, War Department announced this week. Openly, as if contemptuous of Japan's ability to make use of the information, the WD said Gen. Hodges' outfit "is on the move" toward the Orient.

DEER HUNTING is helping 47th sportsman relieve advance base monotony. Most recent kills were made by W.W. Bond and H. L. King, who dropped a large buck, and Wade H. Allen, who brought back a yearling doe.

BIG DRIVE BY CHINA is in the wind, according to an Army spokesman. He said the smashing by the Chinese of the Jap drive on the U. S. air base at Chihkiang and Chinese counter-attacks along the entire Hunan Province front are preludes "to a general Chinese counter-offensive," AP reported from Chungking that Chinese had fought into Foochow and captured an airport, striking, according to the Chinese High Command announcement, "where the enemy fears the Americans may storm ashore."

CANADIAN FLEET, or at least 60 warships including aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers, will soon be shifted to the Pacific for offensive operations against the Japanese. The fleet has been on submarine patrol in the Atlantic. The Canadians are also acquiring a flotilla of new destroyers from the British for use in the Pacific.

COCK FIGHTING is new sports headliner of 118th. Platoons are sponsoring cocks, matching them on Sunday afternoons. Everybody wins. Victors' owners pocket prize money; losers consolation is fried rooster dinner.

NEW DIME will bear likeness of late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, replacing present Liberty-head dime which has been in existence 29 years. Only other Presidents so honored by U. S. Mint are Lincoln on the penny, Jefferson on the nickel, and Washington on the quarter. Late president's picture will also be on war bonds in next war loan drive as will a suitable Roosevelt quotation to be selected by Washington newsmen.

FISHERMAN'S PARADISE, is Iwo Jima according to CCS Melvin C. Chaney of Oakland, Calif. Although invasion battle frightened the fish away for a while, there's a limit catch for everyone now, he says. Fish, similar to Hawaiian "Okule," won't touch artificial lure, but are easy prey when fishermen use small squid, found in abundance on Iwo's beaches. They put up a good fight; averaging about three pounds, they're able to jump with a four ounce weight.

BACK YARD FOXHOLE he uses three times a week helps Frank Garcia, 21-year-old Houston, Texas, vet, make the switch-over to civilian life on a gradual basis. "This soft civilian life -- feather beds, feather pillows, fancy food and everything -- nuts! brother, I can't get used to it," is the comment of the former combat sergeant.

SUB STORY secrecy has been lifted, now that the German U-boats are giving up in coverys. The Navy revealed that:

1. At least 126 U-boats have been sunk by American forces out of a total of about 500 destroyed by the Allies during the war.

2. Germany made a frantic gamble in the last weeks of the war, throwing a formidable pack into the Atlantic with orders to blanket the East Coast from Maine to Florida.

Because definite proof is required to get credit for "Kills," the American total probably is well above the official figure.

U. S. PRESS FAVORS HOLDING PACIFIC BASES analysis of editorial pages indicates. Thirty-four per cent support absolute ownership of the islands; 53 percent back international cooperation. Only three per cent oppose holding the bases under any circumstances. Remaining ten per cent take no stand.

MOST DEPENDABLE LETTER WRITER, believes the 115th Battalion, is Mrs. J.P. Gallagher, wife of the 115th's J.P. The Seabee recently received his 1,000th air-mail letter from her. He says he hasn't counted cards, and has included only letters received overseas.

ARMY'S NEW PERSHING TANK BEST U.S. or Britain have had, combat tests in Germany disclosed before the Nazis fell. The Pershing has a 90-millimeter gun, faster turret action than the German tiger, and is almost as maneuverable as the lighter German Panther. Wide tracks help in muddy terrain and high speed in reverse enables American tankmen to move out of a bad position quickly.

New tank is ticketed for the Pacific but will not go into action on any large scale until there is plenty of land room. Its weight offers problems in amphibious landing.

TROOPS IN EUROPE are being trained for the Pacific war while awaiting transportation to the other side of the world. They are being indoctrinated in Japanese intelligence, equipment, uniforms and fighting methods.

NO PERMANENT PEACE is in the offing, majority of Americans believe. Poll released from Denver, Colorado, showed 59% expect another war within 50 years, 36% within 25 years. One per cent said future war or peace depended on this war's peace treaties. Twenty per cent undecided. Only 20 per cent -- one man in five -- were convinced a half-century's unbroken peace lay ahead.

BRITISH ADMIRALTY LIFTED war-long secrecy to reveal Royal Navy's losses in accidents and losses unknown to enemy; reported sinking of 163 vessels, including the light cruiser Curacao, rammed and sunk by huge transport liner Queen Mary in convoy tragedy in 1942. Only 58 of cruiser's 400-man crew rescued. The Queen, transporting more than 14,000 American troops, suffered only slight damage to "crash" bow. Others lost included one escort carrier, ten destroyers and eight submarines.

SPORTS MINDED SEABEES of Iwo Jima adopted Japanese sport of "Kendo" pending arrival of their regular athletic gear but now the don't care if it never gets there.

The Jap equipment, two sets of body armor, two hoodlike helmets with face protecting cross bars and two long blunt-ended parrying poles, was found in the battalion's bivouac area after Fifth Division Marines had driven the enemy from the vicinity.

"We were able to learn the fundamentals of the sport from a Jap Field Manual which pictured the various positions," said CSp(A) Roy B. Childs of Altadena, Calif., "but since the explanations were in Japanese, we could not dope out the finer points of the game.

"Someone finally decided that the main idea was to 'whale the daylight' out of each other and that was all the boys needed to get interested in the game. A few minor casualties just added to the sport's popularity."

A "SEABEE GRILL" FOR CIVILIANS is announced for New Philadelphia, Ohio. Owner of the saloon is ex-CSF Arthur Ibsen, recently honorably discharged from the 112th Battalion.

NINE-TON AIR TRANSPORTS, to be produced in quantity for Pacific war, have begun to roll off production lines. Planes, identified as C-82 Packets, are being made for parachute invasions as well as air ambulances and as carriers for tanks, truck, jeeps, howitzers.

The C-82, planned as an island-hopper, will be able to operate from rough, unfinished fields. Its range is 4,000 miles; cruising speed, over 200 mph. It carries a five-man crew.

THE ONLY SEABEE ONE-MAN BAND, Everett Fleming, S1c, now has a regular weekly show at Fort Pierce, Florida. Fleming "broke in" his present act while on duty on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

20,000 SHIP'S BELLS were offered for sale by the U. S. Maritime Commission when it discovered it had that many more bells than it has ships. The bells are ten inches high, nine and three-quarter inches across at the bottom and five at the top, and have eight-inch sounding clappers.

LEMUEL B. GRIMES, MM2c
SEABEE OF THE WEEK

nalled a Jap with what was probably the strangest weapon of the Iwo Jima campaign. He used a power shovel.

The Texan was filling in shell holes on an airfield when a sniper's bullet missed him by inches, clipped a piece off the iron seat just behind him.

Grimes couldn't see the Jap but figured he might be in one of two caves to the side of the field. He turned his shovel around, lumbered toward the openings, and filled them with several tons of earth, burying the enemy sharp-shooter alive.

Then the Seabee went back to work.

"WELL DONE"

SPECIAL DRYDOCK WORK netted a commendation for an officer and nineteen enlisted men of the 47th Battalion. The group handled welding, burning and structural steel work under difficult conditions.

Named in the commendation were Ch. Carp, David K. Chenay, CEC, USNR; CSF James E. Brown; CSF Elden B. Deporter; Roy Anderson, GM1c; Charles B. Brooks, SF3c; Michael W. Collentine, SF1c; Roland T. Ezelle, Jr., SF2c; Ray E. Fontenot, Slc; Percy Gailey, CM3c; Wallace W. Henshaw, Jr., GM1c; Herbert D. Jackson, SF1c; L. C. Lady, SF2c; John F. McCarthy, CM3c; Gilbert Matthews, MM1c; William F. Miheve, CM1c; James M. Passmore, Jr., MoMM1c; Earl W. Rex, SF2c; Phillip J. Wise, SF2c; V. T. Beaver, WT2c; and M. N. Raymer, SF3c.

82ND BATTALION was commended by Rear Admiral Paul Hendren, USN, Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific Force, for a "standard of military bearing, conduct, efficiency, and morale... far above the average...."

ALL THE MEDALS for heroism don't come from the combat zones.

Chief Gunner's Mate Richard A. Rogge, working to recover a beached torpedo at Prudence Island, Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, plunged into cold, rough water to rescue a man who had fallen overboard. The drowning man, dressed in winter clothing fell from the deck of the diving tender and drifted away from the vessel. Rogge kept him afloat until a boat drew alongside to pull them from the water.

He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

FOR SHIPBOARD MACHINE SHOP AND ELECTRICAL work, nine 90th Battalion men were commended by the ship's engineering officer. He said the work done by CEM J. W. Norman; D. G. Miller, EM1c; G. T. Stepp, EM1c; R. H. Jones, EM1c; C. P. Watson, EM1c; W. L. Clark, EM1c; R. E. Rodgers, EM2c; J. L. Lonman, EM3c; and C. O. Butzien, MM1c, reflected "extra training and skill."

TO SPEED TREATMENT OF BATTLE CASUALTIES, Seabee machinists manufactured a dozen vitally-needed aspirator tips from salvaged .50 caliber cartridge cases and scrap tubing in answer to an emergency call from an Army General Hospital in the Marianas. In addition, the Seabees also fabricated the small perforated caps for the tips. The aspirators are used during operations to draw body fluids away from the affected open areas, thus speeding surgical work. Darwin F. Garner, M2c, of Erie, Penna. and Thomas J. Wonsers, SF2c, of Pitcairn, Penna., made the aspirator tips and Peyton H. Cooper, MM3c, of Danvers, Mass. and Joe W. Heinmiller, MM1c, of Kokomo, Ind., turned out the caps.

FOUR SEABEES OF A MARIANAS-BASED BATTALION who volunteered to work evenings after having completed their regular assignment and helped speed construction of additional hospital facilities for wounded Marines evacuated from Iwo Jima have received letters of commendations from Headquarters, "X" Station Hospital, endorsed by the battalion C1c.

The Seabees were: Ralph J. Weiss, EM1c, of Philadelphia, Penna.; Rutherford K. Clarke EM2c, Yonkers, N. Y.; Robert Warnock, EM2c, of Woodside, N. Y.; and Donald R. Schepper, Slc, of New York City.

THE COMMENDATION COLLECTION of a Pacific maintenance unit is exceeded only by its "students." The unit, in performing emergency welding for ship repair, construction of hospital barracks in an emergency, building of a mobile surgical unit and supervision of construction and mechanical installations, has earned 18 commendations up to April 30. It was because, Lt. Joseph E. Pecore, the C1c, reported, "men of this unit have performed their duties so effectively."

As for the students, more than one-half of the unit's personnel are taking some type of educational or training course in off-duty hours.

FORWARD AND REVERSE

GEAR weren't enough when, while clearing an air strip on Iwo Jima, his 'dozer

KNOCK IT OFF cracked through a seven-foot top layer and landed in the center of a subterranean tunnel, Ray J. Sredenschek, MM1c, admitted.

Still sitting in the seat, the Forest City, Penna., Seabee looked about in bewilderment. Branches of the tunnel ran off in every direction. All he had to do was shift into forward or reverse gear. But the gear he wanted was the one marked "up."

"I could picture snipers in every opening," he explained, "and I began to think I was already lined up in the sights of a Jap rifle. Brother, I got out of there in a hurry."

But not until two tractors and a crane came to his rescue and hauled his 22-ton vehicle free.

THIRTY TONS OF BLUBBER was Davy Jones' gift to the 140th when the sea washed up a dead whale on the beach near their quarters.

It's hot where the 140th is -- very hot-- and it soon became apparent there was not enough room for both the whale and the Seabees.

The Seabees very gladly would have given the island back to the whale and taken the next boat for the States, but higher authority said no, so the boys got out their bulldozers and hauled the carcass away.

MORE NIGHTMARE THAN LATHE was the machine the 23rd Battalion recovered from an abandoned ship, but Thomas R. Stoddard, MM1c, rebuilt it just the same.

A 35-year-old gap-bed type, of Russian manufacture, the lathe has left-handed gears which revolve backwards. Stoddard, who comes from Franklin, Tenn., put it in working order and installed it in the 23rd's workshops. But, he said, he couldn't guarantee its continued use. That depends upon the battalion's supply of left-handed machinists!

EP

TANKS ARE JUST LIKE BARBERS, figured Peter J. Roman, Cox, so when he was in a hurry to discharge a bargeful at Okinawa and couldn't find the Army drivers, he decided to take them off himself.

He disappeared into the top of one. A moment later it lurched down the barge ramp and zigzagged through the surf while amazed soldiers and sailors leaped out of its way. Roman barely missed the Army first aid station, finally brought the machine to a stop against a hill.

"This is easy for the Seabees!" he announced as he pulled himself out.

"Maybe so, but it sure is hell for the Army!" one of the dogfaces muttered as he dug himself out of the sand.

DUST FLEW from the seat of a Jap's pants when Arthur W. Murphy, CQM, spotted the Nip's posterior protruding from a cave on Iwo Jima.

"I don't know for sure if my shots hit him," Murphy said, "but I'll guarantee that if the Japs have mantles in their caves, that guy ate his next few meals off of it."

OKINAWA TOOTHACHE just four days after the initial landings drove a sufferer to his dentist, in this case, Lt. Joe R. Megna. The day was peaceful, but the man fought through the landings; reached a new high in nervousness as he approached Lt. Megna's "office" set up under a tree with a ration box for a chair and another box for instrument stand. The patient was relieved of tooth and pain.

Within a week, Lt. Megna moved into better quarters--this time a sand-bagged tent with a "real" dental chair built in a rear area and brought to the front.

THE 500 POUND BOMB that Hubert F. Narramore, MM1c, picked up in his clamshell on Iwo Jima might have blown him up to the Pearly Gates if he'd started snaking sooner.

Narramore was loading dump trucks, picked up a bucketfull with the power shovel and saw the bomb resting in its jaws. He knew he would have to ease it back to the ground but wasn't sure what would happen when the jaws slacked on the bomb.

Handling it like a basket of eggs, he grounded it and carefully slacked off the cables -- and then started snaking. A disposal squad calmed both Narramore and the bomb.

LONG SUFFERING YEOMEN who take a ribbing from the brawny boys have a champion in Frank W. Ward, Y2c. Ward, acting as a second in snipboard boxing matches, accepted a challenge from a member of a ship's crew transporting a battalion in the Pacific. He weighed in at 195 and the challenger hardly put a glove on him.

"Coming from a family of six brothers and being the youngest, I was usually flat for the count of nine," Ward grinned.

DODGER FANS manage to find the best view.

Two Brooklyn men, who played together as boys, met atop a Seabee crane, in the Marianas when each sought a vantage point to watch ceremonies marking completion of a large waterfront project. Frank Cazzalino, Sic, and Jonn W. Hard, Cox, hadn't seen each other in four years until they pulled this Ebbett's Field stunt to find the best spot in the park.

CARRY ON, MEN wasn't the word for it when Edwin T. McConnell, CQM, strolled in on six Japs squatting in a clearing in the Marianas, working on a newly-opened watermelon. Accustomed to seeing Japanese civilians working on roads, McConnell breezed in, made motions of wanting a slice of watermelon and was invited to help himself, and, with an appreciative gesture, walked away. Two days later a Marine patrol gathered the six Japs into the prisoner fold--they were isolated soldiers.

"Did I feel silly," the chief grinned sheepishly.

SOUVENIR HUNTING in the hills of Tinian, while Marine patrols were still rooting out the last of the enemy diehards, Francis H. Crist, 46-year-old SFlc, of Fairfax, Okla, spotted four silk stockings hanging just inside the opening of a cave. Envisioning the undying gratitude of his spouse when she received this prize, Crist, anxious but still cautious, reached in with a stick and managed to hook a pair. He poked again for the other set but they were gone. An unseen hand inside the dark cave had whisked them off the line. Crist made "tracks."

NEW ANGLE in wrangling furlough extensions was adroitly executed by Pfc Walter B. Sterling, jr., who wired his commanding officer at Camp Lee, Va., from Portland, Ore.:

"Spent furlough convincing her---request extension to marry her."

Replied the commander:

"What some guys won't do for an extension! Granted."

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME

James Weisner of BROOKLYN, N. Y. has had his truck stolen three times in the past month, and each time he has recovered it minus \$1600 worth of cigarets...that Lt. Hilton Thompson of BERNICE, LA. has been credited with the last kill chalked up by the 8th Army Air Force in Europe...that \$17,000 worth of bees escaped in a truck crash at MARIETTA, GA....that Alexander Goldman of BAYONNE, N. J. vowed he'd give \$10 to the first woman he saw on returning from 27 months in the Aleutians. She was 65...that Michael Donatell of TINTAH, MINN. may get \$4,399 damages for an egg some GI tossed in his eye....that Ignatz Chabich asked a judge in CHICAGO, ILL. to be lenient because he only hit a fellow worker with the "soft end of an iron pipe."

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS that a new \$300,000 ice-skating rink will be built in NEW YORK'S Central Park...that Hobo King Jeff Davis says women hoboes are bad for the "profession".... that the WASHINGTON, D. C. Board of Trade estimates \$200,000,000 will be spent repairing and modernizing DC homes when war ends...that a DENVER, COLO. pooch battled firemen for his personal hydrant until a fireman shooed him with a wrench....that a slick chick in JACKSONVILLE, FLA., cuddled with a sailor all the way to the police station and then turned him over to the cops for "molesting" her....that SCOTTSBLUFF, NEB. high schoolers bought war bonds after their teachers shined their shoes...that 10 inches of snow fell at Ruxton Park, COLO. on the 15th of May.

AND IT'S STILL NEWS that Pvt. Frank Costello of SPRINGFIELD, OHIO can't be assigned to camp for basic training until the Army finds him size 15 shoes....that Margaret A. Hajdo, T/5 of CADILLAC, MICH. was the first WAC to be discharged at Fort Sheridan. She had 56 points...and that Arthur J. Machek of MILWAUKEE, WIS. willed \$500 to a woman who had kissed him back in 1899.

SHOP TALK

FAST REPORTING: 135th's "Scuttlebuzz" got AP flash on end of German war at 1041; had "extra" out at 1108 and paper distributed to men on outlying projects by 1130. Let's hear from any Seabee newspaper which beat that time.

EASY WAYS TO GET EXTRA NEWS SPACE in your paper are to cut down on size of "staff" box and go easy on the lettering of display needs for regular features. For a mimeograph newspaper, hand-lettered headlines 3/8" high are easily big enough. Only important news events justify larger letters.

UNUSUAL STITCH BINDING, replacing wire staples, makes latest issue of 133rd's "Carry-all" stand out from other battalion papers. Binding looks better, makes paper easier to handle, and doesn't rip as easily. Get details from Editor H. H. Nagle, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco.

CAPITAL LETTERS ARE HARDER to read than lower case. Body copy set entirely in caps is rough on your readers' eyes. For the usual mimeographed job, upper and lower case typewriter type is better than straight vari-type capitals.

GRIPE OF THE WEEK is directed at the Seabee editor who fills an entire page of his four-page paper with a third-rate pin-up. Anyone in the battalion interested in accumulating leg art can get Hollywood's best by ripping it out of a magazine. Give your readers more news of what's happening in their battalion and in other Seabee units. That's the battalion paper's job.

ONE OF BEST SEABEE PAPERS of week was 118th's "Pillar News." Issue of May, 4th had good news coverage and entertaining feature departments. Managing Editor Charles Berlinrut, Y2c, made the most of his space, kept his writing at a professional level.

THE BULLPEN

PROSPECTS FOR ANY EARLY HEAVYWEIGHT championship bout with Joe Louis defending his title

were spiked this week by War Dept. spokesman who said there is no likelihood that either Louis, Billy Conn, the outstanding challenger or "any other specialist," would be released from the Army soon.

The spokesman said there are no plans for letting any specialist out of service unless he qualifies for release under the Army's point system. Although Louis has been in uniform a long time and has one child, he has no combat record. Absence of such a record would make it difficult for him to meet discharge requirements soon.

As long as Louis is in uniform he will not be able to defend his title since Army already has put its stamp of disapproval on men in service engaging in professional exhibitions for personal gain.

JUMPING THE CLUB is an old story in baseball. Mort Cooper's action in leaving Cardinals because of his salary dispute recalls the trouble the same club had with the Dean brothers. Dizzy and Paul jumped the Cards at least a half dozen times because of salary differences but each time were lured back by the "long green." But there were other players who threw up their big league salaries and easy living for other reasons. Strangest case was that of Cliff Bolton, Washington catcher. En route to the practice field in Florida, he halted the players' bus halfway to the park, got out without even saying good bye to his team mates, and a month later was discovered to be in the grocery business at High Point, N. C.

Five years ago, another Washington catcher, Mike Guerra, signed up just before the team left on a Western trip. He entrained with the club but between Washington and Baltimore came to a sudden decision...he wanted to go back to Cuba. He left the train at Baltimore; didn't return to the club until three years later.

Connie Mack's old third baseman, Joe Dugan, wasn't called "Jumping Joe" because of his play around the hot corner. It was just because he left the club and returned to Massachusetts every time he felt homesick. The Yankees finally bought him and gambled they'd make him happy. They didn't so Joe jumped the Yankees, too.

Then there was the case of Babe Phelps, the Dodgers' catcher. He quit a \$10,000-a-year job with the team to go back to Prince George's County, Md., and work on the railroad, selling tickets. Why? Who knows?

DISA AND DATA...Comdr. Gene Tunney, who has been special adviser to the Chief of BUPERS for physical training, has returned to inactive duty. The former heavyweight champion rates Middleweight Georgie Abrams of the Navy as the best boxer in the armed services and labels him a "second Benny Leonard".... Ice hockey a possibility for deep South as work gets under way on million-dollar Atlanta (Ga.) sports arena, complete with hockey rink.