

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

REPORTS INDICATE SEABEES AT BOUGAINVILLE

"Under perhaps the worst conditions American troops have encountered," according to a description wired by Frank Tremaine, front-line U.P. correspondent with Allied forces on Bougainville, "...construction battalions labor unceasingly to keep traffic moving through the jungle."

Tremaine's story, dated November 12, continues, "There is no road parallel to the shore, so traffic ploughs along the beach with two wheels in the water until a vehicle gets stuck fording an inlet. Then other vehicles pull it out with winches."

The construction battalions are operating in jungle so thick that the Marines do not dare to use mortars or grenades because they can't loft them out of their own territory.

Rain falls almost continuously and the ground is a spongy mess where it isn't churned into a quagmire by trucks and jeeps.

The hardships the Seabees are overcoming in carrying out their assignment can be judged in the light of the reports of Marine veterans of the initial Solomon Islands landings in August 1942, who say that fighting and living conditions are worse than Guadalcanal.

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COMMANDER GESSNER AND 64th COMMENDED BY GENERAL

The pile driving detachment of the 64th Seabee battalion was on schedule. They thought they had a day and a half of driving to do and everything was under control. Suddenly the sharp shrill of the telephone bells pierced the heavy deep thump of the driver.

"This is Commander Gessner," the voice said to Chief Paul Thompson, "I've promised the Army they can have your pile driver at 0700 tomorrow. Can you finish by then?"

Thompson's only comment was, "Aye, Aye, Sir."

Lights were rigged and despite a 32 knot wind that played tricks with the hanging timbers, the men worked steadily and tirelessly through the night. At 0530 the job was completed, with an hour and a half to spare in redeeming the commander's promise.

For this typical example of Seabee cooperation and willingness to help regardless of conditions, the 64th Battalion and its commanding officer, Comdr. Edward H. Gessner, CEC, USNR, have been commended by Major General John B. Brooks of the U. S. Army.

The job was undertaken after the Seabees were notified by the army that their pile driving equipment had broken down and halted operations at a very

critical time during the completion of high priority construction. Commander Gessner immediately offered the use of the Seabees' own equipment.

"Such co-operation and assistance by the U. S. Navy to the Army is important to the war effort and sets a high standard which, if followed, is an immeasurable help in the furtherance of the war effort," General Brooks' letter of commendation noted.

Members of the double shift crew were: Toxie Polk CCM, R. L. Ellis, CM2c, R. R. Greening, Slc, V. J. Gargulak, Slc, R. F. Harmon, Slc, L. G. Walker, CM2c, F. M. McGowan, CMLc, R. C. Moore, CM3c and M. J. Di-Trapani, EMLc.

General Brooks' letter also noted "... (the) fabrication (of) the necessary repair parts for the Army equipment. This work was done so efficiently and rapidly that the spare equipment and repair parts were available the next day... (and) enabled the resumption of critical construction forces".

This was in reference to four twelve inch piston rings manufactured by H. J. Yeates, MMLc and L. C. Cordes, MM2c which was a routine machine shop job, although the emergency made more than normal speed necessary. Although the Seabees had the original catalogue dimensions on the size of the rings, they had to take into consideration that the Army machine had seen considerable service and wear.

Yeates said the following morning, "Thank goodness our guess was right. The rings fitted."

In a forwarding letter to the commendation Commander Victor W. Buhr, CEC, USNR wrote in part:

"This officer's action in making this vital item of equipment available to the Army engineers..... is typical of the "Can and Will Do" spirit that prevails in the 64th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion."

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JEEP FOR AN EGG

An army unit at Guadalcanal had an extra jeep, and Lieutenant Commander William W. Davis, CEC, USNR had an extra hen's egg. It was a deal. The Seabee commander drove off in the jeep, and the army commander dined on a fried egg.

"I figure I got the best of the bargain," said Lieutenant Commander Davis, "but the army officer thinks it was the other way because you can't eat a jeep."

The Seabee commander said the Fighting Builders had "sweet talked" the steward of a supply ship out of 60 dozen eggs, which were portioned out to the entire battalion, and 25 tons -- that's right, tons -- of oranges. "Each man had better than a crate," grinned Davis, "and they swapped them with the marines for fresh vegetables. We did all right".

As a further supplement to regular rations, the Seabees "sweet talked"

the Marines out of a bread mixing machine, according to Davis, and fresh bread was added to the menu.

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JAPS BEWARE!

According to competent observers, Seabee William E. "Tiny" Taylor, 6 foot 3½ inch, 248 pound giant is one of the best heavyweight boxers ever to enter the annual Army-Navy-Marine boxing tournament held at the Canal Zone.

The 20-year-old "Fighter-Builder" has five straight wins to his credit, defeating the best the Army and Marines could send into the ring, and has never been knocked off the size 15s that support him. In his last bout, "Tiny" battered a Marine to the canvas seven times for nine counts before winning.

Prior to his enlistment in June of this year, Taylor was Golden Gloves champ in Charlotte, North Carolina and a member of the Atlanta Journal Boxing team.

"Tiny", odds-on choice to win the title, feels "it would be great sport to tangle with 8 or 9 Japs in a rough and tumble fight."

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SEABEES IGNORE ENEMY AIRMEN

Subjected to 63 air raids and air raid alerts lasting 55 hours since their arrival in mid-May, Navy Seabees on a South Pacific island, point with pride to the fact that they have only lost 5 man hours during that period.

Typical of the disdain in which the Seabees hold the enemy airmen is one week's record of no work hours lost during eleven air raid alerts lasting 12 hours and 20 minutes..

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"YANK" PAYS TRIBUTE TO SEABEES

The No. 1 feature in the October 29th issue of "Yank" is an article by Sgt. Dave Richardson, entitled "Bulldozing Busy Bodies", which pays tribute to the "U. S. Navy's crack Construction Regiment" that set a record for speed in air strip construction by building a runway on Woodlark Island within 13 and one-half days of landing with the first wave of an occupation force.

The article is accompanied by a full page of pictures showing Seabees in action.

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SEABEE RESCUES MATE FROM DROWNING

Kenneth L. Enos, CMLc of the 49th Battalion, earned the commendation of his commanding officer, Commander Marshall D. Barnett, CEC, USNR and the plaudits of his mates for disregarding his own safety to rescue a fellow Seabee from drowning.

Waiting for a liberty boat, Enos saw the Seabee fall off the dock, strike his head a sharp, glancing blow against a boat moored alongside, and disappear into the water. Despite the fact a number of Marines, sailors and Seabees were on the dock at the time, Enos, clad in dress blues, immediately dived into the water.

After considerable searching Enos located the unconscious man under the stern of the boat which he had struck in his fall, and after several dives from the water surface succeeded in bringing him up. Both men were hauled onto the pier by the anxious onlookers.

Soaked and exhausted by his exertions, Enos insisted on helping administer artificial respiration to the man he had rescued until the arrival of an ambulance.

Commander Barnett's commendation noted: "It is with much pride that we know we have men in our midst who will disregard their own safety in an emergency".

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One of the first construction projects one battalion had upon landing on "Island X" was the building of an addition to the Station Brig. Before the month was over, recalcitrants of the complement had spent 61 man-days "inside-looking out".

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SEABEE FIXES "WHACHAMACALLIT"

The fact that he didn't know the name of the instrument, had never seen one before, and couldn't pronounce its name, didn't prevent Solomon T. Blum EM3c, of CBMU 516, from repairing it.

The device, an otoscope, is used to examine the inner reaches of the ear and had been discarded by the medical officer as useless.

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CBMU EXPECTS WORST--FINDS BEST

Steeling themselves to expect the worst, CBMU 516 disembarked at a South Atlantic island to find what amounted to the motion-picture's pre-war version of "south sea island paradise".

Excellent quarters--new two-storied barracks serving the dual purpose of housing and hurricane shelters--semi-tropical weather, considerate liberty

schedule, opportunities for the men to do the work for which they enlisted and numerous recreational facilities were among the surprises that did much to absorb the shock of being suddenly transplanted to a strange country.

Recreation ranged from deep-sea fishing to mountain outings, soft-ball, basketball, movies and the usual entertainment provided on a base already established.

John Robertson, CMLc and R. D. Kohler, SF2c, disdained the modernity of fishing tackle and fashioned harpoons, landing a total of 624 pounds of shark in three catches and a giant 75 pound ray.

Although the unit believes its exploits are hardly comparable to those of other Seabee battalions, its achievements were performed with typical Seabee efficiency and in so much rain that "wags" amongst the personnel suggested taking soundings to determine where the island ended and the sea began.

Comforts of the base were lessened only by the presence of ravenous little flying sand fleas called, among other things, "meemies". Obviously hungry and without white meat for months, the "meemies" caused considerable loss of sleep. Another source of discomfort are the island mosquitoes--small enough to enter through the small mesh screens on the barracks windows.

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TEMPUS FUGIT-WITH AID OF PIN

Charlie L. Zacek, S1c with the 56th Battalion, a former watch-repairman from Texas, doesn't let the lack of proper watch replacement parts worry him.

When a shipmate's watch broke down for want of a jewel, Charlie snipped the head off an ordinary straight pin, dressed it down and set it in place.

The owner reports that the watch is keeping as good time as it did when new.

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SEABEES MAKE GRAND SLAM SOLVING BRIDGE PROBLEM

Faced with the problem of installing a 20-ton overhead bridge crane in a fully-operating power plant without damaging the expensive and critical equipment already installed, a crew of Seabees of the 56th Battalion under the direction of Carp. James R. Harris, displayed typical Seabee ingenuity to overcome the numerous difficulties which confronted them.

The span of the crane was equal to the full width of the engine room and had a gross weight of sixteen tons, the largest piece of which weighed six tons. Clearance above the rails on which the bridge crane had to be erected was not sufficient to permit the rigging of a derrick or gin-pole nor was there enough floor space to jack up the bridge into position since the entire floor area, except for a narrow passageway, was taken up by the huge generators switching gear and other equipment.

After numerous suggestions and careful consideration, it was decided to bring the battalion motor crane up to the main door of the plant with the boom in a horizontal position. The boom was elevated and it was discovered that there was not enough overhead clearance to permit the mounting of the bridge crane beams in place by the conventional method of suspending the beams from the end of the boom with slings.

Undaunted, the Seabees blocked up the beams on the floor, dropped the motor crane boom under the beams and by delicate and precarious balancing boosted the beams into place one at a time.

After the beams had been placed, the carriage for the crane was moved to the center of the floor, temporary hangers fastened to it, and bolted to the end of the motor crane boom. Then the boom was raised with the carriage secured to it and the latter was lowered exactly in place.

Considering the conditions under which the job was done, the speed with which the work was accomplished was almost unbelievable. After the plan had been devised and the equipment assembled, the bridge crane was completely erected in approximately 8 hours working time.

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SEABEE FATHER WELCOMES MARINE SON TO "ISLAND X"

When Chief Boatswain's Mate H. T. Sherlock was in training at Camp Peary, his son was with the Marines across the continent at San Diego. The senior member of the fighting Sherlocks headed westward for embarkation looking forward to a visit with his youngster. When he found that Sherlock Jr. was en route to Norfolk at the same time, it looked like the meeting would have to be postponed until after the war.

Soon after, the young Marine landed at what appeared to him to be just about the smallest dot on the map anyone could find.

Looking forward to action, he stepped ashore to be greeted by his old Seabee pappy, Sherlock, Sr., who had previously landed with a Construction Battalion.

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SEABEES WASH IN G. I. CAN

The worrisome Seabee problem of how to do their washing with the least amount of effort challenged the inventive natures of Don Litrell, Mlc, J. F. Glass, SF3c and T. H. Sontag, SF1c of the 56th Battalion stationed "somewhere on Island X".

After scouring the junk piles, the embryo Edisons salvaged 1 G. I. can; 1 refrigerator belt; 1 truck tie-rod; 1 worn-out concrete vibrator motor; and an old washer agitator.

Mixing well before using, the intrepid Seabees came up with something that may not resemble a washing machine but, according to reports from the battalion, does a fine job--and that's all that counts, chorus the proud inventors.

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CBMU 516 is proud of the versatility of its crew.

When a freighter pulled in for unloading, the captain complained about the workings of a generator--one which had defied permanent repairs in the States for months. Harry M. Thompson CEM and Henry Itzkow, EM2c, went below to examine the faulty dynamo.

Within eight hours they had realigned the brush assembly, fitted new brushes and dressed down the commutator to place the generator in first class condition..

Meantime, the unit's stevedores had started to unload the cargo and removed 1,600 tons in 40 hours.

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SEABEE'S QUICK ACTION PREVENTS HUGE FIRE

William C. Tolliver, Flc of the 55th Battalion, reached up, grabbed a hand extinguisher thrown to him, and quickly smothered licking flames that threatened to burst into a blazing inferno, thereby averting the destruction of two P.T. boats, a steel barge laden with high octane gas, a launch and the lives of the Seabee refueling crew.

The fire was caused when an unknow person, not amember of the crew, dropped an ignited match in the gasoline.

For his heroic deed, Tolliver earned the commendation of his company commander, Lt. John N. Spaulding, CEC, USNR for "...his quick thinking and quick action...(which has) added to the traditions of the Seabees."

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35TH DOES FINE JOB DESPITE JAPS, WILD CATTLE, ETC.

Numerous Jap air raids and alerts, wild cattle and a hundred-and-one other troubles did not prevent the 35th Construction Battalion from hacking an air field out of tangled jungle in twenty-one days and, according to Chief Machinist Mate Kenneth L. Jordan of Portland, Me., doing "one damn fine job".

Jordan, who has just returned to the United States for reassignment after several months duty overseas, recalled some of the obstacles his battalion was forced to overcome before completing its task.

"Besides the job of clearing miles of underbrush and palms to prepare the site, we had everything from Jap air raids to wild cattle", the chief said.

"Our first raid came the day after we landed on "Island X". I was standing out in the middle of the field watching the bulldozers knock down palms when I heard the planes. At first I didn't pay any attention to them but when one of them skimmed the tops of the palms, I looked up. I didn't look too long but I could see the buck-toothed Nip gunner grinning as he strafed the field. Then I saw the bombs leave the wing-racks, so I left".

Jordan described another incident in which an unnamed Seabee, disregarding the consequences, drove his heavy roller over the side of the partially completed strip to permit a crippled fighter plane to make a landing.

"It was the first plane to land on the strip--and darn near the last, too. The landing gear was all shot up and the pilot had to make a belly landing. After he skidded to a stop, they found an unexploded 2000 pound bomb in the bomb-rack. If that boy had left the roller out on the strip, the plane most certainly would have crashed into it and that bomb would have blown strip--and everything else--to bits", Jordan said.

The chief then went on to tell how huge herds of wild cattle, imported by the plantation owners to keep the cocoanut groves free from vegetation, were a constant source of discomfort to the Seabees.

"They would graze alongside the tents and kept the men awake half the night with their lowing. Finally one of the more enterprising Seabees decided to take matters into his own hands. He put up a barbed wire fence around his tent and, from that day on, he was the only one that wasn't bothered by the cattle. He was so proud of himself and his accomplishments that he laid out a grass lawn and christened the area 'Shady Acres'."

Most of the men amused themselves in their spare time by making knives and other trinkets from odd strips of metal. Others raised flocks of chickens and ducks. There was one Seabee who had a bleating goat "no bigger than a fiar-sized wire-haired terrier".

Jordan, who volunteered because he "couldn't see myself sitting around making lots of money while all of my friends were making sacrifices by going into the services", formerly worked for the Murray Machinery Co., of Ellsworth, Me.

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HUNGRY JAP RECEIVES SEABEE "HASH MARKS"

When the 26 Battalion took over "Island X", Chief Charles E. Keilig relates how a few Japs left behind were starving and at night would rove around in small bands attempting to steal food.

The pay-off came when a Nip went through the Seabee chow line at noon, using a stolen pair of overalls and a helmet as camouflage.

The bowlegged bandit, his tray licked clean, then got back on line for "honorable 'seconds' please?"

This time the Seabee hash slingers spotted their man and Two-time Tojo quickly found himself the irate cooks' "target for tonight".

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TORCH SONG

A man-sized welding job was handled by 64th Battalion's machine shop when the Seabees went to work on a pile driver piston which had split in half.

The piston was made of tool steel, 18" in diameter, 36" in length, and weighed 800 lbs. Welders worked continuously for 106 hours, used 300 lbs. of welding rod.

The actual welding was completed in four days and nights and another day in the furnace was sufficient for gradual cooling of the piston.

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BULLDOZER TURNS TANK: JAPS IN PILLBOX BURIED ALIVE

Attacking a Japanese machine gun nest with a bulldozer, an unidentified American single-handedly wiped out the pillbox and its crew during recent Allied landings on the Treasury Islands.

A New Zealand officer, whose men were held off shore by strong machine-gun fire, was an eyewitness as the giant bulldozer lumbered off a landing craft.

"The light of battle came into the American's eye," Associated Press quotes the New Zealand officer. "With blade uplifted as a shield he barged through the undergrowth and then as he reached the enemy pillbox he dropped the blade, scooping up earth on the Japs, burying them.

"Halfway over the hole he swerved his improvised tank around and then pulled away leaving a flat smooth area and no trace of the Japs or the Machine guns."

No report has come in on the unit to which the American was attached. But where there's a Seabee there's usually a bulldozer. And where there's a bulldozer there's usually a Seabee in the driver's seat.

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SEABEE STAGES BATTLEFIELD RESCUE

How an unidentified Seabee risked his life to save a wounded soldier is told by Cpl. Jack L. Crosatt of Forth Worth, Texas, in a V-mail letter to his parents.

Crosatt was seriously wounded by shrapnel, presumably in the Sicilian invasion, and while lying helpless, was also shot through the leg by a sniper.

"After ten minutes," Crosatt writes, "a German first aid man came up and fixed my right arm. He didn't have anything to fix my left leg so he went back to get something -- but he didn't make it back. Later on a Seabee found me. He carried me back and put me on the boat, and then took me to the hospital."

The Seabee apparently didn't even leave his name. It was all in his day's work.

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TUNNEY, HEENEY, SPAR FOR SEABEES

Bringing back vivid memories of the days when they traded punches more than a decade ago, Lt. Comdr. Gene Tunney, USNR, and Carpenter's Mate 1c Tom Heeney of the Seabees climbed through the ropes of a ring pitched in a clearing in a South Pacific jungle recently, to box for the pleasure of service men, many of whom had seen them when the heavyweight crown and a fabulous purse awaited the winner.

The sea-going student of Shakespeare and the iron man from down under, although both a good bit heavier than they were when two continents gathered around their radios to hear blow-by-blow descriptions of their encounters, put on a show that had the Seabees and other Army and Navy men up on their feet and cheering.

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"SPARKS" SPONSORS THREE-WAY HOOK-UP

Seabee Keith Blackwell, Radioman, 3rd Class, of Lebanon, Indiana, now stationed somewhere in the South Pacific, is the father of triplets, two boys and a girl.

Under the "Breaks for Blackwell" department, put this, Keith: the new dependency allotment scale will entitle your family to an additional \$70 per month.

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SOUTH SEA SIREN AIDS SEABEE 'INVASION'

Plowing triumphantly out of the surf astride the Amazonian shoulders of a dark-hued native beauty, Benny Floyd, CMLc, ex-lightweight fighter, 322 South Riverside Avenue, Medford, Oregon, hit the beach of a Caribbean island in an 'invasion' unique in military history, according to Lawrence J. Holter, CM, who participated in the Baron Munchausen landing.

"Floyd and I were with a detachment of Seabees on a special mission," relates Holter.

"When we reached the island, we found we had to wade through half a mile of waist deep water to reach shore. I began the trek shoreward, holding my rifle and pack over my head to keep them dry.

"As soon as I reached the beach I looked around and there, coming in right behind me, was Benny. He was happily astride the shoulders of a native gal, about six feet four, plenty dark, and with a smile as wide as the Potomac River.

"Having waded out to the landing boat to see if she could be of any help, she backed up right along side of Floyd and motioned him to climb aboard.

"So Benny hopped on, complete with rifle, steel helmet, and full pack!"

Seabee resourcefulness is traditional, but Benny Floyd's mates will have to go some to top his improvised invasion craft!

SEABEES LEAD AFRICAN NINE TO TITLE

The Arzew All-Stars, comprised mostly of members of a Naval Construction Battalion stationed in Northwest Africa, won the Algerian-American League championship by shutting out the Arcole Quartermaster All-Stars, 7 to 0 and 3 to 0 in a doubleheader played at the Navy Seabee baseball park at Arzew, Africa.

The Arzew nine won the right to compete for the title by winning a two-out-of-three game series from Cpl. Zeke Bonura's Army All-Stars, the cream of twenty crack army teams. After the series, Bonura, former major-league infield star who is known as the "Judge Landis" of North African baseball, stated that not only did the Seabees play big-league ball but that the Seabee-constructed diamond was the best in Africa.

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THE SAD TALE OF A MONK

This is about the trials and tribulations of Cobo ... and thereby hangs a tale.

Cobo is the pet monkey of a Seabee platoon stationed somewhere in the South Atlantic and, according to the "Caribbean", the battalion's publication, his deportment has always been perfect -- until he learned, through some dark and devious manner, to enter the platoon barracks.

That's when the trouble started. Cobo, after having endeared himself to all sundry by his friendly mannerisms, has gone too far. Once rated as EF1c (everybody's friend first class) he has been busted down to GNNC (general nuisance no class) and is in danger of going on report. Furthermore, it has become necessary, for Cobo's own safety, that he be placed in the protective custody of the brig. Several of his victims are pledged to cause the monk a speedy and unpleasant end.

Formerly, the boys got a big kick out of watching Cobo drink cokes, but when he playfully started to drop the empties on the unprotected and unsuspecting skulls of his "masters", that was a little too much. That wasn't all he did, either. He took an unholy delight in spilling iodine on clean bedding, upsetting articles, walking over clean "whites" and upsetting buckets of wash. Fortunately, Cobo always beat a speedy retreat after committing his crimes or he might have become the victim of some irate mate.

There is, however, a better side to Cobo's dual nature. He is a violent anti-tobacconist. When handed a cigarette he rips it to bits and throws it away. This probably traces back to the time one of the men handed him a lighted cigar. After puzzling over it for several minutes and burning himself in various unmentionable places, he proved his aversion to the "evil weed" by dropping it like a "hot potato".

Cobo has one vice (so far) -- he literally begs to be seized by the tail and flung through the air to any nearby landing where he makes perfect "three-point" landings by grabbing with hands and tail. Sometimes, when aimed at a tree, Cobo reverses the procedure and comes in with a perfect "one-point" landing. The only trouble in playing this game with Cobo is that the tossee usually tires himself out before Cobo is ready to quit.

Cobo's diet is a little on the incredible side. He has given up the traditional monkey fare of coconuts, bananas, etc., and substituted a diet of shaving cream. The latter, when thoroughly mixed with shaving lotion and talcum is a gourmet's delight -- according to Cobo.

Cobo is the last of his species in the camp. Originally there were four, but three of them made the mistake of climbing too high and tangling with some high-tension wires. Cobo remained as the lone and unlamenting survivor.

A note from the editor of the "Caribbean" states that a female monk has been imported for Cobo to play with. And, according to Editor F.S. Crehan, Cox., "how he plays".

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ARMY C.O. LAUDS 9th and 28th

Major General W. S. Key, commanding officer of the theatre of operations to which they were assigned, has warm words of praise for the part the 9th and 28th Seabee battalions played in rushing a vital air field project to completion.

General Key described the Seabee effort as "outstanding performance of vital mission requiring the maximum in leadership, teamwork, individual skill and devotion to duty".

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"CAN" "WHAM!"

Mates Edwin F. Kochinski, CBM, and W. R. Harwood, GMLc, stationed in the Aleutians, decided between themselves that the stick loading method of getting blasting powder into a hole took just about six times too long.

According to a report from E. D. Nease, Pho.Mlc, the two men scavenged the nearest scrap heap for parts for their "better mousetrap". A pot ... a pipe ... a compressor ... and, lo! the "Flodyn". That's what Kochinski and Harwood call the new gadget. It reduces time needed for the job by no less than 85%.

The "Flodyn" consists of a pot for the powder with a hose on one end connecting it to a compressor and a pipe on the other end feeding into a hole. The powder is loaded into the pot and the compressor does the work.

The two resourceful Seabees have also rigged up a jack-hammer slide which saves about 1/3 the time required for drilling powder holes and does away almost completely with body jar of the hammer.

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SEABEES HIT FOXHOLES -- FOXHOLES RETALIATE!

One of the first tasks assigned to a battalion of Navy Seabees, landing on the island of Vella LaVella, was the construction of foxholes to protect the personnel against enemy air bombings.

But according to Ensign Porter Lee, CEC, USNR, who has just returned from

the Pacific, some provision should have been made to protect the men from the foxholes.

Medical facilities were strained after a Jap raid, when 135 men reported to sick-bay for treatment of injuries -- suffered while diving into foxholes.

Incidentally, the Jap bombs fell harmlessly into the bay.

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SEABEE AVERTS WATER SHORTAGE

The story of an unidentified Seabee machinist mate of the Second Battalion who averted a water shortage on a South Pacific island by melting down old motor parts and making a pattern for the necessary replacement, was told by Frederick LaTour, PhOM2c of Pasadena, Calif., recently returned for assignment to sea-duty.

"We had one fellow who was really a machinist," LaTour said, "He melted down this metal and junk and made a pattern for the piston. I don't know a great deal about it but I do know that they just had to have this part for one of our water distillers, and without it, why we just had to do without water.

"As it was," LaTour continued, "we went about six weeks without water other than what we had in our tanks. We were allowed a canteen a day."

LaTour feels that he can rightfully claim the title of champion Seabee jack-of-all-trades, having worked at 17 different trades -- "everything from digging heads and cleaning underbrush to driving bulldozers, deep sea diving, logging --"

He narrowly escaped serious injury or even death, while engaged in diving operations. Working 30 feet below the surface, planting dynamite to blast huge coral reefs, a thin manila line was his only connection with those on the tender.

Suddenly he felt two rapid tugs on the line -- the Danger signal. LaTour discarded his helmet and swam swiftly underwater to the side of the boat. His mates pulled him aboard and pointing toward the spot where he had been, showed him two large sharks cavorting in the waters.

"The sharks were attracted by the bubbles from my helmet and if I had come up with my helmet they would have followed the bubbles and eventually got me." LaTour related, "They kept playing around with the bubbles, they tickle them or something."

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SHORT SPORT SPOTS

Notre Dame continued its triumphant march to mythical collegiate crown by defeating Navy 33-6 and Army 26-0 for sixth and seventh victories ... Navy rebounded from Irish defeat to crush undefeated, once-tied Pennsylvania 24-7 ... Army held to 13-13 tie by Pennsylvania week previously was no match for Fighting Irish ... Southern California, undefeated, untied, unscored upon in 6 games upset by San Diego Naval Training eleven 10-7 ... Iowa's Seahawks

keep record unsullied winning 46-19 over Marquette for seventh victory ... Purdue remained undefeated in eight straight games by upsetting Minnesota ... Washington Redskins, Eastern Division leaders, after trouncing Brooklyn Dodgers 48-10 held to 14-14 tie by surprising Phila-Pitts Steagles ... 'Skins record now 4 wins, 1 tie ... Chicago Bears virtually assured of Western Division title by blasting Detroit Lions 35 to 14 and Green Bay Packers 21-7 ... Bears now have 6 wins 1 tie ... Don Hutson broke five league records as the Packers blasted the New York Giants 35 to 21 the week previously ... Detroit Lions and Giants play scoreless tie ... Brooklyn Dodgers after dropping six games score first victory, defeating Chicago Cardinals 7 to 0 ... Loss was Cards' seventh without win ... Slingin' Sammy Baugh sets new league records in Brooklyn game, tossing six touchdown passes and gaining 376 yards by passing ... Andy Farkas, tallying two touchdowns in same game, set new all-time record for most points scored by one man during career ... ProHockey in 3rd week ... league as whole weaker than usual ... Toronto leads league with 3 wins, 1 tie, 1 loss ... Rangers have dropped all 5 games ... Angelo Bertelli, star Irish quarterback wound up football career in Navy game by tossing three touchdown passes, scoring once on quarterback sneak and kicking 3 points after touchdown; now with Marines at Parris Island ... Tami Mauriello, N.Y. scored second victory over Lee Savold of St. Paul, Minn., in 10 rounder ... Dixie Walker becomes first Dodger to sign 1944 contract, squelching story he hated by Manager Leo Durocher ... Chubby Dean, Cleveland Indian's southpaw inducted into Army ... Walker Cooper, Cardinal's star catcher, passed Army physical ... Spud Chandler, Yankees' mound star and voted the American League's most valuable player, re-classified 1-A ... Major Leagues draft only 15 players at annual meeting at Chicago ... N.Y. Giants' franchise reportedly for sale ... Joe Gordon claims he was misquoted, will not retire from baseball ... Stan Musial, Cardinal right fielder voted National League most valuable player award ... Mickey Witek, Giants' second baseman, inducted into Coast Guard ... Hiram Bithorn, Chicago Cub right-hander who won 17 games last season, inducted by Army, will transfer to Navy ... Pittsburgh Pirates' Rip Sewell, 20-game winner last season, rejected for military service ... Yankees' Ken Sears, second-string catcher, sworn into Navy.

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CBMU 516 FIND LOTS OF "TIME ON MY HANDS"

With the intention of "building up" the morale of CBMU 516, the welfare unit, before embarking for a south Atlantic island, carefully stowed away a phonograph and 125 records.

Upon arriving at the island, the welfare unit proudly unpacked the records and, much to their embarrassment, found there was only seven different selections.

Among the platters were 50 recordings of "Time on My Hands" and 25 copies of "No Letter Today".

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