

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

FOR SEABEE
EDITORS...

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15 June, 1945

IN BRIEF

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WASHINGTON REPORTS

ic, the Advanced Base Section of BuDocks has announced.

Demands for hard-surfaced roads and airfields are increasing. As new bases probe north toward Japan, coral is either unavailable for surfacing or no longer meets airfield specifications. Earth-moving equipment that met demands in low-lying coral atolls cannot handle the increased excavating and grading problems.

New shovels of 2½-cubic yard capacity and end dump Euclids of 10-yard capacity are among six items of larger and improved equipment listed by the Advance Base Section. Only a few 2½-yard shovels are now in use in the field.

Other items are:

A rock crusher with a normal capacity of 200 tons per hour (graded to 2½-inch maximum rock size.) Usual size now in operation does 50 to 60 tons per hour.

Heavy duty asphalt plant for producing 100 to 200 tons per hour of bituminous concrete mixture.

Bituminous surfacing equipment with a production rate of 5,000 square yards of single course pavement per day. The surfacing equipment is a new item in the field, although several units, including CBMU 525, have improvised parts of similar surfacing plants.

Also available in limited number are new 600-kw Diesel-driven generators--double the size of plants now on component lists. New plant is designed for use only on larger bases where heavy demand for power exists.

YOU CAN GET THE STRAIGHT DOPE on enlisted men's problems without red tape and direct from Washington through a new official radio program. It's called "The Navy Reporter," and

broadcast weekly over short wave beams of the Armed Forces Radio Service.

An enlisted man will represent you. He'll go through the questions you send in from overseas, select those of greatest interest to the greatest number of men, and ask top-ranking officers and government officials to answer them personally on the air so you can hear them yourself.

"Your boy" will be George T. Wendell, MoMM1c, USNR, one-time Seabee, reputed to be war's "fox-holiest" sailor." You'll probably remember him as George "Red" Wendelken, who was wounded on Guadalcanal. His name's been shortened for radio but he's the same guy.

"Red" interviewed SecNav James Forrestal on the first program. Next will be Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs, Chief of Naval Personnel, who'll discuss redeployment, demobilization, release and discharge. General A. A. Vandegrift, Marine Commandant, and Comdr. Jack Dempsey of the Coast Guard will appear on later programs.

The way to get your particular question or problem aired is to write directly to "The Navy Reporter," Armed Forces' Radio, Los Angeles, California, and then listen in for a discussion by a top-flight authority who'll give you the true answer.

BELL BOTTOMS are flapping in the winds of the strongest controversy they have occasioned in years. The enlisted man's garb is being hung out on a line that has reached from the man on the street to the floor of the United States Senate.

Chronologically:

A proposal for a change of uniform, complete with drawings of a battle-jacket type suit, appeared in "The Pelican," newspaper of the New Orleans Naval Repair Base.

"Yank," through its Navy editor, Donald

Nugent, Slc, took up the matter; drew some 6,000 letters, heavy with approbation.

"Life" asked Nugent to state the case. Nugent wrote:

"Ninety per cent of the 6,000 letters I have received about Navy uniforms plead that something--anything--be done to free sailors of the discomfort and indignity of having to wear a little boy's suit. The men say there is not enough pocket space in the uniform. They have to carry cigarets in the socks, a wallet hung over the pants top and a handkerchief on the shoulders.

"It is bad," said Nugent, "for a man's morale to be so embarrassed by wearing the uniform of his service.

"Many reservists say they would like to stay in the Navy if it weren't for the uniform. Even Army men say they would transfer to the Navy if it weren't for those 'Buster Brown' suits a sailor has to wear."

Then in stepped Senator William Langer, of North Dakota, whose Senate Bill 1082 would "provide for changing the design of the uniform of enlisted personnel of the Navy and Coast Guard." The eight-line proposed measure would "prescribe by regulation a suitable uniform to be worn by enlisted men of the Navy and Coast Guard, including their respective reserve components, which shall conform in basic design to the uniform worn by commissioned and warrant officers of the Navy and Coast Guard."

Editorially, the "St. Louis Globe Democrat" said:

"At long and belated last, it seems, enlisted personnel of the United States Navy may get relief from their outmoded uniform.

"The special Navy Board considering the new clothing issue says material won't be available until after Japan is whipped.

"But if it could be managed sooner, we predict a brand-new warship morale for Uncle Sam.

"To the bilge with the old duds, but pronto! What this Navy needs is not more pocket battleships, just more pockets."

Said the Associated Press:

"The Navy gave its enlisted men yesterday another good reason for whipping the Japanese soon. Come V-J day, those bell bottoms may go out of style. The pants won't be too tight you-know-where and there might even be a decent pocket or two.

"Restyling the tars' get-up now is under consideration by a special Navy Board, but the pinch is that material is likely to be short as long as the war goes on.

"So it's let him climb the riggin' like his daddy used to do, until then," says the AP.

NEW SMALL BUSINESSES FOR GI'S cannot be the only answer to servicemen's post-war employment problems, Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace warned. He said there would be room for veterans to start only 500,000 to 700,000 new small business enterprises.

YOUR FIANCEE OVERSEAS may be permitted to enter the United States sooner than you hoped, as the result of a new speed-up program announced by the U. S. immigration and naturalization service.

Australian, New Zealand and Greek girls will be allowed to enter the United States on visitor visas if they are approved by State Department consuls. Visas may be granted applicants providing they may expect transportation within a "reasonable time," are free from disease or moral defects, can produce birth documents, can demonstrate definite intention to marry, are able to qualify otherwise.

Once married, the girls will be granted permanent alien visas and allowed to take out citizenship papers.

This plan, a spokesman emphasized, applies only to countries with small quotas which are easily over-subscribed. Countries with large quotas are not affected.

COSTLY IWO JIMA already has paid for itself in planes saved from the sea, Brig. Gen. Earnest

Moore, 37-year-old commanding general of the Seventh Fighter Command, said this week, disclosing that four runways now are in operation on the island.

He called the 1,700-mile round trip that Iwo-based Mustangs have to make to escort B-29s to Japan the toughest flying of its kind in the world, with planes hand-flown all the way, and no opportunity for rest or relief for the pilots. Despite this, the general said, American airmen have been destroying Jap aircraft at a ratio of better than ten to one.

A SEABEE BOMBING RAID is now in the books. An Army bombardment group dedicated one of its recent operations "against the Japanese Empire" to the 135th Battalion, named the raid officially "The 135th Seabee Mission."

The fliers saluted the Seabees' "untiring efforts, high professional skill, and ability to obtain results."

HEADQUARTERS OFFICERS of the 133rd Battalion had rough going when the battalion made an assault landing recently. Of six battalion company men -- two medical officers, a dentist and the chaplain.

SUICIDE PLANE THREAT is being reduced, Vice-Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, commander of Task Force 58, declared in Washington this week. Only one in a hundred now score hits against American ships. Redesigning of equip-

ment is expected to reduce figure further.

More than 1,600 suicide planes have been shot down over Okinawa alone. Largest ship they sank was a destroyer.

OKINAWA THE PAY-OFF, Jap Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki mourned last week.

"Our hopes and determination to win this war are anchored solely on the fighting situation on Okinawa," he was quoted by Radio Tokyo as warning his cabinet.

"The battle of Okinawa is the deciding battle of this war. The fate of the nation of Japan and its peoples...depends on the outcome..." he said.

Suzuki admitted "Tokyo has suffered gravely at the hands of the enemy by their insolent air raids."

SERVICE BASES

OLD MANHATTAN is being rebuilt on a certain Pacific island, it appears from the monthly construction reports of the 29th Regiment.

"An additional five miles of primary roads were constructed during this period," says a typical paragraph, "consisting of 86th Street which was straightened and improved, the second lane of 8th Avenue between 110th Street and 125th Street. Riverside Drive, a perimeter road on the west side of the island from 8th Avenue at 59th Street to 8th Avenue at 125th Street, has been cut through for the entire length and half of it is completed."

SALVAGED RAILS from Jap rail lines in the Marianas are being put to many uses. Seabees have used them as roadside guards, roof reinforcements, parts for a drag harrow, fence posts, line poles, supports for camouflage screening, rails for a mucking-machine railway and for the framework of a machine shop, including the support of the structure itself and of the pulleys installed above the machines.

MINING FOR WATER, the easiest way to get it on one of the advanced Pacific islands, was the toughest mining assignment ever experienced by seasoned miners now with the 101st Battalion.

Their feat of driving a 200-foot drift through coral rock laced with mud seams has been termed a "marvelous job of engineering," a correspondent reports.

A mucking machine and a water line of American make were used by the 101st miners in the drift, but a narrow-gauge railway was built of salvaged Jap rails on which the mucking machine operated to move coral and mud from the tunnel head to mouth.

Six miners with long experience in the western United States declared that driving a drift through the coral rock and mud strata on the island is not approached anywhere in American mines.

MEN IN THE MARIANAS got a nod from James H. McGraw, Jr., president of the McGraw-Hill

Publishing Company, for their after-hours educational program.

In an article, "How Can You Plan Your Future Education?" which appeared in the May edition of the McGraw-Hill Overseas Digest, he said that an "educational plan of particular advantage to technical men is suggested by Seabee battalions in the Marianas. They have nightly programs on recent technical developments, including discussions, based on items in their own publication and in the Overseas Digest. These provide a broad base, for the Seabee reports cover the whole broad field of engineering and this Digest is taken from current articles on developments in technology, engineering, industrial and business."

RESCUING PILOTS from crashed planes is still one of the occupations which keep Seabees busy in the Marianas.

Latest rescues were effected by Lawrence H. Hambricht, SF3c, Karl F. Heintzen, SF3c, and Paul J. Pembro, SF3c, who hauled an airman out of a pretty well banged-up P-51 Mustang, and Richard J. Lugo, MM1c, who got several crew members out of a flaming B-29.

TINIAN TREMBLED after George B. Burns, EM2c, of Long Island City, New York, pushed a lever which set off 60,000 pounds of dynamite and sent coral in an area more than 600 feet long and 400 feet wide leaping skyward.

Blast was part of process of construction work on one of the huge B-29 runways which 6th Brigade Seabees are building on Tinian.

Well-drills and jack hammers had prepared 12,000 holes into which dynamite men, working under the supervision of Lt. Lauchlin L. McIntyre, CEC, USNR, had packed the 30 tons of explosives. The thousands of yards of wire which brought the simultaneous impulse to each of the holes were connected to a specially constructed battery of four 30-ampere switches. Lacking the standard equipment to set off a blast of this size where the charge was spread over such an extensive area, Burns had hooked up four separate 220-volt portable generators, each of which controlled the wires to a section of the area to be dynamited. These generators in turn were connected to a series of four switches. Jumpers were substituted for fuses and so that instantaneous charges would be set off through each of the four circuits, a four-foot gas pipe was rigged as a single lever for all switches.

The blast was postponed several times because large groups of planes were either starting on, or returning from, missions over Japan and were using a runway perilously close to the construction area.

ONE WAY TO SEE "OKLAHOMA" apparently is to join the Seabees. With the original production still playing to standees in New York, Seabees on both sides of the Pacific have seen

the show without even having had to reserve seats in advance. One company gave a performance at Camp Endicott recently, while almost at the same time another unit was performing for the enjoyment of Seabees in the Philippines.

FROM THE HOLD

make some disposition of accumulated ship's store profits.

Men decided almost unanimously the funds should be divided, with each man adding a small sum which represented the difference between his share and \$18.75, and receiving a war bond in return.

Other suggestions, less practical but perhaps more interesting, ranged from buying Gladstone bags to throwing an unprecedented celebration when and if the outfit returned to the States as a unit.

One anonymous mate proposed the money be used to ship real, live pin-ups to the battalion — one for every tent!

WORK AND HOSPITALITY of the 17th Special won praise from the master of a Pacific ship. A commendation lauded work well done "under adverse conditions" and "good will and hospitality."

THE 18th SPECIAL, working on a watch-and-watch basis without recreation time, received a letter of commendation from the commander of Service Squadron Ten.

"EXCELLENT AND EXPEDITIOUS" was way transport master Arthur E. Betts described cargo discharging operation of the 31st Special. He directed attention particularly to the "excellent leadership and ability" of Lt. James W. Cobb, CEC, USNR, and Lt. (jg) Gerald V. Martin, CEC, USNR, who were in charge of cargo operations during his vessel's four calls at the 31st Special's port.

THE FLEET NAVY

A CHALLENGE to the Japs to send remnants of their fleet into a do-or-die "banzai attack" has been hurled by Admiral William F. Halsey.

"I wish the b-----s would," he told newsmen aboard his flagship off Okinawa. "They might get their thumbs half-way to their nose --but that's all."

TRIBUTE TO SUBMARINES was paid by SecNav Forrestal as security restrictions were lifted to disclose how the silent service "mounted America's first offensive" in the Pacific. They share," said the secretary, "in the honor of destroying Japan as a Naval power. Most of all, their deeds have spelled the death of Japan as a maritime power. They have helped to isolate the island links in Japan's chain of conquests, causing the lifelines of Japan to atrophy."

SMALL STORES joins the fleet. A floating haberdashery, with \$35,000 worth of clothing

and small stores items makes its way from gangway to gangway at Pearl Harbor to service crews of destroyers and destroyer escorts returning from combat areas. The new craft is a quonset hut bolted down to a flat harbor barge and towed by a sea mule or motor launch.

SOMETHING OF WHAT IS COSTS to fight the war in the Pacific is suggested by these representative figures, made public by the Navy Department this week:

Twenty mm. cannon - \$1,430; 50-cal. aircraft gun - \$325; 30-cal. aircraft gun - \$270; 500-lb. bomb - \$71; 1,000-lb. bomb - \$118; incendiary 100-lb. cluster - \$42; incendiary 500 lb. cluster - \$191; 5-inch aircraft rocket - \$100; converting LCI(L) to LCI(R) - \$50,000; converting LCT to LCT(R) - \$25,000.

SIDE BY SIDE Allies is the way the United States wants to be with Britain in the Pacific war, Fleet Admiral Nimitz told officers and men of the British fleet. Standing on the quarterdeck of a British battleship, the Admiral warned of enemy efforts to drive a wedge between the English and American by circulating rumors that the United States does not want British participation in Pacific operations. He said the performance of the British carrier task force in the Pacific war was not only "very efficient" but "most valuable."

TOO MANY TARGETS greeted the periscope eye of Comdr. Eugene Bennett Fluckey, USN, commander of the submarine "Barb" as he brought her up in a Jap anchorage in the Pacific. There were so many Jap ships at anchor he was undecided whether he could spread his torpedoes enough to avoid wasting too many on a single target. But he attacked -- in the dead of night, made surface attacks and brought the sub out with at least five enemy burning ships in his wake. The Japs' screening escort, fired on Japanese junks in their confusion of trying to locate the sub. Commander Fluckey received the Legion of Merit and his crew the Presidential Citation for the feat.

NEW CARRIER "Lake Champlain," 18th carrier of the Essex class to be built since 1942, has been launched at Norfolk, Va. The 27,500-ton flat top was commissioned under the command of Capt. Logan Ramsey, veteran of the battle of Midway.

The carrier is named in commemoration of the 1812 American Naval victory on Lake Champlain.

INSTRUCTIONS RADIOED to a small fishing vessel more than 200 miles off the coast of Alaska by a Coast Guard radioman brought relief to a pain-wracked fisherman whose jaw had locked in a wide-open position. While a Public Health Service doctor demonstrated the proper manipulation required to snap the jaw-bone into place, Guy B. Delp, RMLC, USCG, of Huntsville, Ala., maintained his difficult contact with the vessel and flashed the step-by-step procedure.

After a period of tense waiting in the radio room, a weak message from the distant vessel finally broke the silence. It said: "Your instructions carried out. Man is now OK."

SEABEE OF THE WEEK

CPO ALBERT J. GIANNOTTI of the 118th Battalion who, because he "knew they needed the cash," dug into his own savings to contribute \$100 to the native dispensary near the 118th's island camp.

Giannotti's letter to the local doctor read:

"Enclosed please find \$100 in U. S. Currency. Do as you wish with it.

"After watching the long line of patients that come into your clinic for medicine or treatments I know you can use the cash.

"I wish I could give you the material things that are so urgently needed but I can't, so let this be my way of saying 'You're doing a swell job - keep it up.'"

His mates didn't know of Giannotti's gesture until the dispensary doctor pinned his letter on the clinic door.

Across the top had been printed in large letters, "So the public may know."

WHAT THEY SAY

FRAMEWORK OF VICTORY will be construction, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz declared recently.

"We must have more buildings, more roads, more airfields and more harbors," he said. "We must build them nearer and nearer to the inner fortress of the Japanese Empire and from them we will launch planes and ships to demolish their arsenals and destroy what remains of their fleet and shipping."

Of installations already completed, he said, "We must look on (them) not only as evidence of what we have done but as a guarantee of what we can do and will keep on doing until the job is finished and the victory is ours."

PRESENT AERIAL SQUEEZE PLAY against Japs is a tribute to the Seabees and Army Engineers, Lt. Gen. Barney McK. Giles, Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Area, told ten battalions of construction men on Guam.

"Our recent missions have exceeded in bomb tonnage and fury the thousand-plane strikes that levelled German cities," he said. "These missions were possible only because you were willing to work long hours in creating the engineering marvels that were beyond the wildest dreams of Jap technicians. Those strikes would never have been possible without you and your splendid achievement."

Gen. Giles spoke at the official opening to operations of Northwest Field, second field on Guam designed exclusively for the use of B-29 bombers and fifth of its kind in the Marianas.

Ten battalions -- five Seabee; five Aviation Engineer -- hacked the 8,500-foot long, 150-foot wide, asphalt strip and its more than 200 hardstands out of jungle in three months.

IWO'S MOTOYAMA Airfield No. 1, with Seabees and Marine engineers at work, is pictured in the June issue of "Leatherneck." In the same issue is Rutherford K. Clarke's pre-assault tribute to the Marines--"We Saw Them Go." Clarke, EM2c, is with the 49th Battalion; wrote the article anonymously for "Buzzin' Briefs."

SEA-GOING BATTALION'S dredging operations in developing marine portion of a Pacific base are told in the April edition of the "Excavating Engineer." Story of the giant dredge, "Tulatin," and the detachment which moved 400,000 cubic yards of coral and built 13 acres of new land to the island was "highlighted by its careful planning," the article declares. Job was done "in the amazing time of 29 working days" by the "only sea-going battalion of Seabees" who used "the 30-inch hydraulic dredge purchased by the Navy and renamed YM-19."

BIGGEST EVER is construction job now under way on Okinawa. Commodore A.G. Bissett, CEC, USN, in command of construction troops on the island, describes it as "the biggest construction job ever attempted in the war including Europe and the Pacific." Commenting editorially on Commodore Bissett's remark, the "New York Times" observes, "Considering what the tireless Seabees and their bulldozers have accomplished on other conquered islands, this new American base on Okinawa should prove a miracle indeed."

CHINA OFFENSIVE is "now on the upgrade," Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of U. S. Troops in China has announced. Shift from the defensive to the offensive brought an "I'm very optimistic" comment from the general. He cautioned, however, that supply limitations still prohibited the unleashing of a major offensive.

FINGER-LIFT RACK, developed in the 92nd Battalion on the idea advanced by CMM Homer E. Gray, is praised in an article in the May issue of the "Engineering News Record." Accompanied by two pictures, the article says: "A strongly-built finger-lift rack, at the rear of a dump truck body with a hinged mounting between lift frame and chassis, has been developed for use at the Navy's ABCD's. The rig combines the advantages of a large capacity finger lift with the speed and mobility of a truck."

Also appearing in the issue are:

Photos on the 60th Battalion's 3-inch portable fire pump "pile driver," and small tractor-mounted crane, used in construction of a wharf for launches and small craft.

An article and two photos, by Comdr. Jay S. Leland, on the shipping of fully-assembled pontoon cell barges.

ONLY STEAM-HEATED RUNWAY in the world is on Iwo Jima, servicemen on the island report.

"FYI"

Steam coming up from the volcanic underground rises along the entire length of one runway. A problem for airfield maintenance

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men, it nevertheless has its advantages. Piped into tubes, for instance, it has proved of great value in restoring the health and morale of returning fighter pilots.

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JAP ADMIRALS continue on the decline with well over 100 dead in less than a year. Latest casualty list among the admirals totaled seven. Japs however, award admiral's rank posthumously to high-ranking Naval officers killed in battle.

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REDEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS to Pacific is being speeded by establishment of seventeen camps in central France. Camp Baltimore, pioneer unit, received first shipment of soldiers this month. Other stations will be Camps Boston, New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Norfolk, Miami, Detroit, Chicago, Oklahoma City, Washington, San Antonio, St. Louis and New Orleans.

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UNHORSED HIROHITO is causing some concern in the Japanese empire, where the war has interfered with the Emperor's daily horseback rides. "The only thing to do," said a Tokyo broadcast, "is to totally annihilate the enemy. We must ease our Emperor's mind. It is rare now for the Emperor to find leisure for horseback riding."

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SEABEE HELP for the Japanese civilians in the Marianas is told in a two-page, four-photo story by Louis Higdon, GSK. Titled "Boot Strap Rehabilitation," the article says:

"Japanese natives in the conquered Marianas are being shown the American by-your-own bootstrap method of pulling themselves out of the muck of war and the mental morass of Jap domination," says story, which appears in "Our Navy."

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AMERICANIZED JAPS will teach GIs how to fight the Japanese. Special teams of Nisei (Jap-Americans) will demonstrate Japanese uniforms, weapons and methods to European veterans headed for duty in the Pacific. The training is incorporated in a comprehensive Army Ground Forces course covering eight weeks.

WOULD-BE AVIATORS who, as Seabees, never got further than building airfields, can do their post-war flying in a Seabee airplane. The "Seabee" is a small amphibian planned for the post-war market. The manufacturers, Republic Aircraft, report more than eight million dollars worth of conditional orders for the \$3,500 model.

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HATTLING YEOMAN is Al Little, Y2c, now stationed at Camp Lee-Stephenson. According to the Village Beacon, station publication, Al enlisted in the Navy in 1942, had three years of sea duty, participated in 42 actions, is entitled to wear the American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars, Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with 14 stars!

FORMOSA IS FLATTENED to only 20 per cent of its pre-war production by four months of American bombing, reports from Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney's Far Eastern Air Force reveal. Eighty per cent of the island's industry which supplied vital war materials to Japan, has been destroyed, the report said.

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"BEST SOLDIER" of the 100th Division's quartermaster company, a Japanese-American, has been given a field promotion to Second Lieutenant by Maj. Gen. Withers A. Burress. Lt. George Doi, 30-year-old son of Japanese parents, "is unquestionably the company's best soldier," said his commanding officer, Capt. James Dougherty. Lieutenant Doi, whose wife has been staying at the Amache, Colorado, Relocation Camp, is a former San Diego auto mechanic.

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POST-WAR JEEPS, commercialized and "broke to the plow" are to be manufactured by Willys-Overland Motors Co., it has been announced. The company described the product as combining for the first time in history the functions of a light truck, tractor, mobile power unit and passenger car.

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RUSSIAN RECAP shows 7,800,000 Germans killed or captured in three years of war. The report also shows: 70,000 German tanks lost; 60,000 planes and 90,000 guns.

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MIDGET RACER, built of surveyed parts, has been completed by H. S. Uhl, CM3c, of the 17th Battalion.

Racer is powered by a high-compression engine with dual carburetion and ignition, according to 17th's "Buzz." Overall length is 113 inches and wheelbase 72 inches. Road clearance is just three inches.

Only thing not explained is what anyone wants with a racing car in the middle of the Pacific.

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NEW SIXTH ARMY tempered in the battle of Burma can be called "airborne" temporarily at least. The entire army was flown from Burma to an undisclosed point in China by the Air Transport Command. The operation was the first of its kind in history.

DECISIVE ACTION earned a Navy and Marine Corps Medal for CCM James W. McGridden of the 50th Battalion

"WELL DONE"

when the Seabee saved a sailor from drowning. The sailor had been injured and had fallen unconscious into the water among large coral boulders. "Seeing the accident," Fleet Admiral Nimitz said in an official citation, "(McGridden) dove after him, made the recovery under water, and swam with him to safety. His quick judgment and decisive action was an inspiration to all...."

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THEODORE J. BOUGER, F2c, with CBMU in Canal Zone, praised by Acting Governor F. K. Newsomer for "alertness and skill" in assisting passengers of bus which overturned in four feet

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of water. His "prompt action undoubtedly contributed towards saving one passenger from drowning and afforded aid and comfort to several others," said letter from acting governor to the commandant of the 15th N.D.

FOR "SPLENDID" COOPERATION in maintaining operations at a vitally-important airfield during recent combat operations, the 62nd Battalion was commended by the Commander, Landing Force Air Support Control Unit No. "X." Particularly commended were Lt. Comdr. F.B. Campbell, CEC, USNR, the battalion Cinc, Lt. S.A. Fowler, CEC, USNR, and CCM J. M. Feehan, who "rendered invaluable assistance in facilitating the clearing of runways of crashed planes."

FOR THE BOOK

WEATHER TROUBLE is plaguing the 63rd Battalion. Unit's paper, the Coral Sea Barnacle, tells this story about the lack of sunshine.

"Seeing a dim shape emerging through the mud, a mate called out, 'Low-wheel, why are you walking on your knees?'"

"'Hell, man,' replied the victim, 'I'm on a horse!'"

SEABEE HID TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS in his parents' home near Belleville, Mo., but St. Louis shore patrol finally nabbed him after his sister notified authorities of his whereabouts. The man, Alex Biggs, 31, former farmer and coal miner, deserted in California more than two years ago, said he had not left family's home since except on very rare occasions.

A LETTER to Mrs. Robert K. Gillespie from her husband, a 49th Battalion Seabee, might never have reached her, had the "mailman" gone unchallenged.

The Seabee had placed the letter in his writing kit and left the kit overnight in a pump house in which he had been standing watch. Next morning kit and contents were missing.

An island intelligence officer returned the letter to Gillespie some time later.

The Seabee asked who had turned it in.

"No one," replied the officer, "we found it in the pocket of a Jap one of the sentries shot in back of the pump house last night."

YOUNG ENOUGH or old enough are two ways to get home from overseas duty. Donald F. Fuller, S2c, of Troy, Montana, spun his draft board a yarn in 1943 and now he's heading home -- veteran of 10 months' foreign duty and 20 months in the Seabees.

The Navy learned he was only 16. Last man to shake his hand was John F. (Pop) Coughlin, CM3c -- who is 51.

A KING BARRACUDA measuring 5' 1" and weighing 85 lbs. was caught in the Marianas by Kenneth E. Bush, EM2c, after a two-and-a-half

-hour fight. The Seabee, who used a six ounce rod and six strand line in making the catch, sent a picture of the barracuda to the States to prove he wasn't exaggerating.

PROVIDING FOOD for Japanese civilians interned in a camp on Tinian before the U. S. Civil Affairs took over was no job for a man with a weak heart, says CCM Francis G. Stone, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who led mixed Seabee-Japanese salvage details in search of provisions.

Among the Japs was one who knew where military stores were cached. Though he would point them out, he refused to enter the caves so it was up to Stone and some other, braver or perhaps hungrier, Jap to go in first, look over the supply and remove the booby traps. Then they would signal for the rest of the party to "come and get it."

While picking up cases of food in the caves, the Japs often would chatter among themselves, "but I know darned well some of the chatter was with Japs still hiding in the caves," Stone said.

Stone also developed a sure-fire method of getting the cooperation of the natives on salvage hunts. Each man could keep for his own use, or his family's, whatever he could carry away on his person. The rest went into the general stockpile for distribution to the entire camp.

STATESIDE

IT'S NEWS AT HOME... that Matthew T. Belmont, Jr., of GLOUCESTER, MASS., attracted attention of a rescue boat by soaking dollar bills in gasoline and lighting them from battery sparks in his boat 50 miles at sea.... that the American Relief for Holland Organization in NEW YORK CITY sent dozens of cartons of boys' sweat shirts to the Dutch. Across each shirt blazed the words: "Junior Commando"... that County Auditor Paul Barnett of LOGANSPORT, IND., opened his mail and found a pair of fox ears from a hunter who claimed he couldn't get transportation to come in town for bounty... that a seaman in WHEELING, W. VA., remained AWOL for 10 months by dressing as a woman... that the end of the midnight curfew in SAN FRANCISCO brought a 250 per cent increase in business at Mission Emergency hospital compared with previous week end.

AND IT'S ALSO NEWS... that Norman Kupferberg of BROOKLYN, N.Y., did a 135-foot Steve Brodie off the Manhattan bridge landed two feet from a tug boat, and survived... that two pistol-packin' girls shot at two men in PUEBLO, COLO., threw their "bodies" into waiting cars, then confessed the shooting was a joke and were booked for disturbing the peace.... that two boys, 5 and 6, in PITTSBURGH, PA., dug a basement for their play house near the wall of Western Penitentiary. Bottom dropped out of their basement into a tunnel convicts were digging for an escape.... that a Brooklynite mistook CAMP SHANKS, N.Y., for a vacation resort and wrote for literature. "We'll feed you and clothe you free," came the answer, "and pay you \$50 a month to start.".... that six WACS at Lockbourne Army Air Base near COLUMBUS, OHIO, have been assigned as MPs.

AND IT'S MORE NEWS... that bear meat went on sale ration-free in BEMIDJI, MINN., when 73-year-old Emil Falk bagged a couple....that S/Sgt. Howard W. Gibson of FLORENCE, N.J., plans a 64th trip from Italy to Yugoslavia. First 63 made at night so he has never seen the country...that a CHICAGO baker complained his dough had been tied up. His \$57,000 roll was ordered seized after his wife filed divorce suit...that on June 5 the eastern part of the country suffered a cold wave that sent temperatures to a record 48.9 in NEW YORK, 32 in DULUTH, 37 in CHICAGO, and 42 in DETROIT.... that the U. of Missouri will offer at COLUMBIA, MO., a 3-months course in linotype operation for honorably discharged vets...that Adolphus Horn of OTTOWA, KAN., welcomed newspaper publicity about his house and garden only to learn he would have to move. The realtor told him the garden had been sold, with the house thrown in.

AND IT'S EVEN MORE NEWS... that the OPA has decided hotels and restaurants must be rationed more closely in line with the point purchasing power of housewives. Their meats and fats will soon be cut 20 per cent.

SHOP TALK

"DREAM GIRL" BECAME
PIN-UP GIRL when CBMU 521's Globe News sponsored dream girl contest, distributed prints of winning photograph with all copies of issue which announced the queen. Contestants were wives, sweethearts, or relatives of 521st personnel.

For the record, the winner was a 17-year-old, blue-eyed blond; five foot, seven; 130 pounds, and possessor of a 36-inch bust measurement.

WIDE MARGINS and half page mast-heads may appeal to the artistic sense of quite a few editors, but they waste a lot of space that could be filled with what the boys want to read.

SPECIAL BATTALIONS have not been receiving as much recognition in the Seabee News Service as the construction outfits for one reason only.... fewer news contributions have been received from them. Any stories of combat, performance or human interest should be forwarded to the Bureau via channels.

INSTEAD OF LONG BIOGRAPHIES on officers and chiefs, the editors of the 17th Battalion's "Buzz," have a good idea in their column entitled, "Where Ya From, Mac?" It consists of short paragraphs about individual men, telling where they were employed as civilians, what their principal hobbies are and a one-sentence quote on what they plan to do after the war.

GIVE CREDIT in news stories to other battalions and other branches of the service which participate in a job. There have been instances where a reporter has described the work of his own outfit without mentioning that it did not do the job alone. The result is a distorted story which ignores the contributions of other units.

THE BULLPEN

SEABEE BOXERS captured three of ten titles in the Forward Area Boxing championships held on an island in the Marianas. Henry Runyon, CM2c, of Mandeville, La., took the lightweight crown; Carl Irving, S1c, of Philadelphia, won the bantamweight title; and Chelsa Watson, S1c, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was crowned flyweight champ. Finals climaxed a tourney listing more than 500 starters from Army, Navy, Seabee, Marine, and Coast Guard Units from Peleliu to Saipan. Before going to Pearl Harbor to meet winners of Hawaiian finals for All-Pacific championship, Forward Area finalists will train under former top pro fighters, CSp(A) Freddy Apostoli and Georgie Abrams.

ROOKIE PITCHER OF THE YEAR is discharged Army corporal Dave Ferris of Boston Red Sox. Thus far, "Superman," as his teammates call him, has gone to the mound eight times and has yet to suffer his first defeat. In beating every American League rival except the Senators, whom he hasn't faced yet, Dave registered four shutouts, including a one-hitter over the White Sox, and has given up but seven runs in the 72 innings he's pitched. Despite his amazing success, Dave still remains the modest rookie who, although he had already won five games in a row, hung his clothes on a rusty nail in the clubhouse because he thought lockers were only for "regulars." He has a locker now that Manager Joe Cronin has persuaded him that he's a "regular" member of the team.

ANOTHER EX-SERVICEMAN who was on his way to a successful year was Al Benton who re-joined the Detroit Tigers after being discharged from the Navy. Winning five games while only losing one, Big Al was overshadowing the big guns of the Tigers' pitching staff, Dizzy Trout and Hal Newhouser, until a line drive off Bobby Estalella's bat fractured his right leg.

THE DODGERS, too, signed up a promising young dischargee--Ray Hathaway who was with the Seabees at Guadalcanal. Although Ray lost his first starting assignment against the Cubs, he did impress many veteran baseball writers. As one sportswriter noted Ray "was frightened but did show effective stuff." The ex-Seabee struck out three and permitted eight hits--only five solid--in the five innings he worked. But he was wild to the extent of five walks, threw too many curves and unnerved himself and the team by too lengthy deliberation over each pitch.

DISA AND DATA ..Sgt. Charlie Ruffing, the Yankees' veteran righthander, received his discharge from the Army Air Forces under WD order governing release of men over 40. Ruffing hit 40-mark May 5....More than 535,000 fans turned out for Decoration Day horse racing programs and major league baseball in sports world's biggest day since the war from an attendance standpoint. Racing had its greatest day in history as 315,090 fans wagered a record amount....Veteran Mel Harder quit job to rejoin Indians and maintain an unbroken string of 18 campaigns with the team..