

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS FOR BATTALION NEWSPAPERS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

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BATTLE-TESTED MAINTENANCE UNIT

Seabees of CBMU 515 are studying the dictionary to see if "maintenance" means what they used to think it did.

Men of 515 hit the beach under intense mortar and machine gun fire an hour behind the assault wave of Marines. They fought shoulder to shoulder with Marines during the first two or three hours of the landing, struggled through three days of operations under combat conditions.

A terse, but meaningful log of the first four days of the assault disclosed the fact that 515 underwent pounding to which few Seabee units have ever been subjected.

The unit made the beach in four groups at varying times. The first waded waist deep water under the withering hail of Jap mortar and machine gun fire, went immediately into actual fighting for the first two or three hours.

Unloading operations began, the men wading back and forth in waist deep muck under constant sniper fire, with ammunition as the burden. Unloading continued until 2200 on the first night when 515 tried to dig in for the night.

Enemy snipers were infiltrating the lines, maintained sufficient nuisance fire to prevent sleep.

Unloading operations began anew on the second day as ammunition and ration dumps were set up and organized. One Seabee group assisted in burying the Marine dead and three other groups were called on to set up a rear defense line on a ridge near the beach. Thirty Seabees were put behind gun positions to hold back the infiltration during the night.

The second night brought increasing sniper and machine gun fire. A counter-attack by a large enemy patrol was stopped at the last ridge by Marines and Seabees. Morning found 200 Jap dead just short of the last ridge.

A makeshift base began to take form during the third morning. A crew built a shed to house salvaged gear from the beach--it still stands as the first real construction work done. By nightfall, a bake oven, small hand tools, four tents and a generator had been brought ashore. Although enemy fire had diminished, the landing force's supporting artillery kept up its constant thunder and sleep was again intermittent.

A galley went up, the bake oven put into operation and a field hospital was started. By the end of the day Seabee trucks were handling hot coffee, hot bread and fresh water to the Marines in the front lines. Trucks carrying the rations would

return for more, loaded with Jap lumber, a saw mill and power generator. During the fourth night -- last night of heavy firing -- a mortar burst less than a hundred feet from the Seabee bivouac area caused Marine casualties, but no Seabee injury.

PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AWARDS CAMPAIGN RIBBONS

Seabees and other members of U. S. and Philippine forces participating for at least thirty days in the present Philippine campaign will be awarded the Philippine Liberation Campaign Ribbon, President Sergio Osmena of the Philippine Commonwealth has announced.

The ribbon, newly created, will show two small blue-and-white vertical stripes in the center of a background of red.

A Philippine Defense Ribbon will be awarded by the Commonwealth to U. S. and Philippine soldiers who resisted the Japanese invasion of the Philippines for not less than 30 days from December 7, 1941, to June 15, 1942. The ribbon will have two small vertical white stripes one quarter of the length from each end on a background of red and three small white stars arranged vertically at the center. The colors are those of the Philippine flag and the stars represent the three large island groups of the Philippines: Luzon, the Visayans and Mindanao.

ROUGH ROAD TO TINIAN

Joseph F. Charvat, BM2c, had Jap mortar fire in front of him, a barge of high test gas on the right, and another barge of ammunition on his left as his welcome to the Tinian beaches.

Veteran of the North African invasion, the recapture of Guam, and the assault on Saipan, Charvat is ready to call the Tinian trip the toughest of them all. He was coxswain of a Seabee barge running supplies and Marines to the beaches as the Jap coastal batteries opened up at 2 o'clock one morning.

"The first Jap shell hit 50 feet from the bow of my barge," Charvat said. He ducked behind the wheel, steered the barge out of range while shrapnel rattled over the deck. The next morning he found a two-pound chunk of shrapnel buried in his blankets which were on the deck of the barge.

SOONER THE BETTER

The fact that Japan's apparent decision to do everything in her power to hold the Philippines may be a blessing in disguise to American servicemen was indicated in a recent statement by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.

If the enemy continues to make a fight of it there, "our Army and Navy forces can knock them off as well in the Philippines as anywhere else," Mr. Stimson said in part, and "if such a process is speeded up, we may be thankful."

BRITAIN HONORS SEABEE BULLDOZER FIREMAN

The Seabee bulldozer fireman, CBM Phillip L. Bishop, who was credited with helping to conquer what some observers called England's most spectacular and terrifying fire, has been awarded the British Empire Medal (Military) for his heroism.

Bishop, attached to the 81st Battalion at the time, was notified of the honor bestowed upon him in the following letter from H. V. Markham, Secretary of the Admiralty:

"I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have learned with great pleasure that, on the advice of the First Lord, the King has been graciously pleased to award you the British Empire Medal (Military) for outstanding bravery shown in an air raid, during the night of May 30, 1944, in fighting the flames of blazing petrol which had flooded from damaged oil tanks and for your courage and determination whereby immense damage to life and property was averted.

Details of Bishop's action was carried in SNS Issue No. 37, 12 September, 1944.

AAA-1 PRIORITY

After being scared out of a year's growth when a Jap bomber crashed in flames close enough for him to feel the heat on his neck, Edmund I. McKillip, SF2c, Leyte-based Seabee, figured the least he was entitled to was a couple of choice souvenirs. He went to work on the wreck with a cutting torch and annexed three shiny propeller blades. He was still working furiously to add to his collection when another figure climbed up on the plane with a shovel.

"Hey, get out of here. This is my part!" McKillip shouted.

The other fellow gave him a long, cold stare.

"In case you're interested," he said, "I'm the bomb disposal officer....."

THE IMPOSSIBLE TAKES A LITTLE LONGER

CBMU 592 was given 10 hours to lay 518 feet of conduit and wiring across a vitally-needed airstrip and Air Operations asked that the work be done in 9 hours if possible because all flights had to be cancelled.

Eighty minutes later, Carp. Edwin Richardson walked into Operations, announced the strip was open and ready for use -- the project completed.

Four separate crews were used --- one cut the ditch across the coral strip, another crew laid the pipe, a third snaked the wire through and the fourth packed the ditch.

IN THE CHIPS

Wads of money awaited Seabees who landed on Leyte. Trouble was that most of it, Jap occupation currency, was worthless. Marcilino Ebanes, 20-year-old Filipino who volunteered to help the Navy construction men, fished a roll of the pseudo-pesos from his pocket and said ruefully, "The Japs paid us all right, but the money was no good.

A quintet of Seabees found at least one use for the bills. They used them as poker chips.

The men, members of a pontoon barge and causeway unit which has gone through the Marshalls and Marianas campaigns as well as the present one in the Philippines, are James Hendrix, S1c; B. H. Foos, MM2c; Vernon West, CM2c; Louis Malovitch, S1c; and Mills Hoff, Cox.

66,655 JAPS ELIMINATED IN MARIANAS AND PALAU CAMPAIGNS

In the five months since American forces invaded Saipan, Marine and Army units have killed or captured 66,655 Japanese troops in the Marianas and in the Palaus, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, disclosed in a recent communique.

Although organized full-scale resistance on these islands has long since ceased, Admiral Nimitz said, fighting still continues against isolated enemy remnants. In the last month alone, more than 2,000 Japs were reported slain in the caves of "Bloody Nose Ridge" on Peleliu.

Giving figures through November 13, the admiral revealed that the enemy losses on Saipan, Guam, and Tinian in the Marianas, and Anguar and Peleliu in the Palau group totaled 63,388 dead and 3,267 captured. The communique emphasized the bitter-end nature of the fighting in the Pacific where it has been necessary to kill twenty Japanese for every one captured.

WHAT, NEVER?

The Tokyo radio has boasted that the Nipponese capital is "air tight." Still, the announcer continued, raid shelters have been built for 150,000 persons.

A LITTLE LATE, BUT UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED

A Filipino Scout who had escaped from the Japs after Bataan and fought them for two years as a guerilla, was a little late in reporting back for duty, but

he did it promptly when he could.

He stepped out of the Philippine underbrush, saluted briskly before John P. Hunter, CMM, who landed with Seabee forces at Leyte, and said:

"Private, First Class E---- B----from Bataan, reporting for duty sir."

"You know what I did," Hunter said. "I stood up, returned his salute, unstrapped my carbine and handed it to him. A man like him could do more good with it than I could."

CHURCHILL CALLS U. S. GREATEST WAR POWER

Hailing the United States as the world's greatest military power, Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared in a Thanksgiving Day speech that the Allies were moving irresistably "and, perhaps with God's aid, swiftly towards victorious peace.

The Prime Minister said Americans never had more justification for Thanksgiving than in 1944 "when we see that in three or four years the United States has, in sober fact, become the greatest military, naval and air power in the world.

"That," I say to you in this time of war, is itself a subject for profound thanksgiving.

PAPUANS LAMENT

It was a good song and dance routine the Papuan natives staged for Seabees stationed in New Guinea, even though the dancers were lamenting their treatment by the Japs.

Joseph Gallagher, CM1c, whose battalion was stationed in the Milne Bay area, tells the story of the dozen natives who approached the Seabee camp, offered to put on their show and received wild applause. It was not until after the performance that they learned, through an interpreter, that the natives' songs and dances told the story of Jap mistreatment, theft of chickens and pigs. At least the interpretation brought results. The native troupe left with cigarettes, candy and other such tokens of appreciation as the Seabees could muster for the occasion.

COFFEE MECHANIC, FIRST CLASS

Charles S. Borden, MM3c, came ashore at Tinian with a pontoon outfit, set up his coffee pot, brewed his first batch as the assault waves rattled off across the beaches. Since then, after supplying men with fresh coffee when it was needed most, Borden has been rated unofficially as Coffee Mechanic, First Class.

UNWELCOME VISITOR

A crippled Jap bomber tried to put a Seabee pontoon pier at Leyte to a new use. The Nip attempted to use it as a landing field.

The plane, badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, headed straight for the causeway. Seabees aboard the pontoons tensed for the crash, but seconds before the bomber would have hit the pier, a shore battery scored a direct hit. The Jap went down a flaming wreck barely ten yards away.

KEEP 'EM HIGH, NIP!

When a Seabee is on the trigger end of the gun, it's best to keep hands high--as one Jap learned. Now the Jap has a stomach ache.

Chief. Carp. William J. Thomas, CEC, USNR, of CBMU 515, noting a new path through some lush jungle, investigated. He came upon a lone Jap sitting on a box. Thomas drew his weapon, ordered him to surrender. The Nip came to his feet with the command, but on the order to march forward, made the mistake of reaching for a large knife on the box beside him.

Thomas fired, which accounts for the Jap's stomach ache.

PACIFIC WAR NEITHER EASY NOR CHEAP

However certain the prospects for victory in Europe, "we cannot assume that victory in the Pacific will be either easy or cheap," Ralph A. Bard, Under Secretary of the Navy, declared in a New York City address.

Though progress in the European theater of operations "has been so rapid that Naval combat phases have been practically concluded," the Under Secretary added a note of warning against over-optimism.

"The nearer we approach to Tokyo," he said, "the longer our supply lines and the greater demands on shipping."

To emphasize this point, he declared that where one ship was used to supply a beachhead assault in Europe, four ships must be used to supply a similar beachhead on Jap-held territory.

The transfer of equipment, supplies and troops to the Pacific from the European theater will take considerable time, he said, "but we cannot afford to slow up our schedule of attack to accommodate this time-consuming transfer.

"The Navy must likewise establish bases on conquered and liberated territories equal in population to many American cities, complete with docks, warehouses, electric power plants, adequate housing and other complex operations."

Urging additional purchases of War Bonds and attacking complacency on the home front, Mr. Bard stressed the need of different types of "planes, guns,

ammunition and road building machinery, food and medicine.

"You don't need a blueprint, therefore, to realize that this is no time to view the progress of the war with complacency, but on the contrary to continue to pour it on here at home and to step up production to meet the mounting demands of our armed forces."

NEW "RATES"

Wood butchers, abacus jugglers, flash men, and belly robbers all are members-in-good standing of the 17th Special, according to Lt. (jg) G. O. C. Johnston, SC, USNR, battalion supply officer.

"Wood butchers" is the battalion's private code designation for carpenter's mates. Shipfitters have become "pipe benders," disbursing storekeepers are "abacus jugglers," and supply men are "procurers," a term which has become a polite designation for thieves.

"Belly robbers," of course, are the cooks and bakers, those unfortunates who, no matter what they do, can never please everybody.

Other 17th Special designations are "tonnage rustlers" for stevedore checkers, "bad man control" for the MAA force, "flash men" for the electricians, "buzz men" for communications workers, and "the brains department" for the executive office.

RAIDS ON JAPAN BY CARRIER-BASED PLANES 'NEAR'

Raids against Japanese installations, involving more than 2000 carrier-based American planes, were predicted for the "not too distant future" by Rear Admiral John H. Cassady, U.S.N., Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air, in a recent speech.

Admiral Cassady, once commander of the aircraft carrier, Saratoga, said that the recent Philippines naval actions proved that carriers can now go "wherever there is water to float them" regardless of the proximity of land-based enemy bombers.

(The obvious implication of the Admiral's analysis of aircraft-carrier power, according to naval observers, was that the Japanese mainland --- perhaps even Tokyo itself --- may soon be subjected to 2,000-plane raids from American carriers.)

Recalling the assertion of General Henry H. Arnold, Commanding General of the USAAF, that recent Superfortress raids against Tokyo were only the beginning of pressure from the B-29s, Admiral Cassady said the same thing applies to carrier-based aircraft, and that 1,000-plane raids by American carrier forces are now "commonplace."

A SEABEE AND HIS DOG

"You know, it's funny. But there's something about a dog out here," wrote Joel Douglas, Y3c, from a Pacific staging area. "It's not just that you can pet him and talk to him. Or that he follows you around and makes himself a good subject for interesting conversation. Maybe it's that you can give him a little of the love you have in you for which the only other outlet is dreaming -- and remembering....."

"We're shoving off soon for an advance combat zone. But the dogs will stay. Well, not all of them. Some are right now yelping their disgust from inside shipping crates, pushing paws through the bars in their anxiety to rejoin the men who are sending them away to the States. Each owner who could manage it has emptied his pockets, scraping together the remainder of the considerable sum required from among buddies as broke as himself. Meanwhile he's wondering what the old lady is going to say when she receives through the mail a dog you really have to "understand" to appreciate!"

SPEED UP

A six man detail using four hydraulic jacks could crate only nine or ten huts a day and CBMU 511 had well over five hundred they wanted to pack quickly.

The contribution of C. C. Roe, CCMS, and W. A. Marci, CMM, was a portable press, improvised from a hydraulic dozer cylinder and a control reservoir box salvaged from a tractor. Mounted on a home-made boom-tractor, the press cut man-hours on the bundling job to a fraction of the time previously needed.

Another innovation was the use of left-handed screw drivers, pressed into service on Butler huts where thousands of screws had been used. Electric drills were used with a reversed field. Power was supplied by a small, portable 3kw generator.

EXPERIENCED

Back at Camp Endicott after a two year stretch overseas, Henry L. Medefindt, EM3c, says he'd like to attend a motion picture operators' school before he ships out again.

His job overseas, he says, was "motion picture operator at every base as soon as we were settled." The bases included Iceland, England, and France.

What we'd like to know is whether Medefindt plans to attend the school as a student -- or an instructor.

ON THE AIR

Detachment One of the 99th Battalion recently got a hurry-up call from the Army general in command of their "Island X" for an antenna for the post's radio station.

According to the battalion's publication, "Lone Star", construction had been held up by a "lack of equipment" before the Seabees were called in.

"The job was turned over to Bill Croft, BM1c, who promptly whittled a single five-ton Douglas fir down to the proper length of 100 feet; borrowed an Army wrecking truck; and by the skillful use of a winch slid the giant antenna pole into a prepared foundation," "Lone Star" said.

Not only is the Army now broadcasting regularly, the 99th newspaper added, but they even got their truck back!

HURRY UP BANQUET

CCS George Hubbard landed on "Island X" with 1,200 hungry Seabees -- and no galley equipment with which to feed them. Ten days later, his department served a complete roast beef dinner, topped off with apple pie for dessert!

To turn out the feast, the chief used several five-eighth inch armor plate "griddles" for frying. The steel had been abandoned by a cruiser which had limped into port after a brush with a Japanese submarine. Roasting pans were produced from quarter-inch steel plates from wrecked pontoon barges. The only drawback, said Hubbard, was that it took two husky cooks to lift the 21-inch pans!

Other discarded plates from the cruiser were converted into a sizeable oven. A Seabee ship fitter provided the heating unit from some odd lengths of gas pipe, and kerosene was used for fuel.

That left only coffee-makers on the "wanted" list. Seabee plumbers quickly knocked the heads out of a few galvanized gasoline drums and put faucets in at the bottom. The rebuilt drums produced a high grade of java and, Hubbard concluded, "dinner was served."

IN AND OUTER

One rainy night after an air raid, Carl F. Otto, SF1c, found a fellow Seabee huddled on a pile of sandbags around a foxhole, thoroughly drenched and scratched about the face. In complete possession of the dugout was one horny lizard--four feet long.

At the sound of the siren, this Seabee had dived for his foxhole. He dived headfirst--to discover the lizard. Before he could move, the equally frightened lizard leaped out, using the Seabee's face as a springboard.

Hardly had the startled mate caught his breath when the "leapin' lizard" apparently decided, after hearing a bomb go off nearby, that, crowded or not, the

foxhole was the place to be. Forgetting the Jap bombs, the Seabee jumped out.

But a moment later, he too decided the lesser of two evils was the foxhole and he jumped back in and--out jumped the lizard.

The in-again, out-again routine occurred three times before the raid was over, Otto said. "And believe me," he chuckled, "the next day my friend started construction on a deluxe foxhole, equipped with a padlocked front door!"

SEABEES IMPERSONATE PFC's

The crews of four Seabee barges ferrying munitions to Leyte's beachheads raced ashore, dug foxholes and became infantrymen in a hurry-up call against an anticipated enemy attack.

While a sea battle raged at the approaches to the harbor, the Seabees anchored their barges and went ashore to bolster defenses against the looming Jap counter-attack. The threat was turned back by warships, but two of the barges were sunk by strafing enemy planes.

The bargemen, all uninjured, were:

Carp. Terrence V. Monahan; Charles E. Moore, MM2c; John M. Hoff, Cox.; Z. S. Polich, MM3c; R. N. Hill, CCM; Charles L. Young, MM3c.; L. F. Ryf, Jr. CM3c; John Sanstra, SC2c; and Joseph Little, Cox.

CHEWERS

GI Joe is the champion gum chewer of all time.

According to Brig. Gen. J. E. Barzynski, commanding general of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, American soldiers overseas are using chewing gum at eight times the normal peacetime consumption. An average of 630 sticks per year is supplied to each GI.

BUILD OWN ROAD-STRIPING MACHINE

Loath to paint 33 miles of white dividing line on the main highway of their advanced base by hand, CBMU 559 built its own road-stripping machine from odds and ends around the base.

Major item entering into the new piece of equipment was a discarded iron-wheeled camouflage paint spray machine. The CBMU'ers mounted an air compressor on the chassis along with a salvaged gasoline engine to furnish the power. An air tank was mounted on the rear of the chassis, behind the compressor.

To support the paint pressure tank above the air pressure container, the Seabees welded a steel-legged platform to the chassis. The paint guide of one-quarter inch steel plate was welded with spacers five inches long, then welded to a U-shaped tongue. This in turn was welded to the front axle. A detachable spray nozzle was mounted on a bracket at the rear of the guide.

The steering rod, guided from the jeep which tows the machine, enables the operator to paint an even five-inch stripe.

The paint spray nozzle is operated from the jeep by pressure on a heavy cord which leads from the trigger of the nozzle to the handle of the guide rod.

The road ahead is kept clean for painting by running a rubber hose to the front end of the paint guide and connecting it through a pressure valve to the air pressure tank. Ten pounds of air pressure through the hose clean the pavement thoroughly.

The problem of obtaining rubber-tired wheels of proper size for the improvised machine was met by using rubber-tired wheelbarrow wheels.

GOOD EATING

Two Seabees are members of an all-service fishing crew which provides 1400 lbs. of fresh sea food daily for the mess tables of outfits stationed on the 50th Battalion's "Island X".

Two gasoline-powered whale boats, operated by Everett E. Baugher, CM1c, and Glen L. Hall, SF2c, together with a sampan which acts as a relief boat, comprise the fleet.

"After eight months of fishing in the Pacific," said Baugher, who had done his share of angling at home, "I'm not surprised at anything.

"One day we caught 370 lbs. of alua in less than an hour. That's a fish like a perch, weighing anywhere from five to fifteen lbs. and up.

"There was plenty of variety," the Seabee continued, "Our usual catches consisted of tuna, black groupers (sea bass), red snappers, wahoo, barracuda, and dolphins.

Trolling proved the most productive method of fishing, Baugher and Hall reported. They used either artificial lures or natural bait. The latter included octopus meat, light in color and easily seen in the water, and so tough that small "bait stealers" can't get it off the hook.

EVERY DAY WAS THIRSTDAY

The 91st Battalion went nine months without Coca Cola -- then was transferred to a base where the "coke" syrup was available, but no carbonation. The Seabees built a carbonating machine by altering an acetylene generator tank, installing welding gauges, hose and copper tubing. The "coke" flowed to all and the machine was copied by ten Army and two Air Force units stationed nearby.

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

FOOTBALL:..Servicemen, at home or abroad, will have opportunity to see play-by-play motion pictures of Army-Navy game..arrangements completed by War and Navy Departments to film practically entire game together with colorful sidelights and personalities..narration will be by sports announcer, Ted Husing, who will also broadcast the event for radio audiences..Navy's announcement says picture will be shown "wherever a projection machine and screen may be rigged up"..Army was 2 to 1 pre-game favorite to defeat Navy in traditional clash..82 experts, voting in AP poll to determine nation's outstanding eleven, gave Cadets overwhelming majority for fifth straight week..All 200 boxes allotted to War Bond Committee for game sold with a \$100,000 purchase the minimum requirement for each box..15 boxes sold for a million dollars each, many others for \$500,000 each..Ohio State's "civilian" eleven won Western Conference title by beating Michigan, 18-14, with last period touchdown..Victors in nine games this season it was first time since 1920 that Buckeyes won every game on schedule..Rose Bowl bid for Ohio State was turned down by Conference committee..Only eleven teams remained undefeated and untied with Army, Ohio State, Randolph Field and Bainbridge Navy topping list..Navy Department rejected bid for latter to play in "Oil Bowl"..New Year's Day bowl game lineups..with team won, lost, tied, records: Rose Bowl--Southern California, 7-0-2, vs Tennessee, 7-0-1; Sugar Bowl--Alabama, 5-1-2, vs Duke, 5-4-0; Orange Bowl--Georgia Tech, 7-2-0, vs Tulsa, 6-2-0; Cotton Bowl--Texas Christian, 7-1-1, vs Oklahoma A&M, 7-1-0.. Sugar Bowl contest will be shortwaved to servicemen overseas..New York Giants and Washington Redskins moved into first place tie in Eastern Division of Pro Football League when Chicago Bears, sparked by Ensign Sid Luckman, handed Philly Eagles their first defeat of season..Giants nosed out Brooklyn Tigers, 7-0; Redskins topped Boston Yanks, 14-7.

BASEBALL:..Fans, players, team owners saddened by death of Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, "czar" of baseball for more than 20 years..Rumors have former Postmaster General James A. Farley filling post..Baseball Writers' Assn named Tigers' pitcher, Hal Newhouser, as AL's Most Valuable Player of 1944..Second southpaw and third hurler to be named since award's inception in 1911, Newhouser nosed out teammate Paul (Dizzy) Trout by four votes..Winner of 29 games, Newhouser was league's biggest winner since Lefty Grove copped 31 for Athletics in 1931..Photo-finish by Newhouser and Trout marked first time that two pitchers of same team named one, two..Vernon Stephens of Browns finished third, followed by George Stirnweiss of Yanks and Dick Wakefield of Tigers.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS:..Mel Ott, Frankie Frisch, Bucky Walters and Dutch Leonard, representing baseball's first junket to European war theater, arrived in Paris..Seabees Barney Bartels and John Brabston of 125th Batt took on Admirals Nimitz and Calhoun in horseshoe pitching contest..batt's paper reports that although official scores are "military secret" Seabees upheld honor of enlisted personnel..Pete Przylexpa turned in perfect no-hit, no-run game in 12th Specials softball league..Monk Meyer, Army All-American, now Lt. Col. at Leyte..Commander Buzz Borries, Navy's star of few years ago, spent 42 hours on raft in Leyte Gulf after carrier sunk..Lt. Clint Castleberry, Georgia Tech football star, previously listed as missing, now reported as killed in action..Ensign Howard Callahan, former USC football and track star, missing in South Pacific..Cpl. Dixie Howell, Montreal Royals catcher, prisoner in Germany.

SIDELINES:..Harold (Red) Grange elected president of new 8-team pro U.S. Football League while Lt. Cmdr. Jim Crowley, released from contract to coach Boston Yanks, will serve as commissioner of All-American Conference..Both leagues slated to begin operations in 1945..NYU opened basketball season with 103-28 victory over Union Junior College..Jimmy Rafferty, NYAC, set a record of 51 minutes, 38 seconds to win 10,000-meter National AAU championship, bettering old mark by 2 minutes, 4 seconds.

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FOUR IN ONE

"Working both ends against the middle" is a phrase not usually associated with construction but that's what the 100th Battalion did to connect four islands with a double-lane causeway in record time.

When the battalion first reached this newly-won Pacific base, enemy counter-attacks were still a threatening possibility. The No. 1 project, therefore, was the construction of the causeway to speed moving men and material between the islands.

Comdr. H. D. Cavin, CEC, USNR, OinC, ordered the Seabees and their equipment split into two groups, landing at the two islands farthest apart. Operators drove their bulldozers and other heavy equipment off the LST's and immediately went to work pushing sand and coral out into the narrow channels between the islands. Construction went on a 24-hour basis with night lighting provided by an improvised system. To provide additional fill, demolition crews blasted several smaller adjoining islands.

Some difficulty was encountered because of the exceptionally hard coral foundations. Surveyors resorted to steel stakes when wooden ones would not penetrate deep enough in the coral and were washed away by incoming tides.

Despite the fact that working parties were restricted to 20-man details because of the lack of working space, the causeway was completed in less than three days and heavy traffic was moving freely from island to island.

Meanwhile other 100th Battalion Seabees had started work on an airstrip which also was completed in record time --- a fact much appreciated by the crew of a B-25 which made an emergency landing on the strip.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Conquered Saipan provides an interesting example of how thoroughly the Jap bubble of Pacific expansion has been pricked. The 500 remaining civilian employees of an original 1,700 workers employed by the Japanese "South Sea Development Company" today are working for the Navy Seabees. Instead of building Japanese air fields, they are constructing new living facilities for 18,000 residents of Saipan whose former quarters are considered unsuitable by American authorities.

Lt. (jg) Roger W. Brant, CEC, USNR, Ass't. Civil Affairs Engineer in Charge of Civilian Labor on Saipan, has the island laborers working under the supervision of fifteen Seabees. The islanders' novel working habits, these Seabees report, are not likely to offer any serious competition to American construction methods.

Unhurried, the natives work in small groups, meanwhile carrying on a leisurely conversation. They go barefoot, and use their feet almost as much as their hands. Squatting at their work, they hold nails between their toes, steady boards with their feet instead of their hands, and pull rather than push their saws on the cutting stroke.

When the Seabees tried to show the islanders how to "speed up" by flying into the job themselves, the workers simply stopped entirely and assumed the status of "sidewalk superintendents," content to watch.

Said Martin Campanella, CM2c, ruefully, "We gave up that idea quickly!"

STUBBORNNESS --- JUDICIOUSLY APPLIED

A six-man patrol from the 101st Battalion has proved that American stubbornness is not only superior to the anti-surrender fanaticism of the Japs -- but far less fatal.

When isolated Jap soldiers posed a constant threat to working Seabees, the 101st's patrol, headed by James E. Perrin, EM1c, began prodding the hills, finally driving three of the Nips into a cave. E. C. Mangrum, MM3c and E. A. Shotten, Jr., CM3c, started in after the Japs, but a grenade drove them back, slightly wounding Shotten.

Perrin asked for a flame thrower and bazooka team from the Marines, set up a guard, and watched the cave entrance all night. Morning brought action from the Marines' flame-thrower and bazooka, eventually produced three dead Japs, one of whom was shot during the night attempting to move about the entrance of the cave.

BOOBY TRAP

Elation was high in the 100th Battalion when the Seabees found a Watanabe roller the scurrying Japs had left behind --- until they learned it took three men to keep it going.

One man did the operating, the second trailed along behind to pick up the pieces as they fell off and the third put the straying parts back on.

They called it "Humpty Dumpty" and considered it an infernal contrivance left purposely to dog Seabee patience.

HELPED BAG BOMBER

Two Seabees, enroute to a base in the Pacific, were members of an anti-aircraft crew credited with downing a Japanese bomber.

When a flight of five enemy bombers flew over the cargo ship from which the Seabees were disembarking, Earl L. Christopherson, MM1c, and Al C. Widdowson, SK1c, took their places as shell loaders.

As the bombers split up formation to start for individual targets, the ship's AA guns opened up, the Armed Guard-Seabee crew scoring several hits on the bomber, crippling it and eventually causing it to crash into the water.

Four other Seabees, at stations on other guns which scored hits on a plane, were: Harry A. Farber, SK2c, James C. Fay, CM2c, Knowles V. Sowell, SK1c and Herbert C. Reynolds, SK3c.

NAZI CABBAGE JUST "SPINACH" TO SEABEES

Fleeing Germans who camouflaged their telephone facilities to make them look like a cabbage patch and a restaurant, didn't do the job well enough to fool members of a Seabee mobile phone unit at Le Havre, France.

After completing, in four days, installation of a four-position common battery switchboard to alleviate over-taxed phone facilities in Cherbourg -- a job expected to require three weeks -- the unit moved into Le Havre.

In charge of Ch. Carp. Earl L. Hurt, the group included W. G. Stratman, EM1c; J. P. O'Connor, EM1c; F. O. Rogers, CEM; J. S. Blagdon; R. B. Binkowski, EM2c; D. W. Olsen, EM2c; E. D. Pond, EM1c; and W. G. Thompson, EM3c.

The Germans abandoned Le Havre in too great a hurry to wreck elaborate underground facilities. By the end of the first week, the Seabee unit had found seven vaults with all connecting cables intact. One was well concealed under a cabbage patch; another was disguised as a cafe-bar.

By the end of the third week, control lines from Navy communications to transmitter and radio telephone were working over German cable. The Seabees also had found time to put in operation an audio amplifier with a loop for picking up a tone placed on a cable, thus facilitating tracing of any breaks. The outfit was improvised by using the amplifier unit from a mine detector with the oscillator tube removed. A pick-up loop was then wound by using captured German magnet wire brought from Cherbourg. Use of the equipment revealed more cable and vaults, many of which have been put into use.

CANCEL YULE CABLE RADIO SERVICE

Acceptance of Expeditionary Force Messages (EFM) and greeting messages of the sender's own composition will be suspended from December 6 to 25, 1944, inclusive, to and from Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard personnel outside the continental United States.

Restriction of cable or radio service is necessary because the volume of Christmas messages involved would overburden the limited overseas transmission facilities and hinder expeditious handling of messages vital to the war effort.

The suspension does not preclude the acceptance of messages of the sender's own composition other than greetings nor will it prevent the transmission of messages filed prior to midnight December 5.

ARTISTE

Although he cuts hair with only a pair of office scissors and a GI comb, and shaves the necks of his Seabee customers with a pocket knife, Zosimo Tabao's services as a barber have been in considerable demand since the Navy construction men established a camp near his native hut shortly after they landed on Leyte.

The pocket knife Tabao uses is sharpened by a 15-year-old neighbor on the heel of a leather sandal, but the Seabees don't mind its not-too-thin edge. Big attraction to the mates, who still remember Camp Peary, is the guarantee of the Filipino hair cutter that he absolutely does not have a pair of clippers.

Nicholas Prato, BM2c, of far-famed Flatbush, summed it up. "It ain't Brooklyn," he said, "but it's a pretty good haircut."

TWO SEABEES POSTHUMOUSLY COMMENDED

For bravery and devotion to duty, two Seabees, members of the 73rd Battalion, have received posthumous commendations from Major General W. H. Rupertus, Commanding General, First Marine Division.

They were Orris Milton Strand, S1c, 28, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, mortally wounded by a sniper, and Casper Lee O'Neal, S1c, 33, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who died of wounds from an exploding mortar shell. O'Neal was loading and transporting fuel oil when struck by shrapnel; Strand was working on an airfield when shot by a sniper.

JAP FLEET AIR ARM SEEN NEAR FINISH

In the air war between Japan and the United States, the Japs have no advantages left, in the opinion of Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, USN, who commanded a fast carrier task force in the famous Third Fleet.

"Our material is much better in every way," the Admiral said. "Our pilots are always superior and those today are just as good as those we had at the beginning.

"Recently the quality of Jap pilots has gone down materially." Actually, he said, the contrast is so great that "our boys feel sorry to have to shoot them down.

While the Jap fleet's air arm has been practically eliminated, the crippled enemy navy will still come out and give battle again, Admiral Mitscher believes. However he isn't concerned about the ultimate outcome.

"As soon as we get bases in the Philippines we'll drive them out of any port in that area," he said. "When we can get into the Sea of Japan we'll drive them out of there, too."

INFLUENTIAL BOOK

Two years ago, Richard R. Torruellas, CM2c, then a Puerto Rican architect, read a book by Brigadier General Carlos P. Romulo, "I Saw the Fall of the Philippines"; was so impressed he enlisted in the Seabees, joining a maintenance unit then stationed in Puerto Rico.

General Romulo landed in the Philippines last month with General MacArthur for the first time in more than two and a half years. First man to greet him when he came ashore was Seabee Torruellas, now a member of a pontoon causeway unit.

JAPS LOSE 13 TO 1 --- BUT HAVE PLENTY TO LOSE

U. S. forces have killed at least 277,000 Japanese at a cost of 21,000 American fatalities --- a ratio of approximately 13 to 1 --- but the enemy still has vast reserves, the Office of War Information has reported.

The Japs have also suffered the loss of 250,000 men isolated on small islands, cut off from battle or rescue and an Australian force has been assigned to clean them out.

The OWI said Japan has four million men in the field and can comfortably equip and train an additional two million.

IN DEMAND

Servicemen on a newly-conquered island eagerly awaited the arrival of the Seabees, according to Chief Warrant Officer Ralph W. Washburn, CEC, USNR, formerly attached to the 125th Battalion.

In a letter to his ex-shipmates, in which he described living conditions as "really rugged," Mr. Washburn said, "All you can hear over here is, 'When the hell are the Seabees coming?'"

RUNWAY READY!

The co-pilot of an Army transport stepped out of his plane on a new runway in the Western Carolines, looked around him, and asked:

"When did they build this strip? I was over here two weeks ago and didn't see a sign of construction."

The answer to that one was another testimonial to the teamwork among Seabees, Marines and Army engineers. How Seabees and Army combat engineers slashed through swamps and coconut groves, hauling hundreds of truck-loads of coral rock and sand, was glowingly described by Marine Combat Correspondent Sgt. Claude R. Canup, who continued:

"When the pilot set the Army transport down on the strip--the first plane to land there--one of the wheels burned rubber for five feet, but not a pebble was torn out of place."

Seabees and engineers worked on a round-the-clock schedule, using great flood lights for night work. Army, Marine and Seabee units had splashed ashore in well-timed waves and quickly converted what once was a link in Japan's "inner defenses" into one of our most vital forward bases in the Pacific, the Marine correspondent said.

SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

Seabee CBM Roy M. Hile only needs two-thirds of an additional Jap to carve a notch on his carbine. The chief picked up his first one-third credit by helping two soldiers kill a Jap after flushing the latter from beneath a native hut. The Jap was about to throw a grenade when bullets from the three men's guns got him.

Hile volunteered to accompany the Army patrol to an island near Leyte after natives reported the presence of Jap snipers.

SCAVENGER HUNT PAYS OFF

The 95th Battalion's off-time scrap hunt has produced a power drive for a pipe threading machine. The transmission and drive shaft came from a Jap truck, frame and flywheel from an enemy pump, and rubber-tired wheels from a Jap Zero. Portable and easy to move, the gadget serves also as a power drive for a reamer or drill. A gear shift allows adjustment of speed to cut threads efficiently on pipe ranging in size from one to eight inches in diameter. The device is powered by a Wisconsin gasoline engine.

JAPS NEVER ON THE SQUARE

While the Battle of Bloody Nose Ridge raged on Peleliu Island, Seabees struggled to rebuild the former Japanese headquarters building, converted into a Marine command post. The last Jap had not yet been cleared from the structure, Staff Sgt. John T. Kirby, Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, reported, before the Seabee repair crews had unpacked their tools.

With enemy gunners sniping at them from fortified cave positions less than 500 yards away, the construction men set to work on the torn roof, made it weather-proof, and then, working behind sandbags, turned to the walls and floors.

For most of the patchwork flooring, the Seabees used ship dunnage, thrown overboard by supply ships. Reclaimed Jap timbers provided new wall framing. One side of the building, almost completely exposed by gunfire, was barricaded with salvaged barbed wire.

Scarcely had roofing and partitioning been completed when an exploding enemy ammunition dump sent shrapnel ripping through tarpaulin-covered sections.

"We just ducked under the sandbags for a few hours until things cooled off, and then went back to work," said Lt. (jg) Loren S. Campbell, CEC, USNR.

No sooner had new repairs been made than a 90-mile-an-hour typhoon swept the island and destroyed the rebuilt roof in a two-day torrent. Again the Seabee crews returned to the job.

But the toughest part of the whole assignment, Lt. Campbell declared, was neither the weather nor the enemy. The building itself, which had been the most elaborate on Peleliu, made the CEC officer admit that "Those Japs are the most amazing engineers we've ever seen.

"Not a single measurement in the entire building," he explained, "was exactly square!"

ULTRA-SPECIAL ULTRA-VIOLET

We might have known that if anyone ever would undertake to cure "jungle rot" with such medicinal equipment as a Jap walkie-talkie and a jeep head-lamp, it would be a Seabee. Not only was it tried, the patient, K. L. Parker, CM1c, reported from New Guinea, but it worked!

Inventor of the Southwest Pacific's most remarkable ultra-violet machine was E. O. Fleury, EM1c, who said he got the idea from a commercial model he saw in the States.

Fleury took a condenser from a Jap walkie-talkie he picked up on Los Negros, separated a vibrating step-up coil from an Australian field condenser, found a head-light bulb in a wrecked jeep, and decided he had the parts he needed for his therapeutic machine.

He punctured the head-light bulb and had a Navy corpsman inject a saline solution with a hypo needle; insulated the contraption with mica from an old soldering iron; tagged the device completed and ready for service.

Parker, guinea pig for the first try-out, needed only a week's treatment by "Dr." Fleury and machine to pronounce his hitherto annoying rash dried up and cured.

WINS NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

A Seabee who dashed into the flames of a crashed and burning plane in an attempt to rescue the pilot, only to be blown from the wreckage by an explosion, has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroism.

The Seabee, CCM Richard E. Graves, a member of a battalion which had just completed an airstrip in the Admiralties, was watching a Navy plane make a landing.

When the plane crashed into an embankment and burst into flames, Graves immediately donned an asbestos suit and went into action.

The ensuing explosion, while foiling his rescue attempt, paradoxically was believed responsible for saving Graves' life.

Eight other members of the battalion received commendations for their assistance in the attempted rescue.

ANY OLD SHELTER IN A TIME LIKE THIS!

A CEC officer and a Seabee had little choice of shelter when they leaped behind ammunition cases and watched a crippled Jap bomber do a back flip 15 feet over their heads at Leyte.

Ensign Arthur F. Detzel, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Whitney Brown, CCM, Tiverton, Rhode Island, were on a pontoon wharf when the wild raider, crippled by anti-aircraft fire, roared toward them. It careened into the water at the end of the pontoons, bounced over their heads and landed on its back on the beach a hundred feet away.

It was so close, hot oil from the burning engine dripped on Detzel's helmet. "We had hardly realized there was a raid until the plane was headed for us," Brown said. "We didn't have the time or inclination to seek a safe haven--the nearest thing was a stack of boxes containing mortar shells."

KP HEAVEN

With twenty-four French civilians, many of whom formerly were stewards on luxury liners, now working in the mess hall and galley, enlisted men of a Seabee battalion stationed "somewhere in France" apparently have a set-up which should forever still gripe about chow. The Frenchmen replace KP's, take over the serving line and scullery, and also wait on the tables, serving bread, sugar, and cream.

Only problem so far, say the Seabees, has been finding enough of the civilians who understand sufficient English to take orders from the MAA's.

TOKYO PROTECTED AGAINST BOMBING, SAYS OWI

Tokyo is no tinder box but a city probably as well prepared to withstand bombing as any in the world, the Office of War Information has announced.

The rather general impression that Tokyo is a paper city which could be destroyed by incendiary bombs is one of the most inaccurate of popular fallacies, OWI continued. The Japanese metropolis is laid out and equipped for the best defense against both fire and earthquake, which likewise adapts them to withstand bombs.--- and buildings designed to withstand earthquake shocks are also well adapted to withstand bomb shocks.

NON-PARTISAN

A globe-trotting electric generator which began its career in Germany and wound up in Japanese hands in the Marianas today is serving Seabees at that base after the Navy men rescued it from the indignities of the scrap heap.

Manufactured in Bremen, Germany, the small DC generator apparently was sold to a Manila electrical dealer and eventually taken over by the Japs who transported it to the Marianas.

R. F. Raichlen, CEM, now is using it as part of a power plant he built for his unit's camp site.

DETROIT, PLEASE NOTE

For the post-war motorist who enjoys solitude, Company D of the 125th Battalion has unveiled its one-cylinder, three-wheeled "Thunderbolt." Capable of making 35 miles per hour and of getting 70 miles a gallon, the "Thunderbolt" is the brain-child of Machinist's Mates Art Wein and Vito Miglino.

Resembling a giant catfish, the "Thunderbolt" is powered by a 1-3/4 h.p. engine salvaged from a junked water pump. The flywheel was made of boiler plates, welded together and machined to size. Pulleys came from bar stock; the clutch was tooled from a cast aluminum disc melted down from old airplane pistons; brake assembly came from a '39 Dodge; steering assembly from a model T Ford; and the body from a P40 belly gas tank. Junked cars and spare parts, made over to fit, provided the rest of the material.

STATION WAGON -- SEABEE MODEL

A custom-built station wagon that cost but \$45 to build is the latest claim to "all the comforts of home" by the 112th Battalion's Pete Larson, CM3c and Jack Perzigian, CM3c.

With a \$15 automobile frame and motor and \$30 for needed mechanical parts, the two set up their one-car assembly line, added salvaged materials and rolled the shiny vehicle off the line on schedule. Upholstery is masonite for the doors interiors and side coverings; seats came from a salvage yard.

The two Seabees give credit for assistance to Lloyd Coffman, CM1c, Virgil Cook, CM3c, Roy Weels, M1c and Christian Jensen, MM1c.

PAIR OF MEDALS -- COMING UP

Two First Class Seamen with CBMU 592 are to receive Navy and Marine Corps Medals for their rescue of Liberator bomber crewmen after the plane had crashed on a runway. The two are John E. Dunkley and Clayton O. P. Werley. The pair rushed into the blazing wreckage of the bomber, aided three crewman to a hospital. Dunkley returned to the plane, found two more crewmen with their clothing afire, beat out the burning clothes with his hands and helped them to safety.

Commendations from Vice Admiral J. H. Hoover were given to six men of a "bulldozer brigade" who helped clear the burning wreckage away from other parked planes. Those commended were: Edward M. Brooks, CCM, Edison G. Burner, CSF, Richard E. Coulter, MM2c, Frank E. Crain, MM2c, Lloyd A. Doughty, CMM and Walter J. Fox, MM1c.

GETS SOMEONE'S GOAT

After running his barge through high seas under a hail of Jap sniper fire, John Rattigan, S1c, settled down to the rigorous chore of capturing a goat--an eager creature, to hear Rattigan tell it.

After he had tied up the barge, Rattigan spotted the goat, gave chase. The goat proved the better sprinter, soon outdistanced the former Munhall, Pennsylvania, grid star.

As the Seabee sat down to rest, the curious goat doubled back to see what had happened to Rattigan. He used a flying tackle to grab the goat, then found Navy LST's are not intended as arks and therefore have no accommodations for animals, much less goats. Rattigan gave it to a Marine anti-aircraft battery.

The Seabee was given three commendations for his barge operation--not for goat catching.

MOBILE PRESSURE CAULKING GUN

The simple lap joint provided in the prefabricated sheet metal roofing of structures at an advanced base proved to be a poor seal against driving tropical rains. The only effective means of repairing the roofs, Seabees of CBMU 555 (Section 2) found, was to caulk every one of the sheet metal joints on all ninety-two buildings in the group.

To accomplish this, unit personnel devised a mobile pressure caulking gun, consisting of an air compressor and pressure pot mounted on a truck. First step in the Seabee method was to stir bitumastic roofing compound with an electric beater, improved from an electric drill and a G. I. can. The compound then was poured into the pressure pot, and, with 120 to 140 pounds of pressure, forced up through a rubber hose to the roof where it was applied through a nozzle.

As intense heat caused by the sun's rays on the metal roofs made it impractical for a man to work too long at the job, the caulking was done by two crews alternating on each roof. The unit's experience showed that a four-man crew, operating two pressure guns from the same compressor, could caulk a 50' x 100' roof in less than a day.

WHAT A CHOW LINE!

The United States now has 11,859,000 men and women in its armed forces, Major General Lewis Hershey, Selective Service director, told Congress this month. More than 8,000,000 were in the Army, he said; the balance, in the Navy and Marine Corps.

ARMY'S INTERPRETERS LEND A HAND

Invaluable aid is being given Seabee battalions by the Army's interpreters in former Japanese-held areas, according to Lt. (jg) R. W. Brant, CEC, USNR, assistant engineering officer of the 101st Battalion.

To make the pill doubly bitter for Tokyo, one of the most helpful of the Army interpreters is T/3 Goro Igarashi, a U. S. soldier of Japanese ancestry. Igarashi helped arbitrate a one-man sit-down strike when he learned the Japanese civilian laborer, now serving the American forces as a carpenter, was refusing to work because his family was ill and he couldn't convey the idea to the Americans.

TIN CAN SOCKETS

On Green Island, Seabees have installed 4,000 electric light sockets made of tin cans, and many have worked so well they have been left in service even after regular fixtures became available.

When the sockets were required during the construction of the base last March, there were only eight on the island. Electricians stamped empty ration cans into socket-shape, soldered in electric contacts, and encased the metal in plaster of paris. Later, wood cases were used to avoid chipping.

BOMBS AWAY - TEN FEET AWAY!

Two CEC Officers on Leyte abandoned their jeep when they heard the Jap plane roaring in, tried to scratch a quick foxhole in the road.

Lt. (jg) Thomas Rittenhouse and Ens. Charles B. Newbury hit the dirt! The Jap bomb crater was but ten feet away when it was all over. "The jeep caught most of the blast," Ensign Newbury said. "I was surprised there was so little concussion."

The same plane dropped a small bomb on the other side of a light truck parked nearby, killing three Filipinos.

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

FOOTBALL: . . Army's undefeated eleven, rated No. 1 in nation in AP poll, unanimously voted Lambert Trophy, annually awarded to outstanding Eastern team. . . Cadets' victory over Navy, its first since 1938, climaxed Army's first all-winning season since 1916. . . Army-Navy series now stands at 23 wins for Army, 19 for Navy, 3 ties. . . Fans bought more than 58 million dollars worth of War Bonds to see game. . . Army scored 504 points during 9-game schedule or nearly point a minute. . . Halfback Glenn Davis finished season as nation's top scorer with 20 touchdowns or 120 points while Dick Walterhouse set new college record for conversions with 47. . . Unbeaten Randolph Field, rated top service eleven, will meet 2nd AAF in Treasury Bond Bowl game at Polo Grounds. . . Former also received permission to play in New Year's Day Oil Bowl game at Houston while latter accepted bid from El Paso's Sun Bowl. . . Winning their final game of season, Bainbridge NTS gained their 17th straight triumph over two-year period and their 10th in a row this year. . . Fifth in AP national poll and second among service eleven, Bainbridge has perfect record since entering competition. . . Les Horvath, Ohio State backfield star, awarded Heisman Trophy as outstanding player of year. . . Georgia Tech's 44-0 victory over Georgia not only gave Yellowjackets Southeastern Conference title but was their first win in Athens, Ga., since 1893. . . U. of Oklahoma won Big Six title by defeating Nebraska in final game of season. . . Claude (Buddy) Young, freshman star halfback of U. of Illinois and national sprint champ, quit school to join other Negro athletes in USO tour aboard. . . Pro play-off will be held December 17 with Green Bay meeting Giants, Redskins or Eagles. . . Chicago Bears now hold three new all-time NFL records: most penalties in one game (22); most yards penalized in one game (170) and most penalties in one season (105). . . Green Bay also set a new record with 12 fumbles in one season. . . although pro teams drafted 300 college players last winter, only nine saw action in league this year.

BASEBALL: . . Major league meeting to decide replacement for late Judge Landis, re-hiring returning service men of which there are about 500. . . Judge Landis' son, Col. Reed Landis, turned thumbs down on movement to raise funds for memorial for father; asked that all money raised be devoted to development of baseball among boys in US emphasizing father's wish that no statues be erected in his honor. . . Life-size statue of Dizzy Trout, Detroit pitcher, will adorn halls of high school at North Terre Haute, Ind., his home town. . . Roger Bresnahan, one of baseball's most colorful players, died of heart attack. . . First catcher to use shin-pads and glove, Bresnahan was first-string backstop for NY Giants from 1902 to 1908. . . All five major league baseball units chosen to entertain servicemen overseas for three-month period have reached first stop on "foxhole circuit". . . Dick Wakefield, Detroit Tiger outfielder, given honorable discharge from Navy last July has been reinducted into Navy as apprentice seaman.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS: . . "Britt's Junction", a crossroads near the Anzio beachhead in Italy named in honor of Capt. Maurice Britt, former All-American end at Arkansas, who played pro football with Detroit Lions. . . 20th Tactical Airforce "Maroons" defeated 9th Airforce "Thunderbirds" 3 to 0, in regulation game played on enlarged cow pasture 12 miles from German frontier. . . German-bound planes, buzz-bombs, ack-ack, failed to halt play. . . Jack Dempsey, now Commander in Coast Guard, settled "long count" furor by taking full blame. . . "The only person responsible was myself," said Dempsey, "I should have been in a neutral corner."

SIDELINES: . . Basketball season off to flying start. . . 18 doubleheaders slated for Madison Square Garden in New York with prospects of NCAA and National Invitation tournaments closing season. . . Montreal Canadians leading National Hockey League. . . Byron Nelson won San Francisco Open Golf for second year in row.