

# SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

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

NAVDOKS P 117

ISSUE NO. 70

1 MAY 1945

## OKINAWA AIRFIELD TOOK FOUR DAYS

Four days after the Seabees landed on Okinawa on D-Day, the first airfield was ready for operation, the Navy has revealed. At Iwo Jima, the first field was ready seven days after the Navy construction men went ashore.

## STEVEDORES COMMENDED FOR AMMUNITION HANDLING

Back-breaking, around-the-clock work has won for a Seabee Special battalion an official commendation from Commodore W. R. Carter, USN, Commander of Service Squadron Ten.

These men prepared and transferred thousands of tons of ammunition into the magazines of warships which pounded the Japanese from the Philippines to the Ryukyus. They also loaded the huge quantities of food and other supplies so necessary to keep the men of the Fleet in tip-top condition.

Their work contributed in a great measure to the efficiency of Service Squadron Ten, known as "Admiral Nimitz' secret weapon."

The battalion points proudly to its toughest stevedore job: discharging ammunition from a torpedoed ammunition ship. Within a few hours the men were aboard and at work, ignoring the dangers of the nearby ammunition. Flooded holds forced them to work waist-deep in fuel oil and salt water with fumes from ether and oil so strong hourly reliefs were necessary. Skin-pricking spun-glass fiber from torn bulkhead insulation added to the discomforts of the water. The ever present danger of explosion and fire ruled against the use of lights. Replacing oil-saturated clothing with new issue daily, the Seabees unloaded over 2,900 tons of high explosive at a speed in excess of a ton per man-hour.

Loading nine LST's with ammunition at sea for a combat operation was another feat. This task had previously been declared as impossible by experienced ammunition officers. The Seabees stowed for sea 12,000 tons of ammunition, at an average of three-fourths of a ton per man-hour.

In the absence of cargo hatches, the inventive specialists passed the ammunition through ventilator openings and chuted it to the lower decks.

In preparation for the Iwo Jima invasion four gangs of the battalion worked around the clock to load two large battleships with bombardment projectiles and powder. Passing the ammunition at a speed of 40 tons per hour, the assignment was completed four days ahead of schedule.

## CARRIER NAMED FOR FDR

The new 45,000-ton aircraft carrier, launched at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on 29 April, has been christened the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. This marks the first time a carrier has been named after an individual. The ship had been scheduled to be named the USS Coral Sea.

## SEABEES HELPED ARMY CROSS RHINE

Seabees participated in the Allied surge across the Rhine River, it was revealed recently, and the Navy construction men thus maintained their record of having participated in every major American amphibious operation of World War II.

The Seabees' principal contributions in the Rhine crossing were the assembling and operation of pontoon gear, and the instruction of Army personnel in its use. From high commanders came the report that the Seabees and their equipment had performed their work exceptionally well.

### RESTFUL:

A Seabee library on Guam was a place for quiet relaxation -- or at least that's what a few Japs thought!

Clarence C. Chambers, M1c, of Rapidan, Virginia, a battalion librarian, vouches for the story. When Chambers' battalion first landed, the Seabee set up his library in a 50-ft. tent. He pitched the tent on the outskirts of camp, not many yards from a cave which had previously been used by the Japs as a supply dump. "We found evidence later," said Chambers, "that made us think the Nips had used the library as sleeping quarters!" After the battalion guards killed some enemy soldiers who had been hiding out close by, the Seabee was convinced.

## FLIES 2,500 MILES TO DAD, RESCUED FROM PRISON CAMP

The Navy and Marine Corps teamed up to transport a Seabee 2,500 miles from his Solomon Islands base to the Philippines so that he could see his father who had been released after three years in a Jap prison camp.

The Seabee, Dorian Ismond, F1c, of Victoria, British Columbia, learned of his father's release in a letter from home. The OinC of his unit and the base commander arranged for his transportation on a Marine cargo flight and also for a return trip by air after a five day reunion.

## LONG CRUISE

Striking tribute to the efficiency of the Navy's ship repair units is the war record of the destroyer MAURY, a ship which has steamed 325,000 miles since

Pearl Harbor and has participated in 27 major actions in the Pacific Ocean Areas without once returning to the United States for repair or overhaul. Mobile ship repair units, as well as the skill of her own crew, kept her up to combat efficiency during that time.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the MAURY was a part of the ENTERPRISE task force which was at sea about 100 miles off Oahu, and which immediately set out in a fruitless search for the enemy surface forces.

From that moment until March 1, 1945, the chronology of her actions reads like a combat history of the Pacific war.

### **TRAP 39 JAPS IN CAVE**

Although the Marianas now are comparatively a rear base, Japs are still plentiful. One group of Seabees recently killed five and captured 34 more as they blasted an elaborate network of caves the enemy soldiers had been using as a hideout.

"They killed two of our men before we discovered them," said E. H. Schafer, EM1c, who participated in the round-up. The first day's attempts to dynamite the Japs out of their hiding place were unsuccessful, he said, and floodlights were set up around the entrance to help the guards on duty. Five of the Japanese attempted a getaway, but were shot before they cleared the lighted area. Next morning, the Seabees lowered another case of dynamite into the cave and this time hit the jack pot. Thirty four dazed Japs stumbled out to surrender.

Later exploration of the tunnel in which they had been hiding disclosed how they had managed to survive the blasts. The cave was 200 yards deep and composed of many little inner sections or rooms which provided additional protection for their occupants.

### **EASTER SERVICES HELD ON MT. SURIBACHI**

Marines who had engaged in the toughest fight in the Corps' history to conquer the island, and Seabees, already at work reconstructing the island's facilities, gathered in a cold drizzling downpour to attend Easter morning services held atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Services were conducted by Commander Alvo Martin, ChC, USNR, Chaplain of the Third Marine Division.

### **FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES ONLY**

As a tomato grower, David A. Hein, BM1c, of Carlisle, Pa., admits that his ambitions are greater than his production. But it isn't because he hasn't tried.

Hein, stationed at a Western Pacific base, had his wife ship him

tomato seeds from home, dug up wheelbarrows of topsoil from the only fertile spot on the island and moved it to the garden in back of his tent, and faithfully tended the soil each day. When 135 healthy young plants broke through the earth, he rubbed his hands and told his mates, "it won't be long now."

The plants blossomed -- but the tomatoes continued absent. His seedlings, the Seabee discovered, hadn't been pollinated.

Ordinarily bees and other insects would have taken care of that detail. Unfortunately, there weren't any on the island. Hein tried everything, even taking a piece of cloth and dipping it first in one bud, then in the other. That patient, delicate task finally produced one tomato. The Seabee put it on exhibition in the mess hall. His mates, he decided, might as well see what real tomatoes looked like -- even if they couldn't eat them.

### CHARMED LIFE

A scant two inches probably saved the life of Russell F. Palmer, S1c, when his bulldozer blade stopped that close from the detonator of a live 75-mm. shell.

Palmer, who lives in Olmstedville, New York, was operating his dozer on a new construction site in the Central Pacific when a friend's yell brought his machine to a halt.

"That rock jammed in the blade," his mate panted, "it isn't a rock!"

It turned out to be an unexploded shell.

The Olmstedville Seabee has had other close calls, his bulldozer unearthing unexploded hand grenades and, in one instance, a 1,000 lb. bomb. One grenade exploded, but the blade acted as a shield and Palmer came through unhurt.

### MORE DEBRIS

He'd seen plenty of debris-filled shell holes but never one in which the 'debris' moved. So when George H. Rose, PhoM1c, of Willoughby, Ohio, yelled and pointed at the hole, Richard C. Kasowski, CM2c, of Fairfield, Iowa, turned in time to see a lone Jap pop up, then reach for something beneath a piece of canvas.

"I didn't know what he was reaching for," says Kasowski, "and what's more I didn't wait to find out. . .I plugged him through the head with a bullet from my carbine."

Kasowski, accompanied by Rose, the battalion's photographer, was surveying a section of Iwo Jima's Airfield No. 2, then directly behind the combat lines.

## HOLDS RECORD FOR JAP PLANES

Navy Air Group Eighty, returning home for leave, holds the record for one day's destruction of enemy planes in the air by any carrier-based air group -- 71 Jap planes shot down in the first day of the Tokyo raid, February 1, 1945.

This was accomplished with the loss of three of Air Group Eighty's pilots. The record is all the more remarkable since the fighting occurred over the Jap's own airfields, in the heart of the Empire.

## EX-SEABEE??

According to Time magazine, a Buffalo, New York man took a garbage pail, a frying pan, a length of stovepipe, an electric motor and two pulleys, put them together and produced a rotary snowplow that could also mow a lawn.

## POINT OF VIEW

A group of Seabee stevedores are in strong disagreement with the man responsible for the line about "no matter how you slice it." The specialists, who sweat out ten hours a day moving cargo, go in for weight lifting at night and call it fun. It's work only while the sun is up, they declare.

Led by Orin Bagley, BM1c, of San Francisco, Cal., the 15 men go through a routine of tossing around 32-lb. dumbbells, swinging on high bars, skipping rope, and massaging one another with medicine balls.

Their thanks for much of their homemade equipment go to Sam Rouse, M1c, of Los Angeles, who welded dumbbells and barbells.

## NOTHING LEFT TO WORRY OVER

American Superfortress raids are lifting a heavy burden from the minds of Japanese whose homes they destroy, Japan's propaganda chief-tain says.

Associated Press reported his conclusions, which were picked up over the shortwave radio.

The spokesman was quoted as saying "that ten people out of ten with whom he has come in contact have expressed the view that they felt light-hearted and that a heavy burden had been taken off the minds, because prior to their misfortune they had had to worry about their property and belongings."

## PROCUREMENT NOTES

It isn't likely that the Japanese high command had told the seven Nipponese soldiers to defend that Marianas ice machine to the death, but that was the picture six Seabees walked in on when they started to "procure" the ice-maker.

The Seabees were loading the machine on their truck when the Japs appeared and started protesting with gun fire. When it was over, five Japs were dead; two had escaped, but the ice machine was on the Seabee reservation and producing 400 pounds of ice a day for a Marine hospital.

The "procurement section" in this case was: R. D. Francoeur, EM1c, W. T. Weber, CMM, W. E. Trynock, SC2c, T. W. Bell, MM1c, C. F. Gourelly, CM1c and A. W. Branson, S2c.

### CRUISER USS BOSTON ACHIEVES "IMPOSSIBLE"

The line-throwing gun of the cruiser USS BOSTON cracked weakly--almost a ridiculous sound against the booming of heavy guns in the background--and with it was begun one of the greatest towing jobs from enemy home waters to an advance base in the history of Naval warfare.

In the inky blackness of the Western Pacific last October the BOSTON was called upon to take under tow another warship damaged so badly it was at first feared she would have to be abandoned.

But the BOSTON, then a flag ship operating in Japanese home waters, accomplished the "impossible." Under the guidance of her commanding officer, Captain Ernest E. Herrmann, USN; the cruiser jockeyed alongside her injured sister ship about 8 p.m. and began rigging tow lines, a tedious job that required nearly four hours.

The darkness which hampered the operation also was a protective pall hiding the ships from the preying eyes of Japanese "snoopers" droning overhead.

Low visibility and difficulty in determining the heading of the crippled ship made maneuvering close aboard difficult. When the BOSTON's stern was brought to the other warcraft's stem nothing of the damaged vessel could be seen from the BOSTON's bridge. Conning had to be based on telephoned reports from the fantail.

During the entire operation of passing the towline, only two mishaps occurred --minor incidents of gear-fouling. At 11:20 p.m. the BOSTON began a combined towing and guardianship job that was to end successfully ten days later.

### JEWELER

Somewhere in the States a girl is wearing a beautiful, hand-made engagement ring of stainless steel, made from metal taken off a Jap plane in the Marianas.

Harvey Newsome, MM3c, made the engagement ring on order from a friend who wanted to clinch his engagement until he could return to the States.

### **YOUR RIVETS ARE FAMILIAR. . . .**

When Edwin B. Volk rivets a ship, it stays riveted!

Volk, BM2c, now on duty with a Marianas battalion, took his stevedore crew aboard a cargo ship, the San Vin Cente, owned by the Philippine Steamship Company, to unload supplies for an advanced base. The longer he stayed aboard, the more familiar the vessel seemed to him. Finally, Volk inquired about the old-time, all rivet construction.

It was the old "West Keats" on which Volk had worked 25 years before for the Long Beach Shipbuilding Company.

Volk's service life is a little complex. Former cafe owner in Bakersfield, Calif., he enlisted in the Seabees as a cook, gradually worked around to bossing a stevedore gang -- and does an expert job on a lathe when it comes to turning out machined souvenirs.

### **VETS' CIRCLE**

If any World War I veteran in a Marianas-based battalion wants to compare that one with this one, he doesn't have to go far for company. There are 10 World War I veterans in the battalion and all of them have been serving together in this war for two years or more. They are:

C. G. Bunce, CMM, J. S. Rey, S1c, P. Haddix, SSM3c, J. E. Sisemore, BM2c, Nick Kiesel, Bkr1c, L. G. Hawkins, WT2c, L. Bloink, CBM, A. O. Pember, CCM, E. J. Ryan, CBM and Lewis A. Galy, SC1c.

### **TOMORROW'S MENU: POWDERED EGGS**

The hen Thomas B. Scott, WT2c, of Mt. Holly, N. J., found near his battalion's camp must have been of Japanese ancestry. That would explain why it appeared allergic to Navy food.

Scott's hen had lived and laid eggs on land crabs, small tree lizards, perhaps even rice and saki. Under Seabee ownership her production dropped from an egg a day to one every four or five days. As production fell off, talk of fried chicken increased. Scott spent weeks trying to coax the obstinate bird to eat heartily and lay more eggs. Threats and entreaties failed alike.

One morning he awoke to find his hen gone. That night some of his mates invited him over for a fried chicken dinner. "Well," said Scott philosophically, as he grasped a drumstick, "she never did understand English anyway."

### ONLY ONE INNING NECESSARY

The Iwo Jima baseball season opened recently with a couple of Seabees pitching against a pair of Japanese officers. They tossed grenades instead of baseballs, and the contest ended with the two Japs out -- permanently.

Festivities were begun by one of the enemy officers, who emerged from a cave to take a pot shot at Clarence A. Shrader, CM2c, of Hebron, South Dakota. CBM Gerald B. Perkins of Flint, Michigan, then tossed the first ball, a grenade which landed wide of its mark. The Jap's companion returned the compliment with a concussion grenade, but he, too, lacked control.

At this point Chief Perkins substituted pistol for grenade and dropped one of the Japs in his tracks. Shrader, the Japs' original target, got the other officer with a machine gun.

### FROM THE SEA

Dayy Jones' gift to a Seabee battalion in the Marianas was a ship's bell for the outfit's newly-built chapel. The bell, coated with rust, was discovered along the waterfront, covered in the sand.

A crew headed by CSF Raymond K. Heinz of Olean, New York, scraped off the rust, forged new hangers, and generally tidied it up. Today it hangs in the steeple of the chapel -- the best bell, according to the Seabees, on the island.

### MORE IMPROVISED EQUIPMENT

Japanese scrap continues to play a large part in Seabee operations. Recent equipment built by a battalion OinC'd by Lt. Comdr. J. R. Ritter, CEC, USNR, makes liberal use of the odds and ends the enemy left behind.

A wood lathe built by C. C. Jarnigan includes parts from a Jap searchlight and bomb rack. A power driven pipe threader designed by Ch. Carp. S. B. Cross uses gears from an old Jap transmission. CMM Ed Dutt built a power hack saw. And CPO's Janninck, Dutt and MacCallum turned Jap castings, pontoon angles and dozer parts into a one-man steel bending brake which proved so satisfactory it already has been copied by other units on the island.

### CONTROLLED IRE

Pop Hinish, who is with a battalion on Tinian, ordinarily is as peace-loving a man as the name of his home-town, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, would indicate. But when his temper is aroused, the results are likely to be explosive.

And so they were for a certain uncooperative octopus who squatted in shallow water, guarding a nest of cat eye shells the Seabee coveted.

For three weeks, Pop patiently turned up each day to survey the situation --

and each morning the octopus stared balefully back. Then Pop got mad. He obtained some dynamite and blew the place up . . . but skillfully enough to dispose of his enemy and still retain the shells.

### WHO, US?

We don't know where Bob Hope gets his material but the top-notch radio and screen comedian really went all out for the Seabees in one of his recent "It Says Here" syndicated columns.

Said Bob: "When our troops waded ashore at Okinawa they were surprised to find so few Japs at first. They were more surprised when a Seabee walked out of the bushes and wanted to know what had kept them. But they shouldn't have been surprised. The Navy's construction battalion is always right up there. In fact, I understand one of their boys insists his ancestor was the man who moved Plymouth Rock closer to the water so Priscilla Alden wouldn't get her feet wet. We saw them work in the South Pacific last summer, and can they build an airfield fast! If a pilot has to land on an island that doesn't have a runway the Seabees don't tell him to bail out. They just radio back and ask him to circle the field twice. Of course, they do have some close calls. They told me that on one small South Pacific island a new P-47 and the concrete mixer hit the end of the runway together.

"Then their civilian training has helped them. One Seabee who went in with the first wave at Saipan had worked for Henry Kaiser. By the time the second wave came in his gang had not only established a beachhead, they'd built a small drydock and had launched eight brand-new native canoes.

That's all, brother.

### LONG-DISTANCE POLICEMAN

Maybe the good folk of Hanover, Mass., have something up their sleeve. They've just re-elected David F. Studley, MM1c, town constable. Studley is in the Marianas, and has been there for the past 18 months!

### "EXCUSE ME!"

Because another man was in the wrong place at the right time, Ludwig Ploski, Cox, a stevedore, is no gold star in his wife's Newark, N. J. window.

Ploski slipped from a ladder on a cargo ship in the southwest Pacific and fell 30 feet to what would have been the hold -- if it hadn't been for Harry T. Rucker, SK3c. Rucker, who served as a human "landing mat" to break Ploski's fall, was bent over putting on his foul weather gear.

"I never knew what hit me," he said. "The first thing I knew someone was

standing over me, fanning me back to consciousness. But I'm glad I could be there."

Ploski suffered hardly a bruise. Rucker went to sick bay for six weeks with head injuries, but is now back on the job.

### **DON'T MUFFLE THIS IDEA**

A Marianas battalion, looking ruefully at damaged mufflers on jeeps and trucks, have used Jap brass shell casings to build new mufflers which are out-doing the manufactured job.

Now they're producing them in two sizes. The large size consists of a three-inch shell casing housed within a five-inch, the smaller casing drilled with sufficient holes to properly baffle the exhaust gas. End plates carrying a short section of the exhaust pipe and tail pipe were then brazed onto the five-inch casing.

The smaller size, for jeeps, is made from a three-inch casing only by removing the solid end and placing four plates, two with one-quarter inch holes and two with one-eighth-inch holes, within the casing. Ends and baffle plates were made by cutting five-inch casings and flattening. Short lengths of exhaust and tail pipe were made from shell casings. Installation of the baffles within the casing was made easy by first positioning them on one-quarter inch rod after which the rod and baffle plates were spot brazed to the sides of the casing.

The design was that of Lt. (jg) Morris S. Lieberman who worked out the details with James S. Booher, SF2c and Otho E. Archer, MM1c.

### **PROBLEMS OF A GARDENER**

In 1943, Frank Silla, Cox., of Pittston Township, Pa., cultivated a garden in the Fiji Islands. In 1944, he raised vegetables on Bougainville. Now, in 1945, he's going in for the farmer's life on an island in the Carolines -- but he's been having his troubles.

"The soil here is rocky and sandy and there are no bees or other insects to pollinate the plants so I haven't had any luck with my tomatoes or cucumbers or peppers," he explains, "but I've been doing pretty well with basil. Nothing keeps basil from growing. I am going to cover the island with it and when we give it back to the natives they'll wonder what kind of coconuts the Americans grow."

While he waits for that day to come, Silla has been decorating his tent with the basil. Its minty scent and small white flowers remind him of his garden back home.

### **USE SCRAP FOR ELECTRIC DUCT CROSSINGS**

A battalion in the Marianas used boiler tubing and shell casings to install a mile of electric duct crossings under airfield runways and taxiways.

Core duct wasn't available and use of concrete had to be kept to a minimum. Frank Weigel, M1c, suggested the substitution of Japanese scrap. The duct was replaced by 4-inch boiler tubing from a demolished sugar mill. Sleeves made of 105-mm. shell casings with the base cut off were used to secure the 330 joints in the tubing. Where the joints occurred, concrete blocks were poured, sealing and supporting the sleeved joint. The remainder of the trench was backfilled with sand.

Men who worked on the job were C. M. Kilgo, CEM; E. Duffin, EM2c; R. Jagla, EM1c; L. M. Isham, EM2c; F. L. Slater, EM1c; J. Fekete, EM2c; E. B. Ginn, EM2c; and M. F. Neely, EM2c.

### ARMY NURSE TENDS SEABEE BROTHER

For three long weeks, Seabee W. C. Myers, of Washington, D. C., had lain unconscious in a ward of the Army General Hospital in New Guinea. He had been evacuated from the Cape Gloucester beachhead wrapped in the coma from which he was only awakening.

His memories were of mud, sweat, filth and dying men. But here everything was different. It was quiet and cool; and the white of the bed linen made his eyes hurt.

His aching eyes slowly focused on the face of a girl, seemingly hovering in space overhead. The face was familiar: it belonged to someone he had known a long time ago.

Suddenly his mind cleared. He smiled and said: "Hello, Sis."

Second Lt. Thelma I. Myers, U. S. Army Nurse Corps, relaxed. Her three weeks vigil was at an end. Her brother was out of danger.

Lt. Myers was stationed at a hospital only eight miles away, but might never have known of her brother's arrival at the General Hospital if it had not been for the alertness of the nurse who signed his admittance papers. Catching the similarity of names and home addresses, and a friend of Lt. Myers, she notified her immediately.

### PRACTICAL BACKGROUND

Experience he obtained repairing baby buggies and tricycles for his youngsters back home proved valuable to a Seabee in the Marianas. Needing rubber-tired wheels for an operating table his maintenance unit had built for a medical officer on the island, CMM Joe Hoskins of Los Angeles, Calif., turned out wooden casters on a lathe, cut grooves in the rims, and used some salvaged Japanese 9/16" rubber-insulated wire as his "tires." "It was the same system I used at home for the kids," he said, "the only difference was that then I used American wire."

The resultant table was so satisfactory it produced a reorder.

## SHORT SPORT SHOTS

BIGGEST NEWS of the week on the baseball front was the appointment of Senator Albert B. (Happy) Chandler of Kentucky as the high commissioner of baseball, ending a five-month quest for a successor to the late Judge Landis. Chandler who admitted "I wanted the job, but never asked any man for it," was the unanimous choice of the committee who eliminated 99 others before naming him. The junior Senator from the Bluegrass State was voted into office for a term of seven years to the tune of a \$50,000 annual salary. His appointment came as a surprise to everyone--including Chandler, who comes to the post qualified by a background of diamond activity. He played baseball with the Transylvania College nine and later coached and scouted for Centre College in the days of the famous "Praying Colonels." As a pitcher for a semi-pro team he won 12 out of 13 games in one season.

TORONTO'S MAPLE LEAFS won hockey's Stanley Cup by defeating Detroit Red Wings, 2 to 1, in seventh and deciding game of series before the largest crowd in Detroit's history, 14,890. Leafs took cup the hard way, winning the first three games, then losing the next three, before copping final.

OLD TIMER'S Committee selected ten stars, active in major league baseball around the turn of the century, for membership in the game's Hall of Fame. Named were: Roger Bresnahan, N. Y. Giant catcher; Dan Brouthers, Detroit outfielder; Fred Clarke, player and manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates; Jimmy Collins, Boston Red Sox third baseman; Ed Delehanty, pitcher for Washington and Philadelphia Phillies; Hugh Duffy, who played with both Boston clubs; Hugh Jennings, who played with, and managed Detroit; Mike Kelley, Boston Red Sox star; James O'Rourke, catcher and outfielder with Giants; and Wilbert Robinson, catcher for the old Baltimore Orioles and later manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

EX-HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP Primo Carnera arrested and jailed by Gestapo for kayoing several of the "supermen" in a barroom brawl in his hometown near Udine, according to reports from Rome. "Satch" was arrested more than a year ago on charges of being an anti-Fascist partisan but was released by Mussolini.

OPPOSING teams have given up calling Roy A. Lee GM2c, and first string catcher of the 56th Batt's baseball team, "Father Time." Roy, a veteran of the Illinois-Missouri League, quieted the first "needler" by slamming out a 425-foot line drive homer. Athletic director for batt is Michael J. "Mike" Budnick, former pitcher-outfielder-first baseman with Pacific Coast League Seattle club.

KEEPING an eye open for a "place to settle down in my old age", Maj. Gen. Clare Chennault, commanding general of the 14th USAAF in China, put in bid for job with Brooklyn Dodgers. In a letter to Arthur Patterson of the NL Service Bureau, Gen. Chennault wrote: "Your letter....arrived just after I had pitched my first game of the season, which by the way, turned out to be a one-hit, 6-0 shutout. In the second played thus far, I allowed the opposing team six hits but we won easily, 12 to 3. I am leading the team in batting with an average of .667 and I wonder if the Dodgers are losing a good bet in not signing me up for a post war job."