

S E A B E E N E W S S E R V I C E

BULLDOZERS RIP PATH FOR TANKS: SEABEE-LED ATTACK CRUSHES JAPS

When tanks were unable to pass through the extraordinarily thick jungle to attack a Japanese force threatening the Cape Gloucester airfields on which the Fighter-Builders were working, dare-devil Seabees solved the problem by driving their bulldozers through the entangled vegetation. As they smashed their way through, Australian and American infantrymen followed up, making a lane for the land battle-wagons.

The tanks were needed to outflank a strong enemy position within ten miles of the airfields. Jap forces, recovering from their stunned surprise after the Marines' first quick thrust, had regrouped in the hills to the rear of their lost base. Strongly entrenched in pillboxes on both sides of a stream, they were set to inflict severe casualties on any Allied units attempting a crossing.

Until the Seabee bulldozers swung into action, working around the enemy position had appeared impossible. The battling construction men bulled through the wall of jungle, leading the way for the tanks, and then, as they approached the stream's west bank, manipulated their bulldozers to shear down steep cliffs like so much paper.

Under the protection of General Sherman 75mm. tanks, other Fighter-Builders built a bridge across the rivulet, despite withering fire from the enemy pillboxes. Marines then crossed over and in frontal assaults smashed the formidable Jap defenses.

The strong resistance was a surprise in view of the report from prisoners that the Jap general in command of the area had fled on foot from Cape Gloucester to Talasea because of the intense American aerial bombardment preceding the Marines' and Seabees' initial landing.

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YOUNGER SEABEE BOOTS

Although the average age of recruits received at Camp Peary during December dropped to 25.2 years, length of education remained the same, 10.5 years.

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HEROIC SEABEES COVER SELVES WITH GLORY IN BOUGAINVILLE LANDING

Sizeable detachments of Seabees, who stormed ashore with Marine assault troops in the first, second, and third waves to land on Bougainville Island, distinguished themselves by the skill and valor with which they filled their combat assignments.

As the invasion forces approached the enemy beaches, the Seabees manned machine guns on Higgins boats, tank lighters and landing craft. Dare-devil builders leaped ashore from the first boats to nudge into the sand, and unloaded fuel, ammunition, rations and packs while heavy fighting broke out all about them on the beaches. Then, as the Japs were driven back into the jungle, the Seabees manned beach defenses side-by-side with the Marines.

In addition to these activities, which were beyond the normal call of duty, the volunteer group of 100 Seabee officers and men who landed with the first wave also were credited with additional acts of bravery performed with complete disregard for their personal safety.

Landing craft from one transport had to pass through a narrow channel between two small islands just off Bougainville. Jap machine gun nests on the inside of both islands had been firing upon every boat that attempted to move through the channel until Seabees manning landing craft guns effectively liquidated them. The Seabee sharpshooters also helped drive away Zeros that attacked the mother ship.

On landing, the rugged construction men rushed supplies from landing craft to combat line. Seabees carried ammunition and water to the front and, as was learned later, kept a group of Marines from being wiped out because of lack of supplies.

One Seabee jumped aboard a crippled tractor after its Marine driver had been shot off, hauled large quantities of ammunition, and helped place 20-mm. anti-aircraft guns. Another group of the aroused builders riddled enemy pillboxes while Marines moved in to remove the Japs with hand grenades. Still other Seabees moved a Marine heavy artillery battery to the front.

Without thought for their own safety, the Navy construction men carried wounded from the front lines to the landing craft which would return the casualties to the transports for immediate evacuation. The Seabees scooped out foxholes, not only for themselves and the Marines, but for the injured who were unable to dig their own.

When one of the landing craft was hit by heavy artillery fire, a Seabee officer helped unload the wounded and badly needed supplies while other Seabees held the Japs at bay.

The medical department set up a first aid station and treated men on the front lines (which were still the beach) with morphine and bandages carried in their packs.

The first night of the land, the Seabee detachment was assigned the defense of a portion of the beach. The volunteer group continued to hold this area for the next twenty-four days.

For days after landing, the battling builders teamed up with Marine patrols to locate and neutralize Jap snipers infiltrating through the lines.

From the small galley they had set up on the beach, Seabee cooks served hot meals to men on the front lines a few hundred yards away.

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SEABEE O-in-C STORMS PILLBOX, KILLS JAP, IN GILBERTS

The first Seabee ashore on Betio Island, Commander L. E. Tull, CEC, USNR, also personally accounted for at least one Jap when, after a pillbox had been dynamited open, he and Frank R. Hearn, CM3c, tore into the wreckage and destroyed the lone enemy soldier who had survived the blast.

Commander Tull and Carl L. Catt, CMLc, made three attempts to land on Betio on November 20, the first day of the invasion, but were driven back by enemy fire. They succeeded in getting ashore the following morning, and later, made a reconnaissance of the landing strip while it was still under sniper fire.

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"AX-PACKING" SEABEE WELCOMES TWO SCREW-DRIVER WIELDING MATES

Seabee Carl E. Hull, 46-year-old former policeman from San Pedro, California, who was awarded the Silver Star by Admiral William F. Halsey for shouldering an ax, tramping into the woods, and capturing a Japanese soldier, today has the stalwart company of Dewey L. White, MM2c, of Ruleville, Mississippi, and Leonard Friedman, MM2c, of Brooklyn, New York, in the Seabee hall of fame.

Messrs. White and Friedman, members of a Seabee battalion participating in the invasion of the Treasury Islands, made up a two-man team operating one of the Seabees' giant bulldozers.

When a balky transmission threatened to put their sorely-needed machine out of action during the initial phases of the landing, the two battling construction men figuratively thumb-ed their noses at the Jap bullets flying about them and kept the bulldozer operating at top speed by shifting gears with an ordinary screwdriver

Another stand-out among the Jap-defying Seabees during the Treasury Island assault was Thomas J. Bailey, CSF, of Chicago, Illinois. Standing on the ramp of a beached LST, and completely exposed to enemy mortar and machine gun fire, Bailey stuck to his job of directing a detail unloading the ship. He stayed aboard until the last piece of equipment had been removed, although in the meantime the LST received two direct hits and was under constant attack.

Despite the pounding of enemy artillery, a group of the Fighter-Builders under the command of Ensign John R. Bovyer, CEC, USNR, of San Fernando, California, set about installing communications equipment. The Seabees, working in treacherous mud, were the targets of enemy snipers throughout the day. At night, the Navy's battling construction men slept in fox holes while Jap patrols used every ruse at their command to lure them out or make them reveal their position.

The bulldozer activities of Aurelio Tassone, Flc, of Milford, Massachusetts, already have been reported by correspondents.

As an LST nudged into one of Treasury Island's beaches, previously undetected enemy machine gun nests opened up. The guns in the bow of the LST couldn't be brought into action because of the low angle of depression necessary.

As casualties began to pile up, Tassone raised the blade of his bulldozer and smashed into the enemy position. The Seabee's maneuver was a complete success; twelve bodies were later recovered.

The Commanding Officer of a New Zealand brigade, which spearheaded the drive, wrote in his report of the Treasury Island invasion:

"This report would not be complete without a special reference to the American Navy, Marine and Army Forces placed under my command. From the planning stage to the completion of the operation they gave me wholehearted and loyal support and assisted materially in the final destruction of the enemy. Comparisons are generally odious, but in this case I feel I would not be just unless I mentioned the splendid work of (the Seabees)."

Despite extremely limited equipment, the Seabees during their first month on the newly-won island prepared the beaches for landing craft; began work on an airstrip (now completed and in use against the Jap base at Rabaul); built 21 miles of road through heavy jungle; established communications centers; built gun positions; erected a fighter director center; and constructed a dock which was essential for future offensive operations.

Work on a permanent camp, galley, mess hall, sick bay, and trade shops was begun the first day after the invasion.

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WAY BACK WHEN

It was on April 4, 1942 that a radio was carrying a newscast to a group of tough construction men on a South Pacific island. They weren't paying too much attention until the announcer said:

"And these fighting builders have a new name, the Seabees!"
"Hey, that's us!" observed one of the listeners.

Thus did the Bobcats, the first outfit of Seabees to leave the states discover their new identity -- three months after they had been rushed to the South Pacific to strengthen with bases our supply line to Australia.

Commander Robert S. Seddon, CEC, USNR, who at that time was executive officer of the Bobcats, tells the above story and adds that the men were too tired from the tremendous job they were doing to care much what the folks back home had decided to name them.

Commander Seddon is now boss of the 17th Battalion.

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57th LEADS WAR BOND SALES IN PACIFIC

The 57th Construction Battalion led all other Construction Battalions in the Pacific Area in the sale of War Bonds on Pearl Harbor Day with a total of \$37,800--an average of \$40.60 per man.

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FIFTH SPECIAL "BEST STEVEDORE GANG" SAYS TRANSPORT CAPTAIN

Describing them as the "best stevedore gangs" he has met in the past year and one-half in which his ships have discharged cargo at many bases in the sector, Captain P. R. Selig, Master of a transport, complimented the officers and men of the Fifth Special Battalion for their excellent job of cargo working, in a letter to Captain Allen I. Price, USN, Commandant of a Naval Operating Base.

Captain Price also commended the men of the Fifth for the speedy and efficient manner in which they unloaded another vessel whose services were urgently needed.

"Considering the bad weather conditions during this period and the fact that operations were started on Christmas Day, it was a job well done and all hands concerned are to be congratulated," Captain Price's commendation said.

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NEW RECREATION CENTER AT DAVISVILLE

The new recreation building recently completed for Seabees at Camp Thomas, Davisville, R.I. was dedicated recently with formal ceremonies. The two story wooden structure, covering an acre of ground, located on the former Wild Acres estate of the late Charles J. Davol, includes a movie theater, four basketball courts, a boxing ring, a variety of stores, a telephone center and shoe, barber, and tailor shops.

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COMMANDER AND SEABEES BRAVE EXPLODING AMMUNITION TO RESCUE SERVICEMEN

Commander Francis M. McCarthy, CEC, USNR, Officer-in-Charge of the Sixth Special Battalion and seven enlisted Seabees who dodged exploding shells and flying shrapnel to remove injured servicemen and save large quantities of ammunition after a supply dump exploded at a South Pacific Base, have been commended by Admiral William F. Halsey for "meritorious devotion to duty under adverse circumstances".

William R. Denno, Slc; Philip H. Brogan, Slc; Robert W. Fuller, Slc; Leo W. Karopchinsky, SF3c; George D. Bowles, SF2c; all of the Sixth Construction Battalion; James T. Donohue, CBM; and George Rosenberg, Y2c, of the Second Regiment were the Seabees cited.

Admiral Halsey's commendations noted that Commander McCarthy and the Seabees, with complete disregard for their own safety, continued their rescue and salvage work although they were fully aware of the possibility of another and larger explosion.

"Their conduct contributed materially in minimizing the damage and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service", the citations concluded.

(At least one officer and nine enlisted Seabees were fatalities, and more than 78 officers and men were injured when the dump exploded near a dock where Seabees were engaged in loading cargo.)

In a letter of appreciation Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth, USN, Deputy Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force, lauded the "splendid" reconstruction work of the Sixth Construction Battalion in repairing the damage.

"The alacrity with which all hands turned to, and the efficient repair work done to place the dock in working condition in a minimum of time so that the docks were available for use on the following morning, are a matter of pride..", Admiral Shafroth noted.

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42 SEABEES FROM SAME DETACHMENT ON WAY TO COMMISSIONS

Thirty enlisted men from the Fourth Detachment of the Second Battalion already have received commissions ranging from Warrant Officer through Lieutenant, and twelve have been selected for V-12 training.

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THREE SEABEES AWARDED NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDALS

Three 50th Battalion Seabees credited with saving a shipmate from drowning despite treacherous currents that carried two other Seabees to their deaths, have been awarded Navy and Marine Corps Medals for heroism.

John C. Lindsey, CMM; Richard N. Cousineau, CSF; and William A. Polaski, SCLC were the heroes who received the medals from Commodore Giles E. Short, A-V(S), USN.

Lindsey, Cousineau, Roy Ferris CSK; Lewis B. Bostwick, SF2c; and L. C. Hendricks, MM2c, were standing on a reef when a huge wave swept the fully-dressed Ferris into the fast currents. Unable to fight the tide, Ferris called for help and Lindsey and Cousineau dived into the sea and swam to his assistance. Realizing the futility of bucking the strong tide, they allowed the current to carry them along towards the shore.

Meanwhile, Bostwick and Hendricks, in an attempt to help the struggling men, also dived into the swift waters but it was only a few seconds later that Lindsey realized that Bostwick was in serious trouble. Ferris, who was now in little danger, was left with Cousineau and Lindsey turned back to aid Bostwick.

Lindsey, Bostwick and Hendricks were carried together by the current and Lindsey noticed that Hendricks was beginning to flounder. Bostwick assured the Chief he was safe and Lindsey swam to assist Hendricks. But the rapidly-moving tides separated the men and when Lindsey looked back Bostwick had disappeared. Hendricks was making fairly good headway towards shore so Lindsey turned back to search for Bostwick. Lindsey dived several times in an attempt to find his missing mate but to no avail.

Lindsey then returned to help Hendricks who, becoming panicky when he realized Bostwick was gone, grappled with the Chief and carried him under the waters. Lindsey broke Hendricks' death grip after a desperate struggle and fought his way to the surface. Gulping in huge breaths of the life-giving air, the nearly exhausted Lindsey dived again and again in an effort to find Hendricks but failed. Nearer dead than alive, he made for the shore and collapsed in the shallow waters where several Seabees carried him to the beach.

Meanwhile, Ferris and Cousineau had been carried toward the beach but were too near exhaustion from their constant battle against the tides to make shore unassisted. It was then that Polaski, stationed on the beach, plunged into the roaring surf to swim to the rescue and bring the two swimmers safely to shore.

The citations, accompanying the awards, was presented in the name of the President and signed by Secretary Frank Knox.

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SEABEES SET PACE BUILDING FINSCHAFEN AIRFIELD

Expressing appreciation for the Seabees' job of coral production for a new airfield at Finschafen, New Guinea, Major William J. Ellison, Jr., Commanding Officer of an Army Engineer Aviation Battalion working with the Navy builders, wrote:

"....the record could be attained only by highly skilled operators who are thoroughly devoted to their work. As the completion of the runway now depends primarily on the production of coral, the contribution which these shovel operators are making cannot be overestimated."

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MOVIE STAR KAY FRANCIS ADOPTS 122nd BATTALION

Screenland's sophisticated Kay Francis has "adopted" the 122nd Battalion after being guest of honor at a dress parade and inspection held at Camp Rousseau. The Seabees returned the compliment by electing Miss Francis "Queenbee" of the battalion.

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SEABEES KEEP IN TRIM IN HOME-MADE GYM

Seabees of the 51st Battalion, working with an Army unit, utilized their evenings and off-days to convert an unused portion of a warehouse into a gymnasium. Materials used were the leftovers from construction projects.

Basketball backboards were built of rejected glazed masonite tile, swing rings were forged of one inch bars, and a trapeze was made from a piece of ironwood from the keel of a wrecked boat.

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SEABEES GIVE BEES THE "BEESNESS"

Seabees of the Third Special Battalion are enjoying honey with their baking powder biscuits these mornings because of the determination of amateur "Keepers of the Bees", who disregarded the pointed objections of wild honey bees to install them in modern hives in the Seabee camp, according to Matt Saari, BMLc, battalion reporter.

While on a scouting trip in the jungle, W. A. Lundry, EM2c, D. A. Tuller, S1c, and H. W. Robarge, BMLc, spotted two large colonies of wild honey bees.

The Seabees' brains went to work--and that's when the fun began. None of the men knew very much about honey bees. The bees knew even less about the Seabees. So the jungle echoed with Seabee cries and groans as the bees punctuated their stinging disapproval at the Seabee conscription.

"It was awful while it lasted," the Seabees admitted.

But the bees soon learned that the Seabees were not to be denied and to-day they are hard at work--in the modern Seabee-built hives--producing dark, rich honey "such as none of the Seabees had ever tasted in the old country" relates Saari.

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SHOULD BE SOAKED IN ICE WATER, TOO

An unofficial but satisfying campaign ribbon has been designed by Seabees building a base in the North Atlantic -- brown and grey with two red stripes.

The brown represents the bog, and the grey the fog. A diesel shovel is "mired" between the two. The red stripe to the left bespeaks the time the B.O.Q. caught on fire, while that to the right symbolizes a recent conflagration at the camp.

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"WE BATHE WITH CLOTHES ON," WRITES SEABEE FROM TARAWA

"Our camp already is pretty well built up and we are living comfortably - better than one would imagine for a new location on 'Island X'", writes Seabee Al Brenia, SK2c, from the Gilbert Islands in a letter dated "New Year's Day, 1944."

"Fresh water is still a problem," Brenia reports, "we have plenty for drinking, cooking and shaving, but bathing and clothes washing must be done with salt water from the ocean. Often, after work, the fellows wade into the surf fully clothed.

"The other night it rained right after supper. Everyone who could, stripped down and with soap in hand stepped out into the shower. It was the cleanest we'd been for days."

The Seabee also writes that the Fighter-Builders, who messed at outdoor chow stations the first few days, have completed good, screened-in-mess halls. "It makes all the difference in the world," he says.

There are still some restrictions on outgoing mail, but the Seabees each are allowed three letters a week.

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MINTA SATOE BOTL BIER....

is Malayan for "Gimme a bottle of beer." Now, the next problems are to get to Malaya and find somebody who's got any.

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HOME ON THE RANGE

A Kentucky lawyer in civilian life, and for many months a librarian at Camp Peary, Dick Logan, S1c, now of the 12th Battalion, has the bad (?) luck to be near-sighted.

Newly transferred to the 12th, Logan recently approached the rifle range for the first time with his new mates. Solemnly confessing he didn't think he could see the target 200 yards away, Kentuckian Logan, whose illustrious grandfather, also a lawyer, had "arbitrated" a mountain feud by cleaning out both sides, admitted he didn't like to shoot.

Then the bespectacled barrister proceeded to caress the trigger for fifteen consecutive bulls-eyes.

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FOR TOURISTS ONLY

Seabees who are counting on a bit of travel in the near future may find a knowledge of these Japanese phrases useful:

"Tomara naito utsuzo"	-	"Halt or I'll fire"
"Ryo te o agero"	-	"Put up your hands"
"Tomare!"	-	"Halt"
"Shizuka ni shiro"	-	"Keep quiet"
"Namae to ninskiki? Ban to wa nani ka"	-	"What are your name and serial number?"
"Suware"	-	"Sit down"
"Narabe"	-	"Line up"
"Yoko ni nare"	-	"Lie down"

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SEABEE'S JUNGLE EXPLOIT SET STAGE FOR JAPS' FINISH ON GUADALCANAL

By Lieut. Harold Koopman, CEC, USNR

Penetrating deep into the uncharted and almost unpenetrable wilderness of the interior of Guadalcanal, a Seabee Chief Petty Officer, C. T. MacDouglass, of New Orleans, Louisiana, located the mountain hide-out of Japanese jungle scouts who had been using signal lights to reveal Allied movements on the island, and later directed Marine patrols to the concealed pocket in the hills where the enemy force had set up its camp.

Quickly, MacDouglass sketched the Jap layout, estimated the number of men and, as best as he could, the enemy installations. Then, his mission completed, he turned and headed back to American Command Headquarters to deliver a full report.

Delighted Marines soon followed up the Seabee Chief's visit to the enemy camp. Today there are no more Japs on Guadalcanal.

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MAN BITES DOG: SEABEE IN U.S. TAKES 15-DAY LEAVE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL LIMITS

When the 116th Battalion was granted a 15-day leave from Gulfport, Mississippi, Alfred E. Lundstrom, CMLc, set out on an 11,000 mile round-trip journey that took him from the Gulf of Mexico to Fairbanks, Alaska, and back, and still gave him enough time to spend eight days at his Fairbanks home.

To complete his unique trip, Lundstrom needed the aid of two railroads, three air lines, and the cooperation of the U. S. Army.

Starting at Gulfport, the Seabee went by train to Minneapolis, expecting to board an army transport for Fairbanks. Arriving, he learned that the flight had been canceled.

The next best bet was a private airlines plane, but Lundstrom's leave papers did not constitute the necessary priority to get him a seat. Seabee persistence, however, enabled him to talk the airport officials into putting him aboard the next westbound Northwest Air Lines plane.

A few hours later, he landed at Helena, Montana, where he switched to a Midwest Air Lines plane bound for Lethridge, Canada. Here he transferred to a Trans-Canadian Air Lines transport going to Edmonton, Canada. At Edmonton, Lundstrom boarded an army plane headed for Fairbanks.

Nattily attired in low shoes, light black socks, pea jacket, and regulation blue hat, the Seabee stepped off the plane at the Alaskan city to find the thermometer reading exactly 44 degrees below zero.

Answering the door bell, Lundstrom's wife broke into tears of surprise and joy when she saw him. His letter telling her of the pre-embarkation leave had not arrived and his appearance was entirely unexpected.

The Army again stepped in to help when the time came for Lundstrom to start the long haul back to the ABD at Gulfport. He was put aboard a Northwest Airlines Plane which took him from Fairbanks to Minneapolis, where he boarded a train for the southern port.

As a result of the 'lifts' he received along the way, the Seabee's 11,000 mile journey cost him only \$118.

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SEABEES' ALERTNESS ENDS EXPLOSION THREAT

Discovering a faulty hook-up in a power line adjoining a dynamite shed on "Island X", C. F. Hagman, 62nd Battalion, and E. J. Seng, 5th Battalion, eliminated the possibility of a serious explosion.

Tracking down trouble on a telephone line to the storage shed, the Seabees found that the telephone service had made use of a temporarily disconnected 11,000-volt power line for a distance of several spans. Reconnection of the line without minute inspection might literally have "raised the roof".

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WHAT NEXT?

Oscar, a genuine bald eagle, is the new mascot of the 45th Battalion.

Oscar is one of the more unusual members of the expanding "Seabee Mascots League". Most of the pets are dogs, cats, monkeys, and parrots, although one battalion's favorite (recently deceased) was a praying mantis.

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ELEVENTH SPECIAL SPEEDS AMMUNITION SHOREWARD

Using chains, hooks and cable salvaged from "Island X's" scrap pile, the rigging loft of the 11th Special has developed a rig which cuts by half the time previously required in unloading ammunition.

The new rig, designed by Phillip D. Larrimore, CBM, consists of twelve sections of chain bolted to a three-foot section of 2 x 12 board. At the end of each chain is a hook which is inserted in the eyepieces of the shells.

Under the new system, the battalion can move the "packages for Tojo" from ship to shore in one operation, a dozen at a time. Previously the shells had to be transported singly, from hold to net to supply truck.

BANANA OIL HELPS LOGGERS

Following the Seabee tradition of using the materials at hand, a Seabee logging and lumbering crew in the South Pacific area uses the juice from cut banana stock to prevent belt slippage in their sawmill. G. I. soap is their second choice as a lubricant.

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"SMALL WORLD" KEEPS GROWING SMALLER

Seabee Peter Byrne, Jr., of Syracuse, New York, was a long way from home as he crouched in his South Pacific foxhole while Jap planes swooped overhead.

The spotlights caught an enemy raider 20,000 feet up and just about in position to bomb the Seabee encampment. As Byrne watched tensely, an American plane swept into the same spotlighted section and dived at the Jap.

The raider, mortally hit, was tumbling down in a shower of sparks when another Jap rushed in at the American. Bullets rushed both ways; then Jap #2 also headed earthward, leaving a trail of smoke. The Seabee breathed a sigh of relief.

Next day he learned that Yank Lt. Meiggs, who had scored the double kill came from a town called Syracuse, in New York.

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ADMIRALS, GENERALS, GO "ALL OUT" FOR FIRST SECTION OF 20TH

As dazzling a group of high Army and Navy officials as ever commended any Seabee unit have joined to praise the accomplishments of the First Section of the 20th Battalion while the Fighter Builders were part of a combined Task Force.

A letter of commendation signed by Rear Admiral C. E. Van Hook, Deputy, read:

"Lieutenant General Krueger, (Commanding General, 6th Army), Brigadier General Murray, (Commanding General, Task Force), and Colonel Mills, (Task Force Engineer) have joined in highly commending the personnel of the First Section, 20th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion, for the cooperation, skill, and efficiency with which they performed the tasks assigned to them on ("X") Island.

"The Commander Seventh Fleet, (Vice Admiral Thomas E. Kinkaid), adds his hearty congratulations to this well deserved compliment for a job well done."

Captain R. M. Fortson, Commander of the area's Naval Base, and Commander C. M. Herd, CEC, USNR, Officer-in-Charge of the 12th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment, added their own letters of commendation to the joint citation.

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NEW DENTURE PROVES SUCCESS

When a Seabee battalion in Africa decided its scarifier wasn't digging fast enough, Donald Conner, CMM, John Rota, SF2c, Fred Sampers, F2c, and Lawrence Lockhart, Mcmth 2c, decided to do something about it. They lugged some salvaged ship plates into their blacksmith shop and emerged with some new teeth for the scarifier. Result: a rejuvenated machine which could dig a ditch as fast as 500 Arab laborers.

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NEW GEORGIA SEABEES BOAST CORAL SWIMMING POOL

A unique swimming pool, 150 feet long and 75 feet wide, with a Sommerfield mesh fence to keep out dangerous fish, has been built by Seabees at Segi Point, New Georgia. The inner sides of the pool are lined with timber to protect swimmers from being scratched or cut by coral.

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WHOLE FAMILY IN SERVICE INCLUDING PUP

The entire Whiteman family is in the service, including "Private" Eram Von Lutenheimer -- the dog.

Pop is Chief Carpenter's Mate Howard Whiteman overseas with a Seabee battalion; Mom is Marine Private Ruth Whiteman undergoing boot training at Camp Lejeune; and Eram, a massive two-year-old Doberman Pinscher, is a boot with the Marine Corps Dog Detachment.

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SEABEES "ON THE BALL"

Typically, the first news of the presence of Seabees of a newly-occupied "Island X" in the South Pacific is a letter of commendation ... with the Army dishing out the compliments.

The commendation, for "the quality of the work and the efficient manner of performance," was signed by 1st. Lt. Paul W. Jansen, Commanding Officer of the Army detachment on the island. Colonel Raymond Strasburger, Army Signal Officer, added his commendation for "a job well done."

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LET'S PUT OUT THE LIGHT AND DUCK!

High-flying Japanese planes made the illuminated headlights of the 20th Battalion's road-building tractors their targets when making a hit-and-run attack on "Island X".

Exploding bombs were the first indication the Seabee construction crew had of the attack since the wail of the air raid siren had been drowned out by the roar of their bulldozers.

Although several bombs fell close enough to shower the men and tractors with shrapnel and debris, no casualties were sustained.

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MARINE MUST PLAY -- SEABEES MUST WORK

When a shortage of lumber threatened to halt construction of a recreation building for the Marines and information on lumber ordered indicated it would not be available for some time, Seabees of CBMU 507, ever anxious to help their Leather-neck mates, constructed a sawmill.

Two 12-inch circular saws, mounted with vertical and horizontal offsets made possible the ripping of 10x12 timber into the required size boards, and a discarded 24-inch Joiner, salvaged at the Coast Guard, was converted to a planer and put into service finishing the timber.

A total of 24,722 board feet of the required sizes has been made available for the Marine's building by the improvised sawmill.

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Manpower shortage did not halt the wedding of Lloyd Dahl, EM2c, of the 21st Battalion. His bride's sister was 'best man'.

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SEABEES THRIVE ON TOUGH GOING, SAYS AIRWAYS ENGINEER

"Our experience has covered a good many installations of this nature, but none has been completed under such adverse conditions. Tough going seems to be something your men thrive on."

The writer: George D. Barr, Airways Engineer for the Civil Aeronautics Administration; the recipient of his letter: Capt. R. H. Meade, CEC, USNR, Officer-in-Charge of the First Naval Construction Brigade; the Seabees to whom Mr. Barr had specific reference: Company C, 23rd Battalion.

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A PUTTY GOOD TRICK!

With his company urgently in need of caulking material to reinforce the seams of a boat and none available, T. E. Halsey, CMLc, of the 3rd Battalion, proceeded to make his own putty. His ingredients were fine white beach sand, heavy paint pigment, linseed oil, and the wood of rotten coconut stumps.

The boat has now been in use for several months and has yet to leak.

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TELEPHONE SERVICE DE LUXE PROVIDED BY 120TH

"We're here to install your shore telephone, sir."

No wonder the Admiral was surprised. His ship had docked at "Island X" just minutes ago. And here, among the first aboard, were two Seabees, offering service that shaded many mainland ports.

Credit for this highly efficient telephone system belongs to a detachment of the 120th Battalion led by Lt. Charles G. Day, CEC, USNR, with Fred Siquefield, CBM, a telephone Company employee in civilian life, in charge of the actual installation.

The Seabees started with two switchboards (one Italian, the other borrowed from the Army), and made their first temporary installations with wire salvaged from captured equipment. Soon their "Island X Telephone Company" grew to include more than a hundred permanent lines and well over 300 miles of wire. Seven switchboards were handling more than 1,600 calls a day.

The Seabee telephone service has been used and praised by high Army and Navy officials, among whom have been Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Lt. General George S. Patton.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR "ARCTIC DIVERS, INC."

Seabees in the Alaskan and Aleutian areas are invited to apply for membership in "Arctic Divers, Inc.", an exclusive society organized by C. L. Anderson, stationed with one of the battalions in the northland.

Sole qualification for membership is that the applicant must have been dunked completely in the chilly sea, in line of duty, and without willful action on his part.

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SEABEE "PIED PIPER" LURES RATS TO SUICIDE

Like the unhappy villagers of Hamelin, Seabees on the 3rd Battalion's "Island X" were plagued with thousands of rats, reports Bob Evans, Seabee Field Correspondent Extraordinary.

Some of the Builders who still remembered the trick made figure-4 traps. Others set out tasty dishes of macaroni, garnished with lye.

More bloodthirsty mates dreamed of a rat-sized guillotine or, as it seemed only a short step from planning a 'hot foot' to building a 'hot seat', some device for electrocuting the rodents.

Their varied schemes met with only indifferent success until one of the men cut a gas drum down to quarter size and half filled it with water. Over the center, he suspended a piece of cheese from a string. Next, he built an earthen ramp that led up the outside to a point on the rim. From there, a narrow, hinged board projected over the water almost to the cheese.

A trigger kept the board from swinging down until Mr. Rat was at the very end and straining to reach the bait. Then, as his weight sprang the trap, he plunged to a watery grave.

A specialist in mass destruction, the Seabee also saw to it that his device included a spring to pull the board back into place, ready for the next victim.

In a single night, his scientific rat catcher scored a record haul of 26. He says that patents are now pending.

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TEXAS - TOKYO TUNNEL?

"...They contemplate building a tunnel under the Pacific to Tokyo in order to get closer to the shooting," said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, referring to the 99th Seabee Battalion during an address to 7000 fellow Texans at a "Texas Roundup" in Honolulu recently.

The 99th, comprised predominantly of Texans, has been adopted by the State of Texas as the "Lone Star Battalion" and carries the state's colors.

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SEABEES RESCUE PLANE SURVIVORS FROM ALASKAN WATER; EARN COMMENDATIONS

A detachment of thirteen quick-thinking Seabees whose prompt rescue work was believed responsible for the survival of ten crewmen and passengers of a PB4Y that crashed into the stormy, icy waters of an Alaskan bay, have been commended by Commander G. Wood Smith, CEC, USNR, Officer-in-Charge, for their "extraordinary resourcefulness and courage".

Upon observing the huge patrol plane crash, the Seabee detail, unloading cargo aboard a motor barge, raced to the scene of the accident to pick up the survivors from the rapidly-sinking plane.

Roy A. Shook S2c; Oluf T. Hoff, CM2c; and Moses Dunton, MMLc, dived into the deadly-cold arctic waters to support several of the more seriously injured members of the plane crew until they could be hauled out.

Meanwhile, the Seabees aboard the barge signalled a passing YMS which came alongside to remove the survivors.

Lieut. S. E. Palm, D-V(S) USNR, commanding officer of the YMS, noted:

"Had it not been for the superb performance of the men, it is doubtful that any of the survivors would be alive at this time."

The other Seabees who were commended for their part in the rescue were: Edward Boyce, EM2c; Alonzo Bunten, MMLc; Harvey Luchau, CCM; Frank McKeown, QM1c; Frank Roberts, CM3c; Marshall Rogers, Slc; Lincoln Rybensky, S2c; Arthur Shaw, Slc; Peter Tanis, SM3c; and William Whitaker, WT1c.

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BEG YOUR PARDON

The Seabee News Service believes in giving credit where credit is due, so:

In Issue No. 3, dated 15 October, we carried an item entitled "Owed Tojo -- One Bridge" and credited the 26th Battalion with building a bridge over a certain stream. We have been advised recently that the bridge was 80% to 85% constructed by the SIXTH Battalion. The Twenty-Sixth completed the job.

The "captured Jap saw" referred to was an American saw blade forming part of a sawmill rigged up with a Japanese motor and scraps of Japanese material by the SIXTH.

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CAMP LEE-STEPHENSON HONORS SEABEE HEROES

Following a pattern set when the camp itself was named after the first two Seabee officers to die in action, Camp Lee-Stephenson, Quoddy Village, Maine, will henceforth name camp streets, areas, and important installations after Seabee officers and men who have given their lives for their country.

Three of the first streets to be so named are dedicated to Gustav Fred Dresner, CCM, of Houston, Texas, killed at Rendova; Charles Francis Conner, BM2c, of Okemah, Oklahoma, killed at Guadalcanal; and Armandzor Placid Vanasse, of East Hampton, Massachusetts, S1c, killed in North Africa.

The camp's new Bivouac and Combat Area will be named after Lt. Carl Milford Olson, CEC, USNR, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who died in action at Salerno.

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SHORT SPORT SHOTS

Hot Stove League in full swing..Professional baseball intends to carry on as long as possible .. Major leagues have arranged regular 154-game schedule .. also plan All-Star and World Series .. teams will start spring training in North around March 1 .. About 75 major leaguers have joined services since close of 1943 season .. many more waiting call .. Of minor leagues, 16 closed down for duration .. American Association, International and Pacific Coast Leagues will continue in 1944 .. Night baseball ban in New York lifted by Mayor LaGuardia .. Servicemen overseas may get play-by-play major league games juke-box style if Dixie Walker, Brooklyn outfielder, has his way .. idea was result of recent tour of Alaska and Aleutians where showed movies of 1943 World Series in company of five major leaguers .. Edward G. Barrow, president of Yankees,

reportedly admitted three recent offers for Yanks' franchise ... no deal on fire, however .. Sgt. Charley McKenna, Para-Marine Corps combat correspondent, reports Seabee-built diament on Bougainville one of most popular recreation spots on island .. Rudy York, Detroit Tigers, paced sluggers in American League with .527 .. Charlie Keller, Yankees' outfielder, next with .524 .. both hit only .271 in regular batting average .. slugging average is determined by dividing total number of times at bat into total bases player gets on hits .. Joe Cronin, 37-year-old Red Sox manager, expects to play baseball until taken into service .. Martin "Slats" Marion, Cardinals' short-stop, in Army .. Johnny McCarthy, Boston Braves' first sacker, reported to Navy .. Elmer Layden, National Football League prexy, fined Redskins' George Marshall and Ralp Brizzolara, Chicago Bears, \$500 each for ruckus during play-off in Chicago .. Marshall tried to sit on Bears' bench, Brizzolara had him tossed off .. much ado about nothing .. Pro league granted franchise in Boston to Ted Collins, Kate Smith's manager .. Clark Shaughnessy, football coach at U. of Pitt, top choice to coach team .. Applications for franchises from Buffalo, Los Angeles and San Francisco tabled until annual business meeting in April .. Football Writers Assn. voted Amos Alonzo Stagg, 81-year-old coach of College of Pacific, Football Man of the Year .. Frank Sinatra, 4-F radio crooner, paid \$10,000 for contract of heavyweight Tami Mauriello .. Fritzie Zivic, veteran Pittsburgh welterweight, passed draft exam .. induction postponed to allow broken hand, suffered in recent loss to Jake LaMotta, to heal .. Max Schmeling, who won world's heavy-weight championship sitting on canvas, reportedly discharged from German army because of injuries suffered with German airborne division during invasion of Crete .. Nazi DNB agency reported old injury prevented Georges Carpentier, former world's light-heavyweight champ, from appearing in exhibition bout in Paris on fiftieth birthday .. Barney Ross, ex-light and welterweight king, expected to be discharged by Marines due to wounds and illness sustained at Guadalcanal .. Sam Langford, one of greatest boxers of all time, found blind, broke in Harlem .. admirers rallying to aid .. Beau Jack, holder of New York version of world's lightweight title, won close ten-round decision over Lulu Constantino .. Bobby Ruffin and Tippy Larkin, flashy lightweights, fought ten-round draw .. Ruffin waiting induction .. Harold "Jug" McSpaden, of Philly, won \$12,500 Los Angeles open golf with 278 for 72 holes .. Byron Nelson, Toledo won \$10,000 San Francisco Victory open with 72-hole 275, 13 under par .. Amateur Gold Assn. suspends for duration .. U.S. Lawn Tennis Assn. plans usual tournaments although most top-notchers in service .. N.Y. Rangers took worst pasting in history from Detroit's Red Wings, 15-0 .. Montreal still leading league with 22 wins, 3 losses, five ties .. Stanley Cup play-offs start March 21 .. West Point

basketballers rose to East top-ranking by beating St. John's of New York 49-36 .. Dartmouth won 61-49 over Pennsylvania for seventh straight .. Other recent scores: Camp Edwards 73, Harvard 45; Colgate 41, Penn State 34; Cornell 50, Hobart 41; Great Lakes Naval 48, Michigan, 36; Iowa, 53, Illinois 44; Minnesota 45, Nebraska 32; New York U. 45, Temple, 43; Norfolk Navy 72, Duke 59; Northwestern 42, Ohio State 40; Purdue 51, Michigan 35.