

SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

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ISLAND X REPORT

When the long awaited second front is opened, the Seabees will help open it.

What may be the largest concentration of the Fighting Builders ever to participate in a single action is now in England perfecting its already proven technique of getting supplies ashore in a hurry. In addition, detachments are passing on the fruits of their experience and knowledge to the English.

Just returned from Great Britain, Carpenter Kenneth J. Logan, CEC, USNR, who served with the now famous C. B. Detachment 1006 in its landing operations at Sicily and Salerno, advises that the Seabees have made quite an impression on their British allies.

"The English stand around with their mouths open watching the Seabees at work," he says. "But much as they are interested, they are even more fascinated with the way the boys can handle bulldozers. The English aren't accustomed to bulldozer operations, but they're catching on."

News of Seabee activities in preparation for the invasion also comes from Harold Denny, New York Times correspondent, who describes the living quarters and training grounds for amphibious warfare which have been built recently along the bays and inlets of England.

"The establishment of these bases," writes Denny, "and the speed with which it has been accomplished is due in large measure to the efficiency of the Seabees . . . Naval officers and such Army officers as have seen them work swear by them."

In the South Pacific, the Seabees have been hard at work consolidating gains on the islands ringing Rabaul and closing off the bottleneck on the Solomons. Counter-attacking Japanese have been frustrated on Bougainville, and that island's Seabee built airfields are in daily use against the remaining Jap strongholds to the north and west. On the westernmost islands of the Rabaul ring, the Admiralties, the Seabees have virtually completed improving the air base from which bombers can effectively block efforts of the Japs to supply Rabaul.

Details are still lacking on the recent attack on the Hollandia area of New Guinea, but if Seabees did not actually participate, at least the airstrips they built in the vicinity contributed to the success of the operation.

Work continued in the development of recently captured bases in the Marshalls as these islands were readied as jumping off points for new offensive thrusts. In addition to air strips now in service, the Seabees have been active in establishing fuel supply depots. Incidentally, their handling of pontoons during the original assault

was widely publicized in the States as were Seabee pontoon operations in the Mediterranean theater.

Seabees in the Aleutians are bringing to a conclusion the development of fuel and air bases along the outer islands. The work they have accomplished has been bearing fruit in the form of increased air attacks on the Jap held Kurile islands. The late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox at a recent press conference indicated that these northern outposts of Japan would be invaded in due time.

Back from the fighting fronts, approximately 90 C. B. Maintenance Units are performing their little publicized but nonetheless important work of maintaining vital links in the chain of bases.

SALUTE TO THE SIXTH SPECIAL

Top ranking officers of the Navy, Marine and Army have praised the performance of the Seabee Specials, but from the captain of a cargo ship which the Sixth Special unloaded in a combat zone comes the most eloquent commendation thus far received. Addressed to the Sixth Special by Lt. Comdr. James E. King, USCGR, the commendation follows in full:

"On two different occasions the Sixth Special C. B. Battalion has loaded and discharged this vessel. I would like to take this opportunity to state that they are, without doubt, the finest unit that has ever handled any loading or discharging while I have been in command of this vessel. Their teamwork is really a pleasure to watch and the amount of cargo discharged per gang per hour is far in excess of any stevedoring done in this area. The stevedores that worked this ship in the States would be put to shame if they could see these boys in action.

"When I look at your outfit I feel proud to be an American. I have never yet heard one bit of beefing or griping, or seen any shirking of duty. Each man seems happy to do his allotted job and does it quickly and efficiently. I hope we have the pleasure of having your outfit handle the stevedoring on this vessel again in the near future."

SEABEES TO LEAVE GULFPORT

Camp Hollyday at Gulfport, is about to take its place beside Camps Peary, Allen and Bradford in the limbo of Seabee history, it was announced this week by Captain R. P. Carlson, CEC, USN, Officer-in-Charge of the Seabee Advanced Base Depot and Receiving Barracks.

A few men may be retained as station force personnel for the ABD, but the remainder will depart before May 15. Men physically unfit for overseas duty will be transferred to Camp Peary, and malaria cases will head for Camp Lee-Stephenson, Maine.

Camp Hollyday which opened in October, 1942 will become a Naval Training Center for service school recruits.

SWASTIKA SUNDAE

The Nazis contributed ice cream to Yanks in North Africa via Seabees of the 54th Battalion.

From a motley collection of Nazi junk, the Seabees under the presiding genius of Jerry Hansen, SC1c, built "Belching Bertha", a machine which turned out more than a thousand gallons of ice cream before it got well broken-in.

In addition to miscellaneous parts salvaged from the wreckage of a Dornier flying boat, the ice cream machine was concocted out of a one-lunged gas engine confiscated at Bizerte, a reduction gear requisitioned at Sicily, assorted parts retrieved from the battle areas at Salerno and Palermo, wooden paddles from a fallen plane, and a gas drum which found its way down from Paris.

The secret of the Seabees' ingenuity didn't remain a secret long. From Wacs to Army Engineers, they came rushing.

SEABEES "LIQUIDATE" JAPS UNCOVERED BY BULLDOZER

When a road-building bulldozer crew flushed two Japs from the protective covering of the deeply-tangled underbrush of Parry Island in the Marshalls, Lt. Bluford W. Crain, CEC, USNR, heading a Seabee detail protecting the bulldozer operators, shot and killed one of the fleeing enemy. The other Jap also was suitably disposed of.

The Seabees, attached to a Marine Amphibious Corps, landed under fire with the initial assault waves. After setting up beach defenses, supply and ammunition dumps, they began cutting a road through the jungle to provide easy access from the dumps to the front lines. It was then the Japs made their break.

The Seabees were "Bobcats", members of the First Construction Detachment, which also participated in assault landings on Roi and Engebi Islands. On these islands also, the Seabees set up dumps for ammunition, water, rations, vehicles and ordnance, established first-aid positions; and evacuated wounded and prisoners.

Despite heavy enemy fire, only one enlisted man was killed. Three members of the detachment were wounded. Among the latter was the OinC, Lt. Cmdr. Richard G. Walke, CEC, USNR, who sustained slight shrapnel wounds but reported himself still in action.

GANGING UP ON TOJO

The Navy's strength will be "at least three times that of the available Axis ships in the Pacific" by this summer, Vice Admiral F. J. Horne, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, has estimated for members of the Senate.

Admiral Horne spoke before the Senators at a hearing on the new \$32,645,000,000 appropriation bill, largest in the Navy's history.

JAPS CAN'T HIDE

"Japan is caught upon the horns of a dilemma of her own making," said Vice Admiral David W. Bagley, USN, speaking before San Francisco's Commonwealth Club. "If the Imperial Navy makes a stand it will be annihilated. But if it remains in hiding, we shall proceed to new land bases ever nearer to the homeland."

The commander of the Western Sea Frontier said the United States is "approaching the peak of its belligerent power" and our forces in the Pacific are "increasingly able to take our bases with us in our westward drive".

Asserting that Japan "gambled away an empire in an attempted short cut to conquest" at Midway, Admiral Bagley suggested the possibility, which, however, he termed improbable, "that the Imperial Fleet may eventually be scuttled to preserve the quaint myth of its invincibility."

STEVEDORES TO TRAIN AT CAMP ENDICOTT

With the closing of Camp Peary to Seabees scheduled for mid-summer, work already has been started by Seabees of the 64th Battalion on the construction of a new stevedoring school at Camp Endicott.

The installations, to cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, will include two large concrete and wooden ships, four big masts, eight hatches and 16 booms, which will provide men attending the school an opportunity to become familiar with every type of stevedoring equipment.

All officers and civilian instructors and much of the equipment of the Camp Peary school are to be transferred to Endicott. The school is expected to be in operation by mid-May.

CONGRESS HEARS SEABEES PRAISED

"The courage and accomplishments of the Seabees is one of the bright spots of efficiency in the war," Congressman Warren G. Magnuson, of Washington, declared in his official report to the Naval Affairs Committee, following an extensive inspection tour of Aleutian Naval Bases.

"One can only appreciate what has been done by visual observation. They

have gone out on those barren wastes, pitched tents, and starting from scratch in the sleet, slush, rain, cold and snow, have built some of the finest airfields, air facilities, piers, etc., that exist anywhere in any advanced base in the world."

Mr. Magnuson said the Seabees were commanded by able engineers and comprised the most varied assortment of men who ever donned a uniform.

They can do anything and build anything and are willing to do so on a moment's notice. Their activities range from driving "cats" and bulldozers, mending furniture in a nurses' home, stevedoring on ships, digging pits, graveling roads, exploring for wild game and fish, to interior decorating in the officers' mess.

The text of the congressman's speech was carried in the Congressional Record.

TOP PAY CHECK?

With a monthly check of \$389, Chief John J. Toner of the 33rd Battalion believes he is the best paid of the Navy's 240,000 enlisted Seabees. Toner has twelve children, ten of them under eighteen and eligible for dependency allowances.

The Chief reports that of all the officers in the battalion, only the O-in-C draws a higher wage.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN EGGED ON

When a refrigerator ship bringing fresh eggs and vegetables to the servicemen of the 47th Battalion's "Island X" broke down about eight miles off-shore three Seabees, answering the emergency call, worked steadily from 2300 to 1000 the next morning to repair effectively the defective motor.

C. R. DeMello, CCM; F. D. Jones, SF1c; and A. J. Symmank, SF1c, were complimented by the ship's Chief Machinist for their mechanical ability and the speed with which repairs were completed.

JINGLE. JANGLE. JINGLE

When Randolph Scott of motion pictures visited the 47th Battalion on Island "X", Norman J. Moore, EM3c, asked him to autograph a pair of spurs which he had made out of the propellor of a Jap Zero. Obliging, Scott signed his name on each spur.

The next day Moore had the handwriting engraved and showed the work to the movie actor, who was so impressed with the workmanship that he made a deal with the young craftsman. Scott took the spurs back to Hollywood to use in his next picture.

In exchange Moore is to receive a case of Scotch and a round of parties, with transportation and all expenses paid, when he lands back in California.

Previously, Moore had refused a \$200 offer for the spurs. He had worked on them during his non-duty hours for two months. Using a hack saw and file, the Seabee fashioned them out of silver with two "cateyes" set in each. They also are handsomely engraved.

JUNK PLUS

When an additional road roller was needed by the 94th Battalion recently, one was located in the junk pile of another battalion which was using it for scrap metal.

Next, the machinists of the 94th salvaged a motor from an abandoned truck. The problem of rebuilding the flywheel and supplying a new clutch plate without a lathe was solved by the welders who cut out the flywheel and welded the clutch plate to it. The machine men then drilled and fitted the plate to the flywheel.

When the "new" roller went into action, its only new parts were a battery and three spark plugs.

"ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE" JOB COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME

For solving "an almost impossible transportation problem by landing all his equipment on a dangerous beach exposed to the Bering Sea," Lt.(jg) P. H. Sawyers, attached to a Seabee battalion in the area, has been commended by Lt. Col. William A. Wallace, Commanding Officer, Headquarters, Harbor Defenses of Dutch Harbor.

Lt. Sawyer also was credited by Col. Wallace with erecting installations on exceedingly difficult terrain amounting to almost sheer cliffs.

"Both of these jobs were completed in record-breaking time and I wish to express my appreciation of a job well done," the Commanding Officer concluded.

TAKE A BOW GENTS

The North Hollywood Junior High School publication urges its student body to adopt the Seabee motto of "Can Do."

"These men", says an editorial on the Seabees, "are the modern version of the American Spirit of 'Can Do'".

CIRULLI OF 33rd COMMENDED FOR HEROISM

For saving the life of a fellow Seabee whose gasoline-saturated clothes had caught fire, James Cirulli, SK3c, has been officially commended by the 33rd's O-in-C

Cirulli knocked his burning mate, David F. Cormier, SF1c, to the ground and rolled him in the dirt to put out the flames. Michael Palko, MM2c, tore off his shirt and wrapped it around Cormier's legs which were badly burned. The battalion medical officer later stated that Cirulli and Palko undoubtedly had saved Cormier's life by their heroism.

AIRCRAFT CARRIER CARRIES NATIVE TRIBUTE

When the "Guadalcanal", a new escort carrier, sails into action, it will carry with it an inlaid plaque presented by natives of the island of Guadalcanal. The plaque commemorates the part played by American forces in evicting Japanese in 1943. Seabees of the 6th, 14th, and 26th Battalions were among the early units ashore in this campaign.

The plaque is inlaid with native mother of pearl and constructed of Ivatu wood from a giant sandalwood tree, enclosed in a case made of native woods. It is inscribed, "To the United States Navy, with appreciation from the people of the British Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, 1943".

SHARK WAS A CUT UP

Will a shark attack a man? A Seabee who worked underwater in the South Seas, with a gigantic metal "fence" erected around him in the ocean for protection, knows the answer!

When it became necessary, in constructing a seaplane ramp, to pour concrete slabs in 14 feet of water, Donald Erickson, CM2c and a buddy volunteered for the job.

The Seabees had not brought along diving equipment, so the welding shop came to the rescue by making an underwater helmet out of an old boiler, (into which eye-pieces were fitted), and a small compressor tank. Erickson donned the homemade "lung", descended into the water, and guided into proper position the long pipe into which the concrete was poured. After a time he emerged and the other Seabee went down.

"We'd seen barracuda and shark in the vicinity," Erickson explains, "but we had paid no attention to them, as we had an 'Official Opinion' that they wouldn't bother us!"

Suddenly a five-foot shark drove at the man in the water. The shark tore one of the Seabee's boots completely off, and knocked him down. Blood began to flow where the savage fish had inflicted a mild flesh wound.

"From then on," says Erickson, "we worked behind wire screening that enclosed an area 150 feet long and 70 feet wide. More than once I've seen a big shark take a run in at us and smack against the mesh enclosure."

ROAD TO TOKYO MAPPED

The road to Tokyo will be by way of the Carolines, the Marianas and the Bonin Islands, Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandergrift, commandant of the Marine Corps, declared this week.

At the same time, Rear Admiral Dewitt C. Ramsey, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, predicted that by the end of 1944 we would have more than 100 carriers to spearhead the westward drive in the Pacific.

JUST LIKE THAT

Chief Carpenter's Mate Ira Palmer is one father who reversed an age-old adage by following in his sons' footsteps.

Attached to the 50th Battalion along with John, CM3c, and Ira Jr., S1c, the 49-year-old Seabee explains his enlistment in the Seabees this way:

"The boys wanted to go in. I took them down to get them signed up. When I got home, I was signed up too!"

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SOLDERING IRON

This practical idea comes from Seabee William Blodgett, MM2c, of CBMU 513. Blodgett removed the carbon stick from a worn out dry cell battery, shaved down one end, attached wire to the carbon stick by means of a clamp, and attached the other end to a live wet cell battery. The result was an extremely useful carbon arc solderer available for many tasks.

AS A CHANGE FROM SPAM?

Seabees on a South Pacific "Island X" may soon taste "Cockatoo Chowder".

Several times, after they have returned from particularly devastating visits to neighboring tents, Howard Williams, S1c, has threatened to turn his two cockatoo pets, Squawky and Cocky, into a tropical variety of oyster stew.

When they're not painting the camp red, Squawky, a white female, and Cocky, a brilliant green male, thrive on a diet which includes tooth paste, shaving cream, and bristles from tooth brushes. The two cockatoos, he claims, hunt around until they locate a pack of Luckies (they're particular), break open the seal, strip the paper from each cigarette, then munch on the tobacco.

C G OFFICER PRAISES HEROISM

Warrant Officer Michael R. Conran, E-V(S), in charge of a detail of Seabees that assisted in the salvage of four stranded naval vessels in the European sector, has been recommended for commendation by Cmdr. I. L. J. Borstelmann, OinC of a Construction Regiment, on the basis of a report from Cmdr. M. H. Imlay, USCG, Commander of an LCI Flotilla.

"The work of Conran. was outstanding," Cmdr. Imlay's report said. "This officer was on the job almost continually and displayed great ability in the handling of his equipment. His almost super-human efforts to assist in getting the tow line aboard. deserves great praise. He went overboard from a "Dukw" in exceptionally high surf in danger of being thrown against. the bulldozer and secured a line to the machine while heavy surf was breaking over it."

THEY DON T ALL WEAR MEDALS

Michael G. Docherty of the 75th Battalion wrote a letter to the Columbus, Ohio, "Citizen" recently. Because Mike's letter is of interest to all Seabees, we are reprinting it in part.

Docherty told the "Citizen" about one of his mates. First commenting on war heroes in general, Mike then said, "There are some others, none the less heroic, who are never mentioned in dispatches, who are known only to those who serve near them. We have one such here in the 75th.

"His name is Leonard Cooley of Lafayette, Indiana. He is 51 years old, the oldest man in the battalion. Mr. Cooley is tall, thin, not very strong. Yet he never has complained of the hardships we have to endure.

"He has never used his age or prestige to avoid work. I've seen him up to the waist in a swamp cutting timber. I've seen him work all day on a sun-scorched beach, unloading ships. He never complained.

"He never complained when his son almost died in an Australian hospital. He never complained of the rheumatism he got from sleeping in a muddy foxhole. His devotion to duty is an example for everyone.

"Mr. Cooley's family is worthy of him. His two sons are in the Navy. His daughter is in the WAVES. And his wife works in a war plant. A perfect score for patriotism.

"In a rough outfit like ours, where most men are addressed by a profane nickname, Leonard Cooley, an enlisted man, is so admired he is called MISTER, a courtesy ordinarily given only to officers. We are proud of him."

COCOANUT TREE USED AS UPRIGHT FOR CHAIN HOIST

When a Seabee battalion in the Russell Islands found itself in need of a chain hoist, it created one by using a cocoanut tree as an upright, salvaged 2 1/2-inch

pipe for the upright brace, and a section of 8-inch "I" beam rescued from the scrap pile for vertical steel brace.

30th BATTALION PRESENTS ALTAR TO CAMP ENDICOTT

A beautiful hand-carved altar of Peruvian mahogany and ash, made by Seabees of the 30th Battalion while they were stationed in Trinidad, has been donated by the Battalion to Camp Endicott to be used in Catholic services there.

The altar and accoutrements, made by men of the carpenter and camouflage shops in their "spare" time, weighed more than half a ton when crated and was brought to Endicott when the battalion returned.

The altar was designed by William F. Baker, CCM Guy LaBate, CM1c did the carpenter work, with the assistance of Joe Vennare CM2c and others. The finishing was done by Jim Abbott, CCM, who also inlaid the inscription with gold leaf.

WET

Lt. J. B. Clausen, who keeps tabs on weather statistics for a Seabee battalion in the New Hebrides, reports 23 inches of rain for the week ended March 31st. And no umbrellas.

SAVES AIRMEN FROM BAY

A group of Seabees stationed at Camp Endicott were commended by Captain Ben H. Wyatt, USN, Commanding Officer of the Quonset Naval Air Station, for their part in rescuing two airmen whose plane had crashed into the bay near the station.

When the plane was seen to hit the water, G. H. Schultz, CM3c an instructor at the Barge and Pontoon School of Camp Endicott, and a group of trainees of the 49th Battalion, headed their pontoon barge towards the scene and quickly hauled the airmen out of the icy waters. A short time later, the flyers were transferred to a Naval Station crash boat.

However, Schultz and his crew remained to help place a buoy over the spot where the plane went down and this, Captain Wyatt noted, "facilitated salvage operations".

HODGE-PODGE LATHE

The 117th Battalion's carpenter shop boasts of a home-made lathe, constructed from an automobile universal, a piece of pipe for a chuck, the insides of a water-valve for a centering tool, a file and a rod for a steadying rest, two home-made wooden pulleys, and a one-cylinder motor.

Designers of the device are Henry Withrow, CM2c, Henry Williams, CM1c, and

Archie Jacobs, CM1c. Withrow and Frank Stewart, CM3c, also built a drill press out of old airplane parts.

THE LOWDOWN

T. K. Billingsley of the 100th Battalion, now on "Island X", took advantage of his home town newspaper's offer to supply servicemen with war maps.

"Not that I'm interested in knowing the shortest route to Tokyo because the Navy will probably show us the way there," Billingsley explained, "but I would like to find out where I am and also the shortest route back to Antioch, California, in case I should ever get a leave."

KEPT EM FLYING

An emergency repair crew of the 75th Battalion kept an uninterrupted supply of vitally-needed aviation gas flowing to the tanks of gas-hungry bombers and fighters at an advanced South Pacific base despite heavy enemy shelling which scored numerous shrapnel hits on pipelines, tanks and pump houses.

The aviation gas tank farm system, operated and maintained by the 75th, was situated in an area often under comparatively heavy enemy fire and the repair crew was kept busy repairing damage caused by near-misses.

An official report noted that "in no instance was the delivery of aviation fuel affected."

THREE PURPOSE PONTOON

Pride of the Transportation Department of the 55th Battalion, somewhere in southwest Pacific, is a pontoon section which fulfills a threefold purpose by serving as a portable sprinkler for dusty roads; as a ready supply of 1300 gallons of water for fire protection; and as an automatic water dispenser for concrete mixers.

The sprinkler is made from pieces of two and three-inch pipe attached to the bottom of the pontoon and operated by gravity flow. For fire-fighting, a system of four reversible valves and a mounted centrifugal pump makes it possible to pump water out of, as well as into the pontoon. Pressure supplies the water to concrete mixers.

The entire section can be transported to any area as it is readily lifted on and off a truck by crane.

JACKPOT!

More than 30 sacks of accumulated mail--over 50,000 letters--greeted Seabees of the 104th Battalion at their first mail call on "Island X". Twenty temporary mail orderlies were required to help the two Navy mail clerks sort the mail and all were praised by the OinC for their "efficiency under handicaps."

SHORT SPORTS SHOTS

BASEBALL: .Jim Tobin, Braves' knuckleballer, pitched no-hit, no-run game against Dodgers. .first hitless game in majors since 1941. .Tobin spoiled "perfect" game by giving up two passes but added insult to injury by clouting home run. .Tobin's 1944 three game record one of most remarkable ever established. .allowed Giants but three hits while losing first game, pitched one-hit victory over Phillies in second start. .St. Louis Browns established new American League record for consecutive games won since start of season when they chalked up eighth straight victory. .Pat Seerey, Indians' rookie outfielder, became first batter in major league baseball at Cleveland Stadium to hit fair ball into top deck in left field. .First ball tossed out by Mayor LaGuardia at Yankee Stadium going overseas to group of soldiers who requested it. .Major league teams will travel by coach or bus whenever possible. .Johnny Lindell, Yankee outfielder, hits first grand-slam homer of season. .Slugging Rudy York, Tigers' first baseman, rejected by Army because of old knee injury. .Ray Mack, working in war plant, received permission from draft board to play night and Sunday games with Indians. .Giant manager Mel Ott passes pre-induction exam, will remain with club until called. .Other 1-Aers include Rollie Hemsley, Yankee catcher; Paul O'Dea, Indian outfielder; Connie Ryan, Braves infielder. .Pitcher Al Gerheuser, Phillies, rejected.

RACING: .Jamaica race fans bet \$3,176,553 to set new world mark for recorded horserace wagers in one day. .Wood Memorial, preview of Kentucky Derby, run in two sections. .Stir Up won first half, Lucky Draw took second section. .Stir Up's victory cut price from 4-1 to 8-5 as Derby favorite. .Sun Again captured Southern Maryland Handicap at Pimlico. .Loveday took Roger Williams' Cap at Narragansett. .New York State Treasury gained \$136,491 from uncashed racing bets during 1943.

FOOTBALL: .To avoid schedule complications of eleven team league, Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Cardinals will merge for 1944 season. .will play in Western Division. .Cleveland Rams will return to competition. .Philadelphia, amalgamated with Steelers in '43, will play as independent. .New Boston team signs Lt. Cmdr. Jim Crowley, one of original Four Horsemen of Notre Dame and former head coach at Fordham, as coach. .Crowley, presently on duty in SoPac, appointed to direct athletics at Sampson NTS, will not report to Boston until end of war.

BOXING: .Jim Wilson, slugging Philadelphia welterweight, scored 16th straight when he stopped Harry Thomas of Richmond. .Lloyd Marshall won easy 10-rounder over Jake LaMotta.

SIDELINES: .Camp Endicott nine schedules exhibition games with Indians, Giants and Red Sox. .60th Batt boasts finest athletic field in New Guinea. . "Stan Wojcik Field", in memory of first 60th Seabee killed in enemy action, has bleachers, screens and mechanical scoreboard. .Nazi shells fail to halt softball tilt between Army teams at Anzio. .20th Batt won softball championship of "Island X" winning two straight from highly-touted Army Stevedores in league final. .On former "Island X", 20th faced Army teams twenty-seven times and won twenty-three games. .among victims was Infantry team who bowed for first time in two and one-half years of play and another with record of forty-two consecutive wins.