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BULLDOZERS OVER TANKS -- GENERAL PATTON'S CHOICE

The part construction men and construction equipment are playing in winning the European and Pacific wars has been spotlighted by a statement credited by "Newsweek" to Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr: If he had to choose between tanks and bulldozers for an invasion he would choose road-building equipment every time.

Construction and road-building equipment, "Newsweek" observes, "by now have proved themselves among the most important and versatile combat weapons of the war."

It was revealed that one of the real "secret weapons" unveiled by Army Engineers in Normandy was a new "tank-dozer" -- a regular tank fitted with an 800-lb. bulldozer blade. "Lumbering up the beaches," said "Newsweek," "it gouged out obstacles cunningly designed to snarl the treads of a tank. Later it moved on to even more effective work, tearing a way through the hedgerows of the Normandy Peninsula."

Telling how construction equipment had played vital roles in other campaigns, the magazine recounted how, on New Georgia Island, it was demonstrated that the infantry front lines could advance only so fast as construction equipment blazed the trail.

At Tarawa, bulldozers knocked down pillboxes still standing after the bombardment. In several amphibious landings, especially waterproofed tractors waded into the water to rescue bogged-down trucks and tanks. Fifty-ton mobile shovels in Italy quickly dug emplacements and set up the 240-millimeter guns which helped knock out Cassino. At the Volturno River in Italy, tractors and bulldozers made possible a crossing by quickly tearing down banks to permit Army Engineers to throw up a bridge.

"Capable of any necessary battle front pushing, hauling, or shoving, special road and construction machinery was slow to win attention in this war," "Newsweek" said. But its performance in combat zones quickly pointed up the urgency and importance of its role until, as Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell pointed out, "The tractor and bulldozer have become as important in modern war as some of the weapons themselves."

COMBAT CATSKINNERS

"Seabees building roads on Guam varied their usual procedure," reported Sgt. Bill Allen, Marine Corps Combat Correspondent. "Instead of one man, each truck, road scraper, and bulldozer had two -- a driver and a guard. Not once, but often, did bullets fly at these men. Some found their target."

"The Seabees had learned the ropes of war on Bougainville," he continued. "Resourceful as ever, they methodically picked their way through mine fields and out-smarted concealed Jap traps.

"With their road in operation in no time, the Seabees turned their attention to other battle chores. They found Agat a shambles. Our artillery had "walked" through the town, leaving not one building untouched.

"Enemy equipment was quickly converted where needed. Floors on hospitals were poured with Nipponese concrete and Jap lumber seemed to jump into shape as Seabees, armed with hammers and carbines, seized it.

"During the battle of Agat the second night, a bulldozer could be heard laboring away on the road just outside our camp. When the Japs opened up, the motor didn't even sputter. The work kept right on. 'Hey', somebody yelled to the driver, 'those are Jap shells.

"The driver replied: 'Rotten marksmen, aren't they?' and kept right on working."

ALLIES NOW USING PORT OF CHERBOURG

The Port of Cherbourg, rebuilt by Seabees and Army Engineers, has been in use since July 15th, it is now revealed. For security reasons, operation of the port was kept secret until late in August as it was considered undesirable to let the Germans know their attempts to demolish and block the harbor had failed.

According to Captain Norman Ives, USN, Port Director of Cherbourg, who was later killed in action, Cherbourg harbor contained more mines than any ever before encountered by Allied forces in so small a space.

NEW ANGLE

Variety, prominent theatrical weekly, tips its hat to the Seabees as good builders and good showmen. The magazine observes that the Allies don't have to worry about whether the Germans actually destroyed the Leaning Tower of Pisa. If they did, Variety says, the Seabees will rebuild it -- lean and all -- in eight days, and if it will draw more tourists, they'll make it lean more than it ever did before!

JAPS BEING SET UP FOR THE CRUSHER

Large scale preparations now being made in the Pacific to blast the Japs into defeat are amazing considering our present European operations, said War Correspondent Frank L. Kluckhohn, writing in the New York "Times".

"With German resistance apparently crumbling fast under Allied military pounding, there is a general feeling that it will be possible to bring the full United Nations' power to bear against Japan far sooner than had been expected," he wrote.

"Both at Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's headquarters in Pearl Harbor and at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's here in the South Seas, there is a cold confidence that by the time our gigantic air force can be transferred from Europe as well as the British and American fleets and whatever additional land forces may be needed, this part of the world will be in strategic position to turn that overwhelming power upon Japan proper and against her armies in China, rather than to have to go through the preliminaries," Kluckhohn continued.

"There is feverish activity here, in which midnight oil is being burned in the Navy's and Army's Pacific headquarters as preparations are rushed to get into position swiftly for the death blow at Japan."

SOUND EFFECTS

Many Seabees dodged bullets when Guam was invaded, but few had a closer call than John N. Wheaton, EM2c.

Wheaton, who operated a portable recording machine, went over the side on D-Day to help make an eye-witness broadcast recording of the Marine landing. The machine was lashed in a halftrack, along with ammunition, packs, guns, and rations, and the whole business, along with the operators, was lowered into a tank lighter.

As the lighter came into the beach, the halftrack lurched up on the sand and came to a sudden halt.

"We hit the deck," said Sgt. Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Marine Corps Correspondent, who was one of the men who accompanied the Seabee. "Marines were huddled against the sand as far as we could see. We tried to take care of our casualties.

"Jap bullets snapped at every movement of the sand. Realizing that the infantry were pinned down, we decided to crawl in among them and wait.

"One by one, we sprinted 20 yards across the sand to some cocoanut logs. The distance seemed like a hundred yards.

"We lay in the sand for two hours, while the snipers and machine-gunners were eliminated one by one. The halftrack driver noticed Jap mortar fire coming closer to the stalled vehicle. Dashing back to it he drove it out in the water again and up to a different spot on the beach.

"When the infantry finally moved ahead, we rejoined the halftrack and concluded the broadcast we had made on the reef. Then we took out our equipment and, wishing the crew good luck, watched it set off to support the infantry.

"Five minutes later, it ran over a land mine and blew up."

Seven of the men who had been in the halftrack with the Seabee and the Marine correspondent were casualties.

DRESS WHITES

The "Oily Rag", published by Detachment 1045, relates the sad story of a Seabee who accepted his mate's offer to take his clothes to the latter's local French washerwoman.

When the madame saw a suit of whites, she remarked in semi-English that it would make a good dress. A bit puzzled, the 1045'er agreed and left the bundle.

Next day, when he stopped by to pick up the clean laundry, he was struck by the good looking white dress the lady was wearing, and he told her how well she looked in it.

Her eyes aglow with appreciation, the laundress nodded her agreement. In broken French and English she explained, "That is what I say yesterday when you bring it in."

Moralized the Seabee: "A chump is a chump -- in any language."

USE GERMAN MATERIALS

Running short of supplies while converting a badly-damaged building into a Naval hospital at Cherbourg, a detail of Seabees headed by CCM L. A. Malone, used German materials left behind when the Nazis fled the battered port.

Some of the enemy ersatz material puzzled the Navy construction men at first but a few experiments set things right.

"For instance, there was the enamel," Chief Malone related. "It wouldn't mix with turpentine, lacquer thinner or alcohol in the standard fashion, so we tried gasoline. It worked, so it didn't cost American taxpayers a dime to paint this place -- the Jerries paid for it."

Shrapnel holes were plastered and painted over so cleverly that today there is no evidence of them. One wing of the structure which took a direct hit was almost levelled, but when the Seabees were finished it had been rebuilt into comfortable quarters.

RESTLESS ISLAND

CCM Raymond B. Knopp scratched his head in bewilderment. He was certain he had placed a beacon on a small island which rested on a submerged reef just off the 3rd Battalion's "Island X".

But now the beacon was gone -- and the island had moved!

The chief rowed out in a small boat to where the island had been. There, through the clear waters, he could see the beacon resting on the bottom.

Investigation revealed that the island had drifted with the strong tide. Composed of loose aggregate made of coral fingers and sand, it would disintegrate from tidal action at one end and be washed around to the other, thus causing the entire mass to "crawl" along the submerged reef a distance of several hundred yards.

Seabees raised the beacon and anchored it midway along the route of the restless bit of land. Now, everytime the isle passes that point it completely encircles the beacon, then goes on its way.

HE FLOATS THROUGH THE AIR

Charles F. Lynds, S1c, and Glen E. Reynolds, BM2c, are perfectly satisfied with the regulation Navy GI issue -- especially those 20-cent belts.

The two men, attached to the 5th Special in the Aleutians, were unloading ammunition from a ship to barge when the cargo hook caught under Lynds' belt.

Busy maneuvering the boom for the next load, Reynolds was unaware of anything unusual until he looked up and saw his shipmate dangling in the air 50 feet above the hold.

"I had been bringing the hook in fast and high because of the 45-mile williwaw," Reynolds said, "I nearly let it drop when I saw Lynds dangling. But I set him down gentle-like."

Said Lynds: "For the smoothest winch operator in the business, I'll take Reynolds, and for the sturdiest belt there is, I'll take the GI issue."

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Like the cook who, when confronted with a crate of broken eggs, decided he had wanted to feature scrambled eggs on his menu anyway, CMM George A. Reir is a man who likes to make the best of things.

During the battle for Guam, a Jap shell burst a water main near the Seabees' encampment. The Chief simply looked upon it as a heaven sent opportunity to do some fancy plumbing. As a result, reports PFC Cyril O'Brien, Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, three days after the first landing, Marines and Seabees were sharing a 15-man shower which was enjoyed by as many men from both outfits as could get near it.

To build the shower, Reir tapped the water mains with pipes and valves found in abandoned farmhouses. The shower floor was on the unique side, the Chief and his mates built it with Japanese and American shell cases.

The only obstacle encountered was a Japanese sniper who picked at the workmen from a nearby hill. The Seabees killed him as soon as they had completed the shower.

WHILE YOU WAIT

Seabees renovating rooms in a Cherbourg building, taken over as the Naval Headquarters of Rear Admiral John Wilkes, USN, Commander of U.S. ports and bases in France, worked fast enough to bewilder at least one flag officer.

The officer told how he found a group of Seabees in his office when he arrived for duty one morning.

"I was very busy that day," he said, "and didn't pay much attention to them until lunch time. When I looked they had given me a new office even to fresh paint on the walls! Those boys must have been speed demons."

SPRINGBOARDS FOR ATTACKS

American bombers which blasted Japanese positions in the Marianas in the pre-invasion softening-up process appear likely to have taken off from, and landed at Seabee-built bases on widely-separated islands in the Pacific.

In announcing that the planes had pioneered the longest shuttle-bombing route in any theater, Brigadier General Robert W. Douglass, Jr., Seventh AAF Commander, disclosed that Army and Navy planes participating in the 3500-mile mission took off from Marshall Island bases, bombed the Marianas and proceeded to the Admiralties. On their return trip they bombed the Carolines.

A single mission required two full days and nearly 24 hours of continuous flying through Jap areas. More than 2000 miles were non-stop.

No American planes were lost in the shuttle-bombing, the general said.

COMMENDED BY SECRETARY OF NAVY

Kenneth C. Van Hee, CM1c, of CBMU 559 today holds a commendation from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal for heroism in rescuing a shipmate from drowning. When the latter lost his grip on a steel cable and dropped into the water, Van Hee dived in after him. The Seabee succeeded in bringing the stricken man safely to the pier despite extremely difficult conditions.

HEAVY CALIBRE SHOOTING

One of the tough, unpublicized jobs of the Pacific campaign has been that of picked teams of Marines and Seabees assigned to mop-up work on the tiny coral islands which surround larger, already captured atolls.

The assignment calls for many miniature invasions. Like their larger counterpart, each follows a familiar pattern. The islands are shelled in advance; H-Hour sees the initial wave swarming over the beaches, and each Jap fights to the death.

"You've heard what it's like to go through an invasion," says James R. Williams, CM2c, who participated in one of these missions, "Well, multiply one of them by ten, and you'll have an idea of how we felt after the last Jap outpost was cleaned out.

"And do our Marines go in for heavy shooting," the Seabee said sorrowfully, "I know . . . I carried the ammunition!"

BETTER MOUSETRAPS

To many a Seabee it's an old story, but "Time", in its August 28th issue, has apparently heard it for the first time:

"In the Southwest Pacific, U. S. Seabees, who boast that they can repair anything from a watch to a battleship, turned to another activity in their spare time. A Navy officer reported they were making grass skirts and selling them to the natives. Reason for the market: the Seabees' skirt is better than the native product."

WATER BABY

The unique experience of swimming off one of the Marshall Islands before an invasion took place is one which Irving J. Weyant, SF2c, expects to remember for a long time.

The Seabee was attached to a demolition and reconnaissance squad that spent the night before the attack off the beach of the island diving in the water searching for mines, barbed wire or any other obstruction that might impede the assault troops. Weyant topped this with a swim right up to the beach to observe possible Jap defense positions. "But", he remarked, "it's more relaxing to go swimming after the Americans have taken over."

HEROISM UNDER FIRE

For its part in rebuilding and maintaining in operation an airfield which was under heavy Japanese counter-attack, the 36th Battalion has been commended by COMNAVNORSOLS and nine of its members have been awarded commendations with ribbons by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN. The Seabees who were cited are W. J. Honan, CSK; C. C. Miller, SF1c; F. Watson, SF1c; G. L. Filhart, SF2c; O. H. Smallwood, SF2c; W. K. Swenson, SF2c; D. C. Skaggs, SF3c; and D. E. Volkers, M3c.

GUAM HARBOR A SEABEE JOB

The Marianas will be used for mounting troops to carry the war to Japan, says Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Much of the traffic will flow through Guam Harbor which, he revealed, "will be developed as rapidly as the Seabees can do it.

"The Seabees have given us a number of examples of development of such facilities in a short time," the Admiral said.

EFFICIENCY

The Second Special has been commended by the Commander Naval Bases of the area in which its advanced station is located for "the expeditious unloading" of a heavily-laden transport. The battalion unloaded 3,743 tons at the rate of 12.5 tons per hour.

BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME

Seabee seamen second class, grouching about their \$54 per, may find some consolation in this rate scale:

As apprentice seamen, the Seabees received \$50 per month. The British Navy pays the same rank \$35; Germany, \$31; Russia, \$4; Italy \$1.51; Japan, 30¢; China, 28¢.

37TH'S OinC COMMENDED

Lt. Cmdr. R. J. T. Young, CEC, USNR, OinC of the 37th Battalion, has been cited by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, for "efficiency, integrity, and meritorious conduct". As OinC of the battalion and Senior Operations Officer of a Construction Regiment, Cmdr. Young helped supervise the construction of an airfield which played a major part in a recent campaign against the Japanese.

MOVING DAY TIP

Preparing to move from its present "Island X", Seabees of the 3rd Special are packaging iron and steel parts in salvaged steel drums. To prevent rusting of these parts, quantities of moisture-absorbing chemicals are placed in each drum and the cover welded on.

WOTTA LIFE

Seabees and other servicemen at a newly established base in the Marianas recently had their first payday in months. Ready to shoot the works, the bcys found the following situation:

Free movies; free cigarettes; no beer; no liberty towns; no barbers; no shoeshine parlors.

The Post Office did a land-office business; nearly ran out of money-order blanks.

BEST YET

"Have made many ports . . . since the outbreak of the war and without question the conduct and ability of the 60th Battalion surpasses anything I have seen," wrote D. S. Tweeddale, Master of a transport, in commending officers and men for the efficient manner in which they unloaded cargo.

VERY CONFUSING

Natives on Guam have been overjoyed to welcome back the Americans -- but the Seabees have provided one minor complication, according to a Marine Combat Correspondent.

One of the islanders who had been acting as a guide for the Marines was released from duty and started for his home some miles away. Four hours later he was back in the bivouac area.

"Don't you want to go back home?" someone asked.

"Yes," he replied wearily, "but your people make new roads all over the island. I start for home but can't find way. I am lost. So I come back here to stay. Later maybe I can find way home."

SIAMESE TWINS

Real buddies from way back are Jack Ginn, SF3c, and Ernest Jacobs, S1c, both of the 112th Battalion. Living in the same neighborhood in Denver, the two went to school together; went to Pearl Harbor as civilian construction workers within a few weeks of each other; and later returned to the States two weeks apart.

After reaching the States, Jacobs was drafted by the Navy. Tagging right along, Ginn enlisted. Both were sent to the same boot camp, and after completing their training, were assigned to the same battalion.

RESCUES MATE

For saving a companion from drowning, Thomas K. Clark, PhM2c, assigned to the 37th Battalion, has been cited by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

LEND A HAND

A detachment of the 99th Battalion has been commended by the captain of a mine sweeper for "unstinted assistance rendered during our recent tour of duty in your area."

Details of the incident that resulted in the citation are not available at present.

LONG PARTING

It took 11 1/2 years and a world war to bring Syd Nash, CM2c, of CBMU 610, and his brother, Lee, CEM, of the Fleet Navy, together again. The two met recently when Lee arrived in the United States after serving 34 months overseas in the Pacific. Syd, now waiting further orders at Camp Parks, has a 17-month tour in the Aleutians to his credit.

TEACHER

Dominick Crispi, S1c, of the 112th Battalion, devotes his one day of liberty each week to teaching Sunday School at a Korean Church on "Island X".

PLENTY OF WATER

Veteran CPO's of the 107th have their own method of initiating "boot" chiefs. When five newly appointed 1A pay graders walked into the CPO mess recently for their first meal as chiefs, they found their food -- hamburger and gravy, boiled potatoes, peas and carrots -- dumped in wooden troughs. Silverware forbidden them, they hungrily bored in with their fingers.

Later, messy and muddled, the new chiefs asked if they could get washed up.

"Sure," said the veterans. Herding the neophytes down to the nearby pier, they tossed them into the blue Pacific.

JAPS COULD SYMPATHIZE

On guard duty at a South Pacific island miles behind the actual battle front, Howard H. Briggs, Pfc, attached to the 11th Battalion, was accepting the sentinel detail as mere routine until he heard a noise in the jungle.

"It was about midnight when I heard something rustle in the bush. Then a form loomed up and moved--toward me! Of course, I yelled 'Halt', related Briggs, "and he did--but not until he was against my bayonet."

Only then did Briggs learn that the black-faced, battle-equipped object was one of Carlson's Raiders on night maneuvers whose objective was the power plant guarded by Briggs.

"I sure was glad that we both played on the same side," concluded Briggs, "because that boy was really rugged!"

"ALL-OUT" FAMILY ALL-OUT" FOR VICTORY

A real "all-out for victory" service family is that of CCStd William M. Garrett, 48-year-old Seabee attached to a battalion in the Marshall Islands.

All three of the Chief's sons are in the armed services; William, Jr., as an Army pilot, Marshall, as a Naval aviator, and Gene, recently enlisted in the Marine Corps.

The Chief's wife is a civilian employee at an Army Air Depot in California and his three brothers are all wearing Army khaki.

Garrett, who served with the Marine Corps from 1917 to 1919, enlisted in the Seabees when the Marine Corps declined to promise him overseas duty in 1943. Since his present enlistment he has been awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered during an enemy bombing.

HAS HIS FINGERS CROSSED

Seabee Archie A. Lamb, SF1c, figures that he is living on borrowed time.

While in the Aleutians, Lamb was working on the dock when a williwaw sprang up, forcing him to head for shore. He had scarcely left when a cargo ship, dragging anchor, crashed into the dock, and destroyed the section he had just vacated.

On another occasion, during a dense fog, Lamb was on a sand spit working on floating docks. While the fog didn't bother the construction workers, it did confuse a group of fighter pilots trying to land on an island. The airfield was close by, and several of the fighters -- mistaking the sand spit for the field -- came in to land. Diving over an embankment, Lamb and his mates barely avoided the whirling propellers.

The Seabee's last close call occurred during a williwaw at night while riding a truck. Hardly had the vehicle started, when Lamb discovered that he was sharing the back of the truck with a loose, bouncing 2000-pound bomb. At every jounce of the truck on the rough road, the bomb changed position--and so did the Seabee! As the truck was moving too fast to risk a jump in the dark, and the noisy williwaw prevented the driver from hearing his outcries, Lamb continued the deadly game of leapfrog until camp was reached.

SHORT SPORT SHOTS

BASEBALL: .League-leading Browns ran into trouble on tail-end of Eastern swing. dropped 3 of 4 to 7th place Athletics, and 3 of 4 to 8th place Senators. .Second place Red Sox pulled to within 3 1/2 games of leaders. .However, Tigers, now in 4th place, may prove the more serious threat because of Dizzy Trout and Hal Newhouser, first two major league hurlers to win 20 games this season. .Like Browns, Tigers finish season at home. .Red Sox and 3rd place Yankees still face long road trip. .Yankees' president, Ed Barrow, revealed team for sale but no buyers. .No change in NL with Cardinals enjoying 18 games lead over 2nd place Pirates. .Rookie hurler, Ted Wilks, hung up his 10th straight victory as Cards handed Cubs their 13th defeat in 13 games this year. .Most exciting event of week was last place Dodgers' battle against umpires on Western trip. .Manager Leo Durocher suspended for 5 days, fined \$100 for invading umpires' room in Cincy. .Four more Dodgers got "thumbed out" in Pittsburgh. .Dodgers, leading both leagues in defeats, mathematically out of pennant race. .Giants ran losing streak to 13 straight before breaking string. .equaled similar streak of McGraw's '02 club. .Newark Bears, in last place July 6, climaxed sensational climb by topping International League.

FOOTBALL: .Army, Navy officials favor moving service classic back to big city this fall. .Eastern Intercollegiate Football Assn's revisions in rules may become nation-wide. .Notre Dame which plays Big Ten and Southern colleges sounding out opponents on changes. .Army and Navy will probably play under new rules. .On 10-day leave from Merchant Marine, Sid Luckman, star back and National Pro League's most valuable player of last year, will rejoin Bears for All-Star game. .George Wilson, veteran end, named '44 captain of Bears. .Using T formation in first public appearance, Sammy Baugh's West eleven scored 35 to 14 triumph over East team in intra-squad game.

SIDELINES: .In most spectacular upset in 28 years of tournament, Bob Hamilton, Evansville, Ind., beat Byron Nelson, 1 to 10 favorite, in 36-hole final of PGA golf championship. .Yankee Maid, winner of Hambletonian, trotted first heat in Horseman's Futurity at Greenville, Ohio, in 2:05 1/4 to tie world record for 3-year-old fillies. .Paperboy, 6-year-old gelding, scored surprise victory in \$50,000 Saratoga 'Cap, out-running Devil Diver, First Fiddle. .Ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:02.2, paid \$36.80. .Arne Andersson beat Gunder Hagg in 1500-meter run for Swedish title. .Andersson's time, 3:49.6, Hagg's 3:50.

SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS: .Lt. Col. Bobby Jones applied for discharge under Army's over-38 year regulation. .Lieut. Bill Dickey, former Yankee catcher, and Ensign Bill Hulse, holder of American outdoor mile record, graduated from Ft. Schuyler NTS. .Marine Lt. Max Belko, U. of So. Cal's All-American footballer, killed on Guam... Lt. (jg) Paul E. Brown, former football coach at Ohio State, named grid coach at Great Lakes. .Camp Parks Seabees won 12th Naval District's Red League baseball championship.