



Camp Two







Scenic Shot of Tweed's Head



Kirra Beach



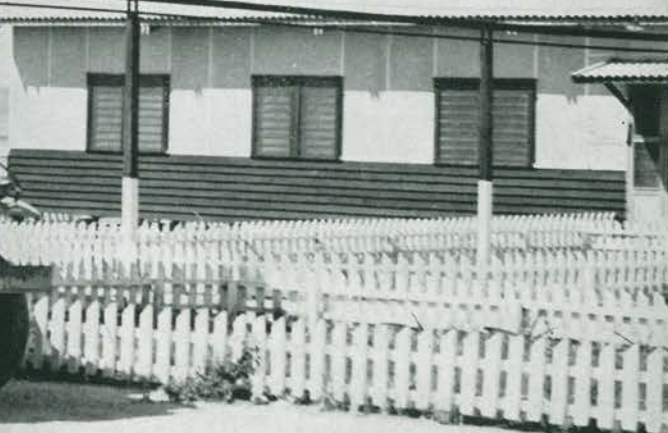


*Camp One*



**UNITED STATES NAVY**  
COOLANGATTA LEAVE AREA  
KIRRA BEACH CAMP

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING





*Green Mount Hill*



*Camp Three*





Reading from top to bottom: Last to Leave . . . Interior of Camp Three "Rec"  
Hall.



We did



# We did



Reading from top to bottom: Station Force—Camp Three . . . Station Force—Camp One.





Station Force—Camp Two

Interior of Laundry







Our Plumbing and Metal Shop







Machinists at Work



Electrical Shop





# A U S T R A L I A

"Date Tonight?"





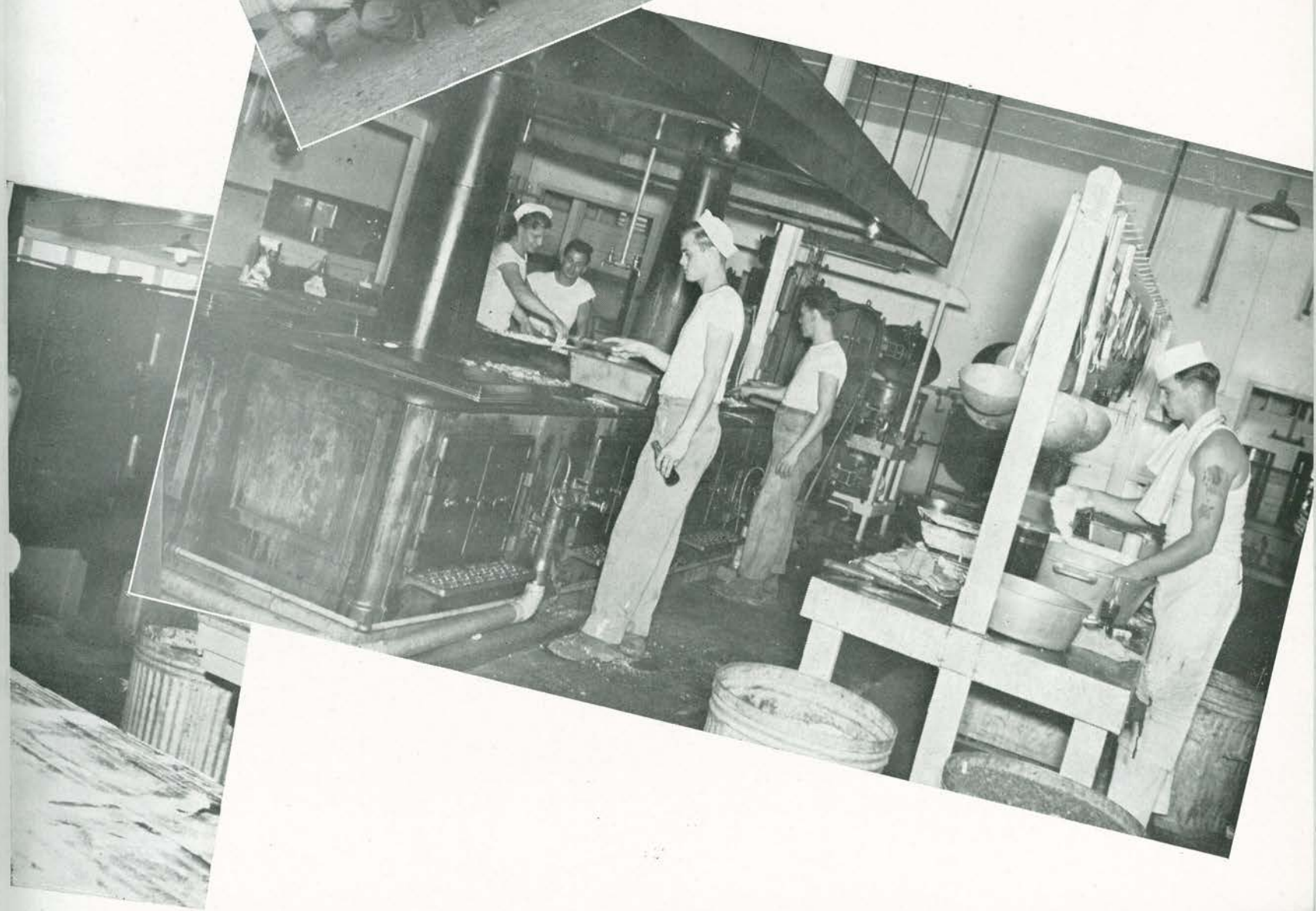


Above, reading clockwise:  
 "Domestic Science," "Home  
 On the Range," "One Meat  
 Ball," "Pedestrian Hazards."





# TRANSPORTATION







Electricians



Reefer Crew





Intermission





Hill Billy Band



A Few Expert Riflemen





Some of the Purple Hearts



Communication Group





Ready for Departure

Up the Gangplank







Farewell to Australia



We did





# THE 77TH IN THE PHILIPPINES









Reception Committee, New Guinea

"Veectomy, Joe!" was what we heard as we came in wearily at SANGLEY POINT, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS on 13 June 1945. It marked the end of existence aboard AK 135 after 30 days. The "six knot" Venus, known to its crew and to us as the "Gallop of the Guinea Coast," had finally made it, and so the main body of the battalion, 13 officers and 530 men had arrived. On the way eight days had been spent in MILNE BAY with several excursions for sightseeing, and four days went by in the harbor of HOLLANDIA with a church party and a liberty group going ashore.

It was glorious to be on land after the days on the ill-named, inglorious Venus with her three-inch elbow allowance per man, her fantail heads and her dogged, cautious, backtracking course.

All hands heaved to immediately for about a week's unloading of the tightly packed, equipment-



Ship . . . LCT to Shore

filled holds of the Venus, via LCTs. The camp was on Sangley Point, LUZON, only a few blocks from CAVITE CITY and just across the bay from MANILA. A 10-minute walk took the men to the half dozen blocks of shops which made up Cavite's business section, but a drenching in a landing craft or a jolting in a truck over a washboard road was the price to be paid for a visit to the battle-scarred and bomb-blasted capital of the Philippines.

Filipino youngsters "from knee-size up" became a familiar sight with their fingers spread in the popular "V." This took on a new meaning for us, for we thought surely "right after this job, we will go home."

For the first time we had sufficient building materials available, and we built ourselves quite a fine camp. Our homes were neatly squared-off rows of framed, screened, electrically-wired, decked, pyra-



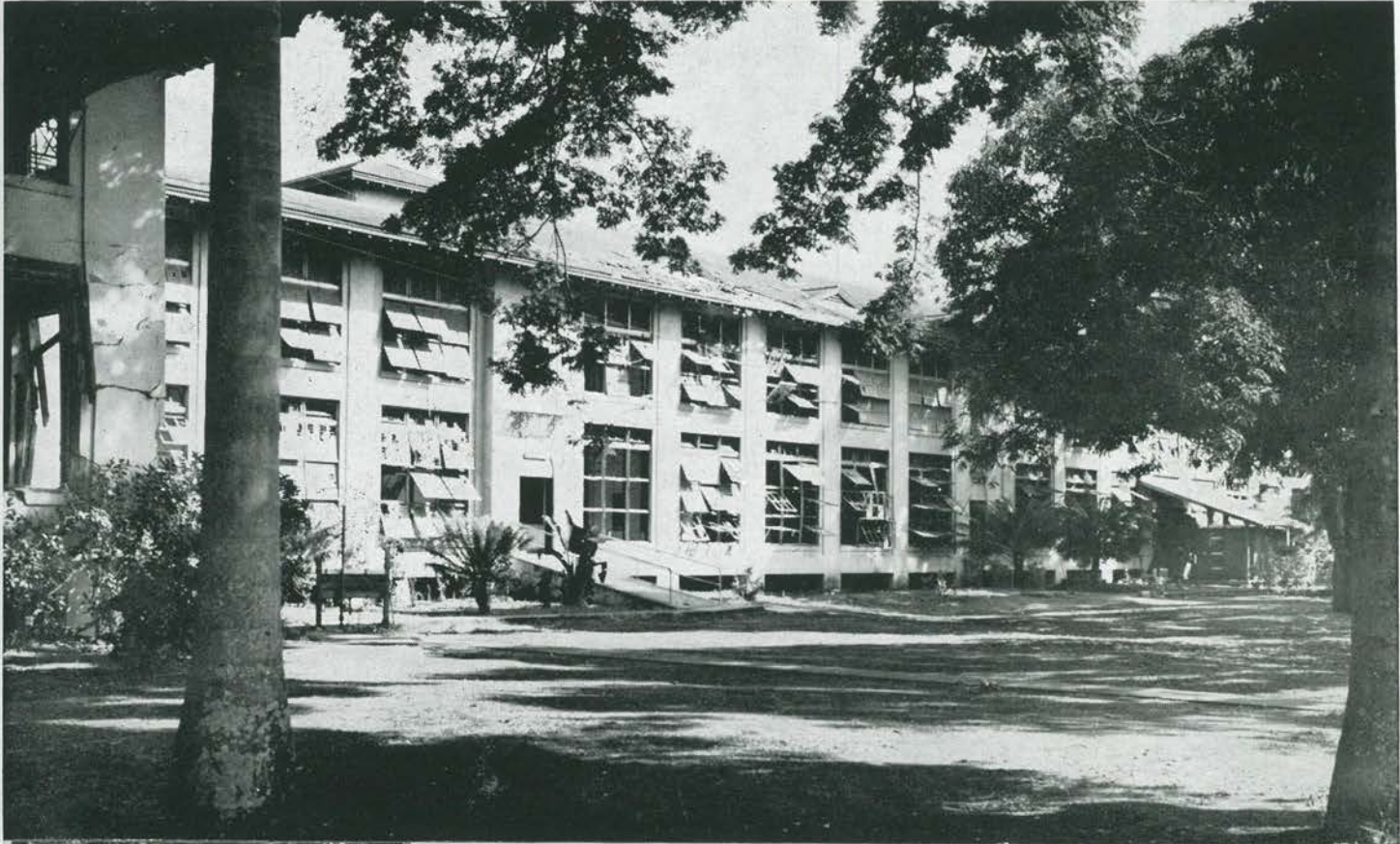
Reading from top to bottom: Unloading at Dispersal Area . . . Temporary Tents at Camp Site.



We did



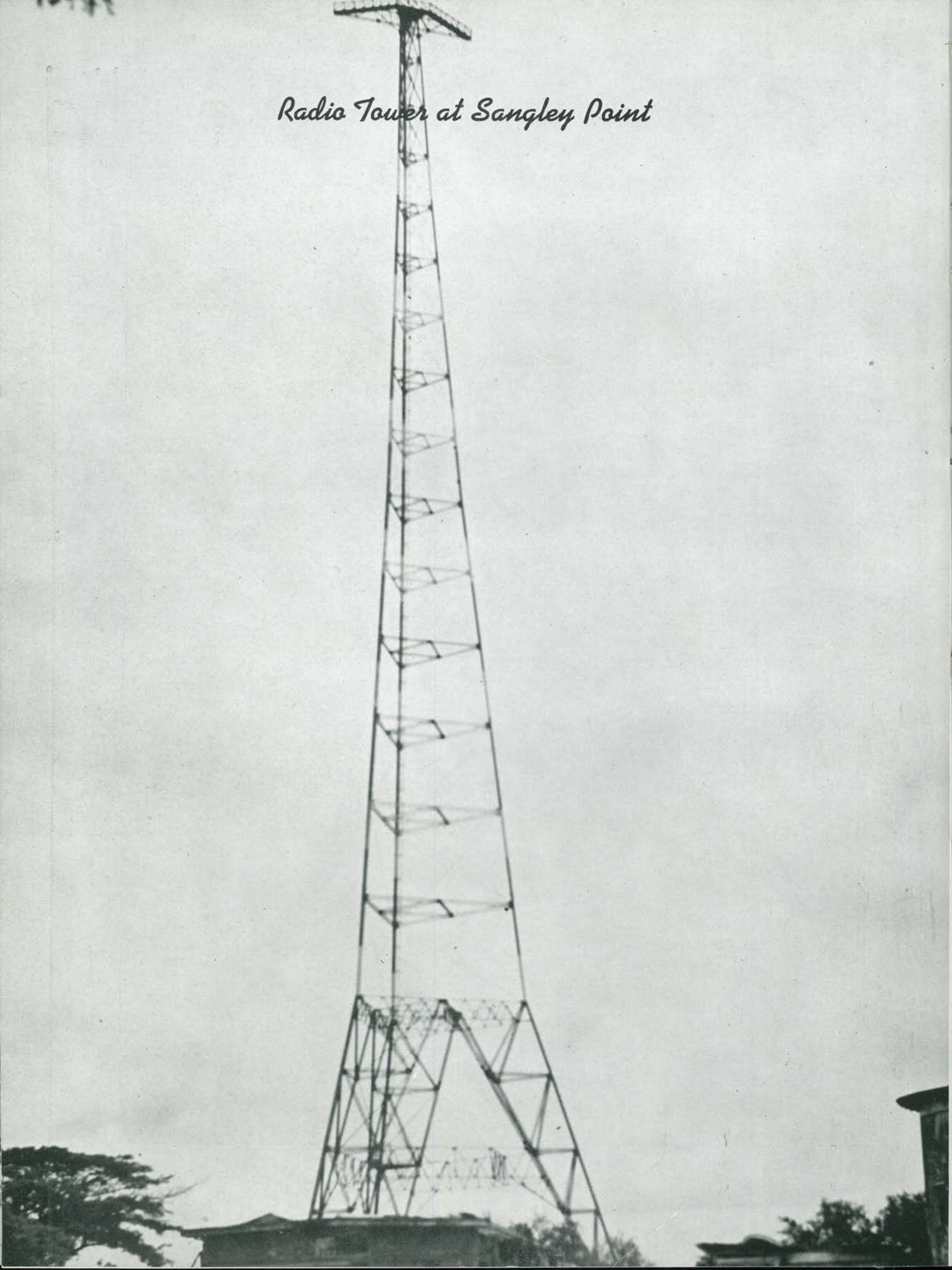
We did



Reading from top to bottom: Original Naval Hospital, Sangley Point . . . Jap  
Planes at Sangley Point.



*Radio Tower at Sangley Point*





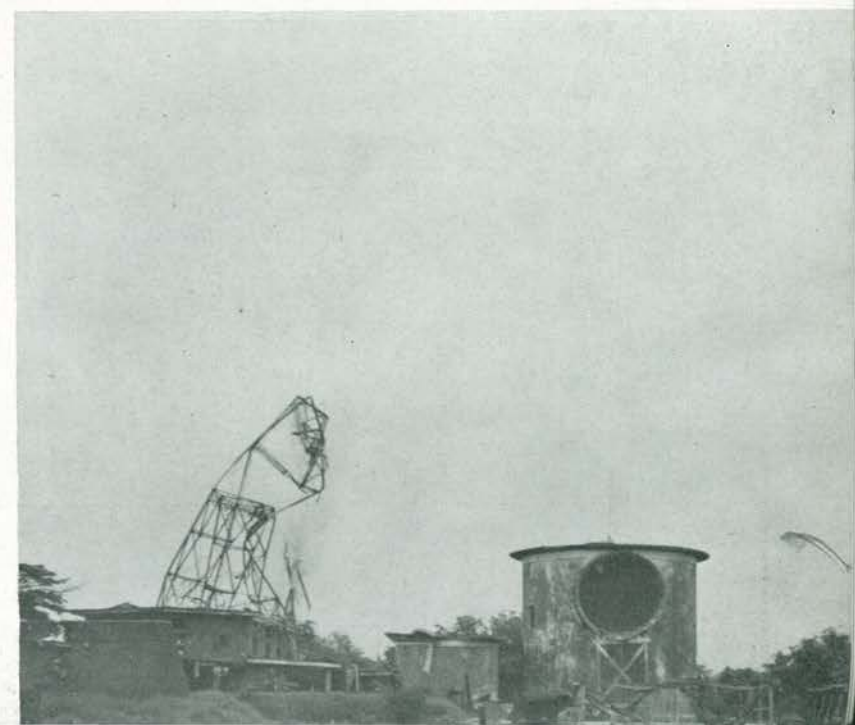
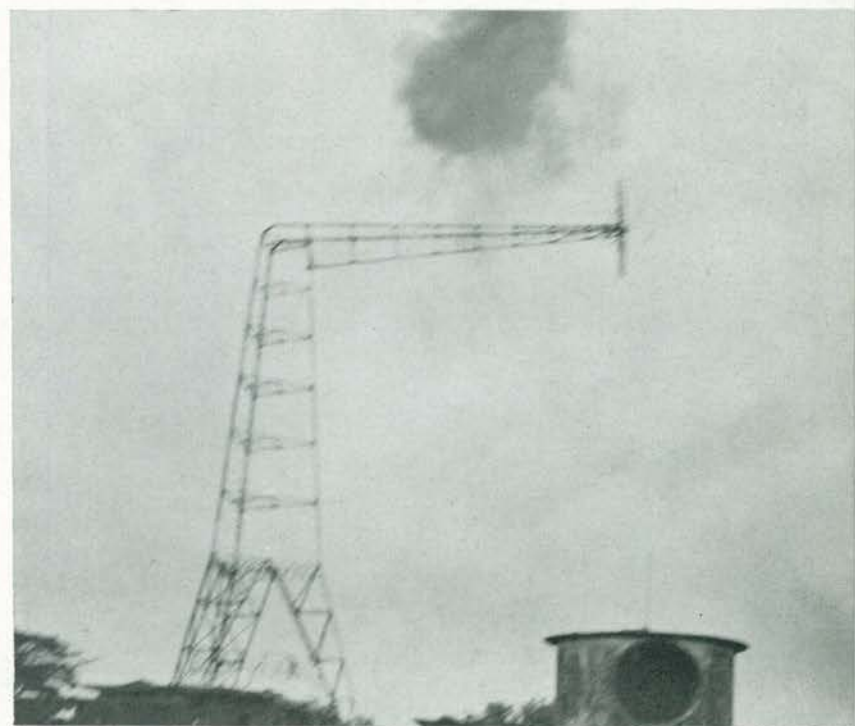
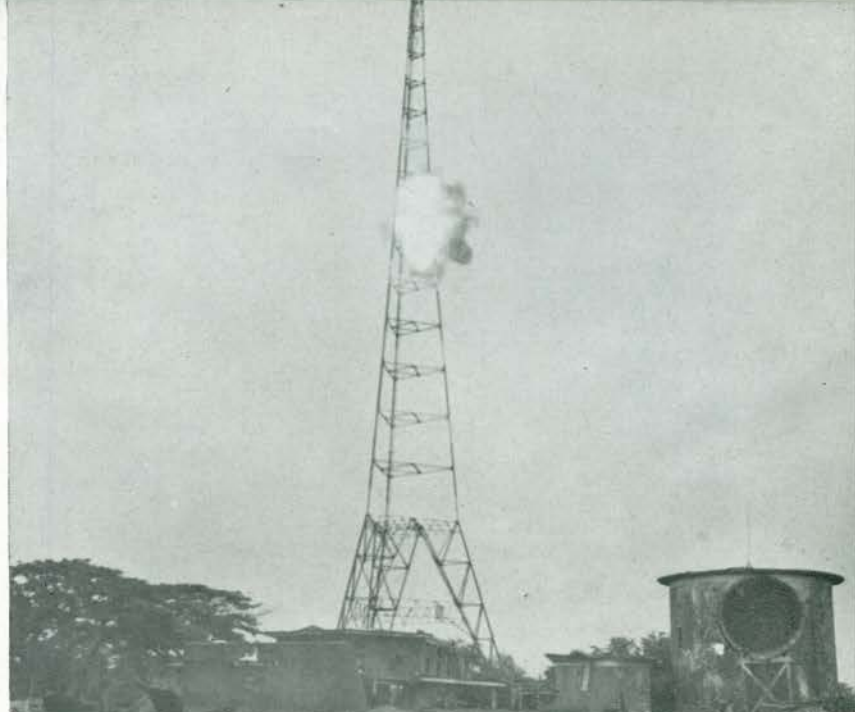
midal tents. Ship-type automatic heads were additional luxuries. A clean, cheerful officers' mess hall and wardroom, painted cream with buff trim and decorated with gold corps insignia plaques was the highlight of construction for the battalion's own use.

The first contingent of the 77th to land in the Philippines not only did surveying for the work to be done when the bulk of the battalion arrived, but also built two Bailey bridges between Cavite and Manila, as the Japs had blown up every bridge on the route.

All construction on Sangley Point was done by the 77th and the battalion personnel also supervised work done by Filipino labor at Cavite. One of the most interesting and novel jobs turned in at the Point was the demolition of two structural steel radio towers over 600 feet high, equivalent to the height of a 55 story building. Consensus on the base was that the job could not be done the way our lads proposed it, so interest ran high as did the bets. Seventy-eight pounds of TNT were placed at each of two points on one leg of the tower about two-thirds of the way from the ground. The anchor bolts of another leg were cut so that the greater mass of steel would twist clear of the nearby cemetery and road. When the charge was set off it blew out a section of the leg and the tower collapsed like a paper bag. The results on both of the towers were virtually identical. The effect of the charges had been so well-gauged and the preparations so well-made that, aside from a few rivets, no part of the towers fell further than 60 feet from the bases of the structure. Our Skipper's slogan again rang true: "No job too big, no job too small."

While building facilities for the Sangley Point Naval Air Base and the Cavite Naval Base, the personnel of the 77th heard the news. The War Was Over! It had been a long haul between that first bomb at Guadalcanal on 19 September 1943, and V-J day, 15 August 1945, heralded by siren in the Philippines.

At right, reading from top to bottom: Charge Going Off . . . On the Way Down . . . Last Crumble.







Completed Job



Charge Setters



V-J came and went, but the work never stopped. We had projects to finish and new work to start. Prisoners of war would be coming in, and they needed facilities. There was no time off for the 77th.

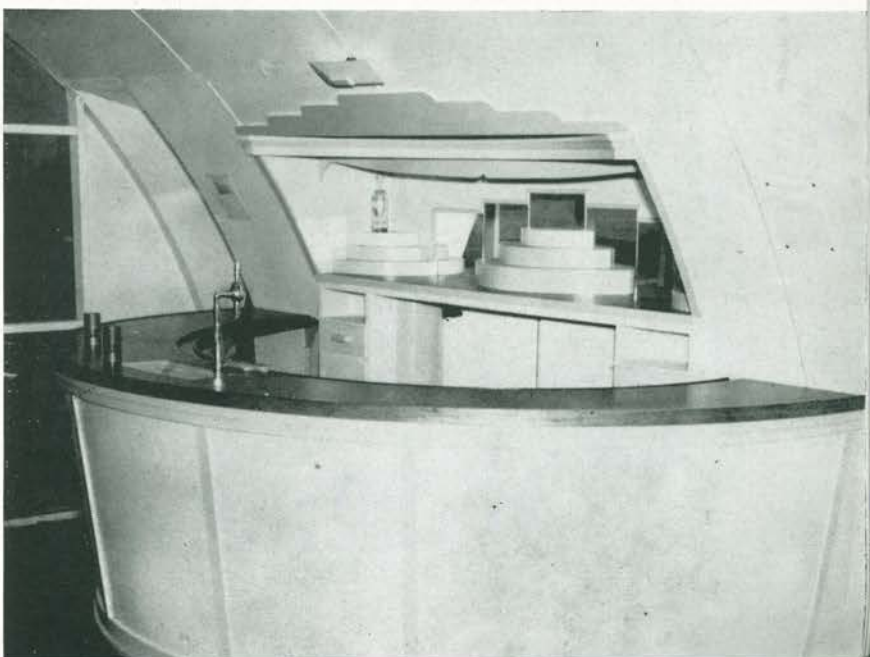
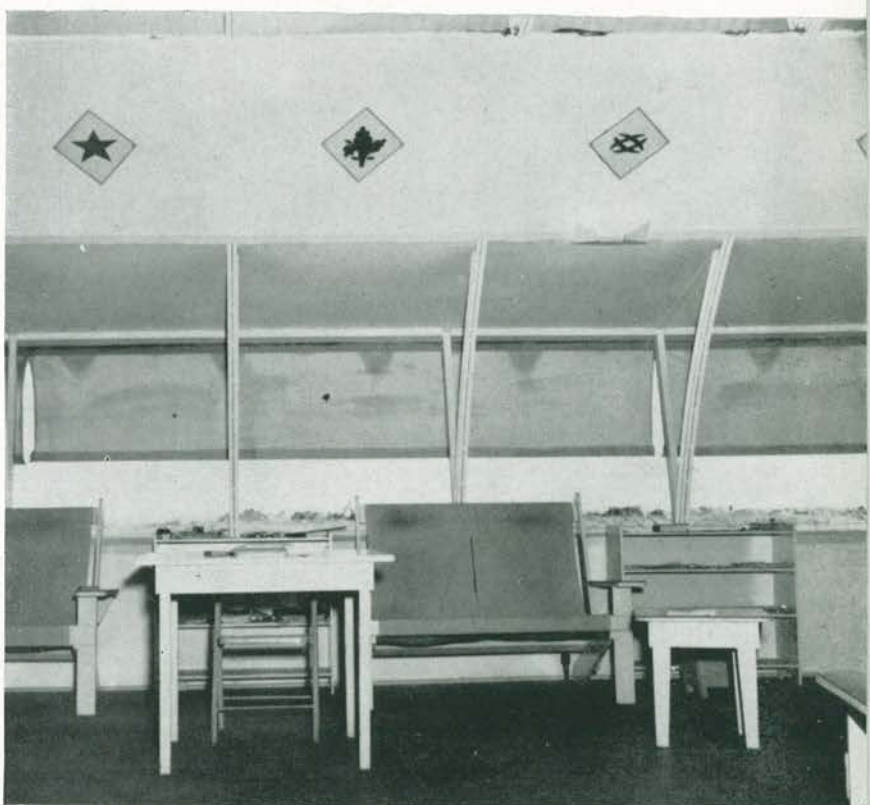
The chief project on Sangley Point was the establishment of the Naval Air Base, a program which called for a 5,000-foot strip, Naval Air Transport Service Terminal, and seaplane base. Huge, steel-reinforced, concrete Jap pillboxes and other structures had to be blasted and cleared from the site of the air strip, as well as elsewhere, and a break-water erected, since the strip lay immediately adjacent to the sea. The warning scream of the siren preceding each blasting was observed since the work was close by and was frequently followed by a rain of falling stone and debris in all directions. In addition to the strip, which was 150 feet wide, more pierced planking was laid almost the entire length of the strip for a taxiway and parking.

Work at the seaplane base included pouring concrete for a large apron and ramp, as well as a fabricated steel nose hangar, warehouses, and shops. The NATS terminal included two large warehouses connected with a wooden structure.

Other facilities built by the 77th were a tank farm, boat pool area, radio transmitter, housing facilities for all personnel of the Naval Air Base, recreation areas, transportation pool, utilities, and supply area.

And then, with the end of the war, a need for quarters for prisoners of war being flown to the Point on their release from prisons further north. We felt good. This was doing something specific for the men who had gone out front, been in the thick, and then suffered the hell of Jap prisons; we were helping them take the trip home.

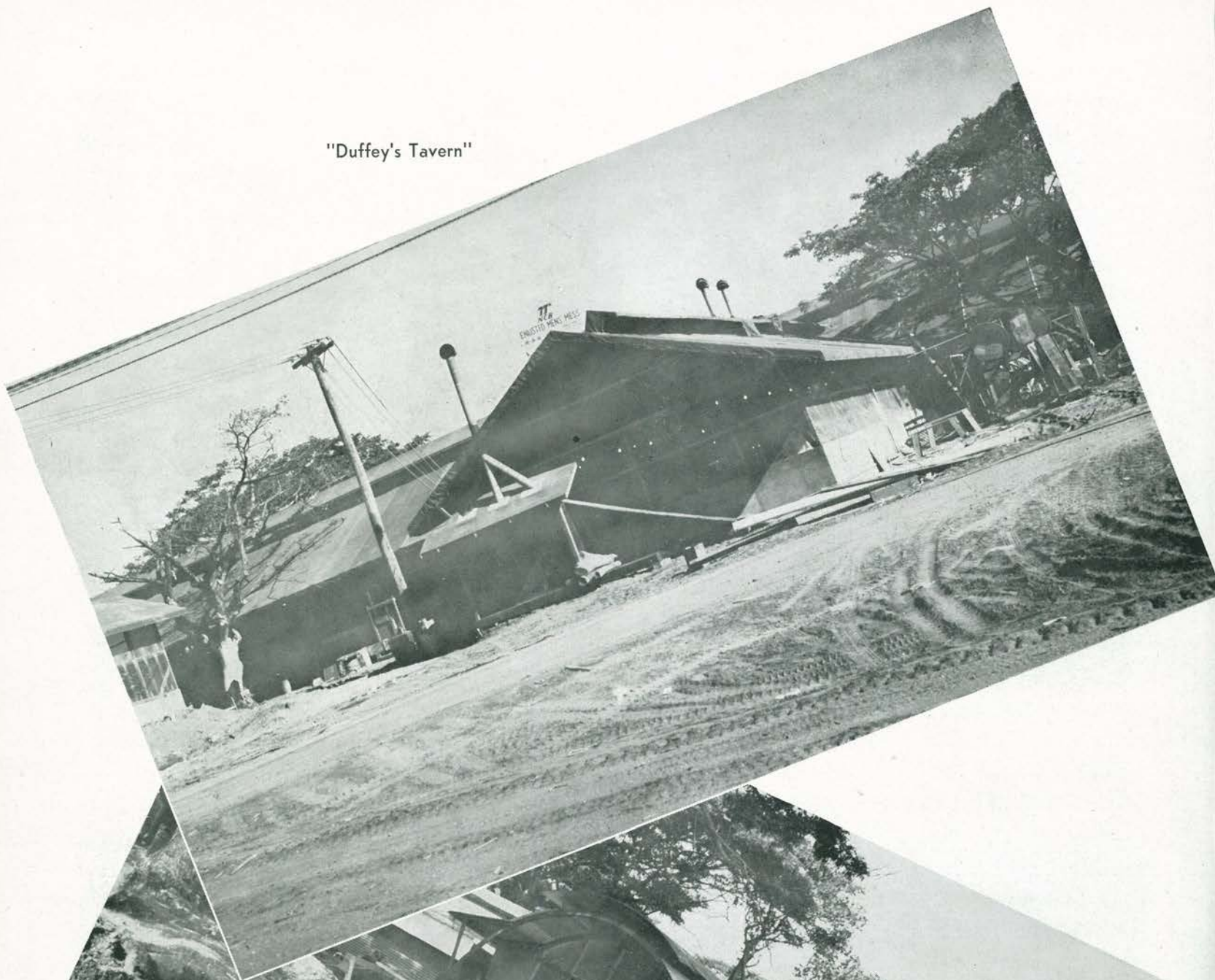
A contingent of 55 of our men spent six weeks at CORREGIDOR building facilities for the harbor entrance control post, while daily scouting parties still hunted down Japs in the extensive cave systems and surrounding areas. With this group on



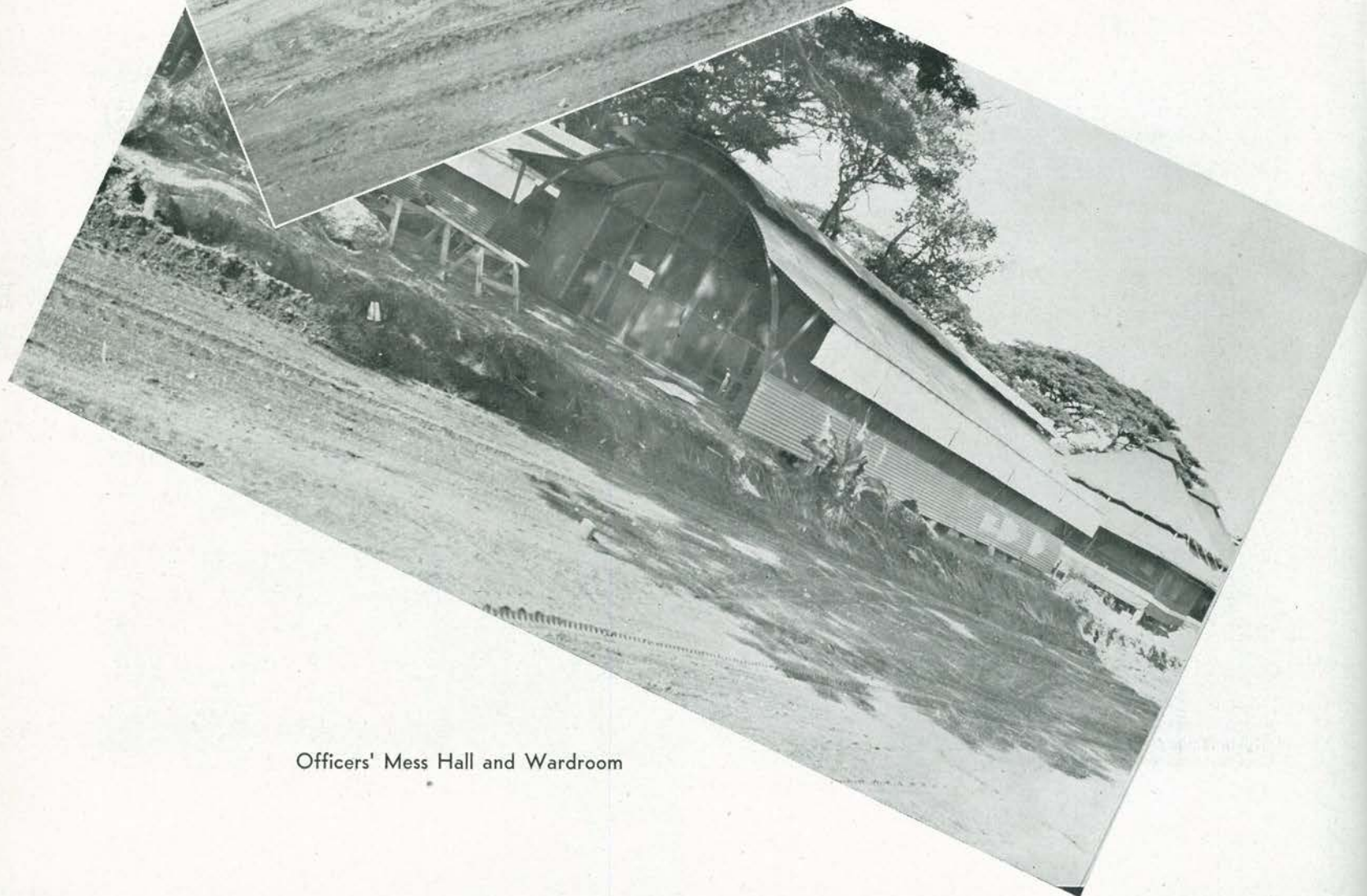
At right, reading from top to bottom: Coffee Hour . . . Officers' Wardroom . . . "Coke?"



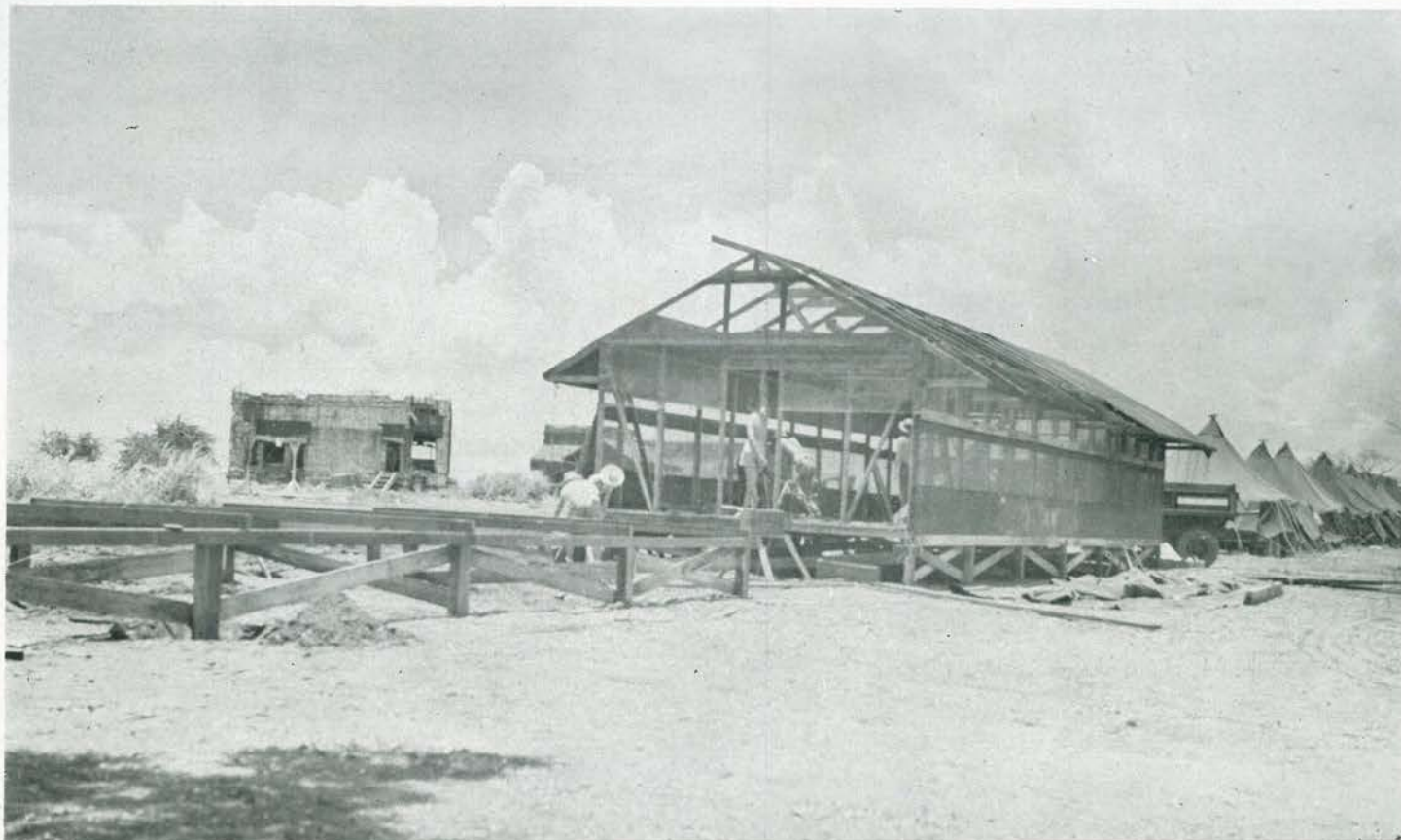
"Duffey's Tavern"



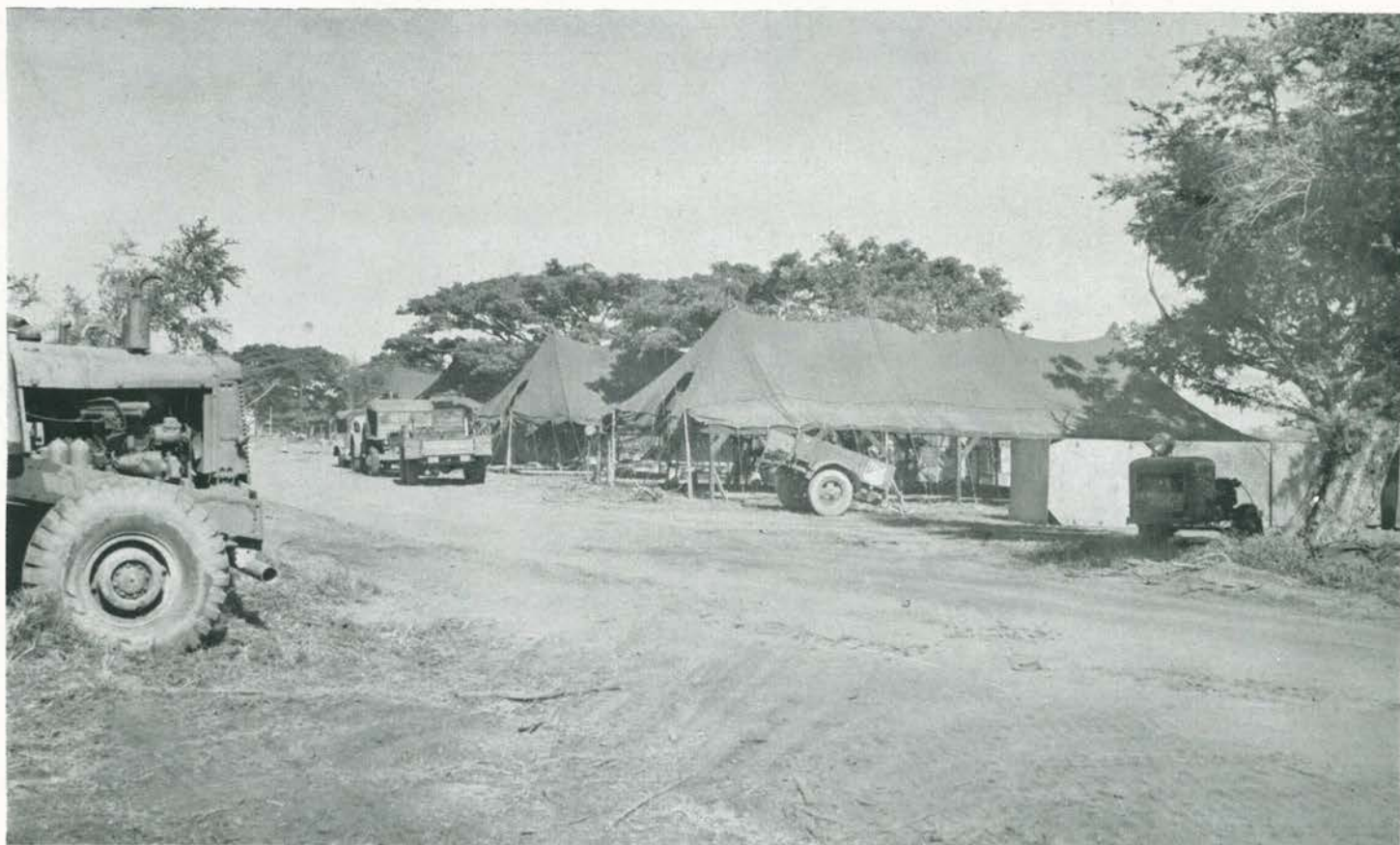
Officers' Mess Hall and Wardroom







Sick Bay Under Construction



Supply Area





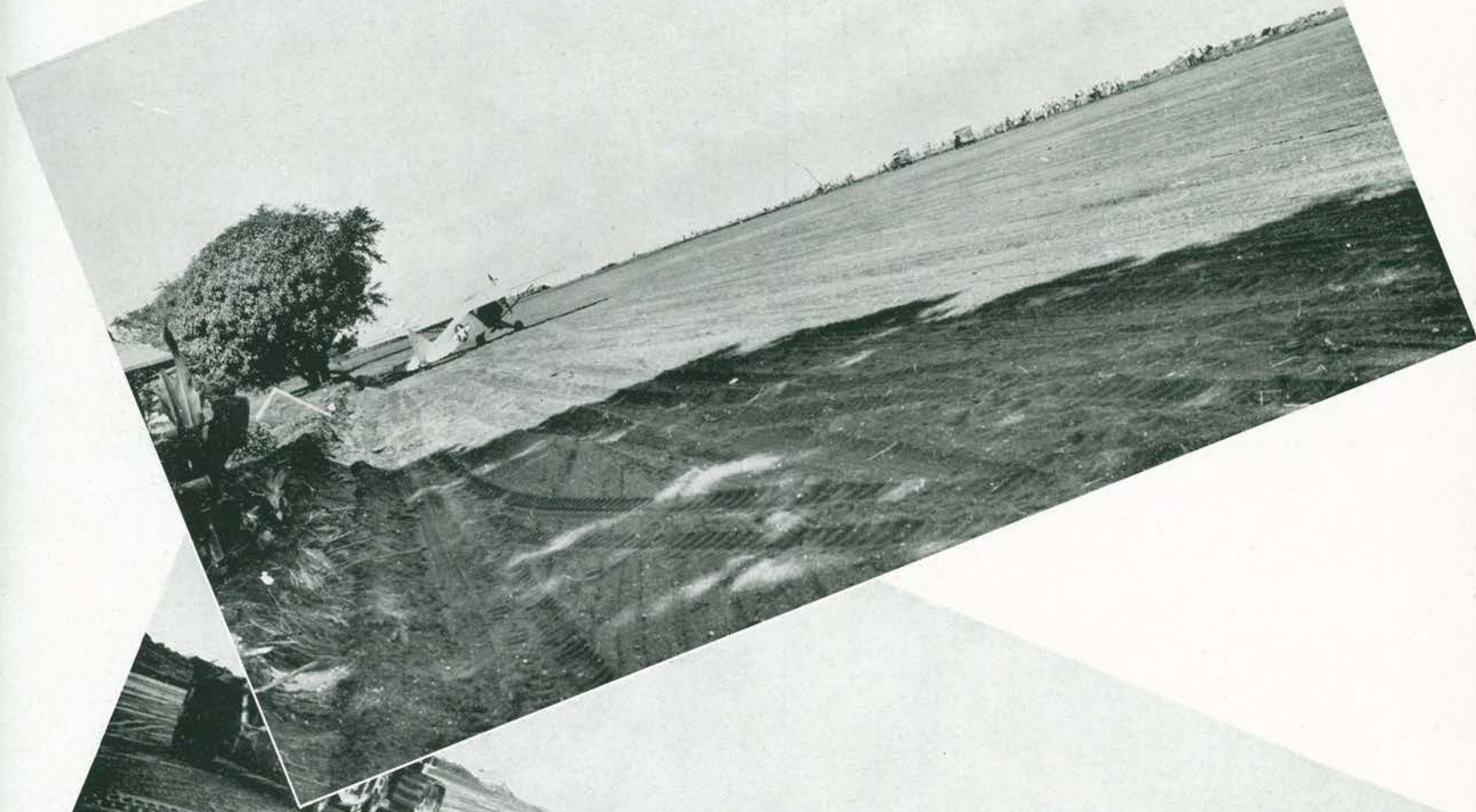
Cleanup for Strip



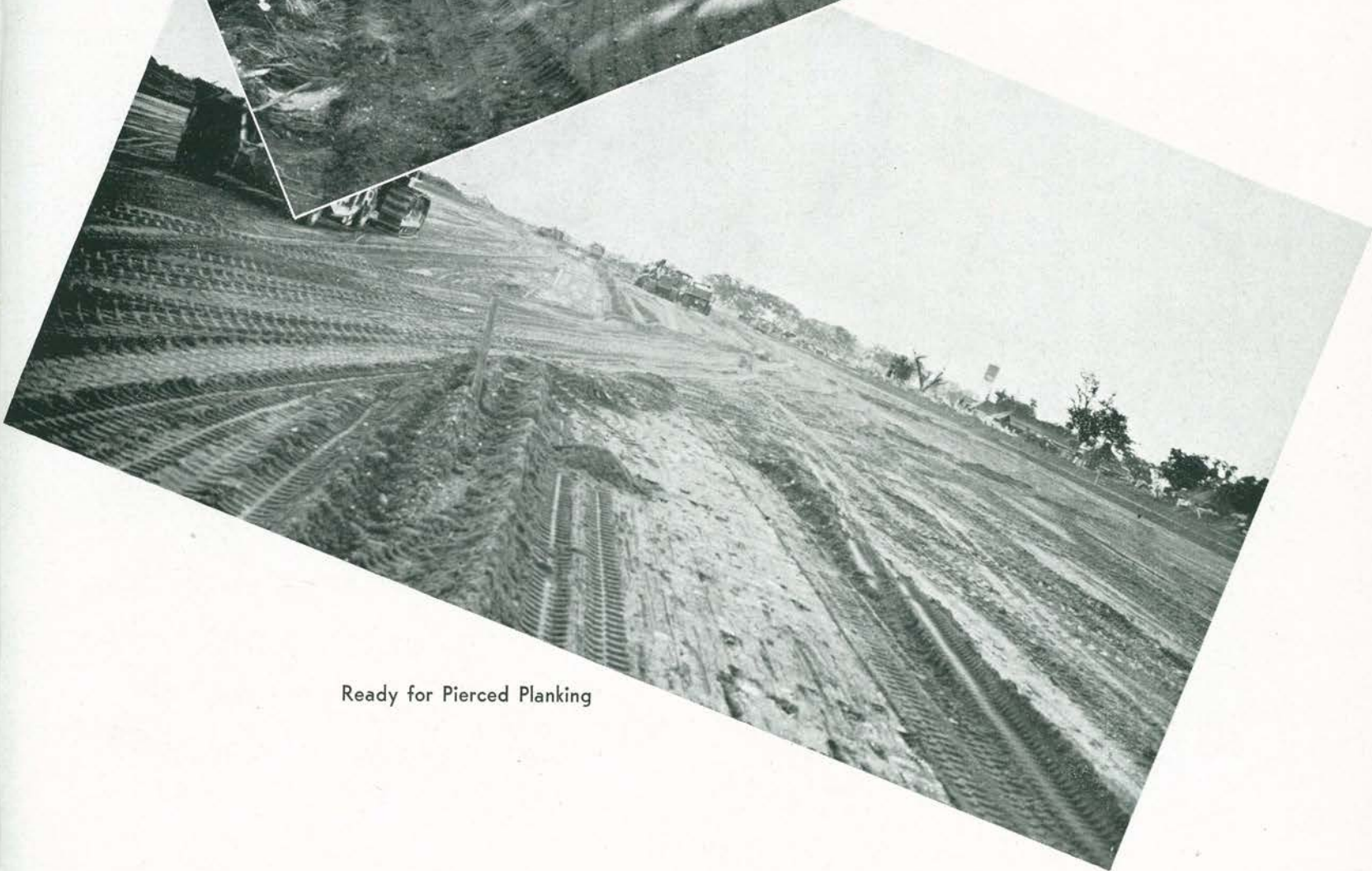
Coming Along



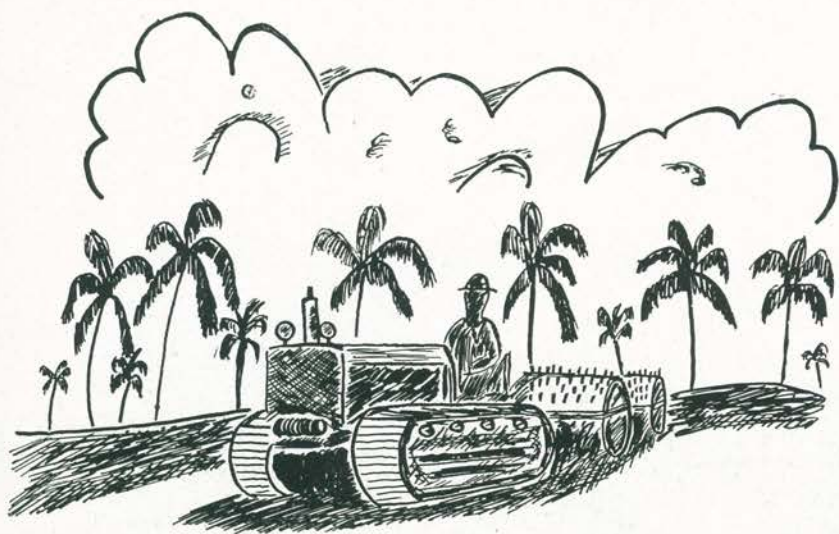
In Process of Grading



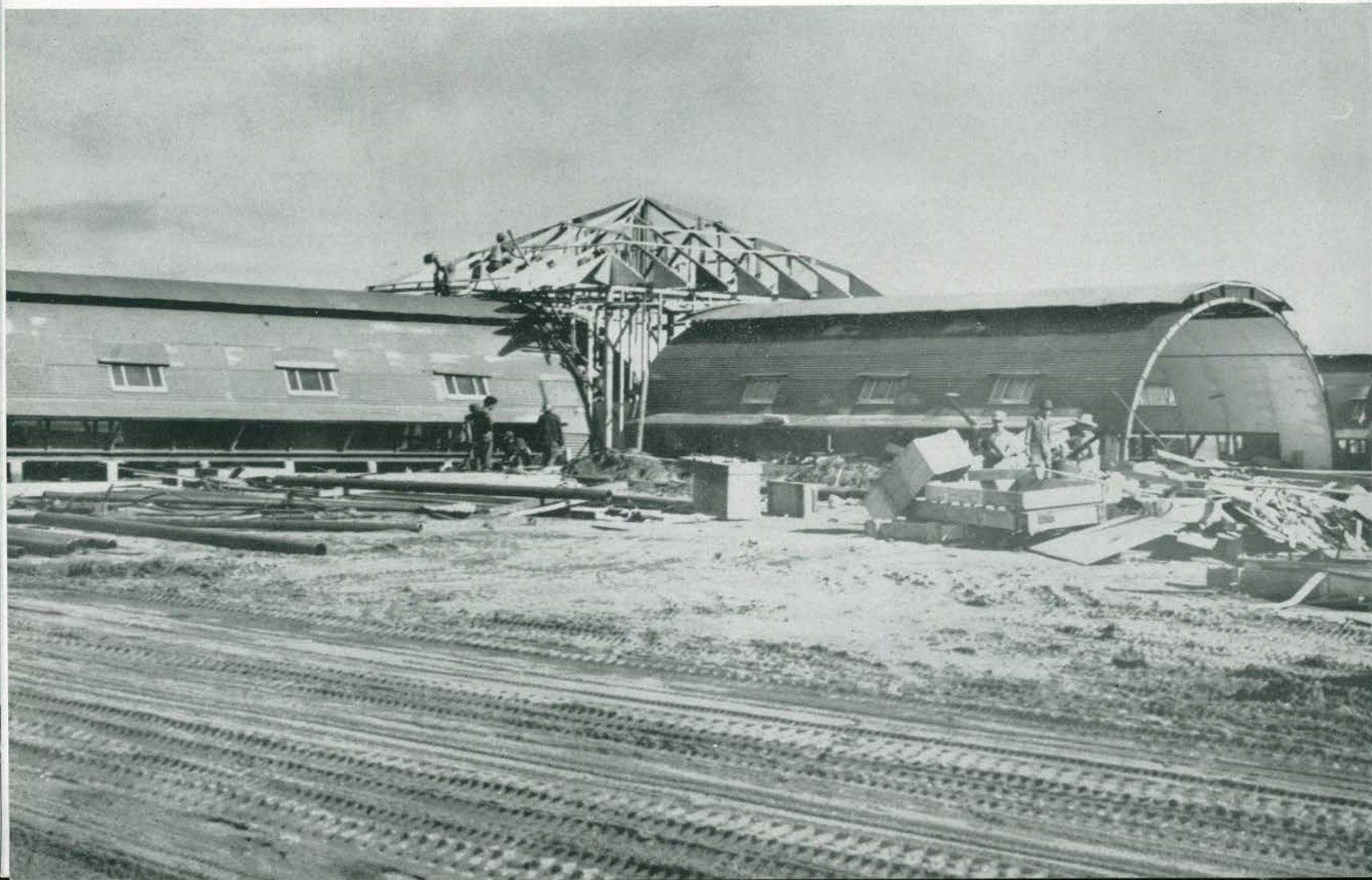
Ready for Pierced Planking







Oiler For Strip







Naval Air Base Hospital



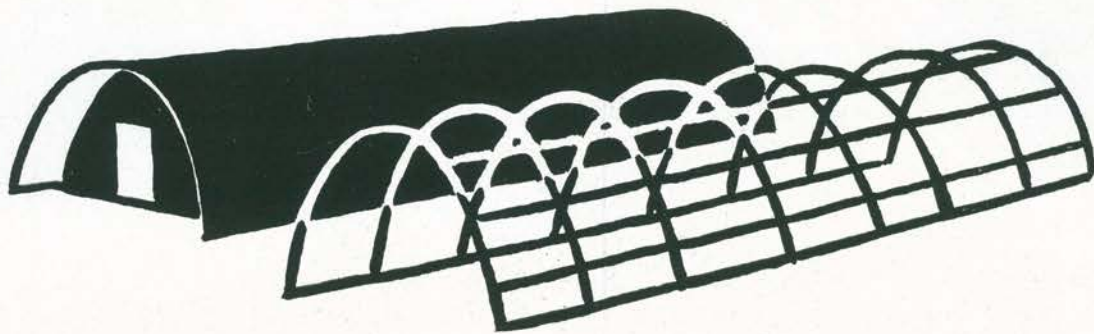


Cement Deck Going Down



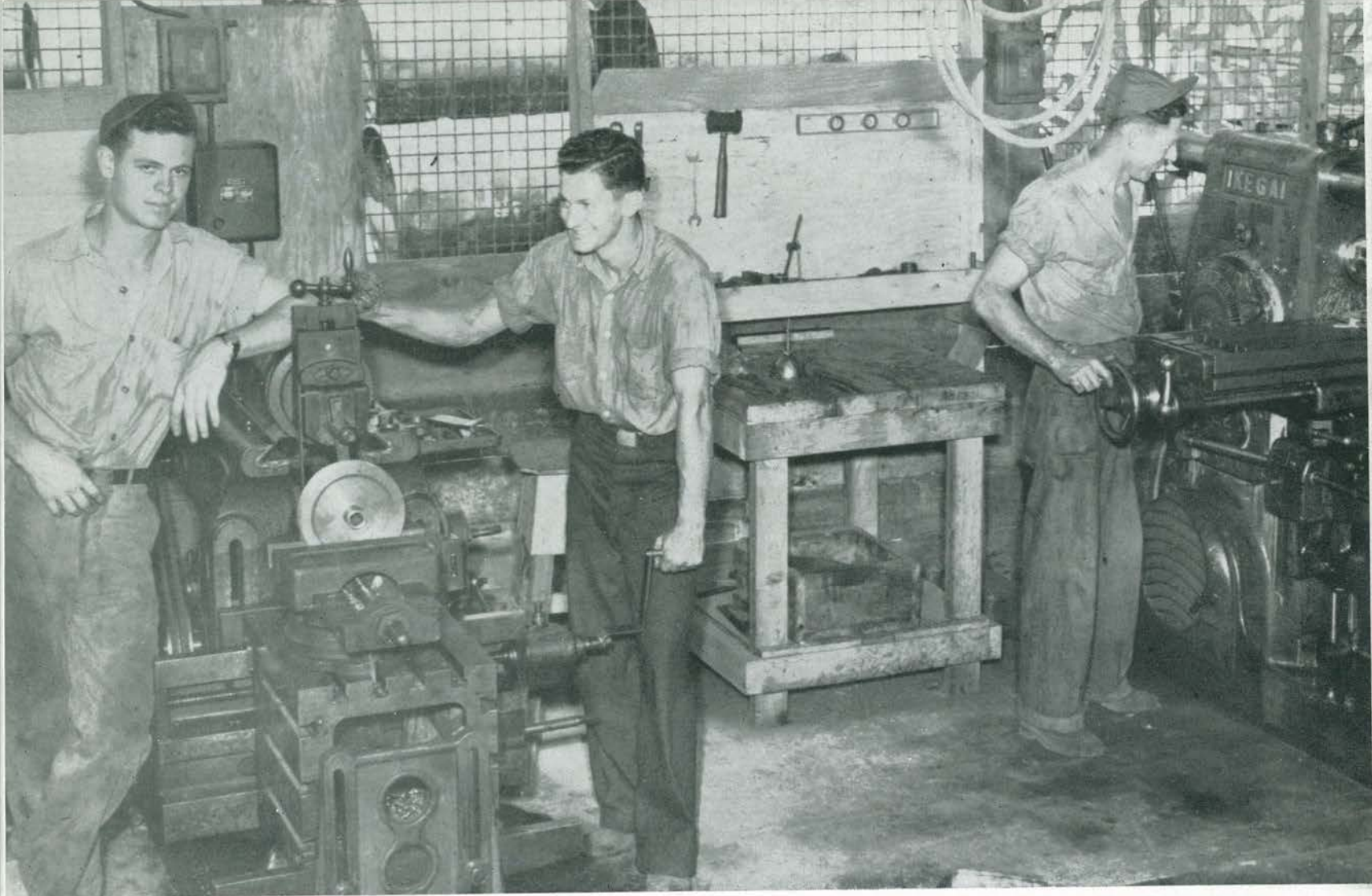
Native Labor





Assorted "Trouble Shooters"





Liberty Group At Hollandia







Utilizing Rebuilt Jap Equipment







Wainwright Tunnel



Rubble In Wainwright Tunnel





Hospital Ruins on Corregidor With Bataan Background

Corregidor and a rear echelon group on its way up from Australia, the celebration of the battalion's second anniversary overseas was postponed. Interest in the event had faded out with the end of the war.

Jobs with top priorities, which were under supervision of the 77th at the Cavite Naval Base, were a receiving station and Base Hospital Number 14. Both projects required a large number of Quonset huts since the NAB was scheduled to house 2,000 men and 800 officers and the latter was a 300-bed unit. Additional jobs at the base were the erection of an administration area, enlisted men's camp, storage and supply warehouses, shops, boat and motor pool facilities, and a dock area. All the work at Cavite was under the supervision of Lt. (jg) J. A. Russel, later temporarily assigned to us. He began the work prior to our arrival with Filipino labor and very little equipment, tools, or materials. His accomplishments were outstanding.

On the lighter side, the 77th Seabee Band increased in popularity and acclaim with the presen-

tation of many excellent musical programs and dances for our men, neighboring units, and Filipino groups. An entertainment group led by Kay Kyser and supported by the Swingphibians was enjoyed by most of our personnel. Movies were on hand every night at the Naval Air Base Theater.

In the field of sports, the 77th Seabee Basketball Team reached its heights by winning the third and deciding game to annex the Sangley Point basketball championship when the Fighting Irish went down to us 24-22 in a thrill-filled game.

In the Philippines, scuttlebutt was more frequent and wild than ever before. Nobody wanted to talk about anything except, "When will we go home?" Or "How many points do you have?" No one really knew, but everyone had a guess about when the battalion was scheduled to go stateside. The optimists had us going home in 30 days or less, while the pessimists pictured us as barely making Christmas 1945. Now you know who was right, but as this was being written, the item of topflight interest was strictly unknown.





Medical Department, 77th CBs



Dinner Music





Homeward Bound Lottery







"Wood Butchers"



Surveyors





First Mail



"Frankie's Salon"



Lighthouse on Corregidor

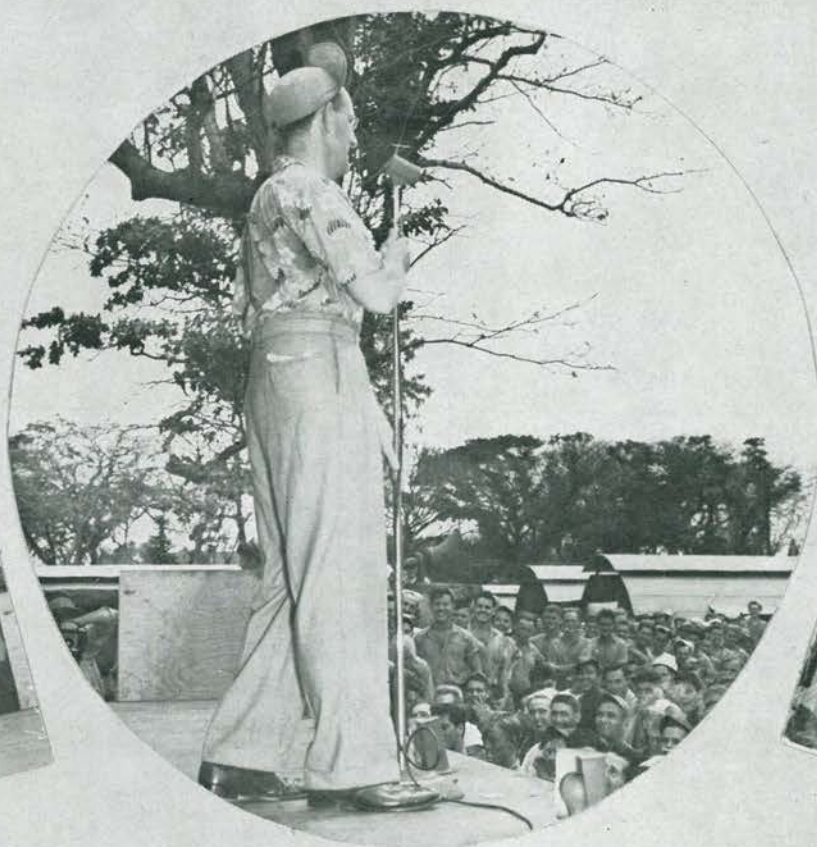






Our Don Juan







Chiefs in Mess Hall . . .



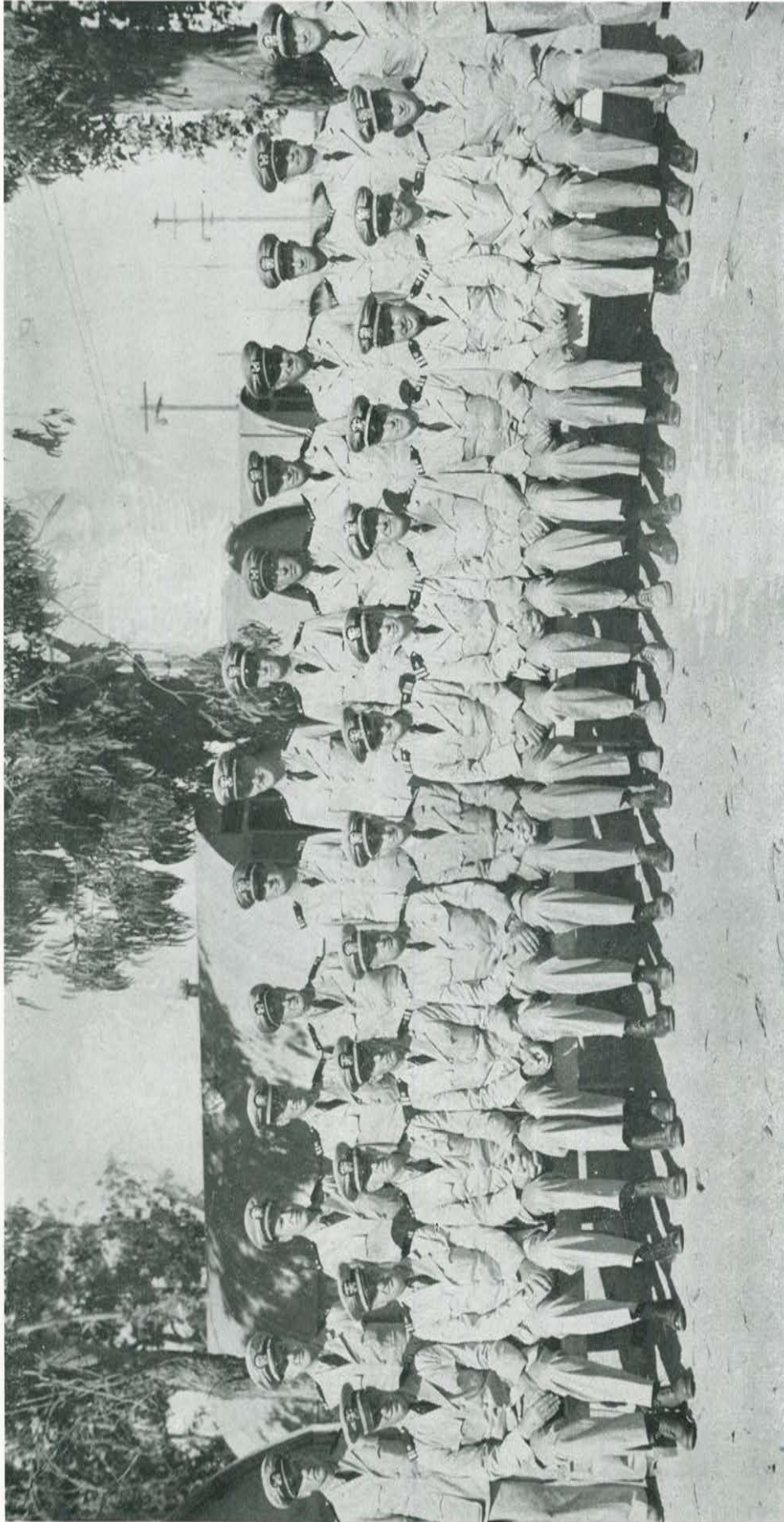
. . And More Chiefs





BATTALION PERSONNEL





## 77TH N.C.B. OFFICERS AT CAMP ROSSEAU

*Front Row, from left to right:* S. Mank, M. J. Korn, R. J. Grant, S. E. Hoffman, J. P. Densmore, R. W. Van Stan, C. L. Medd, R. F. Tuck, J. G. Clark, M. J. Flynn, W. D. Rothwell, R. V. Goff, J. Y. Barnes.

*Second Row:* W. A. Kirkland, D. F. Fletcher, M. Davinich, R. A. Nielsen, W. A. Rogers, R. A. Johnson, G. A. Vaughan, J. J. Idema, V. T. Bendorf, G. P. Fraga, W. C. Stewart, H. E. Dunlap, A. W. Osterholm, G. A. Dando.





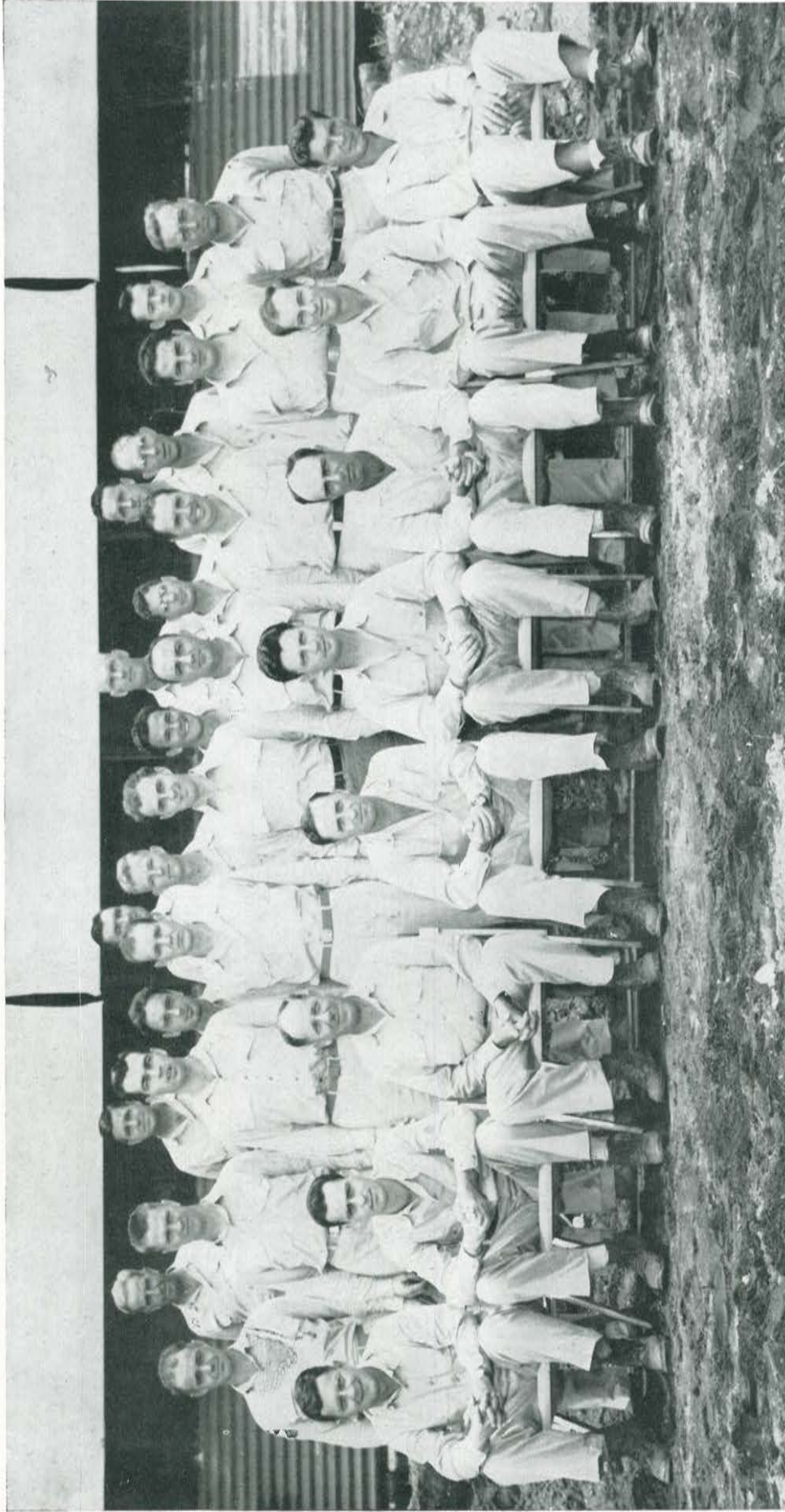
## 77TH N.C.B. OFFICERS AT EMIRAU

*Front Row, from left to right:* Lieut. R. V. Goff, Lt. Comdr. C. L. Medd (Doctor), Lieut. H. E. Dunlap, Lieut. M. Davinich, Ch. Carp. W. E. Philips, Lieut. J. Y. Barnes, Lieut. R. A. Johnson, Lieut. D. F. Fletcher, Comdr. C. T. Wende.

*Second Row:* Lt. (jg) J. T. Duggan, Lieut. R. A. Nielsen, Lieut. G. A. Dando, Lieut. R. F. Tuck (Dentist), Lieut. W. D. Rothwell, Lieut. G. P. Fraga, Lieut. J. G. Clark.

*Third Row:* Carp. J. L. Wahlstrom, Ch. Carp. W. A. Kirkland, Carp. P. S. Pomeroy, Lt. (jg) D. J. Driscoll, Lieut. S. Mank, Lt. (jg) R. U. White, Lt. (jg) H. P. Bunger, Lieut. C. E. Duncan, Lieut. M. J. Flynn, Lieut. J. J. Idema, Ch. Carp. W. C. Stewart, Ch. Carp. V. T. Bendorff, Lieut. M. "J" Korn (Doctor).





## 77TH N.C.B. OFFICERS AT SANGLEY POINT, P. I.

*Front Row, from left to right:* Lieut. G. A. Dando, Lieut. W. A. Grissom (Chaplain), Lieut. J. G. Clark, Comdr. C. T. Wende, Lieut. C. E. Duncan, Lieut. S. Mank, Lieut. J. J. Idema, Lieut. M. Davinich.

*Second Row:* Ch. Carp. R. N. McLoughlin, Lieut. C. T. G. Carlson, Lt. (jg) D. J. Driscoll, Lieut. W. F. Henning (Dentist), Lt. (jg) T. A. Ceplikas (Doctor), Lieut. S. C. Lindemuth (Dentist), Lieut. W. D. Rothwell, Lt. (jg) J. T. Duggan, Lt. (jg) J. E. Carson.

*Third Row:* Carp. R. O. Pease, Lt. (jg) H. P. Bunger, Lt. (jg) R. U. White, Lt. (jg) S. D. Lester, Ch. Carp. V. T. Bendorf, Ensign R. F. Campbell.

*Fourth Row:* Carp. I. N. Nelms, Ch. Carp. J. E. Garland, Carp. R. J. Ohland, Ch. Carp. J. H. Painter, Ch. Carp. W. E. Philips.





### HEADQUARTERS—PLATOON 1

*Front Row, left to right:* W. C. Lewandowski, C. L. Dixon, M. A. Coty, V. J. H. Ames, I. L. Green, D. W. Ainaire, R. G. Lofgren, W. E. Mitchell, C. O. Terry, P. F. Bartley, F. F. Calaguire, J. D. McKinney.

*Middle Row:* E. M. Greenwood, D. L. Ellery, M. Fagot, W. V. Keating, E. J. Dewey, J. A. Sharwatz, G. J. Hernjak, A. D. Adams, C. O. Roff, F. J. Abate, H. O. Harris, H. G. Harper, R. L. Miller.

*Back Row:* F. Watson, G. P. Johnson.

### HEADQUARTERS—PLATOON 2

*Front Row, left to right:* J. E. Hart, C. R. Derstler, B. R. Girard, F. Balcom, J. W. Baughman, J. C. Hufstetler, J. V. Janda, J. R. Sellers, R. B. Hopkins, M. G. Barreto.

*Middle Row:* F. W. Bartlett, W. J. Drury, A. W. Janoski, L. E. Barnanowski, T. Barron, D. G. Morton, A. A. Vance, R. A. Cortez, D. E. Howard, O. R. Johnson, J. H. Jones, F. J. Jershin, D. B. Hodges.

*Back Row:* R. E. Cocron, E. J. Lane, B. H. Tuttle, F. E. Maddox, W. H. Oliver, R. M. Black, M. W. Peterson, J. R. Meyer, R. E. Baker, C. A. Barone, G. C. Leach.







### HEADQUARTERS—PLATOON 3

*Front Row, left to right:* J. B. Love, J. Norton, H. P. Anthes, H. A. Smith, C. R. Kane, J. T. Cady, V. L. Russo, O. L. Shaver, D. F. Badger, J. C. Andis, A. Roiz.

*Middle Row:* S. D. Gillies, J. Storch, J. W. Wheelock, J. D. Wagner, M. N. Stevens, J. A. Banko, M. A. Hicks, T. B. Preuit, R. S. Gillis, C. P. Banta, F. X. Hurt, A. N. Milligan.

*Back Row:* E. P. Brabant, R. P. Swineford, C. R. Crawford, W. L. Plummer, J. Kadau, J. P. Haddock, C. K. Gossage, C. E. Martens, W. M. Tarnofsky, R. H. Harrington.

### HEADQUARTERS—PLATOON 4

*Front Row, left to right:* G. J. Boggaili, D. H. Fryer, L. F. Eye, A. T. Brannon, E. W. Plowman, W. D. Baumel, J. E. Weese, R. S. Allnuth, T. L. Bransdal, W. G. Smith, G. R. Hiatt.

*Middle Row:* E. R. Mora, J. M. Stout, D. J. Louis, J. K. Havird, E. A. Thomas, H. R. Rich, J. C. Cuff, H. M. Love, W. J. Bartik, S. Koen, A. F. Vitous, M. A. Parrish, C. N. Donnelly.

*Back Row:* W. H. Beckham, C. H. Oestrich, E. R. Matthews, F. H. Pierson, H. L. Gill, J. J. Pancher, G. L. Owen, L. R. Travis, N. A. Krueger, R. A. Tamaccio, A. E. Neuman, O. Searls.







### COMPANY A—PLATOON 1

*Front Row, left to right:* J. W. Anderson, L. R. Poole, J. G. Fraumeni, H. N. Ballard, W. G. Friedlander, R. W. Edwards, G. R. Edwards, W. R. Bernet, W. G. Phillips.

*Middle Row:* C. DiPeri, G. P. Salgado, M. Belsky, J. V. Watson, R. F. Carr, R. F. Bohannon, J. W. Chase, R. F. Beach, R. D. Hensell.

*Back Row:* H. R. Heath, P. Berkowitz, S. J. Cook, R. A. Pickerman, J. C. Beardslee, G. F. Bilby, L. M. Whalen, G. E. Bastian, G. R. Henry.

### COMPANY A—PLATOON 2

*Front Row, left to right:* S. Price, J. O. Price, E. F. Barcio, R. L. Plebuch, W. F. McCormack, L. A. Allen, N. Crisan, D. Phelps, J. Eldi, M. Cohen.

*Middle Row:* E. Winchester, L. B. Sproule, E. R. Atencio, D. P. Arrowood, G. G. Connelly, N. A. Clark, J. J. Raber, C. W. Holm, S. V. Bertrand.

*Back Row:* W. E. Collins, F. Beatriz, W. D. Bailey, H. R. Plotkin, C. R. Robb, L. F. Powell, L. O. Peterson, T. L. Kelley, L. E. Ashley, W. D. Finley.







### COMPANY A—PLATOON 3

*Front Row, left to right:* J. R. Howe, R. A. Shadler, H. S. Rodan, H. M. Baker, L. J. Shaw, J. H. Roberts, C. A. Fiumefreddo, A. L. Sanchez, W. M. Fackler, B. J. Shannon, J. Bryant, N. J. Esposito, H. W. Young.

*Middle Row:* C. M. Roddy, L. A. Scholljegerdes, J. R. Kress, H. R. Ready, E. G. Mosier, C. A. Savage, J. J. Eustace, E. W. Hellstrom, R. F. Searles, R. B. Metzger, W. W. Koerner.

*Back Row:* A. S. Brown, C. H. Schaper, M. J. Fambrough, F. E. Russell, F. E. Wood, H. G. Stock, M. D. Shockley, W. O. Burley, R. E. Burns, T. M. Farley.

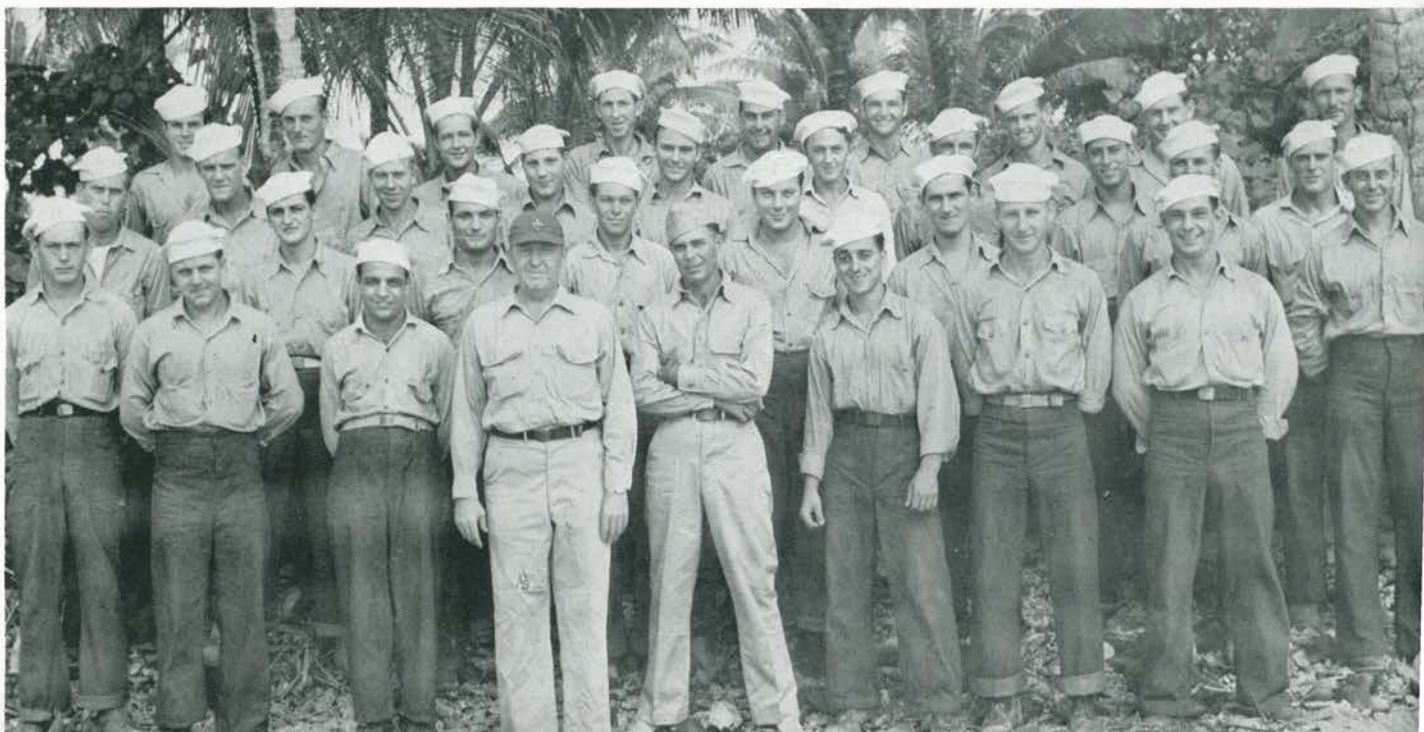
### COMPANY A—PLATOON 4

*Front Row, left to right:* R. C. Stark, J. J. Bouchard, A. Ferrante, E. E. Englehart, P. S. Walker, M. J. Feroli, J. Foster, J. E. Darr.

*Second Row:* P. M. Henley, K. W. Fitzsimmons, A. L. Lamb, F. S. Spreckley, J. Fasulo, E. Winnick, L. J. Tomsha, W. L. Foster.

*Third Row:* H. T. Fortune, R. E. Fox, R. L. Smead, H. R. Smith, A. W. Finch, J. A. Fleming, G. F. Figueroy, K. E. Langston.

*Fourth Row:* J. W. Fevola, J. E. Kesterson, J. F. Smith, R. E. Spears, A. H. Spurgeon, O. F. Fitzsimmons, G. M. Ferguson, R. F. Fife, W. T. Linville.







### COMPANY A—PLATOON 5

*First Row, left to right:* J. M. Cerchio, W. W. Smith, O. A. Stefanowitz, W. C. Trushel, R. R. Pinske, H. M. Ulander, S. Catrambone.

*Second Row:* E. W. Parton, J. H. Carroll, A. J. Cavallo, J. W. Cazalet, K. J. Strong, C. W. Chapman, D. T. Carder.

*Third Row:* S. W. Rugeley, R. L. Tessier, O. B. Paulsel.

*Fourth Row:* O. J. Stoltz, P. G. Stevens, R. J. Carnahan, W. F. Carr, J. F. Carroll, M. E. Buster, W. L. Brenner, A. W. Pittaluga, G. A. Chalifoux.

*Fifth Row:* G. G. Sweeney, C. C. Cassady, J. A. Upchurch, W. H. Palmer, G. D. Cates, R. L. Steen, H. W. Coe, A. G. Cataldo, N. J. Cantin, A. R. Caron.

### COMPANY A—PLATOON 6

*First Row, left to right:* G. H. Ward, C. E. Webb, H. G. Walsh, M. J. Van Hess, W. T. Mackie, S. B. Wolcott, W. W. Cheeseman, J. D. Brinson.

*Middle Row:* J. Wadika, C. O. Wilkerson, G. S. Chin, R. A. Weaver, J. Wobbet, A. Giantasio, R. L. Woods, R. C. Chase, P. H. Blanchette.

*Back Row:* I. E. Lewis, V. R. Vick, J. R. Chesnic, H. I. Chiappone, L. A. Boyles, C. H. Spencer, G. J. Chayka, R. E. Van Thuyne, A. D. Ross.







### COMPANY B—PLATOON 1

*Front Row, left to right:* R. K. Craig, L. E. Van Winkle, W. E. Waring, L. Codomo, H. L. Clement, C. F. King, H. Cohen, M. A. Kristman, W. H. Lingo.

*Middle Row:* H. H. Clarke, R. Bunnell, E. C. Converse, S. Hritz, H. C. Meyers, R. V. Mead, L. Gualtieri, D. L. Coffey, R. Bisordi, E. P. Nolan.

*Back Row:* J. J. Clark, R. L. Lewis, R. L. Boley, W. A. Clark, J. K. Mahler, B. W. Wright, K. Downe, R. A. McGarvey, K. W. Cook, W. A. Christiansen, L. A. Brown.

### COMPANY B—PLATOON 2

*Front Row, left to right:* E. L. Blevin, A. J. Clark, L. F. DeMarco, A. H. Croesser, J. B. Cowles, G. A. Boehm, S. A. Zabinski, R. G. Girouard, W. N. Jones.

*Middle Row:* T. J. Nichols, Z. W. Blais, M. L. Allenbaugh, W. G. Allbritton, R. E. Gilg, W. B. Clifton, P. F. Adle, R. J. Colichio, G. H. Gilmore, D. J. Collins, W. Greenburg, C. L. Anderson.

*Back Row:* G. F. Wright, O. E. Lien, R. L. Anderson, J. Molnar, E. H. Ingraham, A. S. Anderson, J. D. Allen, A. O. Anderson, L. Green, S. O. Gliwa, J. Gaydos.







### COMPANY B—PLATOON 3

*Front Row, left to right:* I. E. Moore, W. F. Cavanaugh, J. A. Bueno, D. W. Bush, L. C. Chapman, R. R. Brabson, J. E. Smith.

*Middle Row:* V. N. Cranmer, F. L. Caryl, J. Costa, J. L. Bajcer, F. Crick, C. K. Wright, R. N. Breton, W. B. Alletag, E. M. Calvo, J. C. Boone, C. Dellamonica.

*Back Row:* J. E. Goggin, A. C. Anderson, R. A. Darnell, R. O. Burg, M. E. Hayes, G. R. Moore, W. V. Harbison, J. Charlesworth, A. H. Panning, M. Copenhaver, G. D. Cornell.

### COMPANY B—PLATOON 4

*Front Row, left to right:* M. Cyktich, J. A. Scepkoski, W. J. Cieselski, A. Devirgilio, P. P. Cooney, J. O. Bozarth, O. L. George, L. D. Wells.

*Middle Row:* R. B. Dodd, C. E. Avery, S. S. Copece, A. E. Carr, C. J. DeStefano, H. C. Davis, C. J. Duhaime, W. D. Montgomery.

*Back Row:* R. C. David, C. J. Dauphines, J. K. Crowell, F. D. Clarke, W. N. Seaman, W. B. Bradley, J. P. Gilmartin, D. F. Dunn, G. F. McKay, L. D. Hall.







### COMPANY B—PLATOON 5

*Front Row, left to right:* C. H. Veal, H. C. Bierele, L. J. Spano, C. H. Morris, M. A. Bird, P. J. Lambert, H. Terrill, H. D. McCulloch.

*Middle Row:* R. Barnhart, O. E. Damon, V. Benson, J. N. Brodeur, R. DiGiacomo, R. N. Barlow, F. Piatt, C. A. Galgoey, J. E. Bartley, B. Womack.

*Back Row:* B. M. Blackman, E. A. Bader, H. Rizzo, G. W. Jenkins, A. D. McWilliams, J. B. Wilroy, R. W. Bushman, G. T. Nelson, M. Deese, H. H. Cushman.

### COMPANY B—PLATOON 6

*Front Row, left to right:* J. J. Hernon, S. Engel, S. O. Cocksey, R. J. Brochowski, W. B. Haines, E. J. Hawkins, G. Javor, G. L. Allen.

*Middle Row:* E. E. Bailey, R. A. Snyder, F. DiGirolamo, R. M. Higday, O. Hardy, L. L. Goff, G. R. Hayes, L. N. Bruneau.

*Back Row:* R. E. Vinson, R. L. Cox, J. H. Kincaid, L. B. Morgan, G. W. Kell, A. P. Miller, J. C. Herbst, W. R. Clark, R. J. Gugino, G. B. Herman.







### COMPANY C—PLATOON 1

*Front Row, left to right:* R. A. Koepl, A. E. Wasserman, T. E. Ertl, C. B. Keller, D. W. Whitney, G. W. Kersey, J. S. Kosinski, W. Kurilla, S. F. Hargrove.

*Middle Row:* D. W. Hand, T. E. Etchison, J. T. Kochan, J. Skodacek, R. Hendry, R. O. Klein, V. Bonner, S. McCoy, H. H. Helmke, E. F. Sharrock, H. S. Sheffield.

*Back Row:* J. H. Moore, J. B. Fish, A. A. Erdelyi, W. F. Demers, A. F. Flick, H. E. Weaver, J. G. Farrell, R. R. Kiroff, H. C. Shaw, W. J. Klein.

### COMPANY C—PLATOON 2

*Front Row, left to right:* H. Lowry, H. F. Ward, R. Fuchs, W. F. Lindahl, C. H. Magee, H. F. Logan, M. C. Movold, M. A. Rhodes, J. S. Fugas.

*Middle Row:* V. J. D'Orazio, T. W. Signet, L. T. Lee, E. F. McPhee, R. B. Prosser, P. L. Lewis, W. H. Lee, F. C. Feathers.

*Back Row:* S. W. Stinchcombe, C. J. Primosch, A. R. Kauffman, H. B. Davis, P. L. Krutchnitt, R. M. Critchfield, C. W. Collum, J. W. Landberg, H. A. Lawrence, R. L. Maden, F. D. Bridgeford, A. MacNeil.







### COMPANY C—PLATOON 3

*Front Row, left to right:* C. E. Shearman, W. L. Pergl, R. J. Esposito, J. J. McCarthy, T. A. Mickle, R. J. Marcaccio, E. J. Childers, J. B. Ryan, R. H. Clary.

*Middle Row:* C. D. Brewer, H. G. McCoy, J. J. Conlisk, O. R. Cecil, L. W. Marsh, A. E. Franko, W. McDaniel, T. G. Crutchfield, J. S. Farrell, J. Sanders.

*Back Row:* L. W. Maycux, R. O. Williams, L. P. Winkler, R. C. McCullough, G. Harrod, F. H. Bowman, R. A. Megatulski, T. D. Mazetier, G. M. Anderson, N. R. Caryl, C. L. Chaney.

### COMPANY C—PLATOON 4

*Front Row, left to right:* E. L. Williams, A. Morris, O. L. Copeland, L. E. Crouch, I. E. Cuvelier, R. Cuttaia, E. A. Olejarz, D. H. Cohen.

*Middle Row:* E. Kosinski, G. H. Reach, W. F. Campbell, S. N. Whiteley, C. M. Mainez, W. B. Crevling, J. R. Jones, M. E. Brink.

*Back Row:* J. R. Branscum, E. L. Singleton, T. D. Blackard, W. E. Blackburn, B. H. Ziegler, J. C. Mangum, G. A. Sexton, C. F. Moulton, I. E. Money, D. C. Cole, W. L. Depp.







### COMPANY C—PLATOON 5

*Front Row, left to right:* D. O. Lehman, R. V. Wheeler, F. R. Valov, C. E. Ried, R. N. Chandler, E. T. Steel, M. J. Harrison, M. P. Foster.

*Middle Row:* E. L. Kaufman, L. L. Seiler, F. J. Gilbert, B. W. Rippy, R. A. Witten, C. J. Miller, J. Z. Dart, W. R. Kohl, A. D. Scaggs.

*Back Row:* W. E. Wrench, J. E. Toles, W. J. Murphy, H. A. Scott, M. G. Sumner, S. D. Posey, J. L. Leggett, J. L. Palmer, E. F. Pepperman, R. H. Baker, H. L. Silkwood.

### COMPANY C—PLATOON 6

*Front Row, left to right:* T. M. Crusinberry, M. J. DeMeule, E. W. Crist, B. R. Perrotta, R. T. Miller, C. L. Bergquist, H. A. Edwards, A. Estrada.

*Middle Row:* L. Steiger, W. L. Lepannen, W. D. Butt, C. J. Bofinger, T. F. Peter, W. R. Curry, H. W. Lewis, L. J. Gower, J. H. Loyd, C. A. Brown

*Back Row:* C. R. Frank, A. J. Gaito, E. E. Schmitt, L. Pividori, R. B. Forwerk, H. L. Wigham, J. W. Raffensperger, J. A. Kindt, L. A. Wood, M. W. Beaulieu, W. R. Fogarty, P. J. Fox.







### COMPANY D—PLATOON 1

*Front Row, left to right:* J. Donofrio, P. Dovak, E. R. Kitson, J. C. Temes, L. V. McBee, J. Garza, H. C. Carr, J. V. Creasy, C. R. Gira.

*Middle Row:* P. E. Miller, L. J. Martinez, B. H. Schuman, R. Anderson, H. T. Pitts, J. Elsey, P. J. Condry, P. B. Jenness, G. T. Nelson.

*Back Row:* E. J. Robinson, W. V. Nielsen, R. W. Armour, R. E. Carr, E. G. Johnson, S. R. Pierce, D. S. Bailey, G. W. Cawthorne, J. R. C. Hill, C. S. Merrill, A. E. Montag, G. P. Kaminski, M. V. Hedgecock.

### COMPANY D—PLATOON 2

*Front Row, left to right:* J. M. Davidson, O. L. Varnado, C. L. Phillips, J. W. Price, C. Rowan, P. W. Albrecht, A. L. Jette.

*Middle Row:* J. R. Cole, J. G. Metcalf, J. B. Costantini, G. J. Carter, W. H. Close, R. Q. Johnson, E. C. Bridges, H. Gentle.

*Back Row:* C. P. Baker, W. E. Heon, C. A. Johnson, R. A. Gehrman, G. P. Bell, W. A. Crites, J. R. Thompson, W. V. Adams.







### COMPANY D—PLATOON 3

*Front Row, left to right:* N. E. Dodge, L. J. Guillot, T. H. McLaughlin, M. T. Gleeson, H. W. Griffin, R. P. DeMello, E. Hughes, J. Dill, W. A. Kuhn.

*Middle Row:* E. Dudziak, R. L. Jau, T. F. Goham, M. D. Crowder, A. P. Arnold, L. D. Gobeli, J. N. Hurley, J. J. Ferda, I. C. Harris.

*Back Row:* H. G. Jarrell, D. A. Pecot, H. Hack, R. J. Logan, N. J. Meadows, R. L. Houck, K. Silverwood, R. L. Grigat, E. Hazelwood, B. G. Rhodes, B. H. Moon, W. J. Hayes, E. E. Miller.

### COMPANY D—PLATOON 4

*Front Row, left to right:* W. J. Ettinger, A. H. Clark, W. B. Joseph, E. B. Domnelly, W. Kelly, J. W. Branson, I. H. Collins, C. F. Coker, L. H. Waltrip.

*Middle Row:* V. A. Guglielmo, B. H. Crockett, H. R. Goldenbaum, K. N. Topham, F. H. Oehme, L. E. Blanchard, A. Gould, R. T. Giyer, J. W. Ingersoll.

*Back Row:* R. L. McDaniels, J. W. Davis, J. Dean, C. N. Haddock, H. C. Hanson, R. W. Goerg, P. F. Little, R. M. Van Kirk, J. R. Graham, J. F. Cowden, A. R. Burnside, J. C. Clark, T. E. Anderson.







### COMPANY D—PLATOON 5

*Front Row, left to right:* S. Bigbear, H. Pfeifer, G. L. Norman, R. K. Hahn, H. Neff, C. C. Frederick, R. Ramos, R. V. Neal, R. E. Quick, E. C. Morell.

*Middle Row:* H. S. Nixon, J. B. Harrington, L. Hardin, B. McArthur, J. B. Doras, S. J. Solak, S. L. Halko, H. A. Bolduc, U. J. Messina, J. E. Englehart.

*Back Row:* R. L. Shroff, E. L. Nelson, C. L. Norman, W. R. Johnson, I. M. Goddard, W. M. Tudor, E. D. Utley, H. T. McCain, W. W. Hagstrom, G. P. Garvey.

### COMPANY D—PLATOON 6

*Front Row, left to right:* B. I. Camp, J. A. Caudill, J. Sheradowski, F. H. Woodson, J. E. Hatcher, G. P. Henningan, J. L. McBride, A. W. Adams, A. L. Johnston.

*Middle Row:* L. P. Allen, C. L. Ward, L. S. Terhune, P. F. Burnside, R. W. McNees, W. E. Vickers, E. M. Mazeika, W. W. Galloway, O. B. Beck.

*Back Row:* S. Strayer, C. C. Conly, J. Kling, R. F. Saunders, P. A. McKenzie, J. W. Ross, W. R. Mattice, F. J. Lauricella, W. C. Dawson, W. W. Coles.







Men not appearing previously in platoon pictures:

*First Row, left to right:* A. J. Douge, N. Donato, R. H. Carter, J. J. Beattie, O. E. Craig, L. J. Schnettler, S. M. Watson, J. M. Boissonnault.

*Middle Row:* L. E. Albert, H. L. McNealy, T. W. Faber, O. N. Motter, V. E. Catlett, L. E. Fay, D. Frangos.

*Back Row:* B. Chirlin, W. R. Buerhaus, E. J. Munnely, A. T. Connors, T. R. Motto, J. R. Doucette, H. Joplin.

### MANUS DRYDOCK CREW

*First Row, left to right:* M. R. Adkins, J. I. Borer, J. A. Cravy, K. E. Suter, D. A. Hedderig, R. A. Davis, L. N. Eide.

*Middle Row:* F. L. Riley, E. W. Miller, E. V. James, J. W. Price, G. W. Kling, M. J. Peters, L. O. Coggins.

*Back Row:* R. J. Elmore, T. Florio, J. R. Aaron, C. E. Currier, W. H. Huseman, C. W. Dillmore, E. K. Deaver, B. Feingold.







### PONTOON ASSEMBLY DETACHMENT GROUP

*First Row, left to right:* L. L. Latham, T. M. Gentry, A. Gray, V. Cantu, V. E. Morris, P. R. Yernipcut, A. Sgorlon, H. Forrer.

*Middle Row:* J. W. Stackhouse, E. F. Wales, J. J. Piscor, C. L. Ward, R. L. Yeager, J. Ruggiero.

*Back Row:* C. Gholson, J. R. Short, C. F. Simmons, W. Hirsch, M. Velasquez, C. W. Schuler, D. Richard, M. B. McSherry.

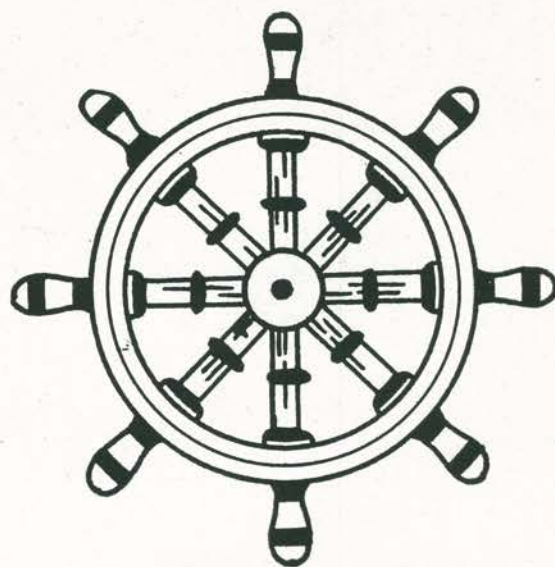
### COOLANGATTA STATION FORCE—CAMP 2

*First Row, left to right:* D. H. Cohen, N. Crisan, Jr.

*Back Row:* J. K. Havird, J. E. Goggin, E. Collins, A. P. Arnold, J. T. Kochan.







D E P A R T M E N T S



# ARMORY AND ORDNANCE



Routine Cleaning

Armory and Ordnance for the 77th Battalion was started at our birthplace, Camp Peary, Va. At Camp Endicott, R. I., our next stop, saw crews trained for .30 and .50 caliber machine guns, 20-mm. anti-aircraft guns, and 60 and 80-mm. mortars. A permanent armory crew was selected, with each man in the battalion assigned to a gun crew or a rifle squad.

When we moved to Port Hueneme, Calif., we were ready for advanced training, and we got it. Here the battalion was issued arms. Our first job was to check completely each piece after it had been thoroughly cleaned by the man who owned it.

Soon the time came, and Lieutenant R. A. Johnson, our ordnance officer, gave orders to pack up for Island X, and we found that moving ordnance was not an easy job.

At the brief stop in Noumea, New Caledonia, our anti-aircraft gun crews worked out on the range at the naval base.

Our first overseas armory was set up on Guadalcanal. Rifle racks were built of native saplings and any wood we could lay our hands on. One of our first jobs was to clear the camp area of Japanese artillery shells and ammunition left behind. Then the eternal cleaning of rifles began. We quickly discovered that we were going to be hard pressed to keep them in working condition, the tropical moisture was so terrific.

On Vella La Vella our troubles began in earnest, for the weather conditions played havoc with all weapons. Besides caring for our weapons, we mounted our anti-aircraft guns, test-fired them, and stood 24-hour watches. Our good friends, the Marines and New Zealanders on the island, brought in their weapons, which we kept in repair. We salvaged five air-cooled .50 caliber machine guns and one water-cooled .50 caliber machine gun, along with other equipment. We first came in contact with Jap weapons here, and the Marines repaid our favors by giving us many pointers as to their mechanical operation. As a last job on Vella, we mounted .50 caliber air-cooled machine guns on jeeps for protective fire in our landing on Bougainville.

Once at Bougainville, our crews manned anti-aircraft and machine gun stations. The armory crew set up a tent, built racks, and was ready in two days to call in all rifles and give them their customary check-up. We moved an old ammunition dump from the proposed side of the air strip; procured more enemy weapons including Jap rifles, light machine guns, hand grenades, bayonets, shells, and cartridges of all descriptions. During our stay here we had our only Condition Black (invasion). All armory hands stood by prepared to issue weapons and ammunition at a moment's notice.

It was at Emirau that the battalion built its first



overseas rifle range. Constant instruction was given on the range, and the battalion again qualified for expert riflemen on the 200 and 500-yard Navy regulation course. The armory furnished instructors and repair men for the range.

Due to the constant diligence of the Armory and Ordnance department, the weapons of the 77th were always ready for use.

Below is the list of qualified marksmen of the 77th:

#### OFFICERS

##### Expert Rifleman (Carbine)

BARNES, Jack Yale  
BENDORF, Vernon Thomas  
BUNGER, Howard Phelps  
DANDO, George Albert  
DAVINICH, Michael (n)

DUGGAN, Jerome Timothy  
DUNCAN, Charles Eugene  
DUNLAP, Homer Edwin  
HENNING, William Fay  
IDEMA, Jacob John  
JOHNSON, Roy Albert

MEDD, Charles Lowell  
NELMS, Irwin Neely  
POMEROY, Philip Sargent  
WAHLSTROM, Joe Lee  
WENDE, Charles Thomas

##### Expert Pistolman

DUNLAP, Homer Edwin

IDEMA, Jacob John

JOHNSON, Roy Albert

#### ENLISTED MEN

##### Expert Rifleman (Carbine)

ANDERSON, Arthur Shelby  
BOWMAN, Fred Helm  
GRAIG, Othar Eugene  
ENGLEHART, Everett Eldon  
JARRELL, Howard Garnet

MOORE, Glenn Roe  
PRICE, James Walter  
RICH, Hilbert Ray  
RUGELEY, Sargent Walcott  
STINCHCOMBE, Samuel Wilbur

STRAYER, Seibert (n)  
WALKER, Perry Sedric  
WEAVER, Harold Ernest  
YOUNG, Homer William  
ZIEGLER, Benjamin Harry

##### Expert Rifleman (1903 Springfield)

BALLARD, Herbert Norman  
GOFF, Lloyd Lester

LEWIS, Irving Edward  
MEYER, Joseph Robert

OLIVER, William Hester  
STEVENS, Marshall Nye





# THE BAND

Camp Peary—and we started a band. Bill Klein heard Ernie Nelson beating it out on a saxophone, and the band was born.

Camp Endicott—and William Tapp, Danny Hand, Hardy Day, Ted Mickle, Ray Crevling, Harry Lowry, Louis Caryl, and Bill Ettinger came in.

Camp Rousseau—and Roland Miller, Alfred Wasserman, Hal Davis, Charles Galgocy, Paul Little, Ralph Van Kirk joined the band. Now we could swing it or march it.

Uncle Sam said pack up and we did, and left the USA for Island X. To the tune of "Anchors Aweigh" we moved out and kept the boys aboard fairly happy on the way over.

Noumea—and we added Tommy Motto and Dick DeMello. We played for the Hospital Ship *Solace*, and then moved on. At Guadalcanal Chap-

"Serenade"







"Giving Out"

lains Goff and Rice helped us present a show for the 97th Field Artillery and MOB 8. We would have liked to have started a rec center, but our orders were to move on.

And so it went—we worked with the rest, and then played for the entertainment of all—at Vella, at Bougainville (here often within a thousand yards of the front lines), Emirau. Finally we started all over again at Australia, new instruments, new band stands, and a new lease on life.

On the way to the Philippines we didn't play much. On the *Venus*, the slide trombone just plain didn't have enough room. After the completion of the priority building work we had time to play, and the mates had time to listen.

We think our organization did as much to promote morale as any band in the South Pacific—and Double Seven will back us up on that.



# CENSORS

The men with the shears were organized on Vella La Vella on 10 October 1943. From then on, the board worked on the theory "When in doubt—cut it out." We examined a daily average of 1,500 letters during the week and about 3,000 over the week ends. In addition, all enclosures and outgoing packages had to be inspected, and we had to log all cash and money orders.

Considering the inherent nature of our detail, too much speculation could not be allowed. If we sometimes seemed to cut out a part of a letter that seemed perfectly harmless it was because we felt a reasonable doubt about it, and "... in doubt, cut it out."

Basically, censorship was nothing more than good, common sense. The rules of U. S. Naval Censorship were primarily designed for the protection of all. All hands, realizing the gravity of this fact, cooperated with the board in adhering strictly to the letter and spirit of the rules, thus aiding the department immeasurably to supply the protection for which censorship was designed.

The task was tedious, but the men who handled this detail under the guidance of Dr. William F. Henning, with John P. Gilmartin in charge, were efficient and conscientious. Credit for a job well done goes to F. D. Bridgeford, C. S. Merrill, B. J. Camp, P. W. Albrecht, E. M. Calvo, and A. W. Adams.









# CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

No man in camp has more diverse duties than the Chaplain. Because of his unique position as special friend of every man in the battalion, he collects jobs as he goes, like a ship collects barnacles. If a man wants to get married, baptized, divorced, discharged, cheered up; if he wants to start a baseball team, float a loan, get a leave, get special liberty, a piece of stationery, a New Testament, the address of a tailor; if he wants help in choosing a correspondence course, untangling a family or legal problem, writing a love letter, choosing flowers for his wife's birthday, settling a dispute about the bible, or disproving a rash claim made by a man from Texas; if he wants to complain about the food, his rate, the way the barber cut his hair; if he wants to suggest an article for the camp newspaper, buy a War Bond, borrow a jeep, or fill his fountain pen; or if he just wants to shoot the breeze, the first man he generally goes to see is the Chaplain.

The 77th has been fortunate in having two good Chaplains, one succeeding the other. Chaplain Goff left the States with us and served the 77th during our first year overseas. In our first weeks

on Guadalcanal he organized the 77th Choir and Christian Service Men's League, two groups that were an important part of our religious life. Many of our chaplain's sermons were punctuated by the bark of 90-mm. guns and interrupted by the full-throated roar of low-flying aircraft, but they were delivered with the quiet sincerity of a person who loves both God and man—and gives his best for both.

T. B. Preuit acted as the chaplain's assistant throughout the period of Mr. Goff's stay. M. A. Rhodes took over his duties on the arrival of the new chaplain.

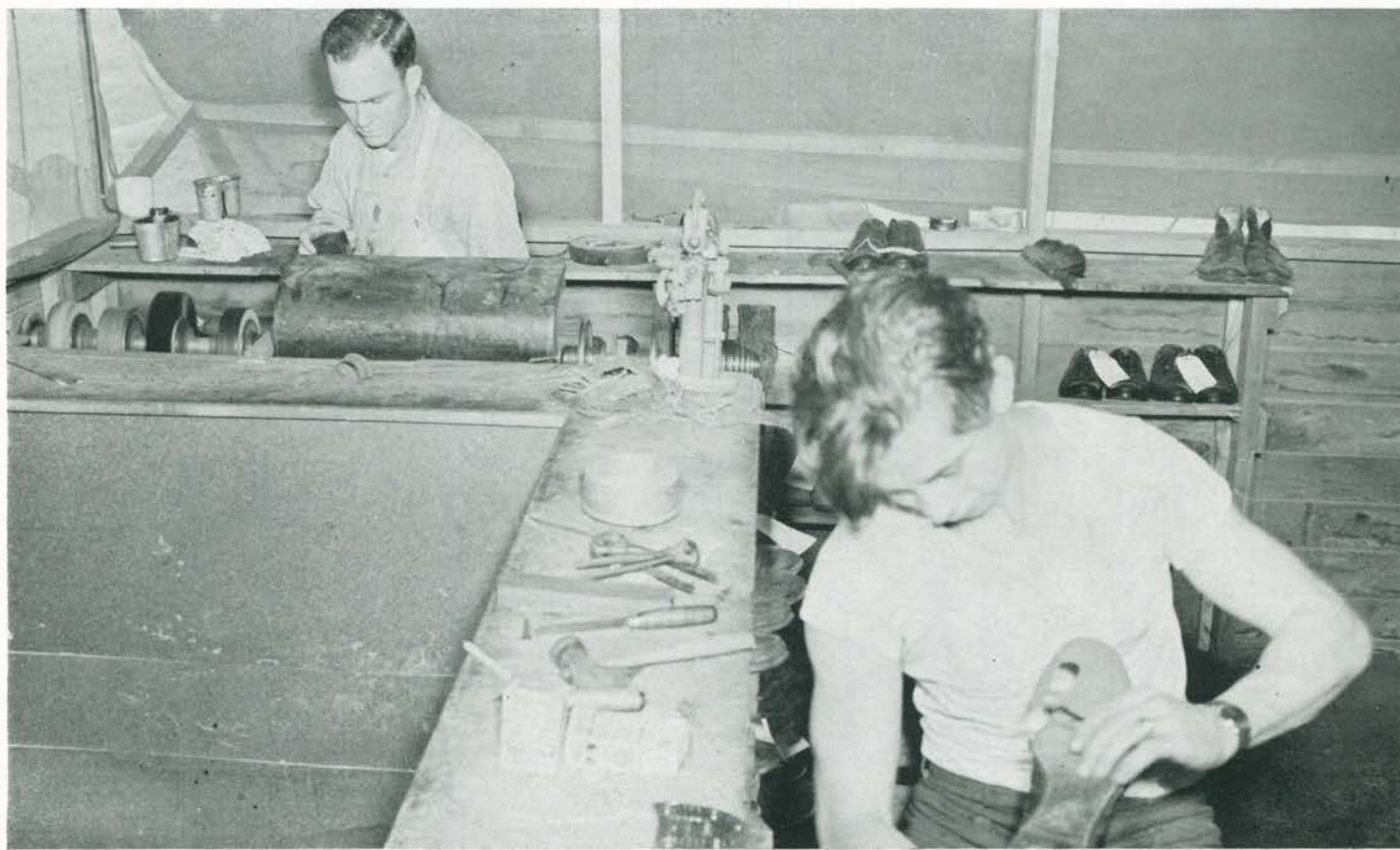
Chaplain W. A. Grissom was a hobby-lobbyist of the first water. On Emirau he collected many fine pieces of native craftsmanship and made scores of necklaces of tropical shells. In Australia he became expert in the selecting, cutting, and polishing of opals. In the Philippines he trained the choir so well it was sought for in religious services off the base. With Chaplain Lee of Acorn 45, he helped organize a church among the recently liberated Filipinos in the nearest town. At all times he helped the men who were feeling so keenly the separation from their homes and friends.

The Choir at Emirau





# COBBLER SHOP



Worn Thin

On Vella La Vella the Cobbler Shop came into being. Our stay at Guadalcanal had been so brief that it had not been thought wise to break open the pallets containing shoe repairing equipment. So, on Vella La Vella, James Sheradowski and Vernon Ames opened shop a few days after landing.

The shop soon had work from units all over the island. The Marine Raiders had quite a bit of repair work, and, in one case a noval request was made: Could the shop make a steel cup for the shoe of a Marine who had a broken toe? He was the best machine-gunner in the outfit and was held in such high esteem that his officers were unwilling to leave him behind. WE DID, from part of a wrecked Jap Zero. Later, this Marine gunner par-

ticipated in the invasion of Bougainville and in the words of his officers, "waded in and mowed them down."

On Bougainville, with so much field work to be done, the shop could not have been operated without the help of Ciro DiPeri, who took over the cobbler job in conjunction with the newly opened tailor shop.

In Australia, at Camp Seabee, our cobblers operated the already existing facilities, but in the Philippines a special place was set aside for the joint use of the barbers, tailors, and cobblers. Here we were housed in the finest style we had known, and turned out our last work prior to returning to the States.



# DENTAL DEPARTMENT

When the 77th was commissioned, Dr. R. F. Tuck was assigned as our Dental Officer. He was assisted by S. Gillis and P. D. O'Harra while the outfit was training and organizing in the States. As we left for overseas E. P. Brabant took over as dental assistant and was to live through the services of three dental officers.

Dr. W. F. Henning joined the battalion in early June 1944 on Emirau, relieving Dr. Tuck. He took over the dental office along with the hock shop, hobby lobby, and trading center through August 1945 when Dr. S. C. Lindemuth arrived.

Probably the most unusual job the department was asked to do was to repair a rotor for a bulldozer. The operation was performed successfully with the help of some acrylic resin denture material and plaster of Paris.

Everyone in each branch of the Seabees gets a nickname sooner or later. The CEC boys are called "Dirt Pushers"; the dozer drivers "cat skimmers"; and the dental corps was not neglected. We heard ourselves referred to as "cuspid carpenters," "molar menders," and "oral plumbers."

The dental department is proud of the cooperation it has received from all departments. The machine shop has come through with a lathe, an instrument sharpener, instruments, and many other gadgets to supplement the standard field equipment. The electrical department kept the little "jack rabbit" engine and rheostat going through mud, rain, salt air, and combat; and in addition, they developed for us a combination surgical spotlight and heat ray lamp. The plumbers perfected a cuspidor that would turn Rube Goldberg green with envy, and it was as efficient as any stateside job. The metal workers and carpenters did themselves proud on furniture and foot rests. To all of you, a much deserved and heartfelt "Well Done" from the dental department.

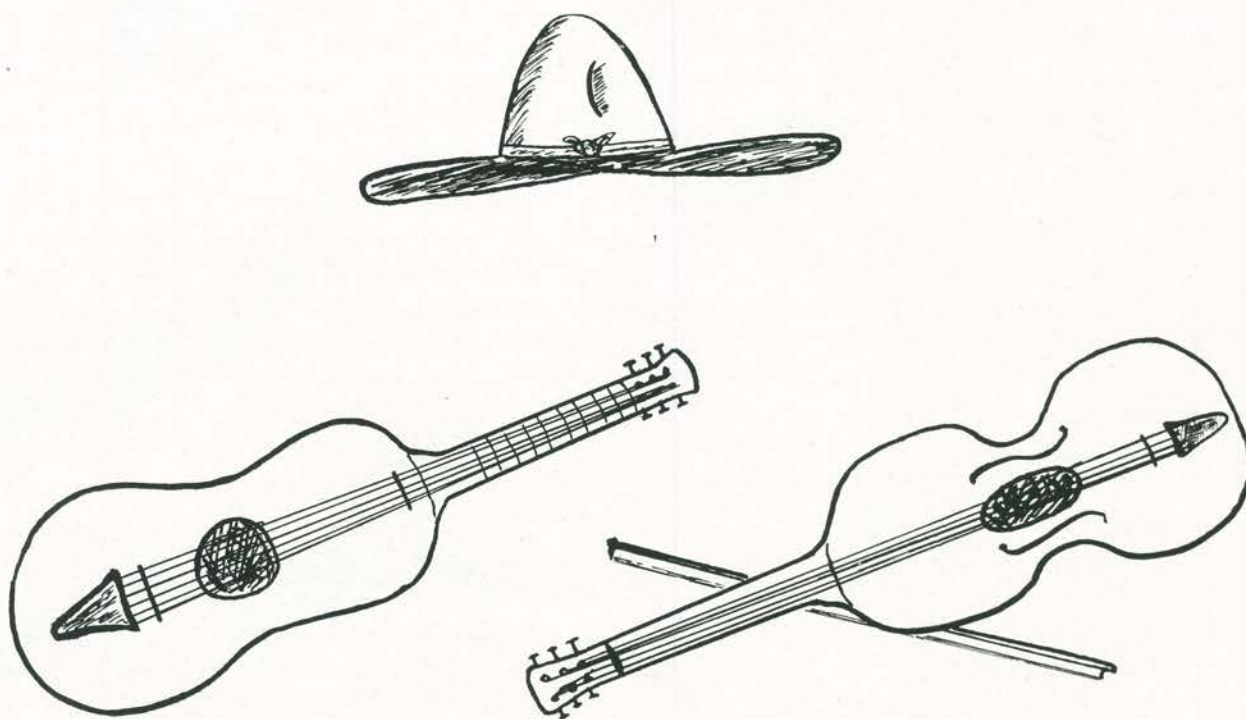
Despite much loss of time due to moves and setting up, the dental department put in an average of over two fillings per man in the battalion. A good average of dentures, extractions and cleaning jobs were accomplished. The dental department of the 77th served the best darned patients and Seabees in the Pacific.

"Please Ignore Me"





# HILLBILLY RAMBLERS



Anytime a unit like ours is formed of members from the 47 states, and Texas, you are sure to find among them men who can provide the mountain melodies so familiar to us all.

On Guadalcanal these talented mountaineers of our battalion traveled as part of an entertainment unit throughout the island; Bougainville was, however, the real birthplace of the Ramblers. It was here that J. M. Stout found what remained of an old violin. By making and repairing the parts needed, he succeeded in reconstructing the instrument. With this product tucked tightly under his arm, he secured the services of J. Hill, C. Anderson, S. McCoy, K. Suter, J. Hufsteter, R. Spears, and F. Abate. With this nucleus, Jadie toured the island and the group was enthusiastically received everywhere.

At Emirau two more mates, F. Carstensen and T. Ball, added their talent to the group. Not content with playing several nights weekly as a part of the battalion troupe, the boys went about on other nights puttings in appearances for units near and far. P. Olson, booking agent for the eager

beavers, secured bookings for shows for the crews of several destroyers.

At Acorn 7 another notch was added to the ever growing list of their compliments when the commanding officer of that unit sent the Hill Billies a letter of appreciation for their efforts and success in entertaining his men.

In Australia the troupe ran into difficulties. Stout's muster roll began to show the ravages of illness and overwork, and it often was difficult to meet the curtain, but the show must go on, and go on it did. McDonald joined the mountain melodeers at this point, and on they went, playing at the officers' club, the American Red Cross Center, and camp dances. But it was the 42nd General Hospital that the Hill-Billy Boys and their tune ticklers reached new heights. A letter of appreciation was received from the head recreation worker. Every appearance of the ramblers brought about a lighter spirit and higher morale to the thousand before whom the group performed. Thanks, Mates. You made the tour easier for us, and brought credit to the whole Battalion.



# COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



"Now Here It Is . . ."

The first wave of the 77th was attached to the First Marine Amphibious Corps, and left Guadalcanal without communication equipment. No one had been assigned to our Communication Department, and we relied entirely on the 1st MAC and their system. Upon our arrival at Vella, we found that the advanced members of the 1st MAC lacked equipment and personnel to carry out efficient communications throughout the various combat units. Several members of the 77th were assigned by Lieutenant J. G. Clark to serve as communication personnel. They immediately established a temporary switchboard and strung lines to all necessary points. When the remainder of the 77th reached Vella, the communication department was formed.

Due to enemy action, our inventory showed that we had only 20 jacks and a few keys and plugs. This equipment was mounted on a rough frame of packing cases; a Western Electric Company Bell Box was used for the operator's telephone circuit and for ringing circuit. All of the wiring forms were made of combat wire previously used in the initial invasion of this island. The drop relays on the jacks were remodeled and rewired to produce a "ring-off" signal; half-inch steel cable clips were used for cord weights. This board handled an average of 30 phones and served the battalion for over 10 months through the Vella, Bougainville and Emirau campaigns.

Our entire office was underground on Vella, but at Bougainville it was impossible to go underground due to the higher water level. Here the office was fortified by a ring of oil drums filled with sand.

In addition to the routine procedure of installing and maintaining communications, the department assisted the Tanks Corps of the Americal Division by designing and constructing a series of alarm systems and booby traps to prevent infiltration of enemy troops. They developed a visual signal on field telephones to be used in tanks and outposts where audible ringing would endanger troops; they devised a supplement to the combat reel whereby advanced infantry could keep in contact with their C.P.s as the wire was being laid.

The department's most extensive work was done on Emirau. The camp was located on a remote part of the island and the lines to the Island Exchange had to be run through dense jungle for miles. Weather conditions during this time were very unfavorable. A complete communication system was set up within two days. The department also assisted other units who were getting their systems installed, and a new switchboard was procured.

The Island Tank Farm needed a system of its own so a ten drop switchboard was built and lines were strung to the various points on the island. This was the biggest job undertaken in regard to the quantity of wire used and distance covered.

At Camp Seabee communications found a good installation already in operation. However, there was enough work to keep tools and skills from getting rusty.

In the Philippines telephones were installed in the offices, a switchboard set up, and high quality service was rendered to all from the "number please" department.



# DISBURSING DEPARTMENT

After learning that Navy "disbursing" meant the "paying out of money," the men maintained a healthy interest in this particular office. In fact, the regular complement of four storekeepers was always supplemented by a voluble volunteer body of some 1,000 "part-time" workers.

The pay line was one line the mates preferred to "sweat out" rather than drop out. Thanks to the disbursing officer, the cash was always on the line whenever the green light was flashed to pay the boys.

Holding pay days for the battalion was only a part of the work of this office. Allotments for dependents, savings, War Bonds, and insurance necessitated paper work and discussions with the men. Rumors of an impending move, and more important still, its general direction were quickly reflected in the registration and cancellation of allotments. For instance, a sharp increase in cancellations indicated the prospect of a "liberty port" on the horizon in the very near future—or possible even some tip-off from the Barber Shop that "This is the last job!"

This office remained behind on Guadalcanal with the rear echelon and missed the Vella La Vella campaign although the disbursing officer, Mr. G. A. Vaughan, flew up once with the necessary funds to hold a pay day. Still another pay day was held on Bougainville with only the disbursing officer, Mr. D. J. Driscoll, who relieved Mr. Vaughan, on hand. Finally, in March 1944 we rejoined the forward echelon.

The War Bond drive on Emirau, with a beer-picnic as a reward for the platoon having the largest sales, created interest—and sold War Bonds.

When the battalion headed "Down Under" a new currency had to be reckoned with. A money list was prepared on the ship and a pay day held in Australian currency the



day after we landed. U. S. money was not acceptable in the service shops and post office on the base—and those bees needed money. We soon learned that a pound note had a strange way of disappearing as rapidly as a dollar bill despite the fact that it was worth \$3.23. Consequently, the line in front of the disbursing office was longer and drew much heavier than ever before. The last night in Australia, as the men returned from their final liberty, all remaining money was exchanged for U. S. currency.

In the Philippines we encountered another new medium of exchange—the peso. The rate of exchange—two pesos for a dollar—permitted the currencies of the United States and the Philippines to circulate side by side without any complications. Here, however, the accounts, badly depleted after that Australian Episode, started to build up again as a consequence of new rumors of stateside duty in the near future. Our bees came home with money in their pockets.

Let's Be Serious





# MASTER AT ARMS FORCE



Work Before Play

The mere mention of an M.A.A. Force is sufficient cause for a mate to turn up his nose, with a quizzical raising of the eyebrows. True, the duties of this activity are at times distasteful to all concerned, but it is an integral part of a service organization and cannot be dispensed with. However, all is not grim and dark. There is an occasional laugh caused by some ridiculous situation. It is a proven fact that "no one loves a policeman" and it did not take the boys long to tag us in this manner. We became "The Gestapo" and at times we honestly felt that our end would be as ill-fated as that iniquitous organization.

The main function of a Navy police force is to provide for the security of the camp and the maintenance of order, but in due time we regretfully found that these were but an infinitesimal part of the duties expected of us. There was the administration of brig—doling out of liberty cards and special passes—and the "Simon Legree-ing" of the extra duty boys. We also had a lost and found department which at times was a cache for Jap material of war, and a glorified kennel for the numerous stray dogs the 77th had wandering about its camp-sites. We must not forget our stay "Down

Under" when our organization turned into "A lonely hearts club" by handling social problems and dates.

The original M.A.A. Force was composed of C. R. Brown and a staff of five men. The figure varied throughout our tour of duty. The candidates for the job were picked primarily because of their previous police experience.

During the long trek up the Solomons, the Admiralties, Australia, and finally the Philippines, there were period before and after a move when this force was called upon to perform typical Seabee duties, such as rigging, stevedoring, and just plain pick-and-shoveling. This was a particularly joyful time for the mates who were in a ribbing mood and an unhappy one for our little brood.

Glen Moore took over this staff after leaving Australia. Speaking for these men he said, "All in all, these many months of service as 'MAAs' in a construction battalion have been unforgettable and rich in experience. I don't know of any other branch of the service where one comes in such personal contact with the men. If we had it to do all over again, we would unanimously join in selecting the M.A.A. Force for the duty most desired."



# ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

The Electrical Department began to take shape in the boot camp electrical schools and in the advanced training school at Camp Endicott, where we studied the operation of equipment to be used overseas; but our work did not actually begin until we hit Guadalcanal where the electrical department built distribution systems for our own camp.

We set up distribution and installed the wiring in the Marine Hospitals, and made repairs on generators and alternators for Marine Corps. We furnished flood lighting for the loading and unloading of ships' cargo and handling of wounded personnel.

On Bougainville, the electrical department took big jobs in stride. Large distribution systems were set up, with generators operating parallel, to provide power and lighting for the air strips and also, to operate a telephone system for the defense of the air strips. We handled the complete erection and installation of power, lighting, generators, and equipment of the Island Command. Flood lighting was maintained for night work on the air strips, and lighting and power for the strip repair shops, radios, and communication. In our shop on Bougainville, we were always busy servicing motors and electrical equipment, making repairs, and re-winding electric welders. All construction work and

maintenance was continued during air raids and shelling by the Japanese artillery.

At Emirau our first job was to furnish flood lighting for unloading ship's cargo and to set up generators and distribution system for our camp. As soon as work began, flood lighting was furnished for night work on the air strip. Power stations, distribution system, and equipment were set up and wiring was installed for the air group camps, machine shops, radio and strip control centers. We made the complete installations for the Navy Hospital, Acorn 7 Camp, plus camp and shops of Marine Photo Groups. In addition we installed lighting and signal systems for the tank farms, both gasoline and water storage. In our Emirau shop, motors were rewound, repaired, and maintained, and transformers were found for electric needles.

In Australia, in addition to the maintenance of Camp Seabee, our men did the electrical work in the dismantling of hospitals, submarine base, and ship repair base.

On all assignments, the electrical department never failed to shed light and power—the Can Do Boys did it.

"It's How You Look At It"





# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

When Mr. S. Mank was given the task of locating and laying out the Tide Water Dam Project at Camp Peary, the Engineering Department was organized. Since that project, the engineering staff has covered a great deal of territory.

While overseas the department was called upon to do many kinds of engineering. We were assigned projects that seemed impossible, but we were the Can Do boys and We Did.

Guadalcanal was the first island on which the surveyors encountered seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But the jobs that couldn't be done were tackled, and when we were finished there were four miles of highway, and a camp site had been readied for the Battalion.

The latter part of September the First Wave departed for Vella. The landing was completed under enemy fire and the men knew that they were in for the works when they tackled the grimy job of hacking out eight miles of center line through stubborn jungle. Continual strafing and enemy bombing added to the hazards and made the job much harder, but it had to be done, and We Did.

On Bougainville the department had a big assignment—airstrips, taxiways, roads, administration areas, mapping projects, and field notes. In

spite of adverse weather conditions, "wait-a-minute" vines, air raids, and snipers, the work was completed on time, and we were ready to move on.

Emirau—and more taxiways, tank farms and service roads, plus a hospital layout and camps for other units. Swimming pools and ball diamonds came last, and then we moved again.

It was here that our instruments began to show signs of wear, and Seabee ingenuity was called on for repairs. One transit was rebuilt by our machinists. Plumb bobs had disappeared and were replaced by "de-horned" .50 caliber APs. Old fashioned stadia boards were built of native mahogany to replace Philadelphia rods, victims of occupational fatigue.

At Sangley Point, P. I., we did a survey prior to the clean-up and rebuilding of a pre-war Navy Hospital and Seaplane Base. The work was re-mapping the peninsula and the installations that could be reclaimed, the location of roads, an airstrip, and other installations. Wreckage complicated our work. Very little office data were obtainable on pre-war installations such as sewers, water and power lines. These had to be re-located via the trial and error method. The work led to considerable field investigation, but our job was clear—and We Did it!

Transit View





# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*"The Sanctum Sanctorum of the 77th NCB"*

Commander C. T. Wende's Executive Office was presided over with authority and business-like efficiency. For months men passed through its portals for one reason or another. P.A.L.s have quaked on its deck, awaiting judgment and feeling acutely the wisdom of Dante's immortal words: "Lose all hope, ye who enter here."

It was here that all official communication affecting the Battalion arrived—and it was here that we got that "Straight Dope," when we could. The Exec was mighty careful to see that not much scuttlebutt trickled out from his office.

The executive's yeoman, a mighty important character to know, was continually besieged by queries of an extremely restricted nature, and his stature increased during times of crisis and fateful decisions. A. Roiz was the last incumbent of this office, and being blessed with an affable disposition and a ready smile, was able to cope successfully with the foibles of the great.

A source of pleasure to Al was his daily association with his immediate superior, Lieutenant J. J. Idema, Personnel Officer. Lieutenant Idema invariably proved to be "both friend and benefactor" to the "troubled" Seabee.

Lieutenant G. A. Dando served as Personnel Officer (at that time not attached to the Executive Office) up to Bougainville, while Lieutenant R. A. Nielsen carried on in this capacity from Bougainville to Australia.

The executive officer, Lieutenant C. E. Duncan, was the man the office was named for. He was the possessor of that horror of horrors, a "Memory like an Elephant," and it was believed that he carried a mental dossier of each and every man in the outfit. He was a stickler for detail, and abhorred carelessness in any form.

We were lucky to have Lieutenant Duncan's excellent organizing skill and knowledge. There was not a harder working person in the Battalion. At all times he had the Battalion's welfare uppermost in his mind, and he gets a hearty "Well Done" for his work.

Commander C. T. Wende, the driving force of this foursome, requires more than these few desultory words of description. The accomplishments of the 77th Seabees are his accolade, and they are commentary enough on the character and organizational ability of our "Skipper."

The Executive Office will be remembered as the directing force for this book, "We DID!"

## VARIETY SHOWS AND PERFORMERS

Camp Endicott was the site of our first venture into the theatrical field. W. W. Cheeseman as master of ceremonies, aided by M. G. Barreto, H. G. Walsh, C. J. Primosch, and E. C. Webb as comedians, managed to present an interesting program despite inadequate rehearsals. F. J. Abate provided melodies with his accordion, K. E. Suter added the western touch with his songs, R. P. DeMello sang the blues,

and I. E. Lewis gave out with Hawaiian Chants; W. R. Curry rounded out the team by taking care of properties.

It was not until the battalion embarked for foreign stations that entertainment by the men was resumed. On board ship, Cheeseman again served as MC for informal deck presentations, coaxing to the mike any bashful talent among our mates.



On Bougainville R. P. DeMello again got busy rounding up entertainers and J. W. Raffensperger took the helm as M.C. R. L. Jau volunteered as comedian and novelty singer, R. Cuttaia as violinist, and J. J. Beattie as property man. With the band providing the musical backdrop, the boys were soon "on the road" entertaining neighboring units. Raffensperger and Jau as comedian and straight man were aided by Beattie who just pantomined around in a bizarre assortment of clothes.

At Emirau a new show was written about the Medical Corps. "Doctor" Raffensperger provided laughs as an inexperienced pill-pusher with Beattie, Motto, DeMello, and Ettinger for patients. A dental act was written in with Ettinger doing the oral plumbing on Jau. E. L. Nelson, T. A. Mickle, and De Mello provided familiar interruptions with their attempts to out-manuever "Doctor" Ettinger for souvenirs. A Captain's Mast skit was given with Raffensperger as "C. O." The entire show was

swell, and another mark was placed on the scoreboard of successful productions.

August 2 was the Battalion's first anniversary overseas. Scripts were written and rehearsed, and remembrances of things past were given with a touch of humor. Since other business kept some of the performers away, it took the splendid effort of A. E. Wasserman to prove the truth of that old crack about the show going on.

M. G. Sumner proved himself an ingenious Seabee when made a Hawaiian guitar which might have been the joy of any "Aloha" king. The guitar was constructed from radio parts, sheet metal from wrecked planes, mahogany from the jungle and odd bits and pieces from kitchen utensils, along with a hand-wound coil. We spent plenty of pleasant evenings listening to Sumner, F. T. Carstensen, I. E. Lewis, and F. J. Abate play the instrument.

All told, no one in the Battalion had any more pleasure out of the shows and skits than the bees who buzzed in them.

## "YE OLDE TAILOR SHOPPE"

Specializing in the alteration of men's clothing, "Ye Olde Tailor Shoppe" of the 77th was started on Bougainville. Due to the unusual fit of a pair of G. I. trousers, a place where a bee could get rid of excess material was more of a necessity than a luxury.

Our first establishment had none of the embellishments of a Fifth Avenue Shop, but nevertheless, it emerged a firmly established part of the Ship's Store, worthy of the services of our well-known wielder of the needle, Ciro DiPeri, sole operator from beginning to end.

On Emirau we had "Business as Usual" until scuttlebutt started that our next assignment would be Australia. Things began to rip: The shop was flooded with dress clothes; we were cutting jumpers, inserting zippers, putting on new rating

badges, and spiking trousers. Our tailor wasn't sure he could weather the storm, but being a busy bee, he came through, and at Brisbane every man had good-fitting blues for his first real liberty.

In Brisbane it was necessary to add a pressing shop. J. Short and F. L. Riley came in as pressers, and the tailor shop grew and became an important factor in the success of nightly and week-end liberties.

Then to the Philippines, and everything from curtains for the Admiral's home to a rip in your white pants was taken care of in the same efficient manner. Naturally, the demand for dress clothes wasn't as great, but other work kept the shop open and busy every day.

"WELL DONE" Tailor shop—"YOU DID!"



# MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The medical department was originally composed of Dr. C. L. Medd, senior medical officer, and Dr. M. J. Korn, assisted by corpsmen S. Gillies, J. Kadau, H. P. Anthes, P. D. O'Harra, R. Sartwell, W. Thatcher, W. Ruekert, J. Wheelock, R. P. DeMello, E. Winnich, and J. Jenness.

When we arrived at Guadalcanal, the sick bay and wards were built by the doctors and corpsmen. Shortly after this, Dr. Korn and Corpsmen O'Harra, Sartwell, and Thatcher left with the first wave for Vella. The group saw plenty of action and worked heroically with the many casualties.

On 1 October the second wave landed at Vella. The whole medical department was subjected to an enemy bombing similar to the first wave's. The numerous casualties kept them busy for many hours. The care of the wounded was carried out efficiently despite the adverse circumstances. There were many cases of malaria and dysentery on the island, and the sick bay, two hospital tents with coral decks, was full.

Arriving at Bougainville, the department was occupied day and night with casualties. This lasted

for a number of days and many Purple Hearts were awarded. The dispensary was protected by oil drums, and we carefully made the ward in the manner of an extremely large foxhole.

And then to Emirau. The wards and dispensary were put up with no enemy disturbance. They were built with decks and screened in. The dispensary was constructed sufficiently well for Drs. Medd and Korn to perform many operations. A Miligan, J. F. Norton, J. E. Storch, and C. Stone joined the 77th here.

Australia was a pleasant interlude. We had state-side beds and modern medical and surgical facilities; but we knew that there was more work ahead for us, and so we moved on.

In the Philippines Drs. Medd and Korn were greeted by their reliefs, Dr. J. J. Moretti and Dr. T. A. Ceplikas. The corpsmen and new doctors got under way with the building of the best medical set-up the battalion ever had in the field. Operations were performed by Dr. Ceplikas, and the entire department continued to perform the medical miracles which turned Can Do to We Did.

Sick Bay on Emirau





# PERSONNEL OFFICE



It's For Your Record

January 1943, Camp Peary, Va.—The “Skipper” and “Exec” arrive on board. The Personnel Office begins to function in B-1 area. One man with a sick-bay, no-duty slip becomes the first yeoman pressed into service.

February 1943. Wading knee deep through mud of Camp Peary. The battalion breaks boot training. To meet the increasing need in personnel accounting, five additional yeomen and strikers are detailed to personnel work. Yeomen become the most popular men in the battalion. Reason: They are busy making out the first liberty cards.

March 1943. The mud is still here. Scuttlebutt says the 77th is to be a rugged outfit and only the best men will qualify. Seventeen hundred transfers in and out of the battalion during March! Who said yeomen don't work!

April 1943—Camp Endicott—Battalion arrives in Davisville for advance training. Housed in D area, miles from the liberty gate. Personnel Office strictly on its own. Ensign G. A. Dando in charge. All records of men now under supervision of the 77th Personnel Office. Paper work increases many-fold. Yeomen are again popular with the mates. Reason: New liberty cards are made.

May 1943. We are really snowed under with business. Burning the midnight oil—receiving, transferring, completing shipping articles, advancing rates, and increasing insurance applications, in addition to everyday business. Embarkation leave papers made out for men residing in east, middle west, and south. Entrained for embarkation base.

June 1943. Camp Rouseau, California . . . This is the life! We came cross country in Pullmans. Snafued again: our huts are farthest from liberty gate but the fence is close. Another new batch of liberty cards necessary. Hope the men A.O.L. because of floods in the midwest catch up with us. Leave papers made out for west coast men.

July 1943. Plenty of work this month gathering up loose ends and completing last-minute business. Checked all I. D. cards and dog tags. Boat lists ready. Tokyo, here we come!

Those were a few highlights of the Battalion's doings in the states in “The Good Ole Days.”

Our diary must end with our embarkation for overseas duty. The work of the personnel department, however, did not cease. Every successful business keeps detailed records of its transactions; the business of our battalion was to help nip the Nips. Being a successful concern we, too, had our paper work to do.

On November 17, 1943, Commander C. T. Wende came aboard at Vella as our new “Skipper.” Our new “Exec,” Lieutenant C. E. Duncan, joined us at Bougainville on February 29, 1944.

Being primarily a service institution, it was our work to maintain records and control of operations, prepare reports covering progress, handle the details in transferring and receiving men, keep records of disciplinary action, prepare ration memos, record changes in rate, and a multitude of other jobs. Periodically we combined our daily transactions into one report to give the Bureau of Naval Personnel a double check on the battalion's operations.

Another equally important task was to assist the mates in their personal problems, process their family allowance and MAQ applications, and record in their service jackets all pertinent information relating to their tour of duty.

The personnel looked forward most eagerly to the day they were able to issue NavPers Form 660 to each man—an Honorable Discharge Certificate, and a one-way ticket home.



# GALLEY

Not one other department in the 77th had as much to do with morale as the cooks, butchers, and bakers. The mates could be made happy or low almost at will by these men.

While regulating ourselves to the rigors of a Virginia winter in our early days of Boot Camp and during the Advanced Commando Exercises at Camp Endicott, all of which produced enormous appetites, the cooks came through in every instance with good nourishing food. Under the shade of California's eucalyptus trees at Camp Rousseau, the galley men

kept our chow lines steadily on the move.

At our first camp site on Guadalcanal's famed Kokombona Beach things went well. Undoubtedly, many mates will recall the early stages of the mess gear sanitation devices, especially the half oil drums over wood fires. Many of us suffered scalded fingers from the hustle and bustle through the crowded wash lines.

It was a joy to see construction start on our new mess hall. With the procurement of stateside lumber and materials the mess hall was on its way, and when completed was a most useful two-wing

Bread Rows







Turkey for the Men

structure. However, we were to enjoy only a few meals under its roof before departing for Vella La Vella.

Our galley tent at Vella was set up rather hurriedly and nature's abundant rains soon made it a muddy spot. Our first meals were C rations and consequently Chief Cuff and his galley crew were objects of hard words. G. P. Johnson, one of our enterprising butchers, shot two native cows in the Vella jungle, and in due time the men had a tasty meal of beef stew.

Shortly after Commander Wende's arrival, we had a fine two-winged mess hall under construction and completed in time for us to celebrate our first overseas Thanksgiving Day. There was a separate bake shop with a large mixing board made of a heavy slab of our sawmill's choicest mahogany. Our mechanics improvised a useful bake oven made from used oil drums well insulated with native clay. It was to turn out some of our finest pastry.

Profiting by early experiences, the galley was functioning well at Bougainville. On this island our fresh meat menus lured many a visitor from neighboring units.

High spot of the Emirau campaign was the overseas anniversary. We worked many 24 hour day shifts in preparation, but the barbecue and trimmings went over big, and we felt that our efforts were put to good use.

In Australia our food reached new heights. Plenty of fresh supplies were obtainable, and we had modern equipment. Even a gourmet would have been happy at our mess. Our waistlines showed it.

Our galley functioned smoothly in the Philippines. After our grand opening, the men had nothing but compliments for the galley crew.

We were good—and our food was good, but it was no better than the 77th Seabees deserved—they were the tops—WE DID!



# DUTY OFFICE

The history of the duty office dates back to the Ilse of Vella La Vella. Until this time we had simply been assigned our work by the Company Offices, but as our work grew more involved, it became necessary to have all men from all companies assigned to work from a central office. And the Duty office was born.

Lt. Davinich, with the assistance of R. Fuchs and N. Caryl, set up a small office for the purpose of handling manpower in the field and making a central location for the securing of labor parties.

The efficiency with which the office handled the distribution of men met with the approval of the "Skipper" and the office was made a permanent establishment in the camp administration set-up.

On arriving at Bougainville, the office was given its official title, and placed under the jurisdiction of the executive officer.

The office expanded its duties by holding interviews with every man in the battalion and recording his occupation and civilian experience. From the data obtained, a file card was made for each

man and was kept up to date in regard to the type of work he performed in the battalion. From these files the duty office was able to place men where they were best suited as to their ability.

The extremely varied projects the battalion had to cope with at various times, however, made it necessary to maintain a flexible distribution of men at the expense of not always having the men work at the jobs best suited for their skill.

Other duties of the office were the keeping of daily progress reports and the checking up of and accounting for each man in the field.

Moving day for the battalion was always an important function for the office. Prior to moving, the duty office assisted in the arranging of the personnel into a mobile organization to expedite the particular problems encountered in traveling from island to island and setting up new camps upon arrival.

For its efficient manner in organizing work crews and smoothing out many knotty problems, the duty office deserves a since "Well Done."

# TIN SHOP

Herb Baker started the tin shop Vella La Vella with W. F. McCormack in charge. Here we made a field oven for the Third Paratroops, an oven for our own galley, cake tins, covers for galley equipment, sterilizing equipment for the hospital and a pump for transfusion procedures.

Fixtures were made out of 40 and 90-mm. shells for the Island Chapel on Emirau, and the erection plaque was made in the shop. We built the galley equipment for MAG 24 and we constructed 500 pairs of hinges out of oil drums. Most of our work

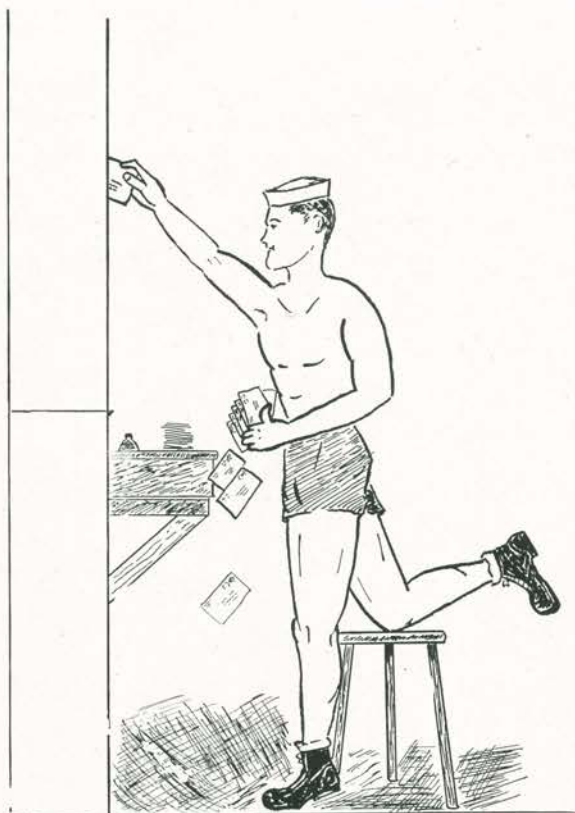
was done with corrugated metal, and we were kept busy at it most of the time.

In the Philippines we created all the metal work for the construction work on the Naval Air Base. Ingenious lighting fixtures were made for the officers' mess hall, and all metal work installed in the laundry was completed by our department.

Like every other unit in the Battalion, We Did our part in making the battalion's record an enviable one.



# POST OFFICE



Best loved, and most cursed men in the Battalion were the two men who manned the Post Office. Our popularity waxed and waned in direct ratio to the amount of mail received by the mates. The mail service has long been recognized as one of the most important morale builders in the armed services, and anyone who has gone without word from home for several weeks will tell you that "the word" is straight dope on this score.

Despite being hampered by the usual red tape of the Post Office Department, to which was added miles of Navy Department red tape, the mailmen did an excellent job of taking care of the varied wants of a thousand men. We issued well over half-a-million dollars in money orders, issued close to \$20,000 worth of postage—this, in addition to keeping the mail rolling out regularly and spasmodically.

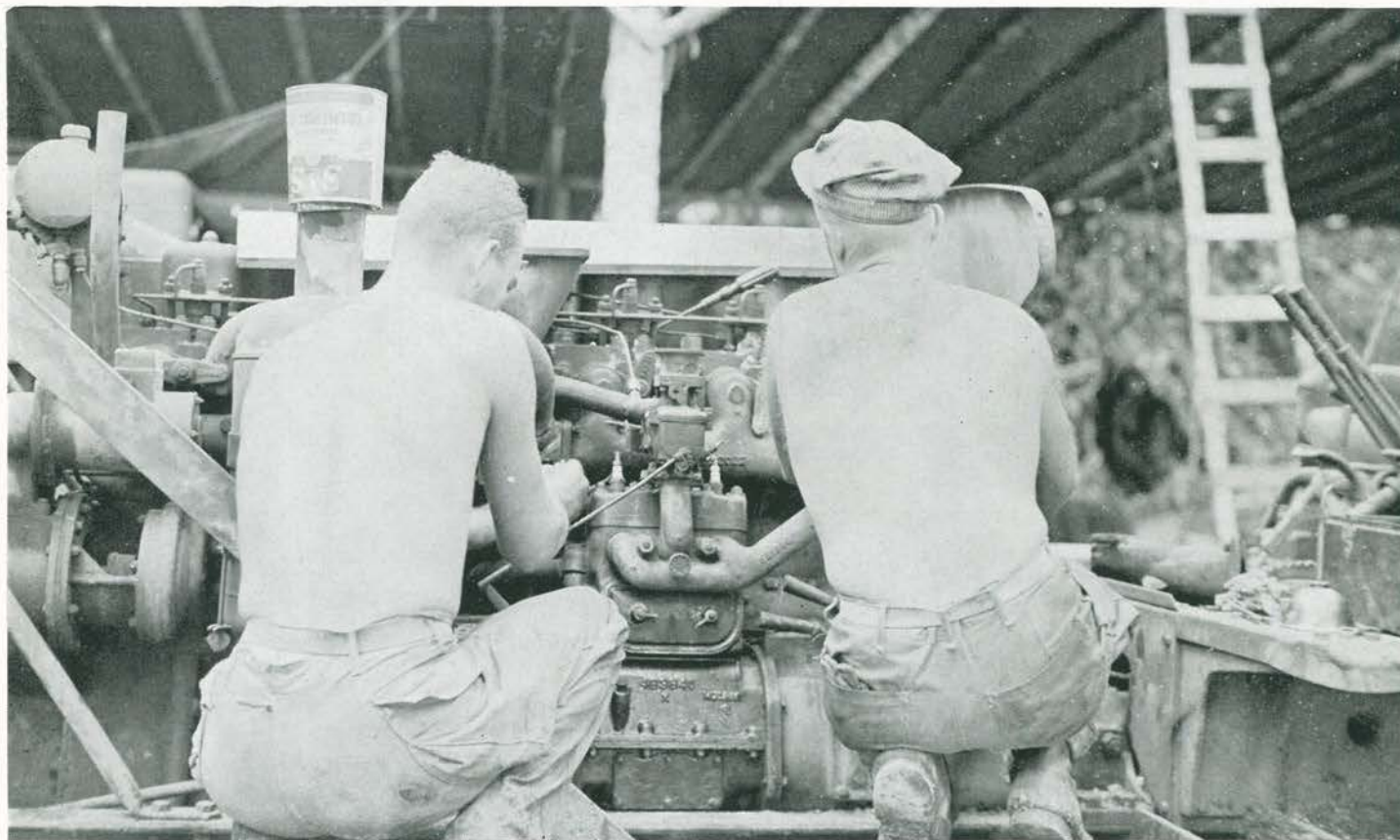
Besides the two regular mailmen, J. T. Cady and C. K. Gossage, credit of a job well done goes to men who have at one time or another lent a hand in the post office. They are: O. L. Shaver, W. V. Keating, G. L. Ward and C. C. Cassady.

Mailmen





# REPAIR DEPARTMENT



"Let's See Now"

At Hueneme we received our first experience with our tools and equipment. The men assigned to the Repair Department met for the first time as a team at the motor pool, and the following weeks were spent in getting acquainted with the new tools and the portable machine shops. The machine shops were well-equipped, but there were no tools or space to spare. Everyone was so proud of the equipment that an Admiral could hardly have borrowed so much as a center punch.

We reached Guadalcanal on September 3, and for three weeks merely stood around with eager hands and eyes, looking at our new shop.

Finally, arriving at Vella despite the protestations of the Japs, the shop got its first real assignment. Due to enemy action we lost the carriage for our vitally needed sawmill. The boys made a satisfactory carriage in short order, and it was our sawmill which produced the lumber from which the bees built the hospitals on Vella to care for the wounded returning from Bougainville and Choiseul.

When the men found three wrecked jeeps on the island, the machine shop boys and the men in the repair shop decided that one good jeep could be made from the wreckage of the three—We Did it!

Our trucks and heavy equipment took a thorough beating on Vella and Bougainville, but our repair shop bees managed to keep everything rolling. Brakes had to be re-lined, engines tuned, and a thousand and one adjustments were called for. Parts wore out and had to be replaced, and as

always, the needed parts were the ones we didn't have, but Seabee ingenuity took care of the situation—we either substituted or turned manufacturer.

In cutting through the jungles to knock out an air strip on Bougainville, the bulldozers were overheating. The mates in the repair shop designed, built, and installed oil-coolers in the dozers which proved successful. We had done it again.

While in the tropics someone recalled a stateside luxury called ice cream, and an idea was born that made us the envy of other units on the island, for we became the proud fathers of an ice cream freezer. The gizmo required the combined skill of the repair and machine shops, and the aid of the carpenter shop. The freezer was driven by a jeep transmission and powered by a Wisconsin motor from an old water pump. Shades of the old home town—ice cream sodas in the South Pacific.

By the time we reached Emirau all of our equipment was overworked and in very poor condition. A few needed parts put it in shape to build a network of roads and to assist in the building of both a fighter and a bomber strip.

When we say Seabees, we think of that rough strong, able man on the 'dozer "hell bent for election" finishing up an airstrip in nothing flat. But it was the men in the repair shop who kept them moving—the repairmen who powered the attack of the Can Do boys—and gave them that WE DID record.





Cowling Design

## SIGN SHOP

Specializing in "plain and fancy lettering," the Sign Shop was formed on Guadalcanal with R. Herring in charge and L. Caryl as assistant. Our work didn't really get going until we reached Vella. There T. Preuit put out our first Thanksgiving Day cards. The greetings were made from a hand-made stencil carved in wood. Caryl gave us more artistic work when he made a plaque out of a 90-mm. shell. The plaque, commemorating the New Zealand soldiers who lost their lives in making a landing on the island, was inscribed with the name of each man lost in the action.

On Bougainville we first saw the sign "Don't cuss, Call us." Preuit made a second painting of the sign, and it remained with us from then on. It was here that Caryl painted the Seabee insignia on the cowling of a plane, which we adopted as the battalion's plane since it was numbered 77.

With the coming of Christmas overseas, the shop got busy and made Christmas cards, using a silk stencil to do the work. We made V-Mail greetings

with original designs, and the shop came to be known as the center of the holiday spirit because of its production of cards—"Hallmark Company" look out, you have competition.

One of our finest pieces of work was done on the Emirau Island Chapel, built by the 77th. The elaborate designing on the cloth used for windows was so perfect a reproduction of stained glass that it deceived even the Chaplain. In addition to the windows, we worked out the Battalion signs and plaques for the church.

In Australia we redecorated the camp theater with the assistance of the paint shop. When this job was completed we were kept busy re-doing the band's music stands, making battalion seals for the mess hall, and preparing dance and athletic advertisement posters.

Once at the Philippines, work started anew. More mess hall decorations were prepared—both enlisted and officer. We kept at it, and when we left, we too, could say—We Did.

## NEWSPAPER

Whenever conditions permitted, the 77th Seabees published a battalion newspaper. Our first editions were titled "77th News Notes" and came off the press at Camp Peary, Va. Mr. Barnes was Editor-in-Chief and Mr. M. Davinich, J. D. Wagner, and T. B. Preuit served as assistants.

The paper was spasmodic. As the battalion moved, or prepared to move, it was necessary to cease publication. At Camp Rousseau we brought forth the "Oak Leaves," with T. B. Preuit sitting in the editor's chair (as he did from then until we left Australia).

But our proudest editions were published under the title of "Spirit of 77." All men of the battalion were responsible for the paper. If a mate had a story, or an editorial, or a gripe, down to the paper he came—and when the paper was circulated every tent could be heard okaying the edition and chuckling over some story included.

Ours was a proud battalion, and the paper reflected the feeling of the men. The "Spirit of 77" was well worth the time and effort it consumed.



# TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Responsible for all heavy equipment — cranes, bulldozers, motor graders, and rollers — the Transportation Department was a vital group in the Battalion. Almost every function of the activity is dependent upon it in some way. When the Marines made a beachhead on an island, the Seabees followed on their heels with their tireless and indomitable bulldozers and well-qualified operators. They began chewing away at the dense jungles and undergrowth and had the plots cleared in record

midnight to a spot where two of our aircraft had crashed.

The cranes were used in stevedoring, loading and unloading ships and barges. On each island the motor graders were used as maintenance equipment after the projects were completed. Our cargo trucks transported the working crews and their tools to their assignments on the islands. They trucked our food supply, brought our mail, and delivered the stores for our supply areas.



"We'll Clear It Off"

time. The earth levelling and earth grading was begun. It was here that the shovels came into action. They operated from a deposit, filling the dump trucks, carried the earth to the project, where the fill was dumped by the "spotters." The bulldozers then continued their job of leveling. It was the Seabees who made the bulldozers famous during the war, but it was equally the 'dozer in the hands of able operators which made the Seabees famous.

The Transportation Department performed its role efficiently on every assignment our battalion received. The 'dozers cleared many campsites, helped dislodge grounded landing barges, and on Bougainville, even cut a path through the jungle at

The battalion operated 750-gallon tank trucks for gasoline and diesel fuel. The tanks went to the job where the equipment was assigned and saved time otherwise necessary for refueling. A 600-gallon water tank supplied all our needs, both in camp and on the projects. A lubrication truck serviced the equipment on the job; the mates assigned to it went out at midnight, and with the aid of spotlights had the oil changed and the equipment lubricated in time for the morning shift.

We kept equipment rolling through rain, mud, and enemy action to complete every job assigned. They were the men in back who made We Did of Can Do.



# S P O R T S

Because of the urgent need for men and the long working hours, the battalion was unable to produce a recreation program which would be available to the men until the battalion had completed the major projects on Emirau.

Guadalcanal, Vella, Bougainville—these first islands saw us working, with occasional time out for reading or going to a movie in the evening. There was not time, and no equipment available for erecting recreation halls or for clearing away the jungles that impeded the playing of outdoor games.

On Emirau, materials and equipment were made available to our recreation officer, Lieutenant Davinich. One of the best recreation areas on the island soon emerged from the thickly studded jungle. Tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, and a recreation hall housing ping-pong tables and a library with plenty of space for the men to lounge around, read, or play indoor games if they so desired, were provided. As a token of appreciation for the fine work done in erecting this area, it was named "Mike Davinich's Sports Emporium."

During the battalion's stay at Emirau, battalion softball, baseball, and basketball teams were organized. The softball team was managed by E. J. Robinson and J. D. Wagner and completed a successful campaign by winning 46 out of 54 games played. The hardball team under the guidance of

Lieutenant Rothwell, supported by the fine pitching of L. S. Terhune, H. Fortune, and G. Gilmore, backed by a steady infield and outfield, came through the season with flying colors, losing only four of their 12-game schedule. The basketball team upheld battalion honors by winning third place in the island basketball league, formed from various service units stationed there. As an added attraction, the basketball court was equipped with flood lights and many excellent night games were witnessed by large crowds who gathered there to cheer their favorite team.

During the stay at Emirau, inter-battalion teams were formed in basketball and softball, and these afforded the men competitive participation in their favorite sport.

Here, also, B. Chirlin did the battalion proud by copping the island table tennis championship from a multitude of contestants. While enroute to the Philippines, Chirlin gained additional prestige by drubbing the ping-pong champ of New Guinea when our ship stopped over in Milne Bay.

When the battalion set sail for Australia we didn't realize we were going to be able to enjoy the fun of dancing, swimming, golf, and horseback riding. We put away our basketball shoes, and our baseball bats for awhile, but that was all a part of the wonderful time "Down Under."

Our move to the Philippines called for more hard work and long hours. Many of the mates could not

"Get the Rule Book"







"Slide Doc!"

take advantage of the fine recreational facilities offered by the base recreation department, but despite this we succeeded in coming out on top in the basketball league by winning the championship of the Sangley Point Naval Base.

We worked hard, but in the few off hours we

bees of the 77th proved again that Americans like the thrill of clean, hard competitive sports—we played, sure, but we still had time to work and fight, and prove that the Seabees of the 77th were the best battalion of the best organization of the armed forces of the best nation in the world.

Night Basketball





# SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

"Everything we have is yours—if you have a 'chit.' We don't care what kind of a 'chit' it is—a piece of coconut husk, a seashell, or what have you—just so it bears the proper signature, carved scratched, or written." This was the keynote of Seabee supply. Records and red tape were held to a minimum and our most frequently used device, the "moonlight requisition," was not listed in the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts Manual. We waged our private war of supply from Port Hueneme, through the Solomons, down to Australia, and back up the line to the Philippines. At times, the going was tough. For months we were far removed from sources of supply. Under such circumstances Seabee ingenuity proved its value. We could always depend on other departments to improvise for something which was not obtainable through customary channels.

The first major task to confront the "Fighting Storekeepers" was assembling the multitude of

items required by a battalion for overseas duty. This we did at Hueneme during the six weeks prior to embarkation.

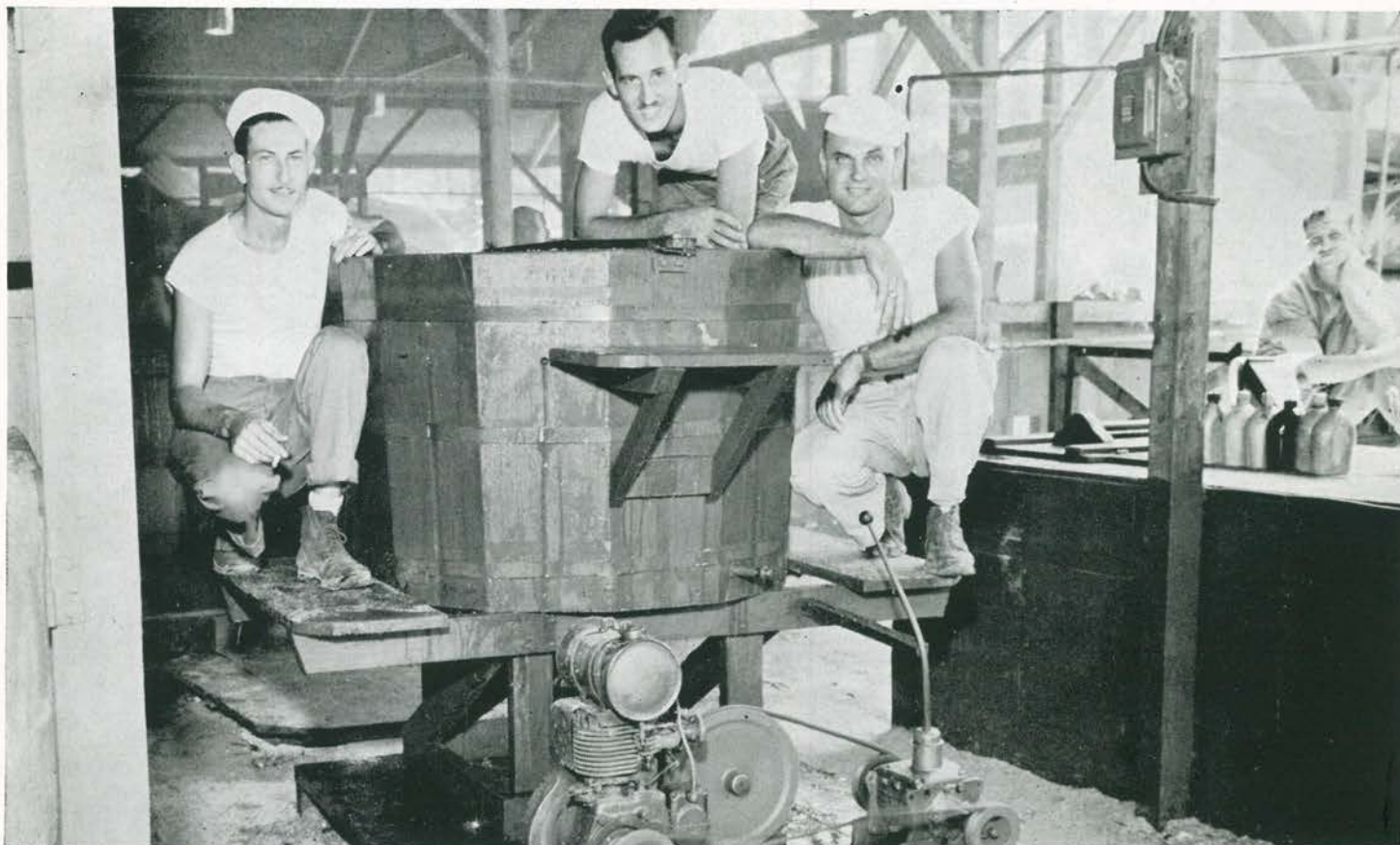
At Vella our supply picture was most dismal. There was no Naval Supply Activity on the island and it was virtually impossible to replenish stocks of general stores. During this period we were helped by the New Zealanders, and thanks to their generosity, we fared well. The Marines came to our aid with clothing, and the Seabees did it again—got by the hard way.

On Bougainville the situation improved, and food was of better quality. We were able to re-stock to some extent on consumable general stores. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Army Quartermaster on Bougainville whose cooperation assisted materially in making life worthwhile. A Christmas dinner of turkey and trimmings was the highlight of our stay here.

"Chit Group"







77th Ice Cream Freezer

Our prolonged sojourn on Emirau was as ideal as wartime living in the islands could be. The army again provided us with excellent food. The Navy Advanced Base came through with a wide variety of general stores, and it was here that we opened our first Ship's Store and Clothing and Small Stores. Business was good—almost too good for the limited supplies available. Hair tonics, shaving lotions, cigars and chewing tobacco were the most popular items and the resulting aroma vied with the best efforts of the tropical flora. Before saying “Aloha” to the beautiful tropical maidens (we can dream, can't we?) we were re-outfitted for another Island X.

Brisbane was a storekeeper's paradise. For the first time since leaving the states, we were close to a Naval Supply Depot and an Advanced Base Construction Depot. We had the supplies which we needed.

Only one problem arose to baffle the department—the operation of a “Pub.” Storekeepers pro-

fessed ignorance of the methods to be used in dispensing intoxicants, so it became necessary to import bartenders from other departments. “Beer Call” three times a week was almost as well attended as Captain's Mast.

Once again we packed up and were re-outfitted. We were on the move to the Philippines. The *Venus*—you remember her, Mate—posed a feeding problem to us, but we overcame it by setting up our own galley on the main deck. We had seven large Reefers, and so were able to have fresh provision for the entire trip.

In the Philippines we incorporated the tailor, laundry, barber, and cobbler shops into the Ship's Store. Supplies of all types were plentiful, and no real problems arose.

We had a fine tour of duty, but without the help and cooperation of every man, the supply department could never have done its job. All the mates have had a hand in helping the Can Do Boys of Supply say WE DID.



# WELDING CREW

Our job was to see that the rolling equipment was always in one piece. Sometimes this was quite a job—repairing the D-8 radiators and the “A” frames. We were kept busy with carry-all pins, shovel and clamshell teeth and crane booms “beyond repair” which had to be rebuilt.

We “rehabilitated” dump truck frames broken from strenuous jobs, motor blocks, and a host of other items. We took part in construction of three tanks farms, welding all the main lines from pump house to tanks. Emergencies such as the repairing

of LSTs and LCTs and getting them afloat were taken in stride. We helped construct three docks which required a considerable amount of work.

We fabricated a condensor for our ice machine, repaired cooking utensils, surgical instruments—the mates just brought the broken things in and said “fix it.”

The impractical WE DID immediately, the impossible took a bit longer. This was the spirit of 77 which brought us through.

“Rivet Happy”





# MACHINE SHOP

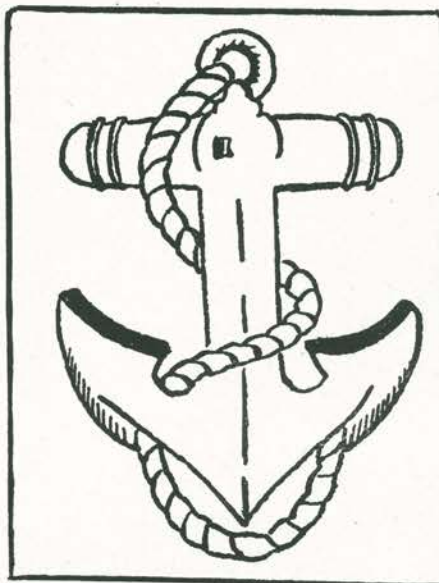
That old Seabee ingenuity was allowed to run rampant in the Machine Shop. We made pins and bolts for heavy equipment repair from pinch-bars; we turned .50 caliber armor-piercing projectiles into tool bits; we salvaged bolts from wrecked landing barges, plate and other material from amphibious tanks, and turned parts from Higgins Boats into new uses.

Besides handling unpredictable repair jobs that came our way, the 77th machinists showed their creative ability in many jobs. On Vella we built three new type 60-mm. mortars in response to suggestions made by Major Vance, USMC. We redesigned these mortars to fire the projectile in a very flat trajectory, making them particularly suited for jungle fighting where dense overhead foliage was an impediment to the usual high arc of the standard design. Photographs and drawings of these new mortars were sent to Washington. On Bougainville we built an ice cream freezer using a jeep transmissions, galley tub, and other salvaged

materials. This job was publicized in newspapers in the States. Other original designs were: six oxygen adapters for hospital use, an automatic film-washer and dryer for a marine photo lab, an ice machine condenser, and an automatic reverse drive assembly for the battalion's washing machine.

Our overseas experience brought up problems unknown to home town shops. We were called on to make diesel engine piston rings from Jap stock salvaged on Bougainville; we reconditioned a heavy duty lathe and bandsaw that had been given up as worthless in Australia; we reconstructed and operated to our advantage a Japanese milling machine and shaper and rebuilt and operated a heavy duty English gap lathe sabotaged by the Japs in the Philippines.

We Did these things because the "Can Do Spirit of 77" pervaded our machine shop and made all of us a little more capable than we had ever been before.





**DECORATIONS**

**FOR**

**THE**

**DOUBLE SEVEN**





C. T. WENDE

## BRONZE STAR AWARDEES



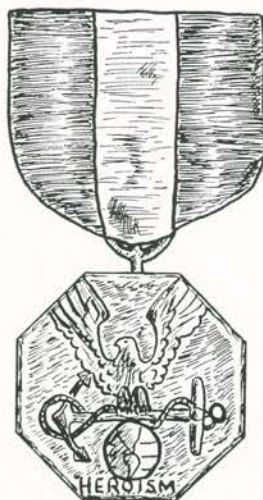
BILL J. McARTHUR



CHARLES H. SPENCER



# AWARDS TO PERSONNEL



## NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

COCRON, Robert Edward

For heroism following an operational accident at an advanced base. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he succeeded in rescuing the pilot of a fighter plane which crashed in the sea.



## BRONZE STAR MEDALS

McARTHUR, Bill Junior

SPENCER, Charles Hubert

For heroism in rescuing the survivors of a ship, which was damaged during an enemy bombing attack while carrying out landing operations.

WENDE, Charles Thomas, Cmdr.

For skillful leadership and personal supervision in effecting emergency repairs during period fighter strip was subjected to Japanese artillery fire.



# OF THE DOUBLE SEVEN



## PURPLE HEART AWARDS

ADAMS, Albert Davis	CUMMINGS, Daniel James
ANDERSON, Earl James	FINCH, Arthur William
ANDERSON, James William	GOBELI, Leland Dwain
ALLEN, Perry Jones	HAYES, Garold Junior
BAKER, Raymond Hutchinson	HENRY, Francis Laurel
BEATTIE, Jack Joseph	KELLEY, Titus Lee
BENDORF, Vernon Thomas	LEWIS, Hollis Weldon
BOUCHARD, John Joseph	MOBERLY, Harold James
BOWMAN, Fred Helm, Jr.	PHILLIPS, Carroll Lowett
CLARK, Warren Radcliffe	SWEENEY, George Gordon
CRITES, William Andrew	THOMAS, Edwin Arnold

## CITATION

DARNELL, Richard Adolph  
For saving the life of a mate injured by shrapnel.



**COMMENDATIONS**

**FOR**

**THE**

**DOUBLE SEVEN**



## ACORN ELEVEN

From: Commanding Officer, Acorn Eleven.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

10 September 1943

1. "Mailgram from the Port Director, Guadalcanal, quoted: 'YOUR TONNAGE UNLOADED SEPT. 9 ESTABLISHED NEW HIGH FOR ONE SHIP FOR NAVAL UNITS STAGING AT GUADALCANAL.'

2. "The Commanding Officer compliments you for an outstanding accomplishment of unloading."

G. H. HASSELMAN  
Commander, USN,  
Commanding



# HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER AIRCRAFT SOLOMON ISLANDS

From: Commander Aircraft, Solomon Islands.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

13 March 1944

1. "The Commander Aircraft, Solomon Islands, desires to express his sincere appreciation for the full and wholehearted cooperation extended by the Commanding Officer, 16th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment and the battalions under his command.

2. "The constant vigilance of this unit in maintaining and repairing our air strips and installations after the enemy's constant bombardment is most commendable and was highly instrumental in permitting aerial operations to continue with the least amount of delay and inconvenience.

3. "The Commander Aircraft, Solomon Islands, passes a 'well done' to the 'Seabees' in successfully accomplishing a difficult task."

R. J. MITCHELL

Major General, USMC.

Commanding

Endorsed by:

H. S. SEASE  
Captain,  
U. S. Navy  
(Commander—  
Torakina)

O. W. GRISWOLD  
Major General,  
U. S. Army  
(Headquarters—  
XIV Corps)

O. O. KESSING  
Commodore,  
U. S. Navy  
(Naval Air Base  
Torakina)



## COMMANDER SERVICE SQUADRON

### SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE

From: Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific Force.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

24 April 1944

1. "The work of the 16th Construction Regiment and the Construction Battalions attached thereto in the construction and maintenance of airfields and other facilities at Bougainville, in the face of continued enemy opposition, has been of the highest order and reflects great credit upon all of these units. This Command takes this opportunity to commend the 16th Regiment for the excellence of their performance."

O. C. BADGER  
Rear Admiral,  
U. S. Navy



UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
SOUTH PACIFIC AREA  
U. S. NAVAL ADVANCED BASE,  
EMIRAU

From: Commanding Officer, United States Pacific Fleet,  
South Pacific Area.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Bat-  
talion.

Subject: Commendation.

24 May 1944

1. "Although this base was occupied on 20 March 1944, the Construction Personnel and equipment were not landed until 25 March 1944 and work could not be considered as definitely under way until 1 April 1944. From that day until present date two 7000-foot airstrips with all attendant requisites including three taxiway systems, shops, camps, avgas farm and tanker fill point, Naval base facilities including PT Base, four piers, three unloading beaches, including a finger pier arrangement equivalent to a pontoon dock, approximately 35-40 miles of permanent, all-weather road and many other projects too numerous to mention have been successfully and effectively completed. All essential projects have been completed by due dates, many being anticipated.

2. "The accomplishment of such a great construction project, so successfully, indicates excellent planning for the movement and utilization of the battalions comprising the regiment."

E. R. WILKINSON  
Captain, U.S.N.



## UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER AIR CENTER

From: Commander Air Center, United States Pacific Fleet

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation

24 May 1944

1. "The Officers and men of the 18th Naval Construction Regiment are hereby commended for the outstanding performance they have made in the construction of air fields and aviation facilities at this base. In the short time the regiment has been operating it has accomplished with dispatch the requirements of the Master Plan and its collateral items.

2. "These Construction Battalion units of the 18th Naval Construction Regiment have, through their conscientious efforts and untiring attention to the various tasks assigned them, contributed to the rapid progress which has been made at this advanced base."

G. S. ALEXANDER  
Commander, U. S. Navy



## UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

From: William F. Halsey, Admiral, USN

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation

1. "Proudly I send this parting 'well done' to my victorious all-services South Pacific fighting team. You have met, measured, and mowed down the best the enemy had on land and sea and in the air. You have sent hundreds of Tojo's ships, thousands of his planes, ten of thousands of his slippery minions whence they can never again attack our flag, nor the flags of our allies.

2. "You beat the Japs in the grim victory at Guadalcanal; you drove him back and hunted him out; you broke his offensive spirit in those smashing Bougainville-Rabaul blows at his ships and planes and troops in November 1943; and you have smeared him and rolled over him to easily occupy Emirau.

3. "And now, carry on the smashing South Pacific tradition under your new Commanders, and may we join up again further along the road to Tokyo."

WILLIAM F. HALSEY  
Admiral, USN



# UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

## SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE SERVICE SQUADRON

From: Commanding Officer, United States Pacific Fleet,  
South Pacific Force, Service Squadron.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

13 June 1944

1. "Captain A. G. Bisset, CEC, USN, on 12 June 1944, was awarded the Legion Of Merit by Admiral W. F. Halsey, Commander South Pacific.

2. "The following statement has been announced by Captain Bisset: 'It was only through the enthusiastic and untiring efforts of every officer and man of the Naval Construction Battalion, Detachments and Units in this area that the many South Pacific Bases and airfields were built in record time, thus enabling our forces to drive the Jap ever closer to Tokyo. It is my earnest wish that every Seabee know that the decoration awarded to me was earned by the Seabees and represents an appreciation of their accomplishments. I am proud to share it with them as my associates.' "

ROBERT O. JOHNSON  
Captain, CEC, USNR



## 18TH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

From: Officer in Charge, 18th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

26 July 1944

1. "Upon your detachment from the 18th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment, the Officer in Charge takes great pleasure in commending the 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion for its excellent performance at this base. You and your Battalion's cooperation contributed greatly to the most successful completion of one of the finest air and naval bases in the South Pacific Area.

2. "The officers and men of the 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion, through their diligence and ability to perform, have won the respect and admiration of all the services stationed at this base."

W. W. STUDDERT  
Commander, CEC, USNR



## ACORN SEVEN

From: Commander, Acorn Seven.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

14 August 1944

1. "It is the desire of this Command to express its gratitude to the officers and men of the 77th Battalion for their excellent workmanship and cooperation in building our hospital and other numerous jobs in the pilots camp and enlisted men's area.

2. "The Senior Medical Officer feels that special commendation is due Lieutenant Mank for his excellent cooperation, aid in planning and the rapidity with which he and his men succeeded in building the Acorn hospital.

3. "It is our desire to bring his attention to the fact that numerous visiting officers have complimented us on the arrangement of the hospital, its construction and the numerous fixtures and features that make it one of the best Acorn hospitals in the South Pacific."

H. C. FERGUSON  
Commander, USNR



## HEADQUARTERS ISLAND COMMAND

### OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

From: Commanding General, Headquarters Island Command.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

9 September 1944

1. "I wish to commend you and the members of your battalion for their outstanding achievement in the planning and construction of the Island Chapel.

2. "Officers from higher headquarters, visiting this Island, have stated to me that this is the most beautiful chapel in the entire South Pacific Area. I am sure that this building will continue to be a memorial to your unit for many years to come."

LEONARD R. BOYD

Brigadier General, U. S. Army  
Commanding



## SOUTH PACIFIC AREA AND FORCE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER

From: Commander, South Pacific Area and Force.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

28 October 1944

1. "The Commander South Pacific Area and Force has noted with pleasure the spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm displayed by the officers and men of the 77th Naval Construction Battalion in the construction of an airfield and other shore installations on Emirau Island. The efficient manner in which this work was accomplished was in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service."

J. H. NEWTON

Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Endorsed by

J. E. WHELCHER

Captain, U. S. Navy

Commander Service Squadron

South Pacific Force

C. E. WORD

Lt. Commander, USNR

Commander U. S. Naval

Base 3220



## U.S.S. DRACO (AK79)

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *Draco* (AK79).

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

9 November 1944

1. "The Commanding Officer wishes to thank the Commander Naval Advanced Base for making the arrangements necessary to accomplish the turn-around of the *Draco* at Emirau in less than one half the time time originally estimated by the army.

2. "The Commanding Officer also wishes to convey to the Officer-in-Charge of the 77th Naval Construction Battalion his appreciation for the generous assistance in the form of working parties which made this possible."

R. M. DRYSDALE, JR.  
Lieutenant, USNR



## HEADQUARTERS OF COMMANDER

From: E. J. Moran, Commodore, U.S.N.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

1 March 1945

1. "Upon my detachment from this command I wish to commend officers and men of your organization for their wholehearted cooperation and efficient performance of duty. The voluminous forms of construction work and the maintenance of air strips, highways and port facilities were carried out by your unit in splendid fashion. To your 'Can Do' and 'Will Do' Seabee outfit I say—'Very Well Done'."

E. J. MORAN

Commodore, USN



## U. S. NAVAL BASE

NAVY 134

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Base,  
Navy 134.

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation.

11 May 1945

1. "The 77th Naval Construction Battalion reported at this Base late in December 1944. In the months that followed they accomplished some 25 specific construction projects at this Base. Some of these projects were small, while others were of considerable magnitude. Three of the major projects particularly worthy of mention because of the speed and efficiency with which they were carried out were:

The roll-up of the 2,000-bed Fleet Hospital 109.

The roll-up of the Ship Repair Unit and Impregnation Plant, Navy 134.

The roll-up of Submarine Repair Unit, Navy 134.

2. "These roll-up projects had definite shipping dates to meet and the deadline date in each case was met. This was accomplished only by an all-out effort of a fully trained and competent construction unit.

3. "This Command brings to the attention of the Commander Service Force the cheerful cooperation and efficiency of the 77th Naval Construction Battalion."

W. A. TEASLEY

Captain, U. S. Navy



## U. S. NAVAL FACILITIES

### NORTHERN SOLOMONS

From: Commander, U. S. Naval Facilities, Northern Solomon Islands

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion.

Subject: Commendation

4 July 1945

1. "Commander U. S. Naval Facilities, Northern Solomon Islands commends the Rear Echelon of the 77th Naval Construction Battalions stationed at Emirau. Your attention to duty and ingenuity in maintenance and roll-up of Naval Facilities was outstanding. Your cooperation and diligence in keeping the camp and docking facilities in an advanced state of repair and your able assistance in stevedoring, contributed to expeditious loading which exceeded expectations and set a high standard for your Unit. This outstanding performance of duty was a distinct contribution to the war effort and in keeping with the best Navy traditions."

E. H. KINCAID  
Commander, U.S.N.



**THE**

**DOUBLE**

**SEVEN**

**IS**

**INACTIVATED**



# COMMANDER CONSTRUCTION TROOPS

## PHILIPPINE SEA FRONTIER

c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

P16-1  
Serial: CCT-

2167

WRK/dl

From: Commander Construction Troops, Philippine Sea Frontier.  
To: Officer in Charge, 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion.  
Via: Officer in Charge, 3rd U. S. Naval Construction Brigade.  
Subject: 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion—Inactivation of.  
Reference: (a) ComServFor7thFlt ltr., Serial: 3437 dated 4 August 1945 to CCT 7th Flt.

1. Reference (a) authorizes the Comander Construction Troops to inactivate certain CB units as approved by ComServPac.

2. Since the officer and enlisted personnel of the 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion have been transferred to other units and records and equipment have been disposed of in accordance with existing directives and instructions, the 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion is declared inactivated as of 15 October 1945.

J. R. PERRY

cc: CNO  
BuPers  
BuDocks  
CinCPac  
ComServPac  
ComPhilSeaFron  
CNOB Manila-Subic  
CNB Manila  
3rdNCReg



## THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

3NCBr-HPP:awc

P16-1

Serial: 6140

Oct. 16, 1945

16 October 1945

*FIRST ENDORSEMENT* on:

CCT, PSF ltr. P16-1, WRK/dl

Serial CCT-2167 dated

16 October 1945

From: Officer in Charge

To: Officer in Charge, 77th Naval Construction Battalion

Subject: 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion—Inactivation of.

1. Forwarded for action and compliance.

HOWARD P. POTTER

By direction.

cc: ComConstTroops, PSF



We did



# We did

On green tropical islands mirrored against the blueness of the Pacific, from Guadalcanal to the Philippines, are the accomplishments and achievements of the Double Seven. There, too, shall our memories turn and linger, again and again, for intermingled with the toil and the sweat, the dampness and the dirt, the blood and the tears, the moments of anxiety, exhaustion, depression, and nostalgia is the invincible "Spirit of the 77th."

We had worked well; we had built and we had fought, and we had learned to live together in a brotherhood built on mutual respect and admiration. We had seen men die as they had fought and worked; we had seen brutality and we had seen courage. And never again would we hold freedom to be a commonplace thing. We had learned that freedom and dignity of the individual were treasures not to be held lightly.

We had sweated out the mounting tons of earth that had had to be moved, the endless crates which had to be made, packed, and unpacked. We had learned that war was not glamorous or pleasant, but fantastically horrible beyond the imagination of simple men. We had been afraid, violently afraid, and yet we had pushed on.

We had learned that the individual must be subjugated to the will of the group, but that the group without alertness and ingenuity of the individual was an empty thing, unworthy of praise. We had seen a civilian army meet and defeat the armies of totalitarianism; we had learned that in the final analysis democracy as a form of government can and does meet the test.

Our combat records will be scanned and rescanned in the years to come. And we will be judged for the work completed, but we who built the bridges and poured the concrete and laid the pierced plank mattings will not remember the units of work finished. More than this, we will remember the smell and sight of death, the curiously depressing heat of the South Pacific tropics, the painful boredom of days and nights with only the prospect of more dirt or more concrete, or more steel. We will remember these things, and we will try to see that others do not go to redo what we have already accomplished. We shall be ready should the need arise, but we shall do our fighting to see that there shall be no need.

This then is the record of the 77th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion. A colorful tour, a productive tour, a long tour; this is our volume. "WE DID!"





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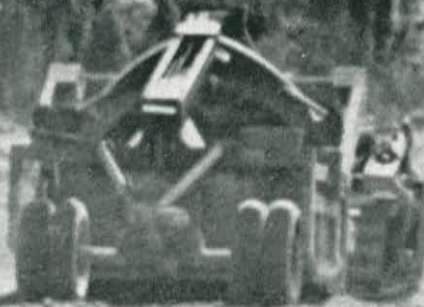
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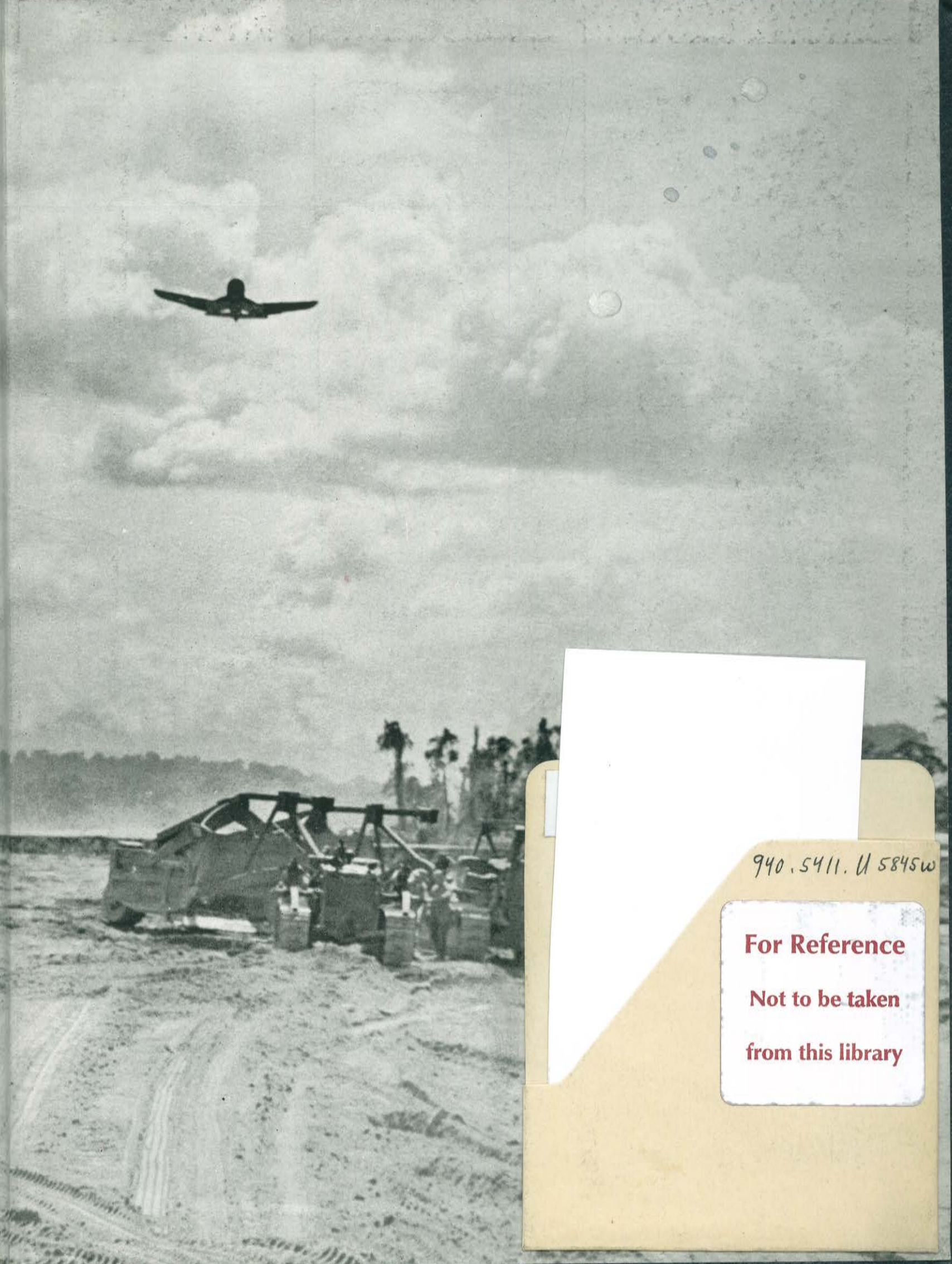
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