

1943

U.S. Marine Corps, Women's Reserve: Camp Lejeune, N.C

United States Marine Corp

Follow this and additional works at: http://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/ww_reg_his

Recommended Citation

United States Marine Corp, "U.S. Marine Corps, Women's Reserve: Camp Lejeune, N.C" (1943). *World War Regimental Histories*. 82. http://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/ww_reg_his/82

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the World War Collections at Bangor Community: Digital Commons@bpl. It has been accepted for inclusion in World War Regimental Histories by an authorized administrator of Bangor Community: Digital Commons@bpl. For more information, please contact ccoombs@bpl.lib.me.us.

70
5411
U5897c



U.S. MARINE CORPS WOMENS RESERVE
CAMP LEJEUNE **NEW RIVER, N.C.**

РООМАС
ОЛОВА
УРАРАЛ
ЭН РООМАС



**BE A MARINE....
FREE A MARINE TO FIGHT**

c



Portrait by McClelland Barclay

LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS HOLCOMB

Former Commandant, United States Marine Corps



LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALEXANDER ARCHER VANDERGRIFT
The Commandant, United States Marine Corps.

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE COMMANDANT, U. S. MARINE CORPS
AND REFER TO No.

DHA-483-shb



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON

26 October 1943

To the members of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve:

It is not easy to "free a Marine to fight."

It takes courage -- the courage to embark on a new and alien way of life. It takes faith -- the faith to place one's future in the hands of others. It takes fortitude -- the fortitude to carry through when the going is tough.

And it takes a "heap o' doing" -- "doing" on the drill field and in the classroom, "doing" on the job later on.

You young women who have given yourselves to this task of freeing Marines to fight have given splendidly. You have stinted no effort. You have asked only to be allowed to give more.

Your spirit is a source of constant inspiration to all who work with you. Your performance is a promise not only of victory in the grim struggle in which we are engaged, but, following that victory, of a better world than we have ever known before.

To you, who have responded so nobly to your country's need, this book is dedicated.

Sincerely,

Ruth Cheney Streeter

RUTH CHENEY STREETER
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Director, Marine Corps Women's Reserve



LIEUTENANT COLONEL RUTH CHENEY STREETER

Director, United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve

Copyright, Harris & Ewing



IN REPLYING
REFER TO NO.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Headquarters, Camp Lejeune
New River, North Carolina

To the Personnel of Camp Lejeune:

Camp Lejeune was named in honor of Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, a former Commandant of the Marine Corps, Commander of the famous Second Army Division in World War I, and one of the best loved officers of his time as well as one of the outstanding military leaders of his generation.

This large camp of many thousands of acres, housing and training thousands of men and women for service in this war, is a monument to those who have with wisdom and foresight planned and built this permanent military establishment so complete in its composition and beautiful in design. It is also a symbol of the determination of the youth of America who have chosen to join our branch of the service to protect those principles which we hold dear and which aggressor nations have challenged.

In future years, many scores of thousands of personnel of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard as well as Marines will remember their tour of duty at Camp Lejeune and the mission it has performed in giving intensive specialist training in preparing individuals for every kind of duty. It was here that most of the Marines were trained who later made the initial landing in the Solomon Islands, thus turning the Pacific war in our favor. It was here that Army Divisions trained in amphibious operations and then went overseas to spearhead the African and Continental invasions. Those powerful operations may well mark the turning point of the war in the European theatre. And still, many more thousands of young Americans are continuing to be trained here for combat duties.

Under these surroundings too, the thousands of splendid women of America who have volunteered to join our Corps are trained to themselves become good Marines and free men to fight.

Henry L. Larsen
Henry L. Larsen
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding



MAJOR GENERAL HENRY L. LARSEN
Commandant, Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C.

HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE

World War II is the third major action in the annals of American history in which women Marines have played a part.

Unknown to many, one woman Marine fought in the War of 1812. She was the dauntless Miss Lucy Brewer, who, in man's attire, joined the crew of the renowned frigate **Constitution** one hundred and thirty-one years ago. For three years Lucy fought aboard ship and, according to record, received an honorable discharge, her masquerade still undetected.

It was in World War I, however, that women were given their first opportunity to serve as an organized unit in the Marine Corps—a chance that came on August 12, 1918, when the Secretary of the Navy authorized their enrollment for clerical duty in Marine offices within the United States.

Answering this call, three hundred and five women enrolled as privates, proved their mettle, and received honorable discharges on July 30, 1919. During their service, many won promotions to private first class, corporal, and sergeant. Some of these same women today hold responsible positions at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D. C., while others have enlisted for another tour of duty.

It was World War II, however, that brought to women their first opportunity to serve as an integral part of the Corps. The challenge came on February 13, 1943, with the announcement that the Marines had once more opened their ranks to women and now offered them full membership, including the chance for promotion to non-commissioned and commissioned grades and the privilege of serving in a wide variety of posts. Thus, scientific developments in war-making equipment, the global proportions of World War II, and the desperate need for a never-before-dreamed-of number of Marines, had made women's role in the Corps the most vital and important in history.

In response to the challenging "Free a Marine to Fight," women began to flock to the procurement offices.

Mrs. Ruth Cheney Streeter, of Morristown, New Jersey, was appointed director of the new Women's Reserve and commissioned a major in the Marine Corps. Long active in public affairs, a member of the New Jersey State Relief Council, New Jersey Commission on Interstate Cooperation, and New Jersey Board of Children's Guardians, as well as former chairman of the Fort Dix, New Jersey, Citizens' Committee for Army and Navy, she was eminently qualified to take up her new tasks.

A few other women, equally well qualified, were also commissioned from civilian life to form the nucleus of the rapidly expanding reserve.

Organization went forward swiftly. On March 13, the first class of carefully selected officer candidates began training at the U. S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School, South Hadley, Massachusetts. Ten days later the first class of enlisted personnel reported to the U. S. Naval Training School, the Bronx, New York.

The Marine Corps Women's Reserve was definitely under way—and it gathered momentum with each passing week as applications continued to pour into the procurement offices.

Three months after the first class reported for indoctrination, the increasing strength of the Reserve and the unparalleled advantages to be derived from training at an actual Marine base inspired a far-reaching change. Both enlisted and officer training was transferred to Camp Lejeune, New River, North Carolina, one of the largest Marine bases in the world.

Here, one entire area, the most attractively situated in the camp, was set aside for exclusive occupation by the Women's Reserve Schools. In this area now takes place all basic indoctrination for both enlisted women and officer candidates, as well as certain of their specialized training.

Shortly after the change in training was made, another, equally far-reaching, was put through. To enlisted personnel was offered the opportunity of qualifying for commissions. Furthermore, it was announced, beginning September 15, all future officer candidates,



except a few civilian specialists, would be selected from the ranks.

Thus did the Women's Reserve demonstrate its faith in the democratic principles for the defense of which it had itself come into being.

Rapidly organized despite numerous difficulties, the Women's Reserve Schools was soon geared to effective functioning.

It includes the Recruit Depot, where "boots," or enlisted personnel, receive a six-week indoctrination course, the Officer Candidates' Class, the Specialist Schools Detachment, and the Casual Company, which consists of enlisted personnel who have completed training and are awaiting assignment to duty.

Daily close order and precision drill, physical training, and study of military customs and courtesies, Marine Corps organization and administration, Navy and Marine history, naval law, weapons, chemical warfare, and map-reading—these are the meat of the basic indoctrination course for both enlisted personnel and officer candidates. In addition, demonstrations of infantry weapons and combat techniques, as well as field trips to the Rifle Range, Amphibious Tractor and Hand-to-Hand Combat Schools, War Dog Detachment, Camouflage School, and Paramarine School, not only better equip the women to do their jobs but acquaint them with the importance of those jobs in terms of the sort of duty for which they are freeing men.

Completion of boot training may be followed in the case of women with special aptitudes, by assignment to the Specialist Schools Detachment, where higher ratings may be sought in specialized fields. This detachment now consists of the following schools: Motor Transport Paymaster, Message Center (which trains women for intra-camp communications), two Quartermaster Schools, Quartermaster School of Administration and Quartermaster School of Aviation Supplies and Material, and the Cooks and Bakers School which includes the Cooks' Course, the Bakers' Course, and the Mess Sergeants' Course.

Within the detachment are several courses for officers—the Quartermaster Aviation School, the Quartermaster Administration School, and the Mess Management School.

Set on green lawns amid pines and live oaks webbed with Spanish moss, the new red-brick, white-trimmed buildings of the Women's Reserve Area are both good to look upon and conveniently arranged. They comprise—in addition to barracks and classrooms—three mess halls, a post exchange, post office, chapel, uniform shop, laundry, beauty parlor, theatre, and service club.

The latter two structures are but part of the extensive recreation facilities which provide the "cream in the coffee" of military life. In the theatre, daily changing movies are shown twice nightly, while dances and amateur theatricals planned by the recreation staff also serve to make the evenings lively. The service club, in turn, boasts the finest bowling alleys on the post, a piano, fountain room, and plenty of space for dancing to favorite tunes given out by the juke-box. "Topside" in the same building is the library, where current periodicals, home-town newspapers, and everything in the way of books from wild west novels to history and biography, satisfy the most exacting and diverse literary tastes.

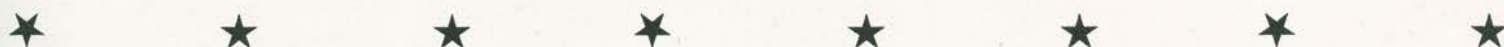
Nor is outdoor recreation neglected. A shallow cove in the river that bounds the area provides good sailing and canoeing, while a park that slopes to the water's edge is ideal for just "a-settin' in the sun." For those who enjoy a dash of ocean surf with their sun-bathing, there is a scenic, well-patrolled beach to which busses ply on Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, there are tennis, badminton, and volley ball courts dotting the area, and an archery range flanking the service club.

The spiritual life of the women Marines at Camp Lejeune is likewise abundantly provided for. The Women's Reserve Schools has its own chaplain, and a special service for "boots," officer candidates, and any other members of the Corps who wish to attend, is held each Sunday in the Protestant and Catholic post chapels. Christian Scientists likewise attend their own service; and for those of the Jewish faith, there is a special Jewish service every Friday evening.

Thus, training at Camp Lejeune fulfills a dual purpose. It does the job of turning out good Marines. It also insures well-rounded living while that job is being done.

The step that follows is, of course, the test of training. And that is the job itself.

For a woman Marine, it may be a job in administration or the training of others—company officer, or adjutant, or personnel workers. It may be an office job—draftsman, map-maker, secretary, or fingerprinter. Or it may be a job in the "field"—machinist mate, jeep driver, control tower operator, parachute rigger. Nine thousand women are wanted by aviation alone. Whatever the job, however—and there are over a hundred types of them—the women Marines will do it. And they will do it as Marine jobs have always been done. With the alacrity, the skill, the thoroughness born of sound training and sound living—the sort of training and living that is synonymous with Camp Lejeune.







CAMP LEJEUNE



VIEWS ON THE POST





NEW ARRIVAL



FIRST—CHECK IN





OUR FIRST MEAL



WELL!

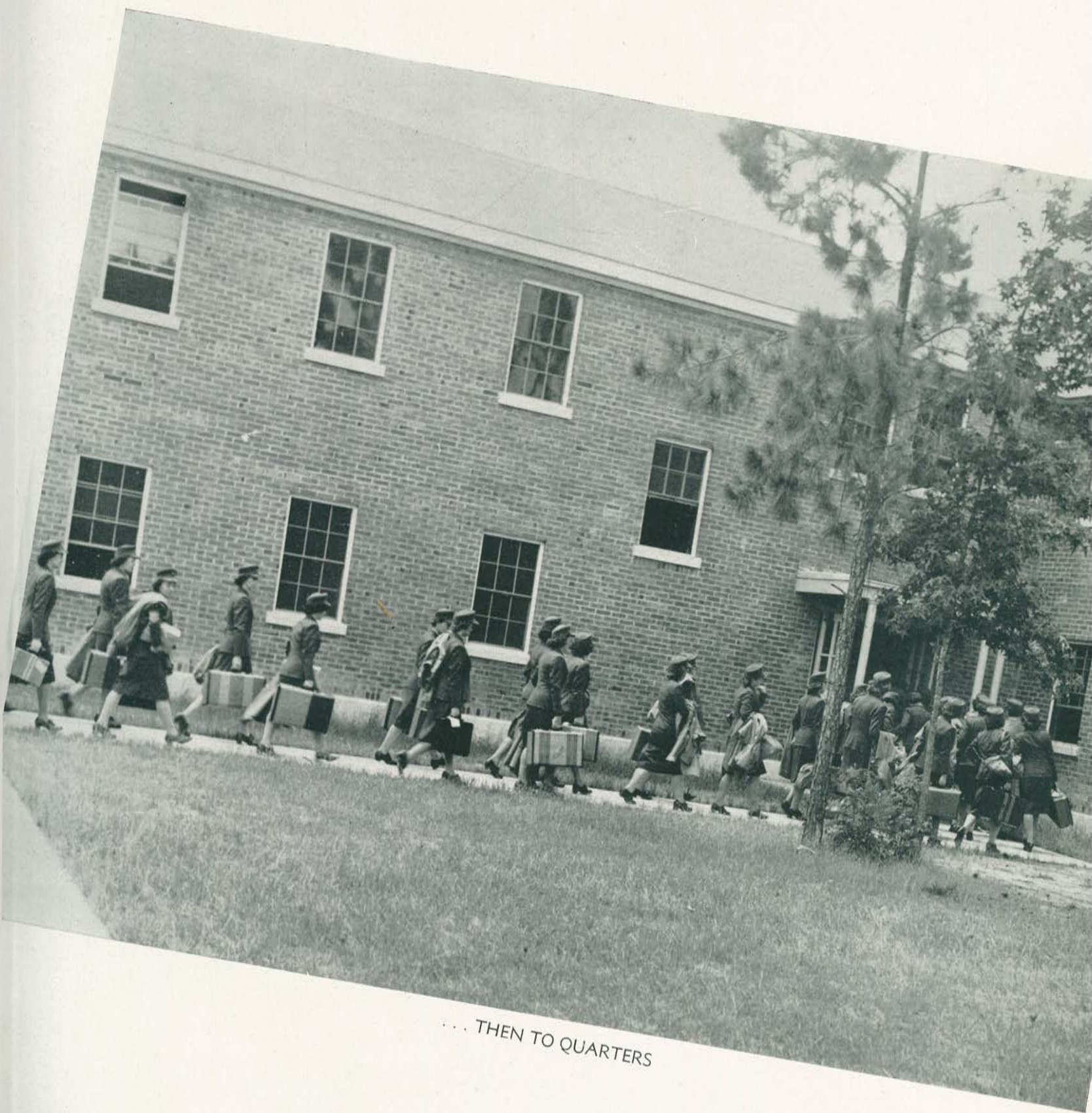


A UNIFORM
WILL HELP . . .



... IT MUST BE
FITTED ...





... THEN TO QUARTERS



EQUIPMENT MUST
BE CARED FOR



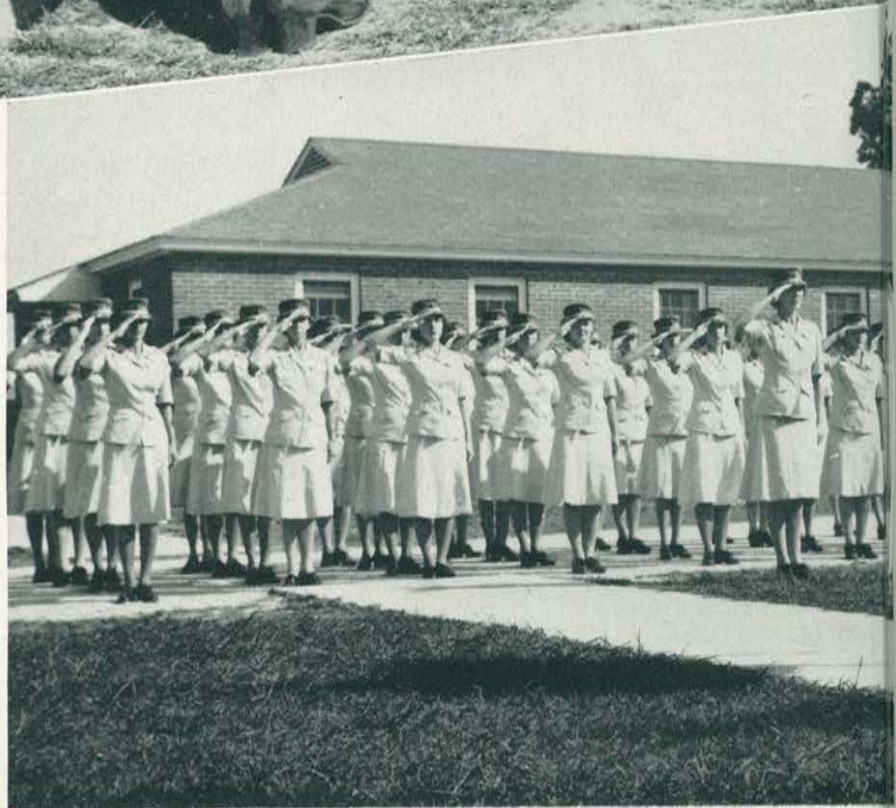


DRILL



NEW JOB
FOR THE
DRILL
INSTRUCTOR







READY FOR INSPECTION





SCHOOL DAYS



GOOD SHOT?



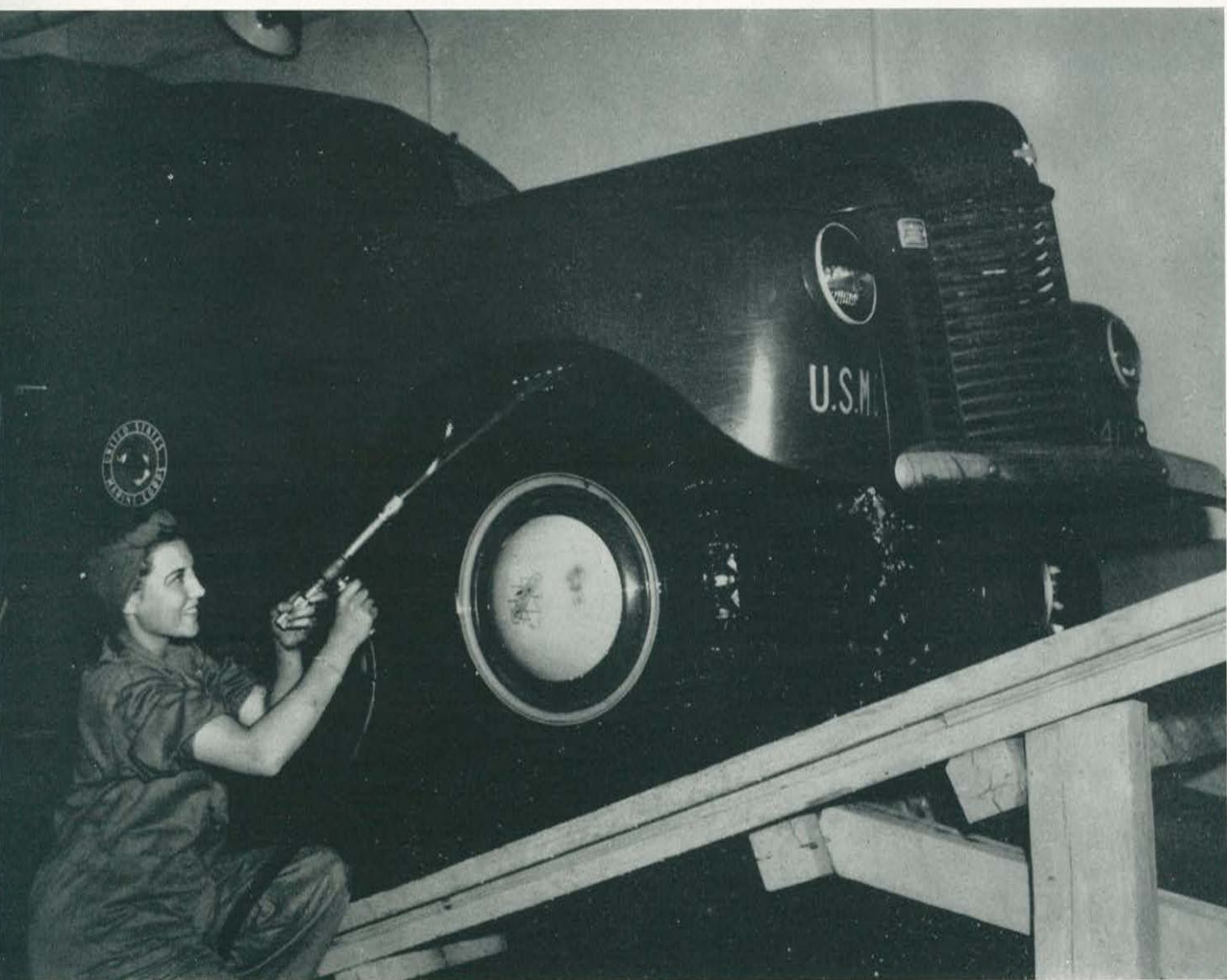
LOOKS INTERESTING





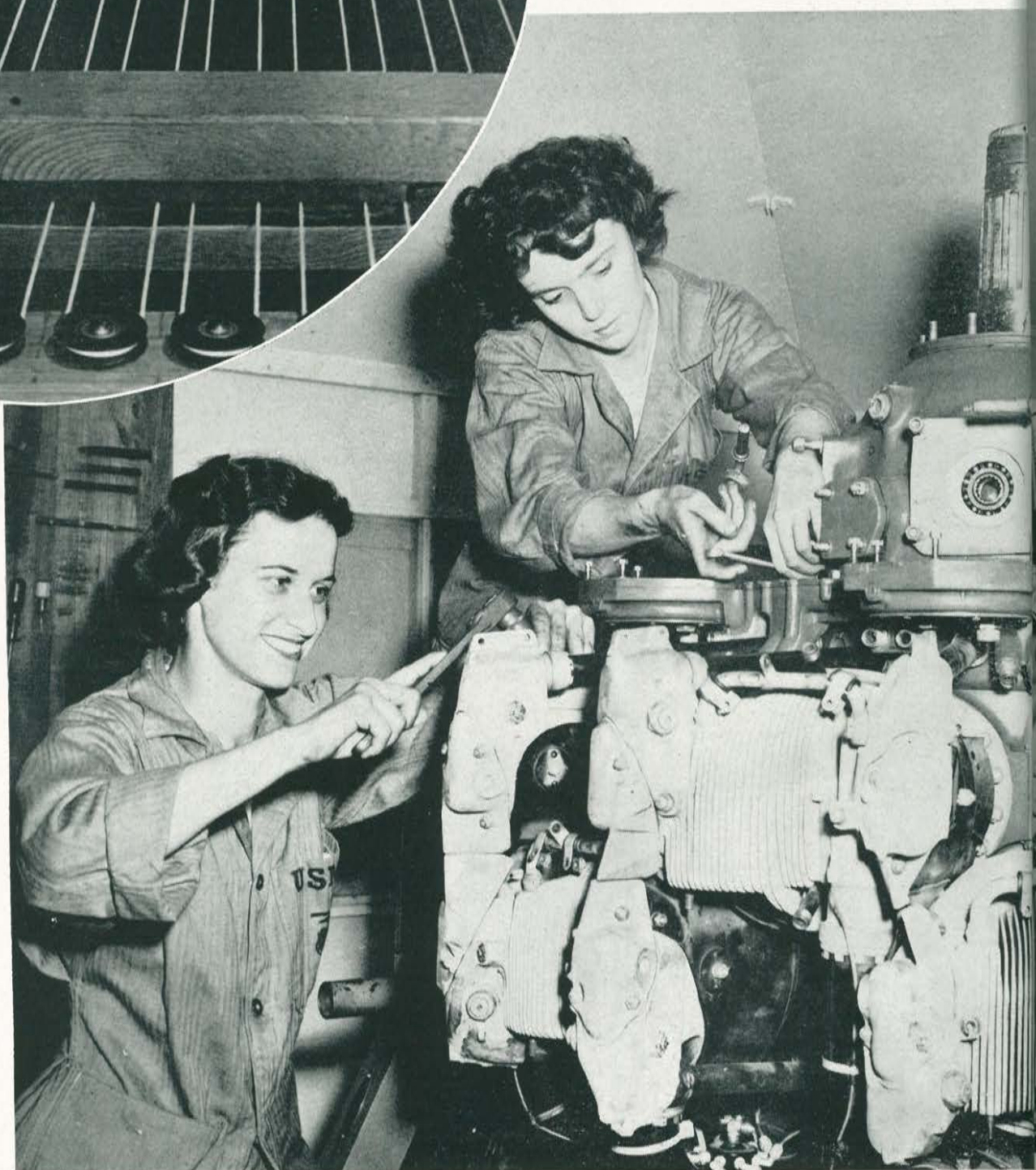


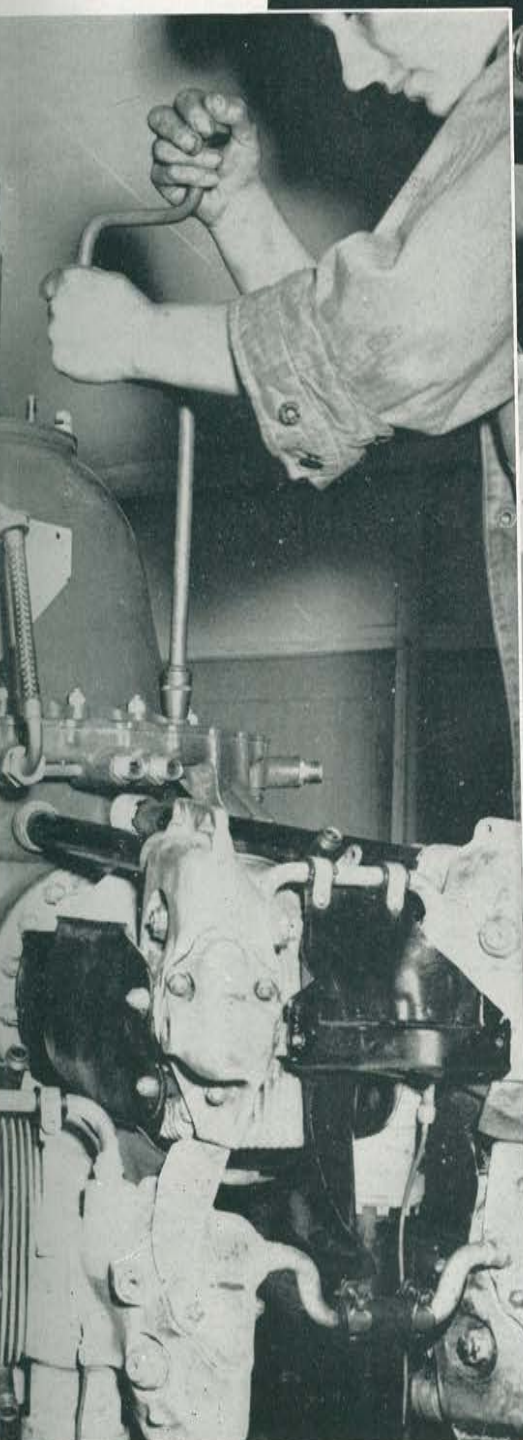
MOTOR TRANSPORT





JEEP DRIVER





ADVANCED SCHOOLS

AT THE AIR FIELD

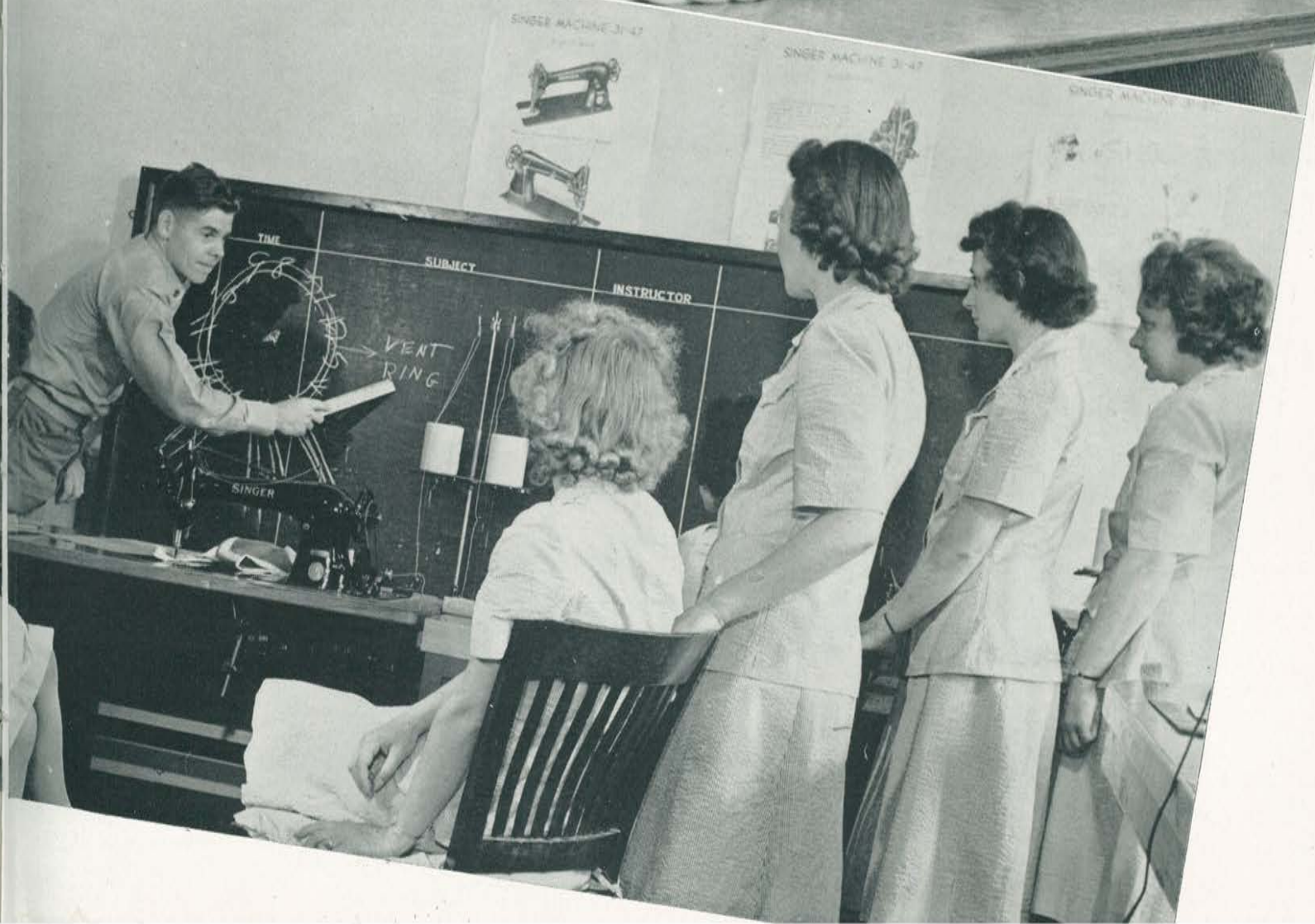






PARACHUTE









RIGGING MUST BE RIGHT



WHAT'S ON FOR TODAY?

BARRACKS MUST
BE CLEAN AND
ORDERLY





STEAK

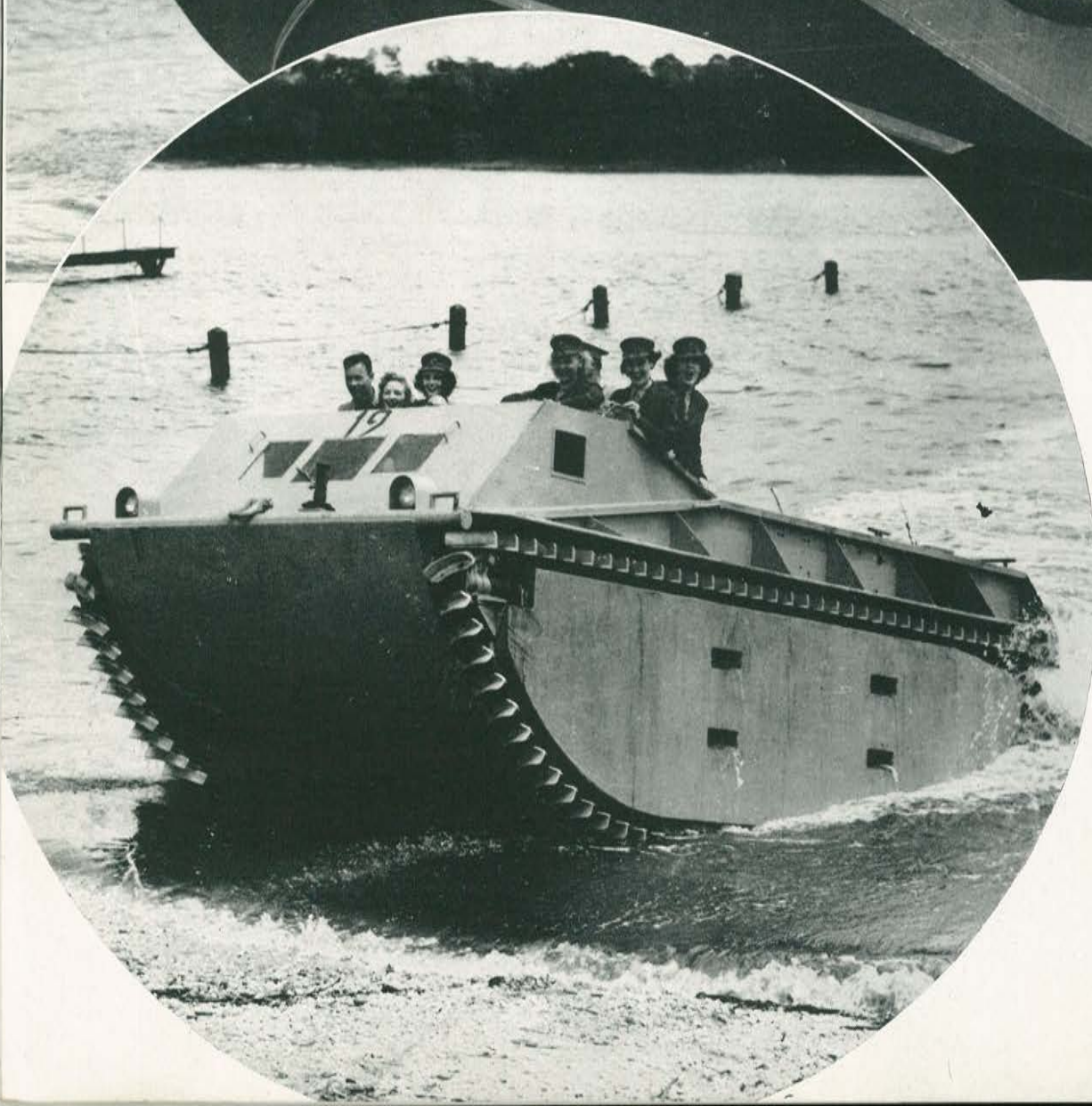




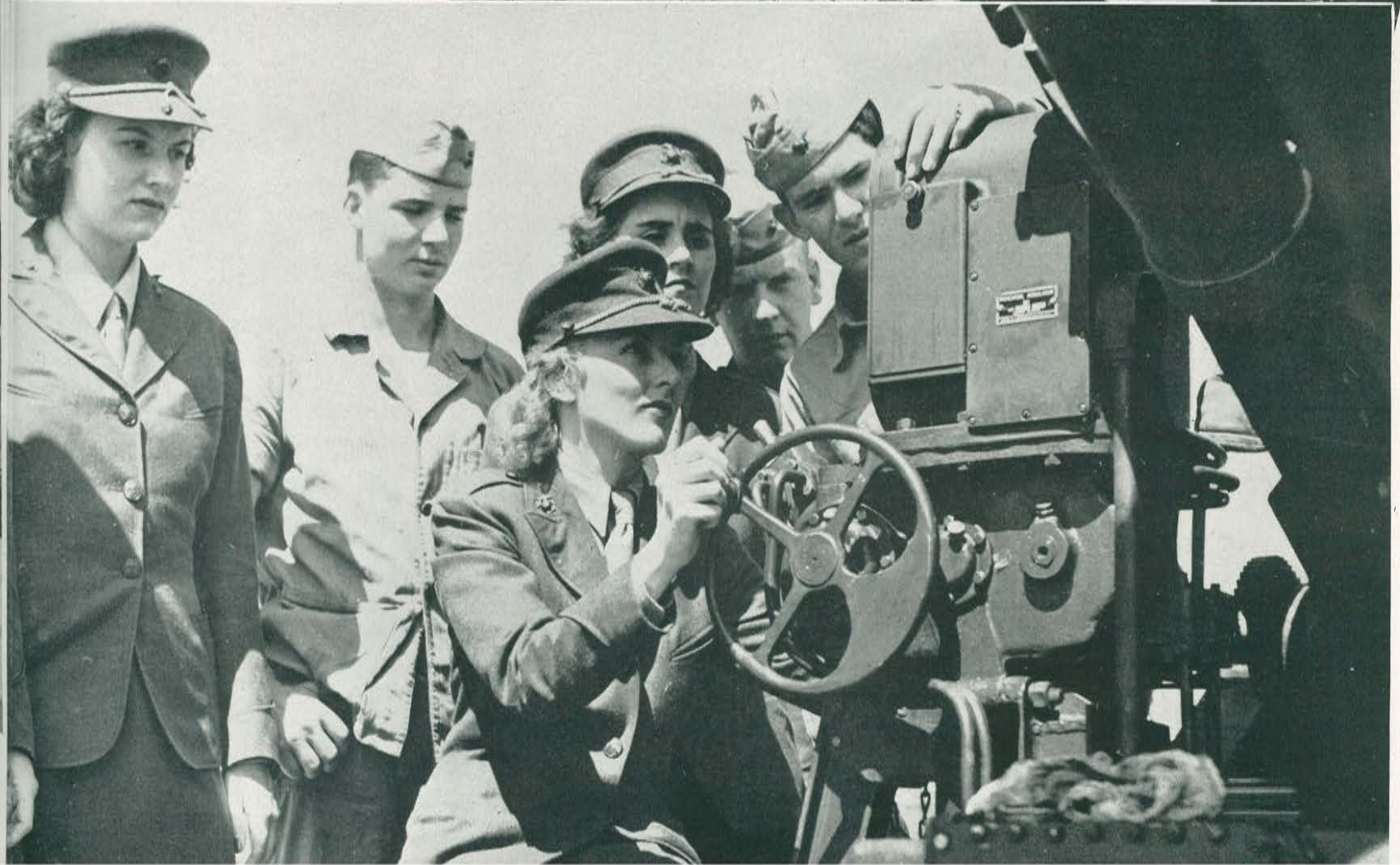
ENJOYING YOUR LUNCH?

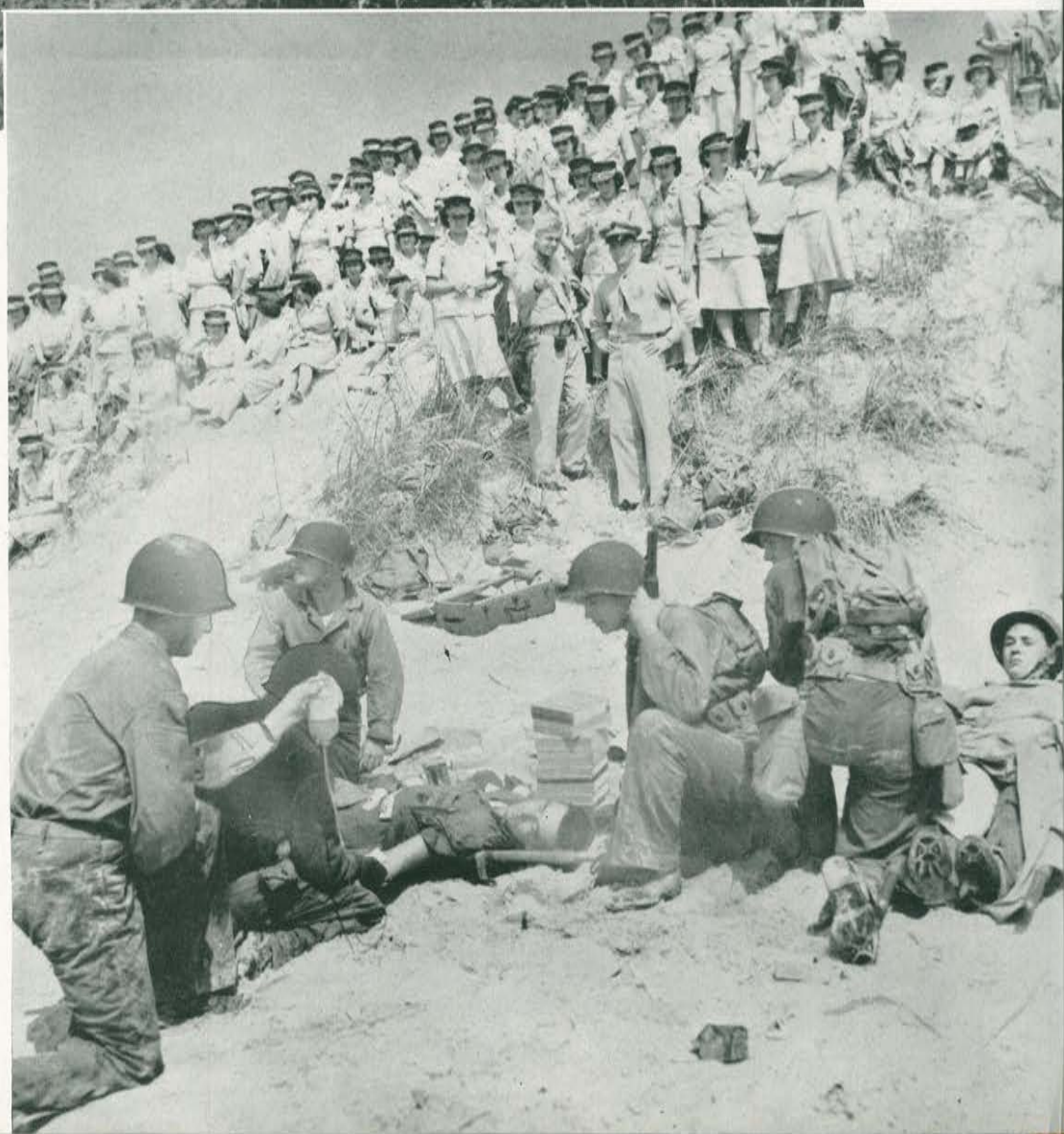


COOKS



A TOUR
WITH MARINES TO
SEE HOW IT'S DONE





WATCHING MANEUVERS

MEDS . . .





MAIL CALL



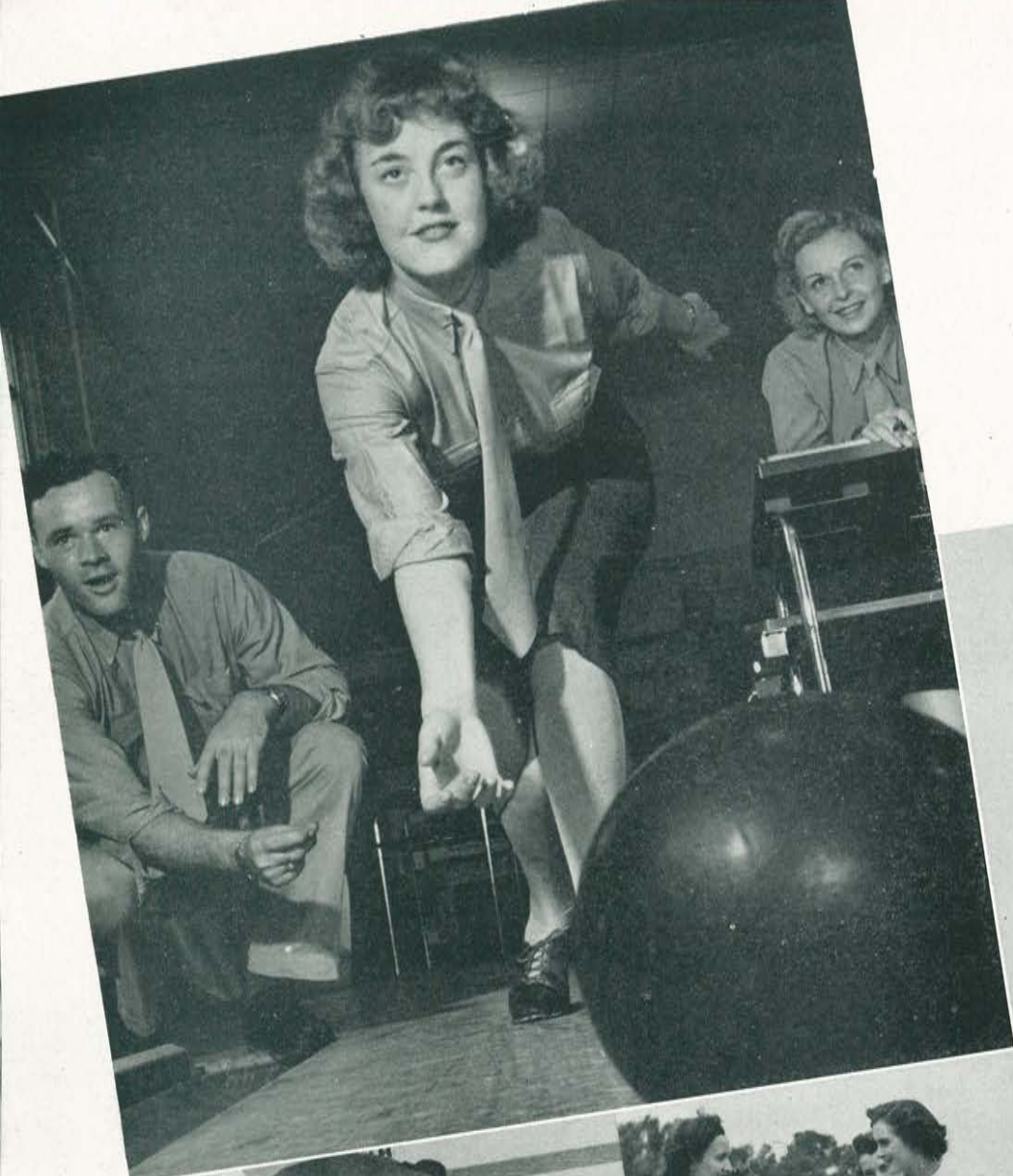


STUDY



A BOX FROM HOME

Fun . . . Indoors



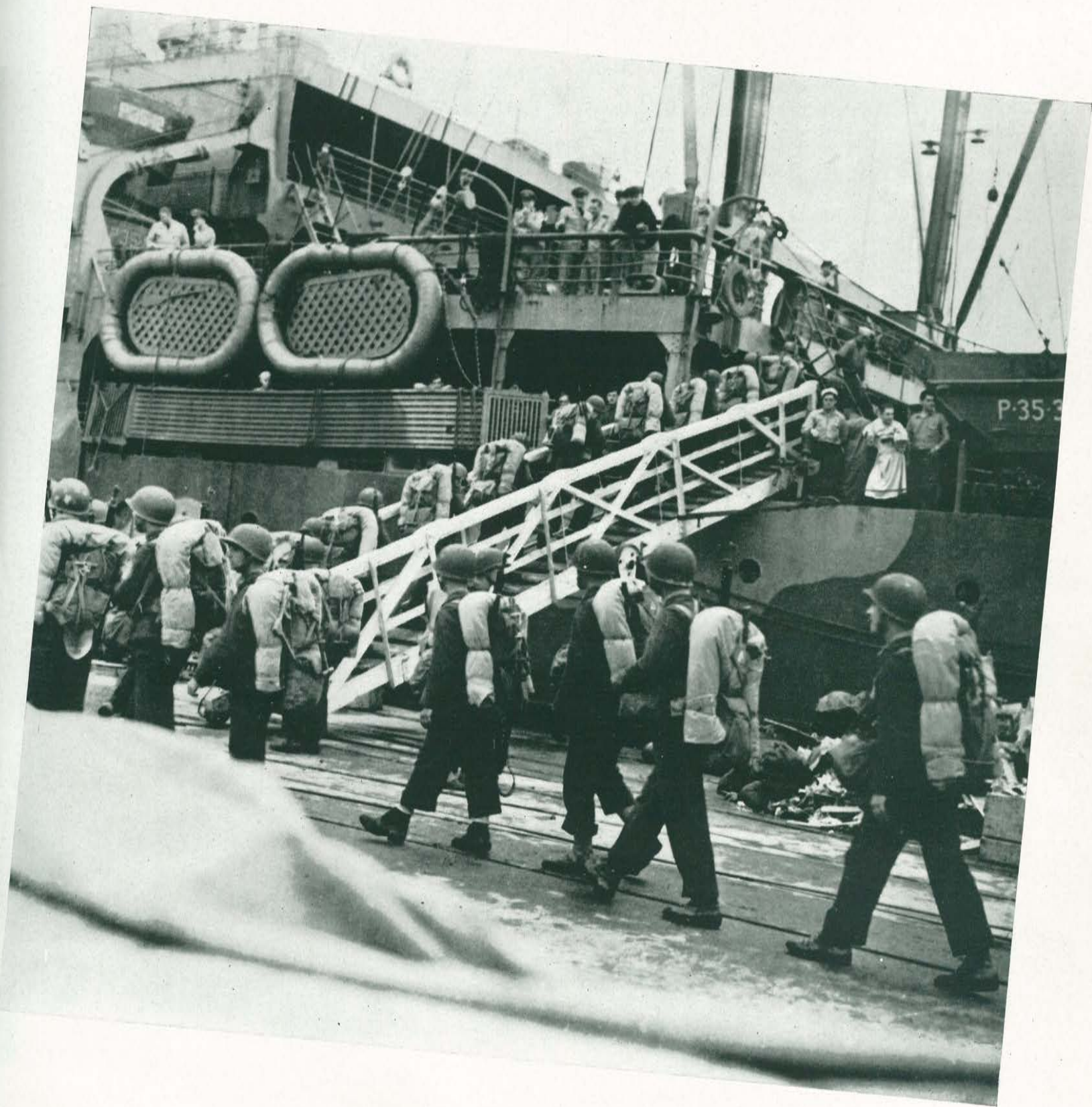
and Out





THE HEALTHY SMILE

WOMEN RESERVES MAKE THIS POSSIBLE



TRAINING RAIDERS





OVER THE SIDE PRACTICE



HIGGINS BOAT MOCK-UP VIEW



READY TO TAKE OFF



A VERSATILE WARRIOR



ON YOUR TOES

PARAMARINES



SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE SKY



LEARNING THE ROPES



"OOPS"

HOSPITAL CORPSMEN ACCOMPANY MARINES

SPEED SAVES LIVES





CORPSMEN MANEUVER WITH MARINES



UNDER FIRE



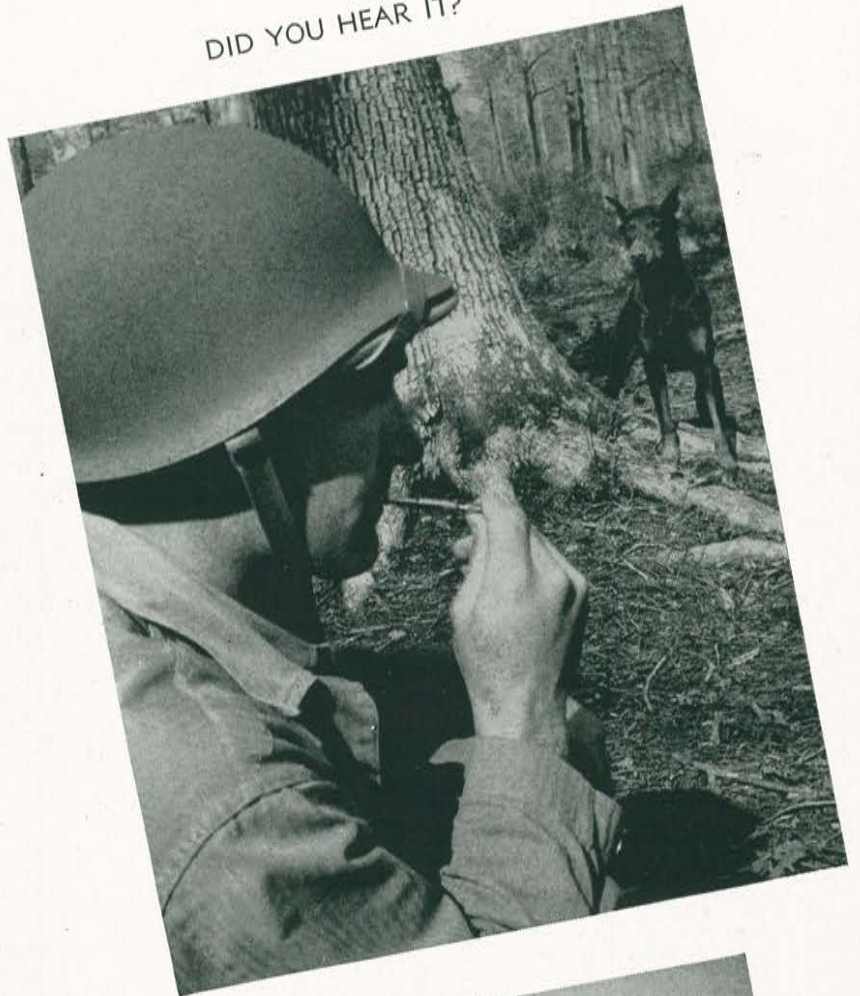
STEADY, BOYS!



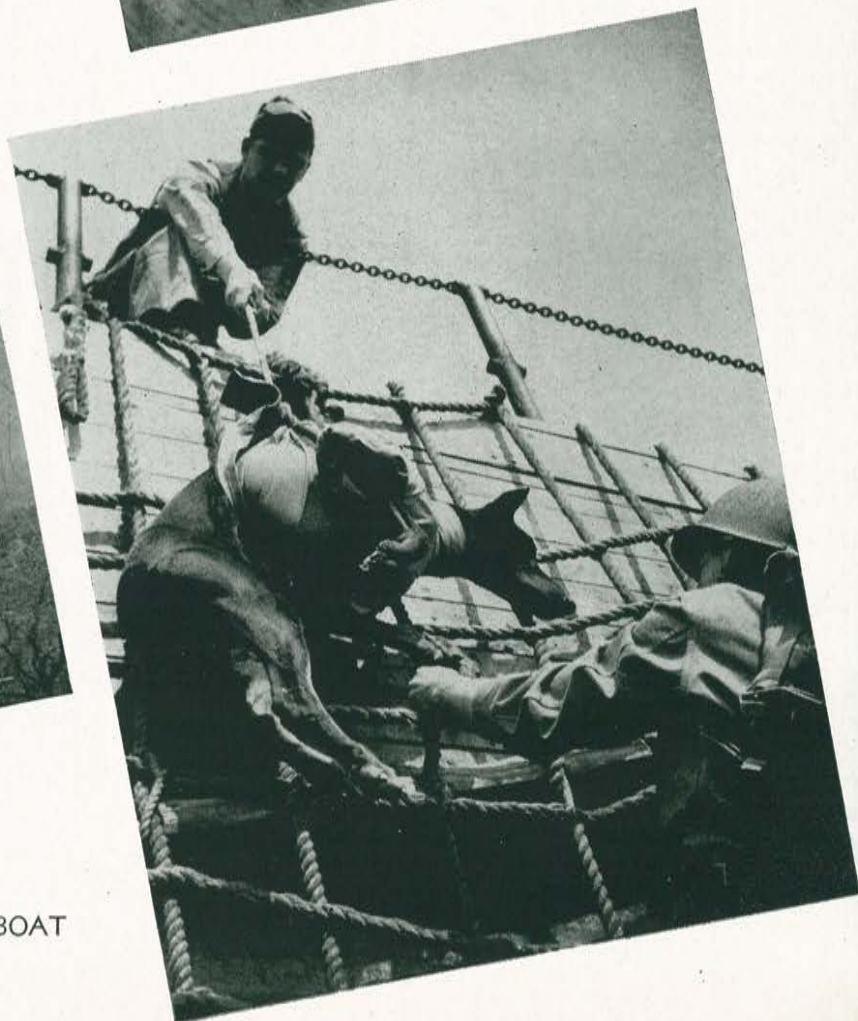
TOUCHSIDE

DEVIL DOGS DO

DID YOU HEAR IT?



THRU THE SMOKE



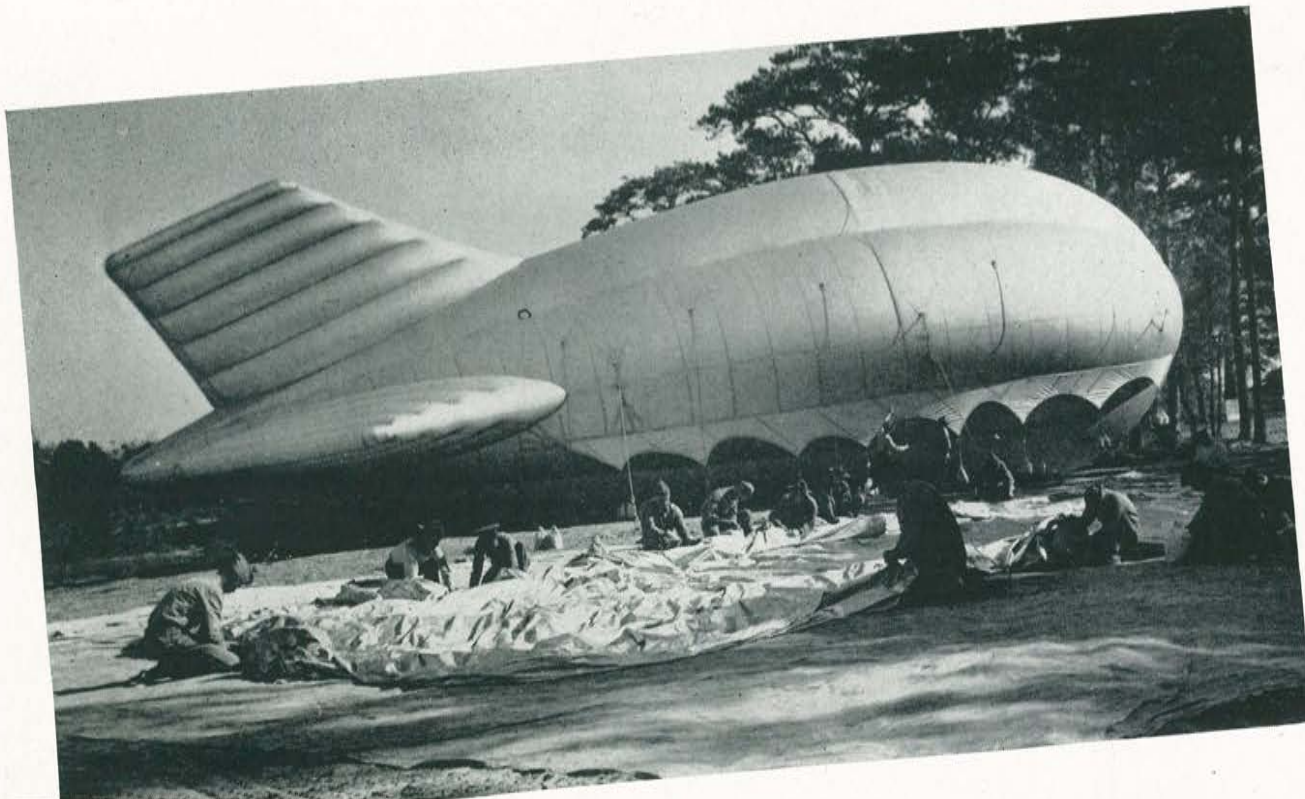
INTO THE BOAT

A DAY'S WORK

PAUSE



ALL ASHORE



SEWING CIRCLE



OBSERVER



READY—AIM—



BLINKER GUN



HEAVY FIREPOWER

M-1 RECORD . . . 337 OUT OF 340



GET THE MESSAGE THRU



HELMET—A BASIN?

HERE *Marines -*



A TOUGH GANG



LANDING CRAFT



OVERBOARD

RUBBER BOAT LANDING



THEY COME

Coast Guard Team Up



LIGHT TANK LANDS

OUT OF THE SEA . . .



. . . AND READY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION



TANK CREW

Autographs

Date Due

Bangor Public Library, Bangor, Maine

This book is due on the last date stamped below. The same date appears on your library card. The number following the date is that of your library card. Please call to our attention any discrepancy between the numbers. Loans are not renewable.

[illegible]

