



Florida Island



Valua

Makambo

Hagalu

Tulagi

Tanamboyo

Halavo

Gavitu

Mbangai

1008 Camp Area

1008 Camp Area

Carter City

Lyons Point

Purvis Bay



*** ADMIRAL BEN MOREEL, CEC, USN ***



1008 CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
DETACHMENT

TOUR OF DUTY

SOLOMON ISLANDS

July 1943 ★ May 1945

PHOTOGRAPHY, LAYOUT AND HISTORY IN THIS
BOOK MADE UP ENTIRELY BY PERSONNEL OF THE
1008 CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
DETACHMENT.



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the officers and enlisted personnel of the 1008 Construction Battalion Detachment. It is a pictorial review of their unified efforts in constructing their first advanced naval base in the Solomon Islands during a tour of duty from July 1943 to May 1945.



ADMIRAL WILLIAM HALSEY, USN
Commander in Chief South Pacific

Handwritten notes:
1945
Halsey
CINCPAC



ADMIRAL BEN MOREEL, CEC-USN

Chief of Bureau Yards and Docks



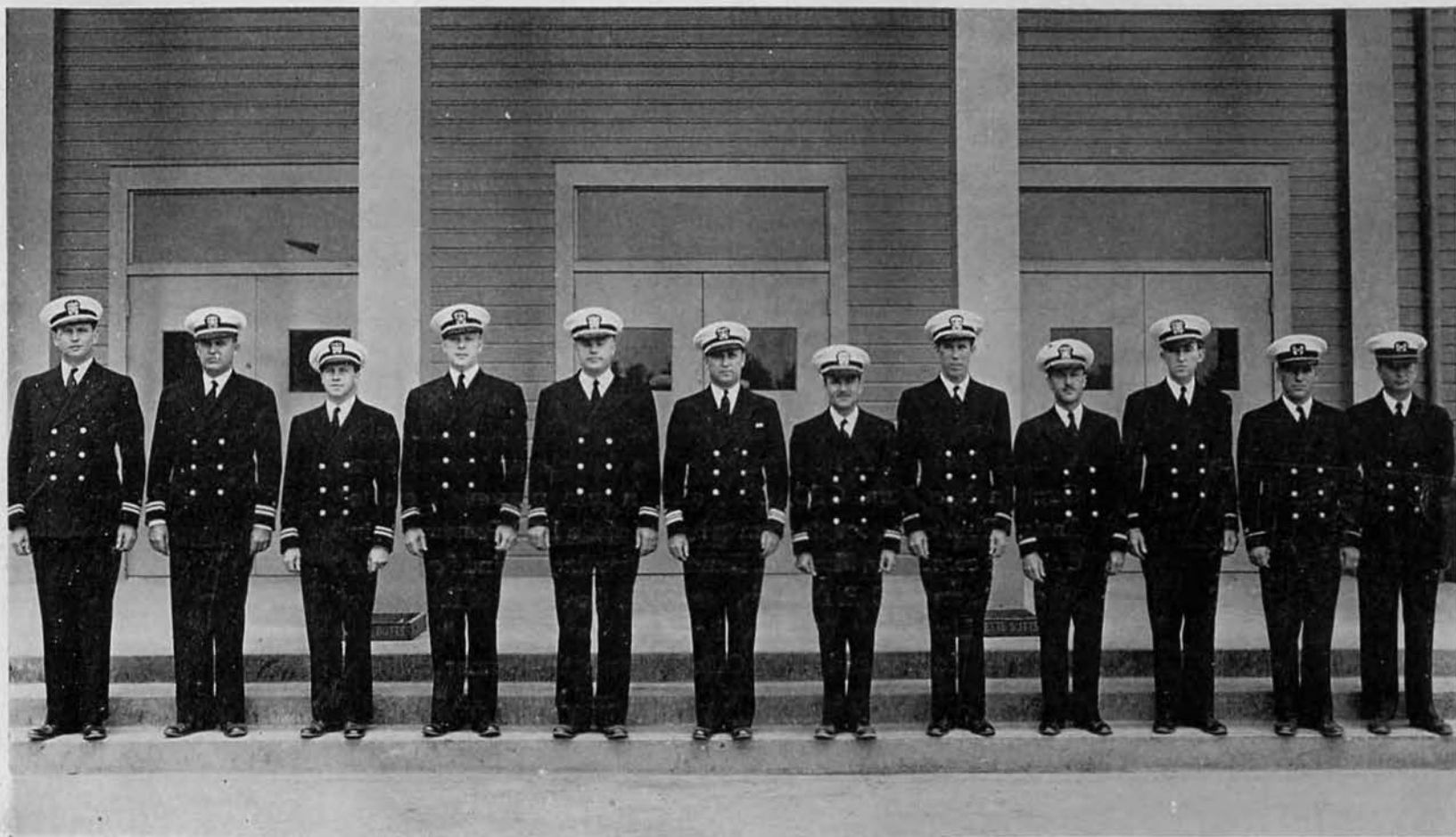
CAPTAIN J. M. ROSS, USNR

Commanding Officer Tulagi



FINAL REVIEW

THIS PICTURE, TAKEN TWO DAYS BEFORE EMBARKATION, SHOWS ENTIRE DETACHMENT LINED UP FOR FINAL REVIEW. THIS IS A RESULT OF SIX MONTHS' INTENSIVE TRAINING. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT HAVE CONTRASTING PICTURES OF OURSELVES TAKEN AT CAMPS BRADFORD, PEARY AND ENDICOTT, STANDING OUR INSPECTIONS IN OVERSIZED DUNGAREES AND KNITTED WATCH CAPS.



OFFICERS OF THE 1008

Reading from left to right are: Lieut. C. E. Duncan, Lieut. W. A. Shaw, Lieut. W. R. Firth, Lt. (jg) C. E. Dunn, Lt. (jg) A. B. Lahti, Lt. Comdr. C. T. Wende, Lt. (jg) A. A. LoPiccolo, Ens. A. B. Thomas, Ens. J. R. Surprenant, Ens. J. F. Ruth, Chief Carpenter J. W. Humrichous and Chief Carpenter H. K. Sharpe. The following officers are not shown in this picture: Lt. Comdr. L. F. Hammond, Lieut. L. P. Golden, Chief Carpenter M. F. Phelps and Chief Carpenter S. J. Fey, Jr.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Our detachment was organized at Camp Parks, Calif., on May 25, 1943. The 1008 was officially commissioned at Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Calif., in the early part of July 1943. Mrs. J. F. Ruth, wife of Ensign J. F. Ruth, receives the detachment colors from Captain Needham, CEC, USN, and in turn presents them to Ensign Ruth who accepts them in behalf of the 1008. Previously, in a similar ceremony, Mrs. C. E. Duncan (standing behind flag), wife of Lieutenant C. E. Duncan, presented the National Ensign to Lieutenant Duncan. After the ceremonies the ladies and Base Officers were the dinner guests of the 1008 Officers and Men.



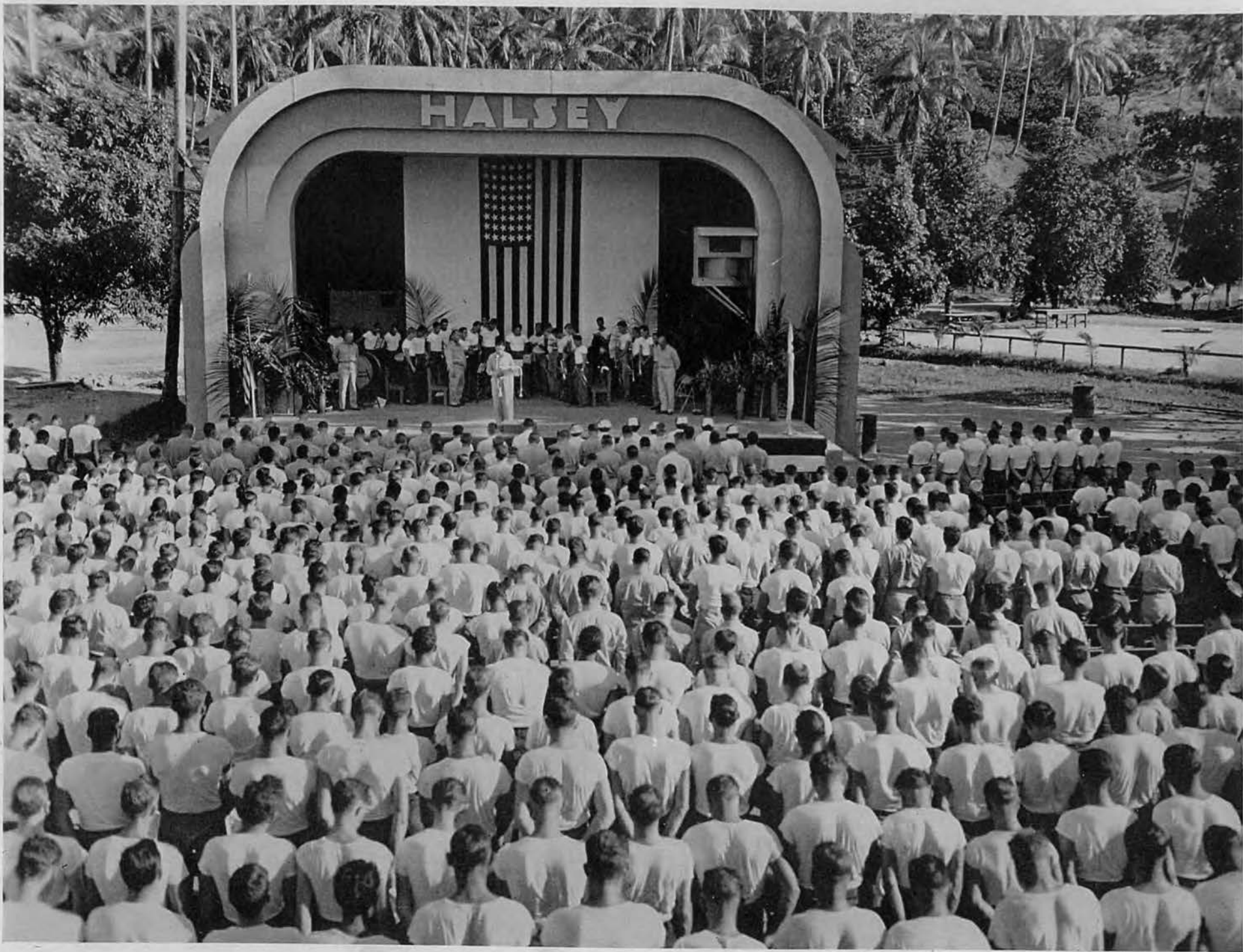
Memorial Service for
PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

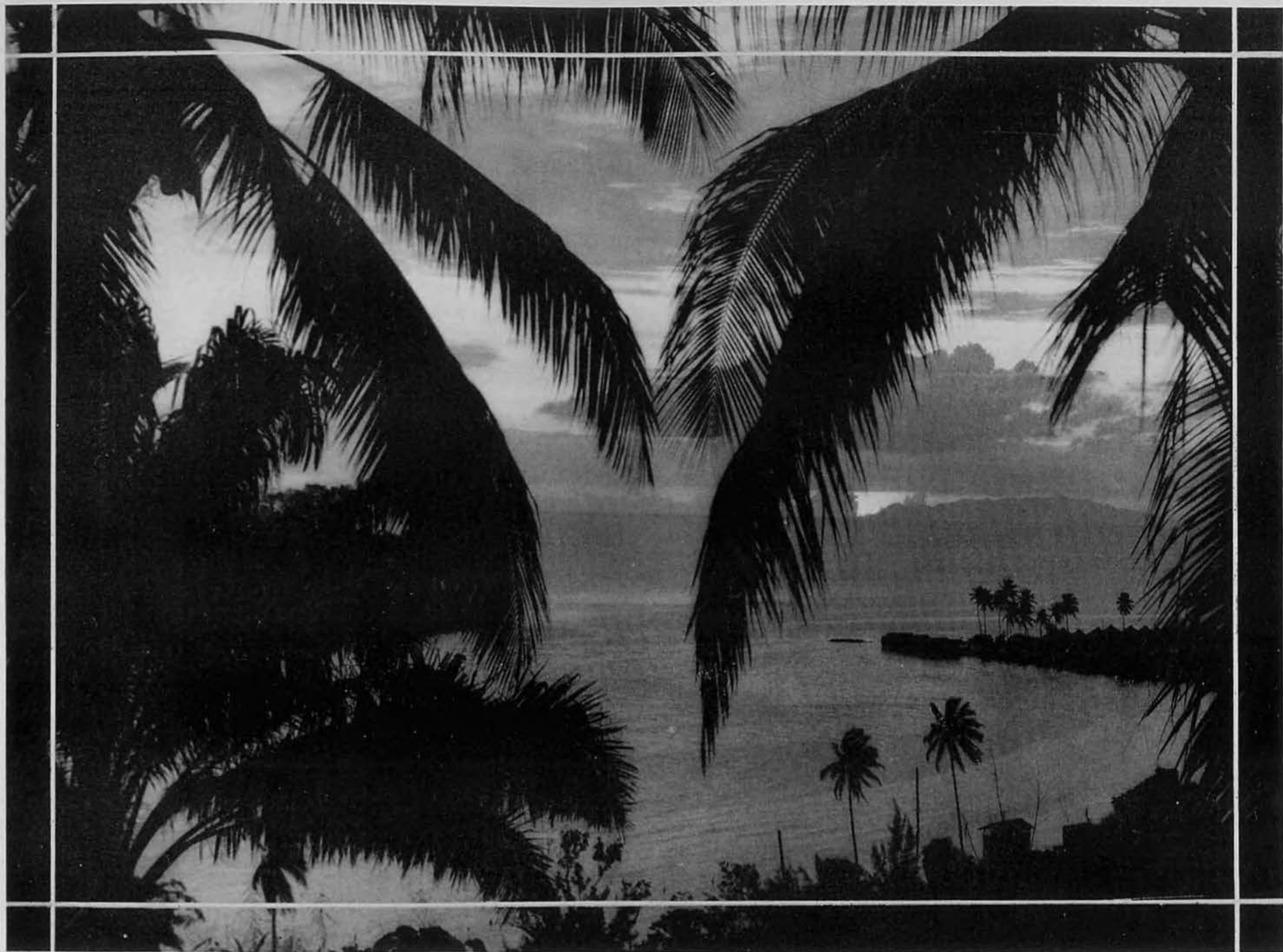
HALSEY THEATRE, 15 APRIL 1945, 0800

ORDER OF SERVICE

DIRECTIONS TO
PARTICIPANTS

PRELUDE, "Rest Eternal" (Peckham Band	Begin at 0800 and continue to play until all companies are seated.
INVOCATION Chaplain Charles I. Stephenson	AUDIENCE STANDING
SCRIPTURE Chaplain Charles I. Stephenson	AUDIENCE SEATED
MEMORIAL ADDRESS Captain J. M. Ross, USNR Commanding Officer	AUDIENCE SEATED
PRAYER AND BENEDICTION Chaplain J. I. Sruba	AUDIENCE STANDING
TAPS	ATTENTION AND HAND SALUTE
POSTLUDE, "Commandery March" (Caster)	Audience leaves quietly after the Commanding Officer leaves the platform.





*They shall not grow old as we that
are left grow old,*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the
years condemn,*

*At the going down of the sun and
in the morning,*

We shall remember them.

IN MEMORIAM

AUGUSTINE E. JETTE

Born August 8, 1897, Died April 11, 1944

DEWEY BYRD

Born April 2, 1907, Died February 21, 1945

JOSEPH NILES MILLS

Born November 3, 1911, Died February 25, 1945

IN LINE OF DUTY

The picture on the right shows a very good likeness of the well known General Mud—our most stubborn enemy in the first days during which we were attempting to build our camp and future home, Wendeville. . . . Frequent rains were, of course, responsible for the slick, sticky mud. The inevitable bulldozer is featured here as it was throughout practically all of our subsequent construction activities. This picture shows the central area of our camp, with galley on the left, mess halls (under construction) on the right, and tents for enlisted personnel in the background.



The picture on the left is an "after" shot of the above scene. . . . A drainage system has been installed, making the camp area dry, the roadway built and surfaced with hard packed coral. Traffic regulations are in force. . . . This picture may have been taken on a quiet Sunday afternoon as the area usually presented a busy scene. . . . The overhead structure affords shelter in rainy weather for the men on their way from the galley to messhalls, while trees left standing in background afford shade for the camp from the hot sun.



Some more mud! . . . Before and after. . . . Looking towards our sick bay "Resthaven." (Upper and lower left.) . . . Looking up from the lower road—before and after. The large building shown here is where galley stores are kept. (Upper and lower right.)







Some more mud! . . . Before and after. . . . Looking towards our sick bay "Resthaven." (Upper and lower left.) . . . Looking up from the lower road—before and after. The large building shown here is where galley stores are kept. (Upper and lower right.)







On the opposite page, you are entering the rural atmosphere of Wendeville, while a "Light Duty" man manicures the sparse lawn surrounding the flagpole. The stately mahogany and hardwood trees showing in this and other pictures, offered shade and relief from the intensity of the sun.

(Upper left): A SeaBee "sees his dentist every six months" in our Dental Clinic—a portable field unit which can be quickly set up "on the beach," under a tree or in a tent.

(Center): White-Swan Laundry, Wendeville, built and operated by 1008. With personal cleanliness so important to men living and working in surroundings of heat, humidity and mud, our White-Swan Laundry made a substantial contribution towards maintaining the high standards we enjoyed. "Fresh Linen"—foe of the many rashes, itches and fungus infections so prevalent in the tropics—was laundered in quantities averaging 1200 lbs. (dry lbs.) per day. Processing of

MEAN ALTITUDE 33 FT. 9 IN.
WENDEVILLE
 POPULATION 601
 (YESTERDAY'S MUSTER)
The **THRIVING TOWN WITH NO**
 *** **UNEMPLOYMENT** ***
 OUR MOTTO: *"Plenty of Work Clothes for everybody*
Two pair Coveralls in every Man's Locker"
VISIT OUR CHAMBER of COMMERCE!!

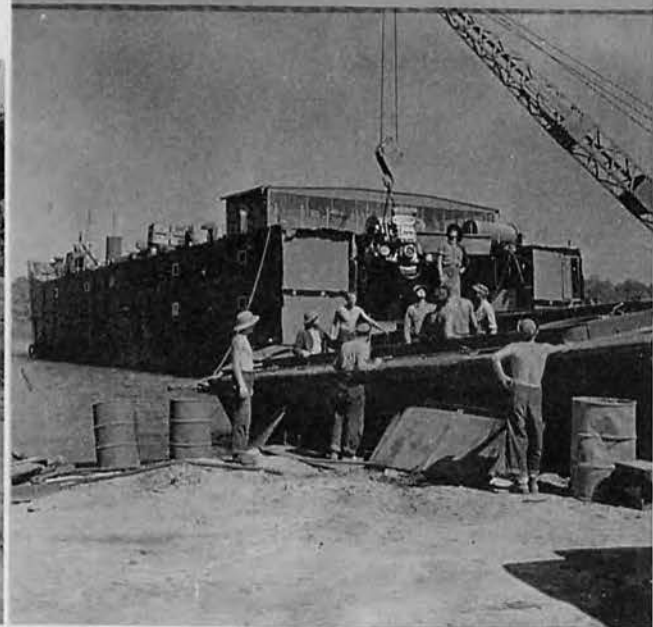
See our Mis-representative and obtain Mis-information regarding ramifications of our Air-filing Activities—our operations carry us into the innermost depth and bowels of the dense Jungles—
It is not the desire or intention of the Leaders of Greater Wendeville to setup Competition to Local and Native Institutions, already established, such as the Manufacture of Grass Skirts, Carving of War Clubs and Making Socks, procurement of Coconuts, prospecting for Cat Eyes, hunting or Shells and Beach Combing in general.
(Our Business is: Simple, Plain & Fancy WORK, mostly Plain) MINNEAPOLIS BOOSTER CLUB

soiled clothing consisted of sterilizing in steam vats, washing and rinsing in the rotary washers—as shown in this picture—afterwards dried by utilizing hot exhaust from our diesel electric generators located nearby. White-Swan was built out of odds and ends. Oil drums were used for the steam sterilizers. Rotary, drum type washers were made in our carpenter shop and powered by a one-cylinder gasoline engine. Pulleys were made of plywood and spliced rope was used in place of belting.

(Upper right): Bingo night in our recreation hut . . . sponsored by Recreation and Welfare. Bingo games were held once a week. At five cents per game you stood to win beer, softer drinks, soap and other items from the Ship's Service Store supplies. Occasionally you might win a war bond. Country Store Night and Checker tournaments were other features in the program. Sunday mornings the hut served as our Chapel.



Scenes at Carter City, Base of LCRU No. 1





The efficiency and vigilance of our Malaria Control Dept. in combatting that dreaded tropical disease is attested to by our excellent health record in Malaria cases. Less than 6% of 1008 personnel were afflicted and this figure, when contrasted with comparative figures for an earlier date, indicate the high degree of efficiency achieved. In Malaria Control as prescribed by the U. S. Navy Medical Corps; the draining and filling of ditches and ponds where Anopheles

(malaria carrying) mosquitos breed, clearing underbrush, spraying oil on waters which cannot be drained, and spraying tents and other sleeping quarters with Freon Aerosol Insecticide; are some of the operations required. Regulations call for full clothing and sleeves rolled down, no bathing or washing after dark. Sleeping nets are provided and inspected frequently. Pictures here show our mobile spraying unit, a drainage ditch in a setting primeval and Malaria Control "propaganda."



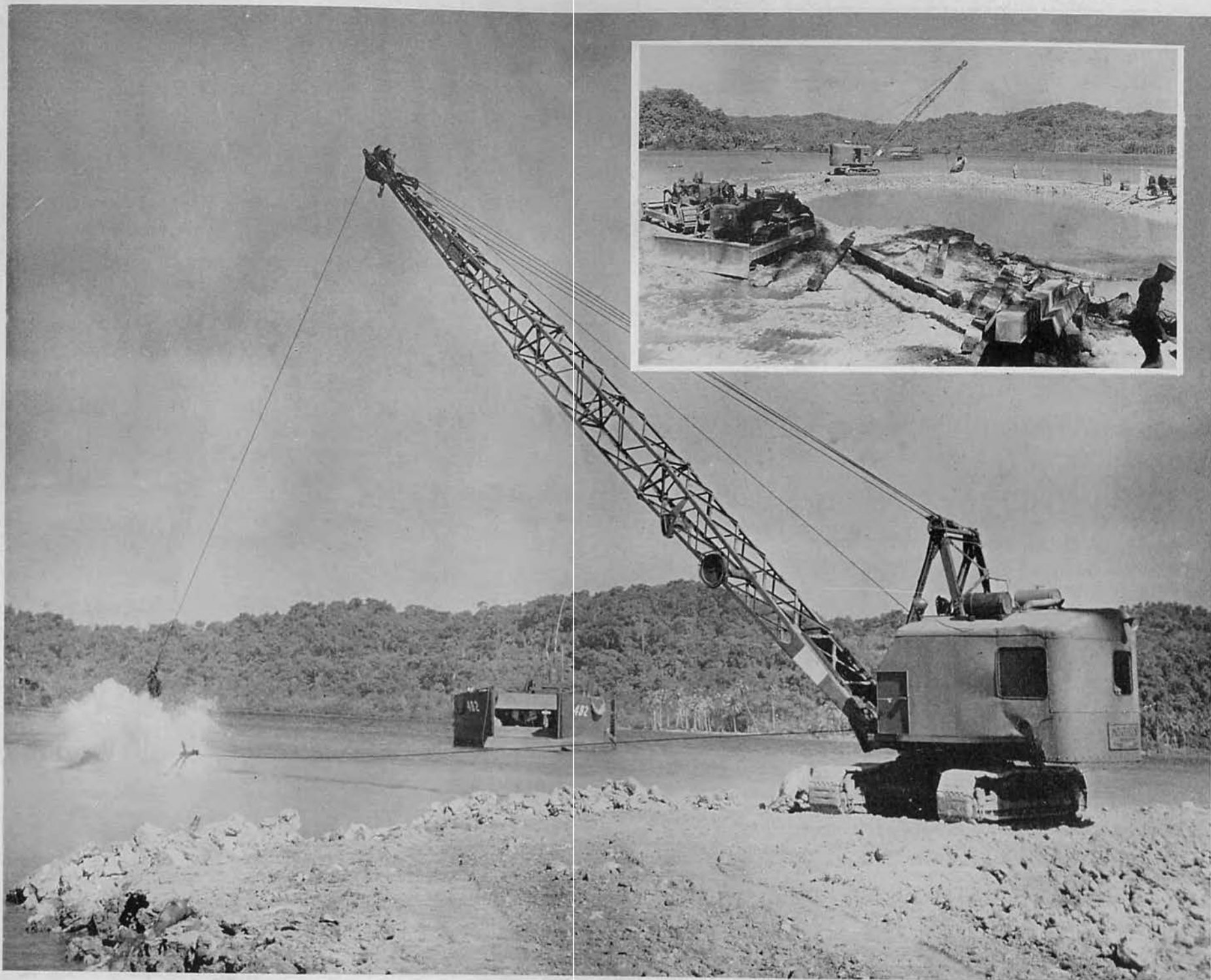
L. F. Hammond
Lt. Comdr. L. F. Hammond, CEC-USNR

relieves

Lt. Comdr. Chas. Wende, CEC-USNR

November 14, 1943





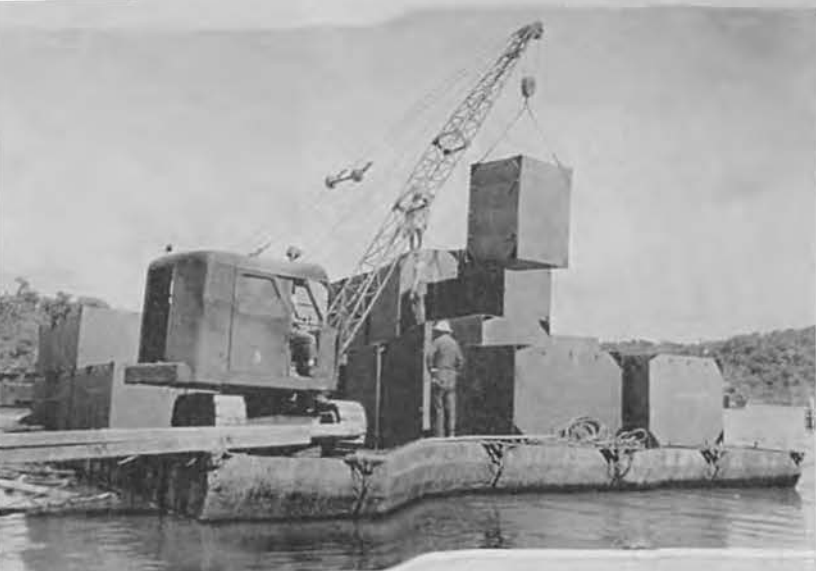
1008
SEABEE
DETACHMENT



On the opposite page one of our cranes is "dragging" coral for the cofferdam required for construction of marine railway at Carter City. Inset shows completed cofferdam and sump before draining.

On this page pumps are shown at work draining the sump. Other pictures show the work in progress, laying the sills, ties and rails in the evacuated area behind the cofferdam. Lower left: marine railway is completed, LCT is high and dry—repaired and waiting to be launched again.

This equipment was delivered to us, cut to fit from blueprints prepared by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, a package job, complete in every detail. All that was required of us was to prepare site, erect and install it. This one will dock landing craft up to LCTs, as shown.



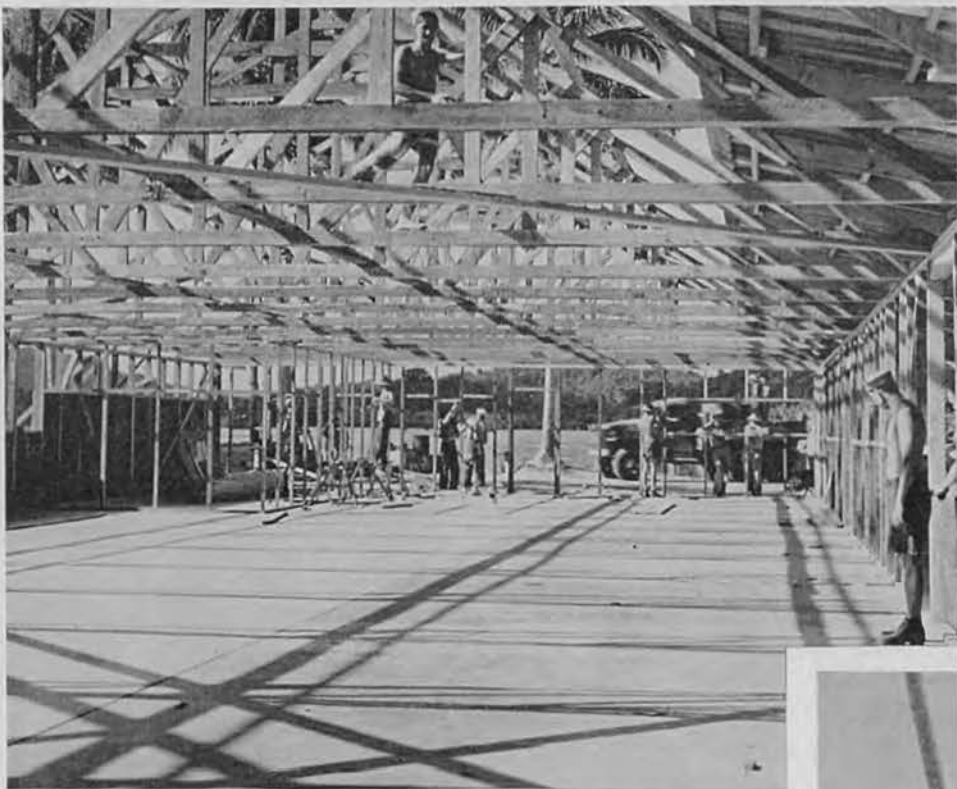
Assembling pontoons to form a 6 by 24 (six pontoons wide by twenty-four long) floating drydock. . . . Upper left shows pontoons being unloaded at Carter City. They will next be bolted together in strings as shown, after which the strings are "launched" and attached to each other while afloat. . . . Left center shows the deck complete and in readiness for the installation of the stabilizers.

Lower left shows completed drydock and pontoon barge tender astern. . . . This floating drydock is capable of docking an LCI or a ship of 325 tons. To submerge, a controlled amount of water is admitted to the deck pontoons, to raise, by expelling the water with compressed air. The vertical side towers stabilize the deck and keep it on an even keel while submerged. Air compressors are located on the tender which is connected to the drydock by a catwalk, or ramp.

Developed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks in response to a demand for a method of quickly constructing floating drydocks, wharves, barges (self-propelled by means of heavy-duty outboard motors), floating cranes and a great variety of other floating and stationary equipment, pontoons as shown here have proved themselves to be one of our most valuable assets in all theatres of war.



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SEABEE
DETACHMENT



FPO No. 152 handled all mail for this area including ships of the fleet as well as land based activities. There were between 25 to 33 mail clerks. Incoming mail averaged around 500 sacks of mail a day. Total cash sales as high as \$100,000.00 per day when the fleet was in. Sometime later this post office was moved over to Tulagi.

In setting up an island base an adequate supply of fresh, potable water is always a prime and important consideration. For this purpose Seabees arrive with two kinds of equipment, (1) Completely assembled evaporators for the distillation of salt water. (2) Water purifiers and filters for the treatment of surface and ground water. These can also be quickly assembled for operation, conditions permitting, i.e., fresh water lakes, ponds, etc. in the area. There were no lakes or ponds at hand so we used a large pond of salt water—the Pacific Ocean—which happened to be nearby, and operated our evaporators for our first water supply. The distillation of salt water is a limited process as well as costly in that it requires large quantities of essential fuel oil and gasoline, with high labor costs for operation and maintenance, so as soon as possible thereafter, the water of a spring was trapped and impounded by the construction of Grand Coulee Jr., our first effort at dam construction. Grand Coulee Jr. when full impounds four thousand gallons. This reservoir, plus the rate of flow of the spring, furnished us with an ample supply of water during average weather conditions. In the event of a dry spell, our evaporators, or "stills" as they are called, were again put in operation. Later on, when the Big Dam at Lyons Point, across Govanna Inlet was developed, and a marine pipe line installed to Carter City, our "stills" were secured permanently. Pictures show men operating filtering and purifying equipment. Water was tested daily by medical department.

Lower right, the Wildcat Drilling Corp. is drilling. Using an eight inch bit made from a broken LST propeller shaft and averaging 25 feet per day, Wildcat No. 1 went down through a limestone formation to a depth of 325 feet. She came in with a "vivacious" gush, averaging thirty drops per minute or less.

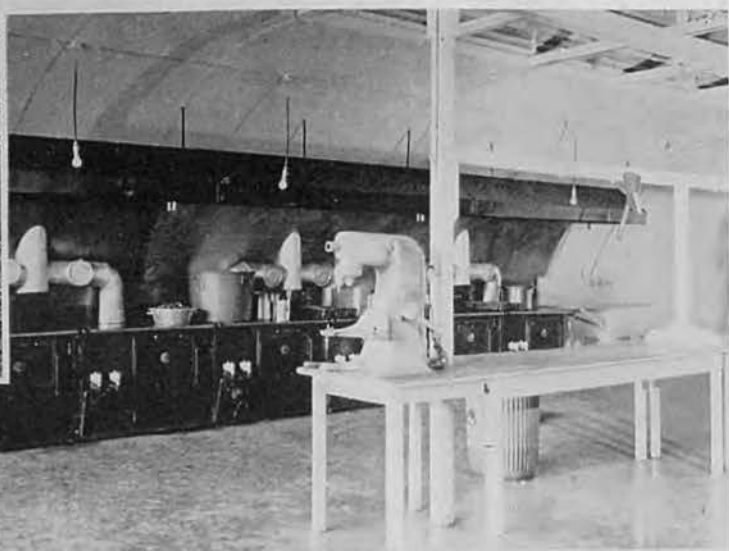




The Big Dam at Lyons Point. . . . This project impounded approximately two million gallons of water and just about put Grand Coulee Jr. out of business as it was more than sufficient for Carter City and Lyons Point, as well as many LCIs which put in at the Water Hole to fill their tanks. Lower right shows pipe line supplying Carter City across the bay. The Big Dam was one of our major earth moving projects (upper left). Water was syphoned over the top of the dam (upper right). Other pictures show the dam empty and, later on, filled to the spillway level.



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DETACHMENT



Hospital at Lyons Point. This modern 150 bed hospital built at Lyons Point by 1008 for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery was one of our primary assignments. Originally planned for 250 beds, the favorable fortunes of war made it possible to revise the plans and reduce its capacity by nearly one half. More than thirty-three quonset huts were erected to house its laboratories, wards, operating rooms, living quarters, galley, laundry and other utilities which went to make it complete and self-sufficient in every respect.



Quonset huts, being very much in demand for the construction of temporary bases, came in two sizes, 20'x48', used extensively for the housing of men, galleys and office space, and 40'x100' used primarily for warehouses and shops.

The scenes shown on these pages show various stages in construction from the concrete floor slabs to the finished structures.



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Above—Looking out over Purvis Bay from the clubhouse.

Below — Officers Club under construction. Thatch roof built by native labor.



Above — View of the club from the Bishop of Melanesia Gardens.

Center — Officers' Club at Lyons' Point.

Below—Interior View.



The Iron Bottom Bay Club, situated on Lyons Point promontory overlooking Purvis Bay, relaxation center where officers afloat can come ashore and stretch the sea legs. The accumulated profits from the sale of items in this club are from time to time turned over to the Navy Relief Fund. At the time the club is disbanded the monetary assets will revert to the Navy Relief Fund or other accredited relief agencies designated by the Board of Governors.

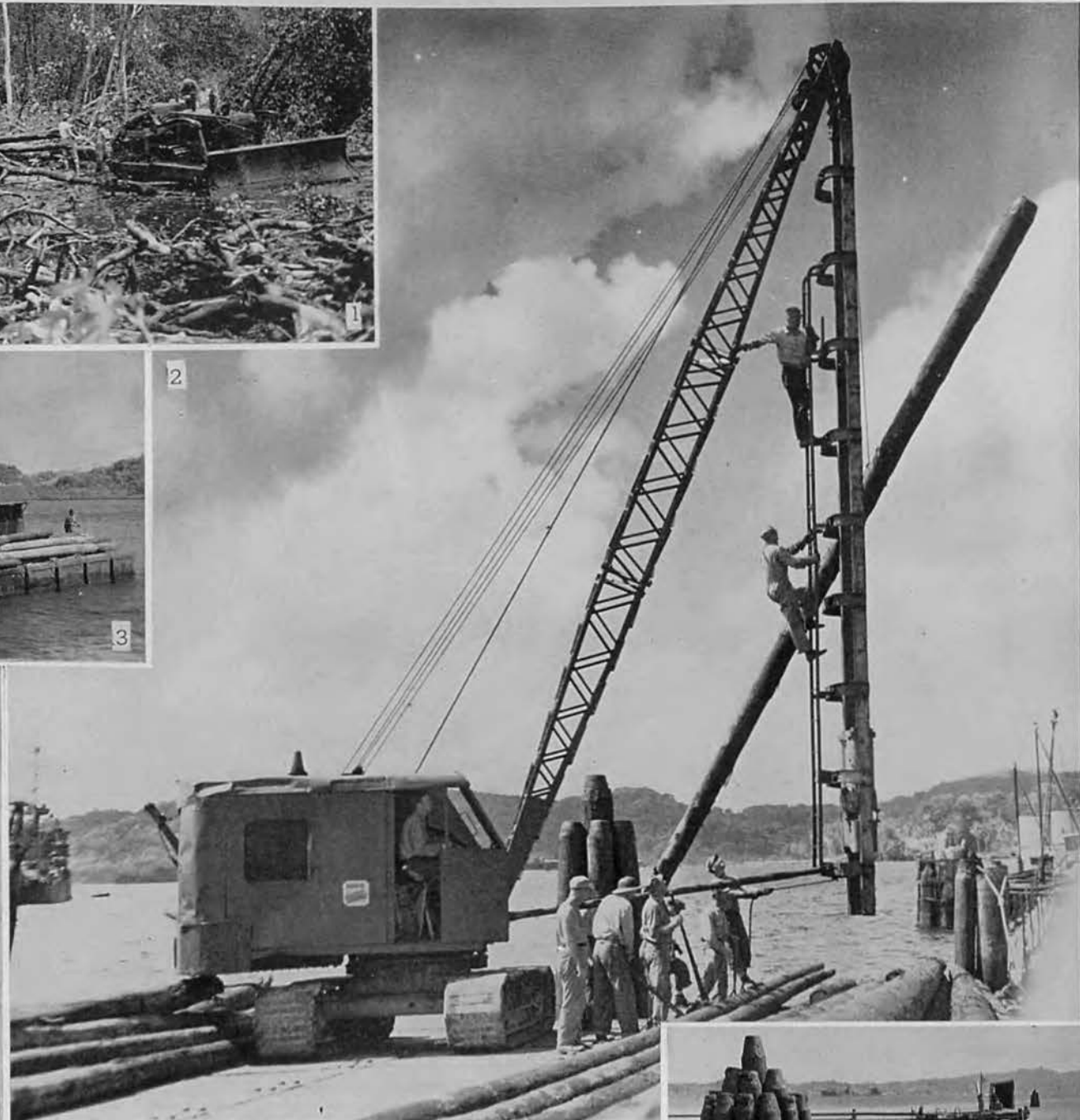
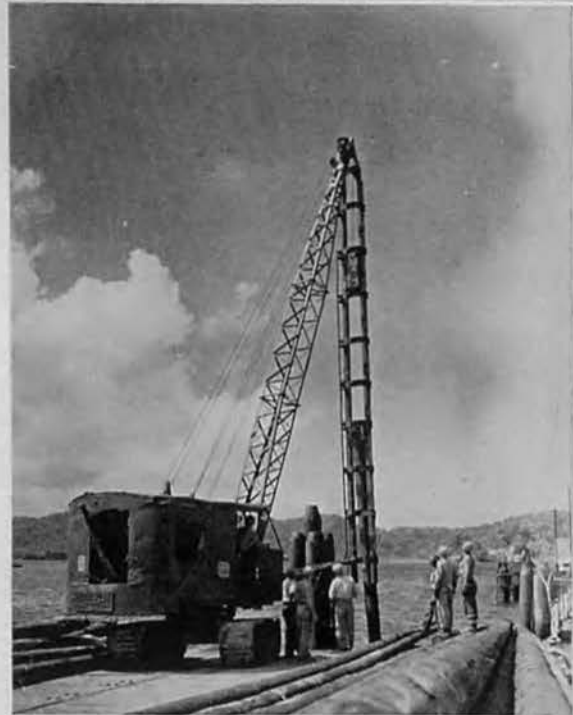


Eight men assigned to the task of assembling a 20'x48' took from three to three and a half days for completion. For the 40'x100', a crew of eighteen men could complete a structure in approximately three days.

In our stay in the Tulagi area, approximately thirty 40'x100' and one hundred and fifty 20'x48' quonset huts were erected.



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DETACHMENT



Upper left shows our logging crews getting out piling. Other pictures show our pile driving crew working off a pontoon barge at Tanamboqa. Lower right shows the job completed. This was only one of the many wharf and dock jobs assigned to 1008.

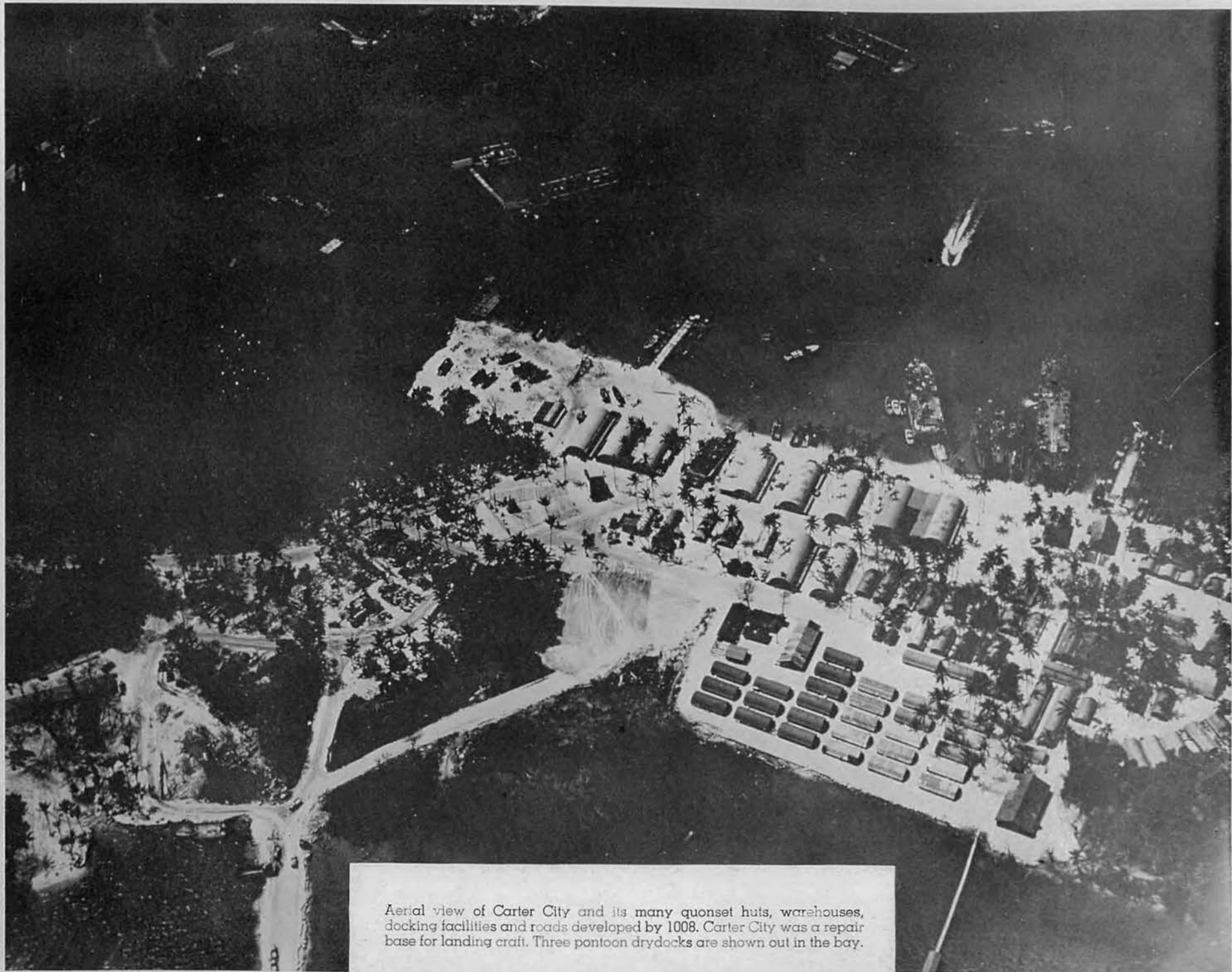


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Aerial view of Carter City and its many quonset huts, warehouses, docking facilities and roads developed by 1008. Carter City was a repair base for landing craft. Three pontoon drydocks are shown out in the bay.




Clearing ground at Marker "F" for Fleet Recreation Center by 1008.

This Center proved itself to be one of the finest recreation centers in the islands and accomplished its objective in helping to keep up the morale of the men in this area.



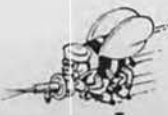
In March 1944 we moved from Wendeville on Florida Island to the Island of Tulagi, situated about eight miles distant. The prominent landmark, illustrated on this page, greets the new arrival from high on a hillside.



ADMIRAL HALSEY says
"Kill japs, kill japs,
KILL MORE JAPS!"
You will help kill the yellow bastards
if **YOU DO YOUR JOB WELL.**



The effect of recreational facilities is measurable only in terms of human happiness. Consequently, the officers and men of the 1008 C.B.'s will never know what their work at Marker Fox Recreation Center meant except in abstract terms. They hacked down a jungle, moved a hill, filled a swamp, constructed buildings and the place was open for business. A million men have used it. Bob Hope and Jack Benny made men laugh there. Eighteen million swallows of chilled beer cooled thirsty throats 'neath its waving palms. Swimming, softball, basketball, boxing, recorded concerts, horseshoe pitching, volleyball, barbecues, free doughnuts and a chance to stretch one's legs ashore were some of the pleasures enjoyed at the center by the forces afloat. Maybe the building of the Fleet Recreation Center didn't help to win the war in the same sense as building docks and airstrips, but it sure made the interim between battles more pleasant for the men who did the fighting.—Lt. Comdr. N. L. Mallison USNR, Base Welfare Officer.





Tulagi Island is divided North and South by a high ridge running the entire length of the island. This cut in the soft limestone rock was made by the hand labor of native prisoners years ago to shorten the cross island route for vehicular traffic and to eliminate a stiff climb for pedestrians. Its single lane was, no doubt, ample for the traffic, but presented something of a bottleneck during the South Pacific Campaign.

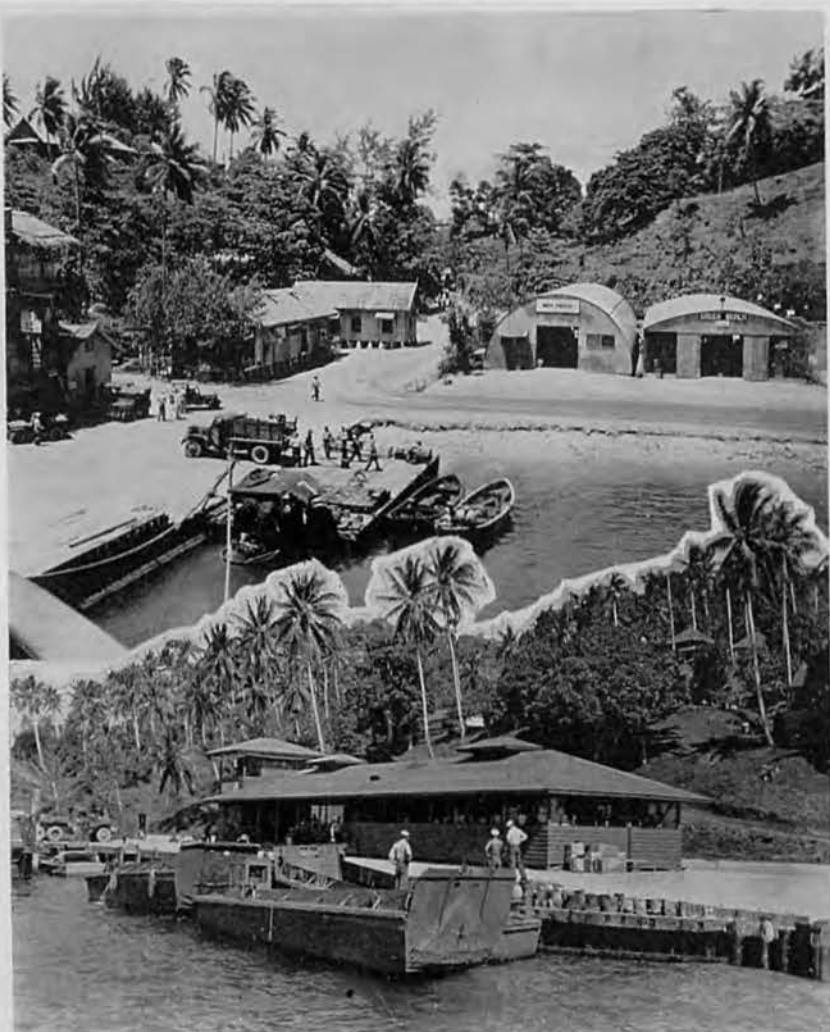


Upper left: Government dock building and Port Director's office constructed by the British during pre-war days.

Lower right: A brand new Port Director's office and a remodeling job for the dock building constructed by 1008 carpenter crews.

Upper right: End view of government dock at Tulagi. 100 feet wide by 400 feet long, constructed by 1008 water front crew. Decking and piling cut and logged from our own saw mill.





Left: Green beach and boat pool, marginal wharf constructed of native piling.

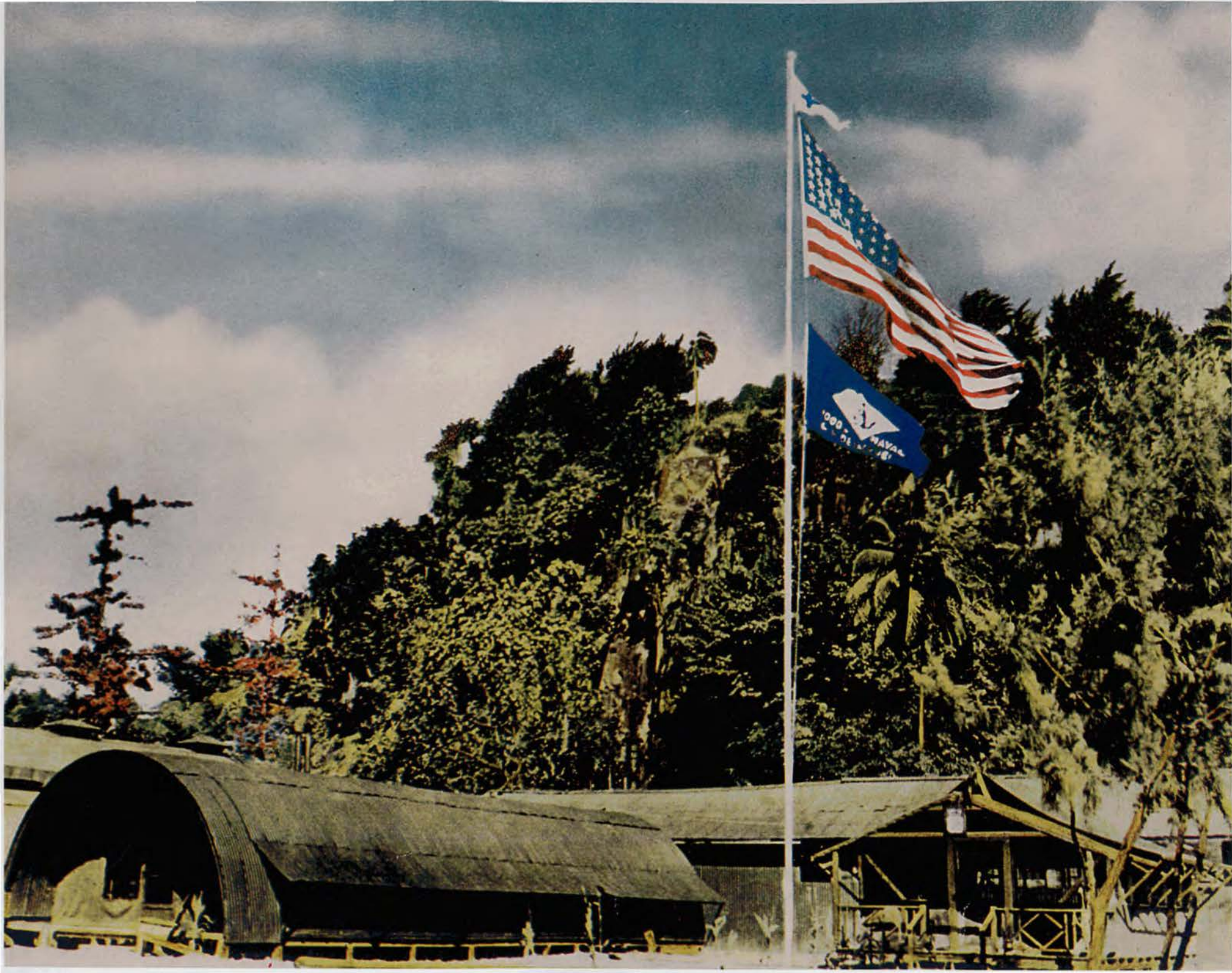
Right: Unloading operations on Tulagi dock.

Lower left: Guadalcanal as seen from Tulagi.

Lower middle: Small ships, boating facilities near Macambo Island, Tulagi Bay.

Lower right: Entrance to Tulagi Bay showing submarine nets.





1000 NAVAL
L. DE

A hawk's nest view of part of our camp on Tulagi, and Tulagi Bay. This area, like Wendeville, was originally a site of mud and swamp. After eight weeks of extensive use of the ever present coral, our camp appears

as shown. Note the submarine net and net tenders protecting the harbor. Our camp site here was not as large in area as Wendeville and we were forced to resort to two-story barracks—the only ones in the South Pacific.



This is a partial view of the buildings comprising our administration area while on Tulagi. In the background are the cliffs located on the southern end of the island. Foliage now covers shell marks and foxholes reminiscent of an earlier Solomon Campaign. The Skipper's office, directly back of the flag pole, was moved intact from Wendeville via a pontoon barge.



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Reading counter-clockwise: The main highway through our camp. This road runs entirely around the island of Tulagi, a distance of 5.7 miles.

1008 ward in the base dispensary where our sick bay was moved when we came to Tulagi.

Postal clerks sorting "morale" in our Post Office.

Library and reading room: Contains approximately eleven hundred cloth bound and paper bound pocket editions (provided gratis by the Armed Forces Institute) and direct subscriptions by Ship's Service Store to twenty-one popular magazines.

The White Swan laundry moves "up town" and goes modern with real washing machines. The man in the background is removing a button.

Election Day: Fifty percent of 1008 men eligible to do so exercised their franchise on election day. This was a high ratio.

Maintenance Dept. Where everything from spectacle frames to cranes and bulldozers were kept in repair.





Reading counter-clockwise: "Let-Em-Eat-Cake"; Butcher shop and slicing department; Bakery: Pies, cakes and pastries a specialty; Mess Hall: Hand hewn timbers provide a provincial decor and atmosphere; Scullery: Where pots, pans, trays and eating utensils were washed and sterilized by steam. Notice old oil drums converted into washers; Galley: Spic and span and spotless.

Chow had its ups and downs, depending on supplies available. One day we walked with Lucullus, and the next day we went to the mat with Lazarus. But for better or worse we griped, never for a moment letting up or relinquishing one iota of our inalienable right. We were, however, well aware of the comparative excellence of our chow.



Top: Waterfront view of our camp, and lower left taken from heights shown in above picture. Center: Payday. Right: Ship's Service Store (closed for inventory).



The hospital ship U.S.S. Bountiful arrives from Saipan with Marine casualties and we stop griping — for awhile.

This ship was no stranger to us. She was formerly the Navy Transport U.S.S. Henderson, and her last voyage as such brought us to this area after 32 days at sea.







The THICK AND THIN LUMBER CO., Carter City, as represented here, and on the following two pages, dealing exclusively in native timber—mahogany, bo-le and mangrove, was one of 1008's most important subsidiaries. Without the 900,000 board feet it turned out in its thirteen months of operation, in three different locations, the completion of many of our projects would not have been possible. Our deluxe, double decker barracks at Tulagi, for instance, were built of lumber turned out by Thick and Thin. Stateside lumber was available at times but never in quantities sufficient for our needs and thousands of feet of heavy timbers for wharf and dock construction as well as large quantities of standard sizes for general construction work were milled at an average rate of four thousand feet per day. The mill employed 25 to 30 men in the various operations of processing lumber. Thick and Thin ranged far afield—or more accurately, far aswamp and far ajungle—in its operations. Mangrove and dingally trees and their slick, entangling, vinelike roots grow in oozy swamps. An oozy swamp, especially when complicated by entangling roots, is not a very nice place in which to work. Mahogany and bo-le trees grow in the jungle wherever you can find them; usually, on a hillside jungle. The trees were felled and cut to milling length by hand, then by bulldozer, hauled away to the mill nearby. The log was then milled to the desired size from 1" to 12".



SeaBees are equipped with the type of saw-mill shown here—a portable gasoline driven job with a sixteen foot carriage, and when areas being worked were completely cut over, Thick and Thin simply picked up and moved to a new location.

The pictures on these two pages show the various operations in handling and transporting of the lumber from the time of cutting the timber in the jungles to the milling and final loading onto trucks for shipment to the job. We employed the use of bulldozers,





derricks, trucks and barges in the various operations of moving the product of our mill to the actual construction sites.

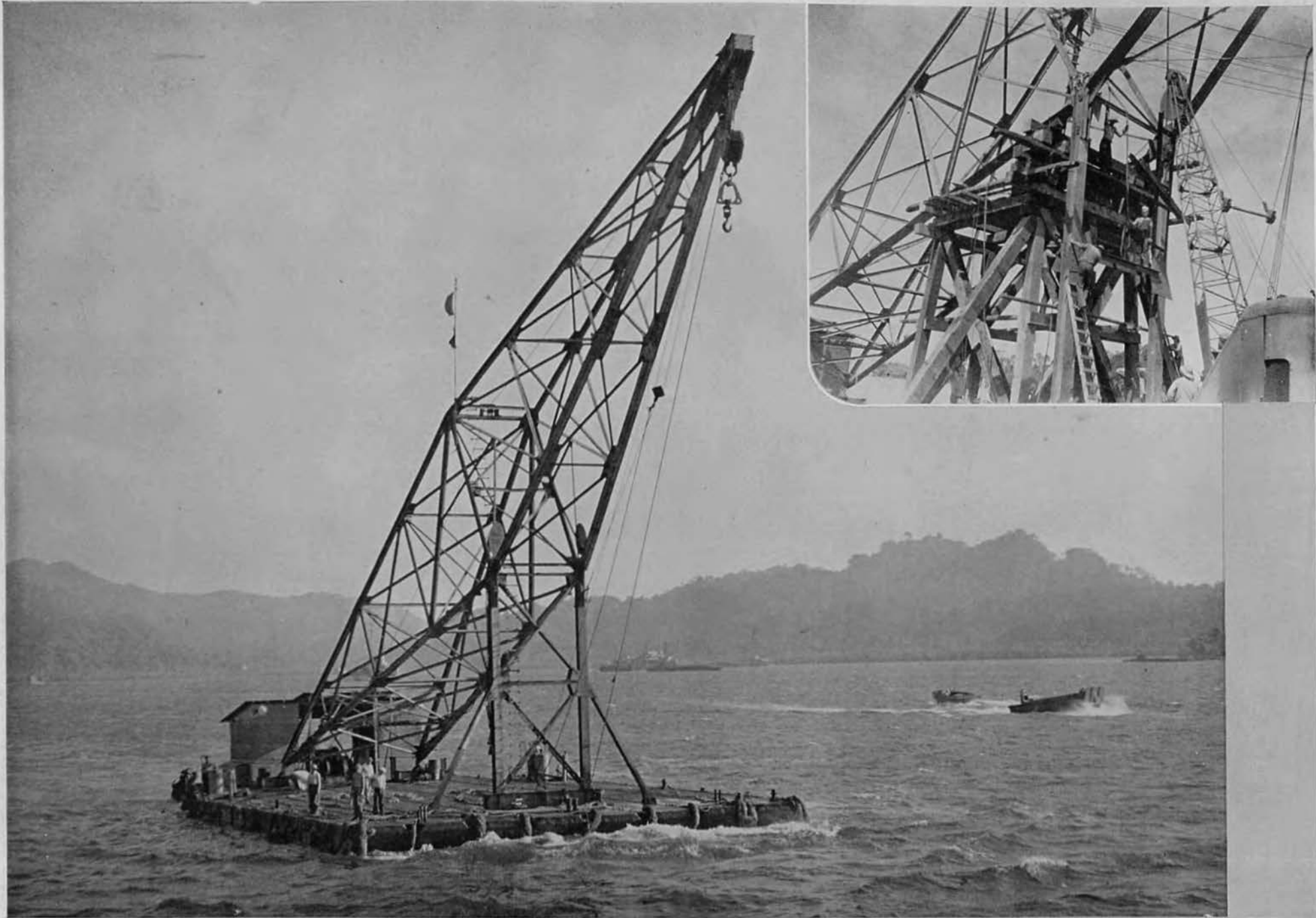
The THICK AND THIN LUMBER COMPANY contributed much to operations in this theater of the war by producing most of the lumber needed for the vast construction program of the 1008. Had this lumber been shipped from stateside the loss of time and valuable cargo space would have resulted in hardship and delay to the fast moving fighting forces.



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Upper left: 1008 Maintenance Camp at Carter City, to house rear echelon. Upper right: Original Maintenance Shop at Carter City. Lower pictures: 40x100 quonset warehouses, with 4' high concrete foundations under construction for radar and radio lab at Carter City.



75-ton Barge Crane. Inset: Repairing a major failure.

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SEABEE
DETACHMENT

PROGRAM

DEDICATION

IRON BOTTOM BAY CLUB
1100, Sunday, April 30th, 1943

INVOCATION

Lieutenant Starkey (ChC) USN
Introduction of Rear Admiral R. W.
Hayler, U. S. Navy, by Rear Admiral
W. L. Answorth, U. S. Navy

ADDRESS

By Rear Admiral R. W. Hayler,
U. S. Navy

UNVEILING

Unveiling and reception into custody
of plaque by Father Edwards, repre-
senting Bishop of Melanesia

BENEDICTION

Lieutenant Birmingham, (ChC) USN

SALUTE

By Marine Guard

BAND

"Star Spangled Banner" followed by
"God Save the King"

ATTENDING CEREMONY

Vice Admiral A. W. Fitch, U. S. Navy
Rear Admiral W. L. Answorth,
U. S. Navy

Rear Admiral G. H. Fort, U. S. Navy
Rear Admiral R. L. Conolly,
U. S. Navy

Rear Admiral R. W. Hayler,
U. S. Navy

Commodore L. F. Reilsander,
U. S. Navy

Commodore W. M. Quigley,
U. S. Navy

Captain P. P. Powell, U. S. Navy
Captain A. C. Shepard, U. S. Navy

Captain G. B. Carter, U. S. Navy
Commander D. R. Lee, U. S. Navy

Colonel O. C. Noel, British Resident
Commissioner

Captain D. M. Rodgers, British
District Officer

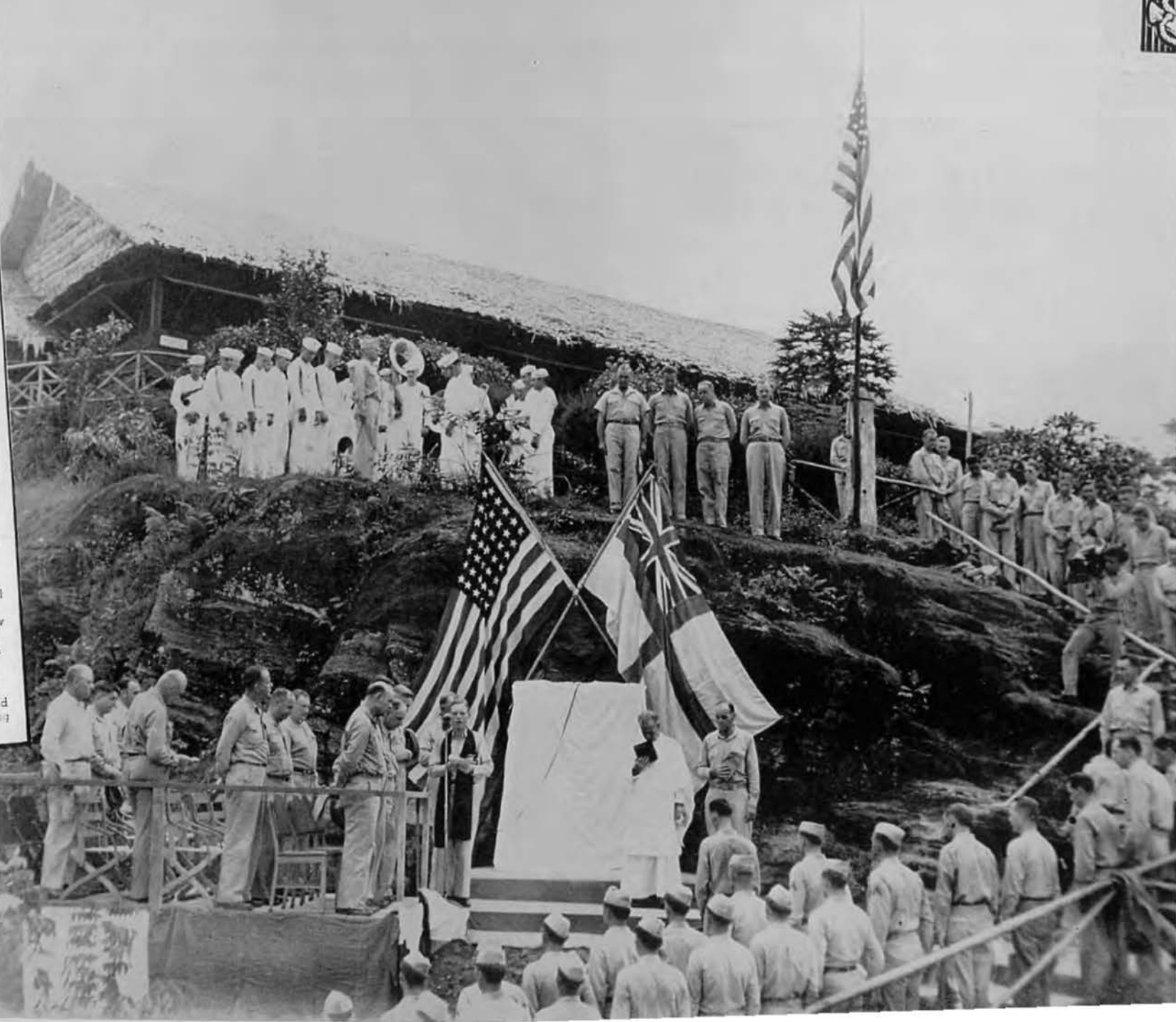
Wing Commander I. A. Scott, Royal
New Zealand Air Force

Group Captain Stephens, Royal New
Zealand Air Force

Lieutenant Commander McFarland,
Australian Navy

Lieutenant Commander H. Twiss,
Royal New Zealand Navy

Commanding Officers, Officers, and
Men who took part in fighting during
the years 1942 and 1943



FIRST MONUMENT PUT ON SOLOMONS

PLAQUE MEMORIALIZES NAVY MEN WHO DIED THERE

"In memory of the men of the United States Navy and allied navies who gave their lives—Iron Bottom Bay, 1942-43—dedicated by members of the Iron Bottom Bay Club—Port Purvis, Solomon Islands—20 March 1944."

That inscription engraved on a bronze plaque, the Navy said today, is the first—and only—battle memorial erected thus far in the Solomons.

It was dedicated at ceremonies on a palm-studded hill overlooking Purvis Bay on Florida Island, near Iron Bottom Bay Club, an officers' recreation center.

In the bay below nearly half a million tons of shipping are on the bottom, virtually paving the bay with iron of American and Japanese men-o'-war.

Tribute to the men who died in the naval engagements fought offshore was paid by Rear Admiral Robert W. Hayler, Muncie, Ind., who participated in the last sea action in Iron Bottom Bay—the battle of Tassafaronga, November 30, 1942.

American ships sunk there include the cruisers Astoria, Quincy, Vincennes, Atlanta, Juneau, Northampton and Chicago; destroyers Jarvis, Blue, Duncar, Barton, Cushing, Laffey, Monssen, Preston, Walke, Benham, Dehaven and Aaron Ward; destroyer transports Colhoun, Gregory and Little; tanker Kanawha; transport John Penn, fleet tug Seminole, two cargo vessels and four torpedo boats.

With those American ships, there lie on the bottom 31 Japanese craft, including two battleships, three cruisers, 11 destroyers, eight transports and seven auxiliary vessels.—(The Associated Press), Washington, June 4.





First three pictures on the left show Turner City. Administration Area, ATC; Tanambogo fuel dock built by 1008 and Gavutu Navy & Marine Cemetery.

The lower left picture shows Burns-Philps Steamship line store at Makambo-Tulagi Harbor, while the center photo shows Pontoon "L" Dock at Carter City.

Lower right picture shows the Gavutu-Tanambogo Causeway where a large number of Marines lost their lives fighting across this exposed strip.

In the two top pictures are Turner City at the Water Front and the Submarine Net Repair Base at Gavutu.





Upper left and upper right: Salvaged Jap destroyer sunk off Halavo during early Solomons campaign. Left center and lower left: Quonset hut area and signal tower at Carter City. Lower right: Seabee demolition units at work.





Military training was resumed on Tulagi and this page shows eagle-eyed 1008 men on the rifle range, receiving instructions on mortars, 20 mm., and other weapons in our armory.



The Siota Anti-Aircraft Training Center was primarily set up for gunners of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. However, units of the U. S. Army, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard were trained along with men of the French, British and New Zealand navies. Approximately 25,000 men received gunnery schooling here between the commissioning date of January 14, 1944, and the decommissioning date of March 20, 1945. Seventy-seven 1008 men were trained on all types of guns at this school. Before the war, training of a different nature was received here. This was the Florida Island Siota College, where native teachers received instruction from the Church of England. The photos above and below show the 40'x100' quonset hut, built by 1008, which houses the simulated firing range. Moving targets appear on the movie screen. Other than the 40'x100' quonset hut, 1008 laid the concrete floor and installed the electrical facilities. At the left are finished gunners firing on a "sleeve" towed by a plane from Guadalcanal.





Church services for both Protestant and Catholic were held in the two chapels shown here. Each chapel was used by both denominations. The native thatched structure was located at Halsey Field and the quonset hut at Base Hospital No. 7. Services were well attended by personnel based on Tulagi and in the area, as well as men off ships in the harbor.



A good example of native craftsmanship, this small chapel was built on Tulagi by Father John Edwards of the Melanesian Mission at Lyons Point to replace the original, a modern concrete structure built in 1938 and destroyed by our gunfire in 1942. The chapel was not used during our stay but served its purpose in preserving the site, dedicated to Christ the King.



Lower left: Fleet provision warehouse at Tulagi, looking north on Tulagi Harbor. Upper right: Small craft fuel dock at Tulagi, with Big Florida Island in the background. Lower right: Portable oxygen plant at Tulagi. Plant capacity is 75 cylinders per day but humidity cuts capacity to 75 per cent.

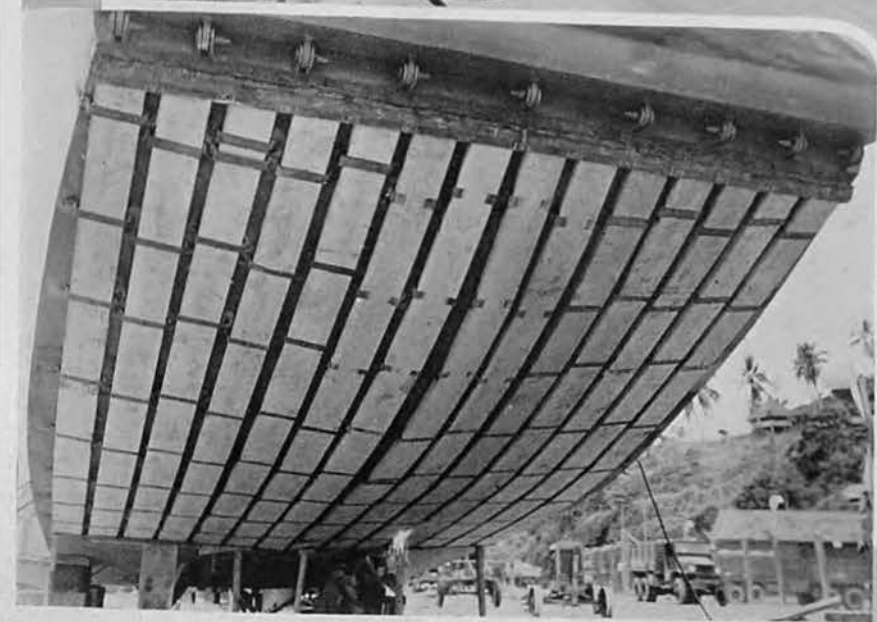


Upper left: Tulagi water front after improvements. Lower left: Tulagi water front before improvements. Right center: Former gun emplacement near camp. Lower center: Top o' Tulagi Club remodeled from British residence. Lower right: Dangerous over-burden from Tulagi cut.





The 1008 shipyard where progressive in-line construction was carried on. The 75 ton crane in the upper picture is picking up a completed LCM preparing to put it back in the water. 65 bottoms were fabricated and attached to LCM's in thirteen days. Heretofore, coral reefs destroyed the bottoms of LCM's when making an invasion, but with wooden skids like these it was possible to hurtle the reefs without damage to the hull. This work was carried on during the staging period before the invasion of Okinawa. Stateside lumber was first used for this but it frequently cracked due to the bends required. It was found that native lumber cut the day prior to use would conform to the contours of the LCM best. The picture at lower left shows the completed product.





Most of the men of Tulagi have been to the education office, usually more than once. Courses in practically any subject, either high school or college, were given in this department, which was established with the cooperation of the United States Armed Forces Institute. The classes were taught each night by officers and men who gave freely of their off-duty time to help their shipmates in subjects including algebra, public speaking, German, Spanish, English, American history and innumerable others.

Approximately 10,000 men have received some education, either in the form of classes or training movies which were shown frequently on the island.

An up-to-date bulletin board was maintained which showed the day by day developments of the war on all fronts. This board was appreciated by all the officers and men.

The men of Tulagi are deeply indebted to the American Red Cross for assistance rendered them by procuring health and welfare reports of families. This kept up the morale of many men who would otherwise have been worried about home conditions.



The Red Cross had an ample supply of games, books, cigarettes, etc. To those who needed clothes and things which the Red Cross could not provide, a loan would be made available. For others, essential emergency loans were certified.

The field directors, Mr. Platt and Mr. Karsian, will always be remembered as two men who were ready to give a helping hand. To these men we owe our deep gratitude for the fine work they did.

Now that the American Red Cross has been secured on Tulagi, the welfare officer, Lieut. Claxton, has been doing an excellent job of continuing this work.



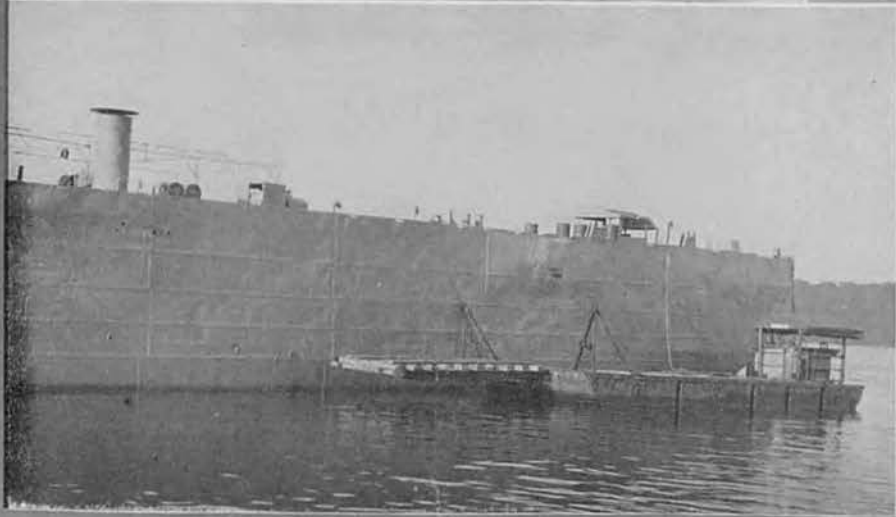
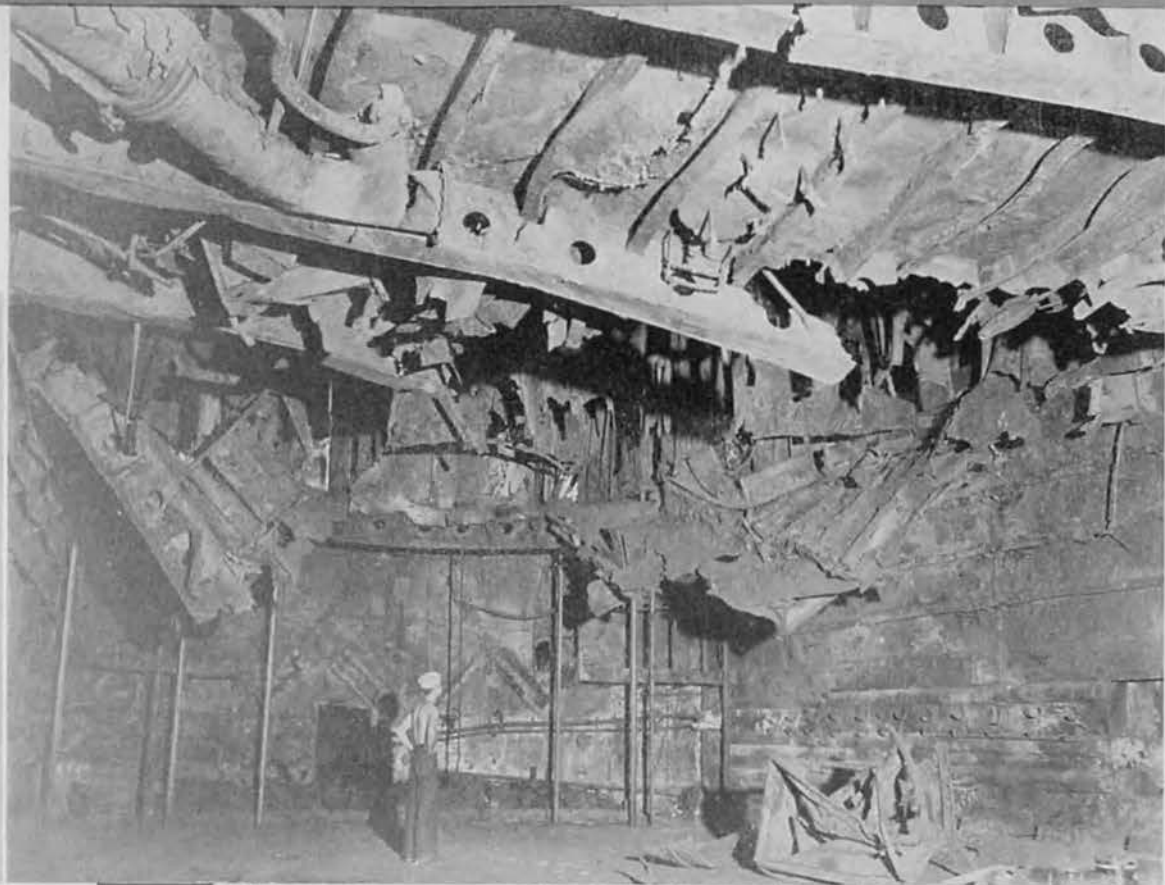
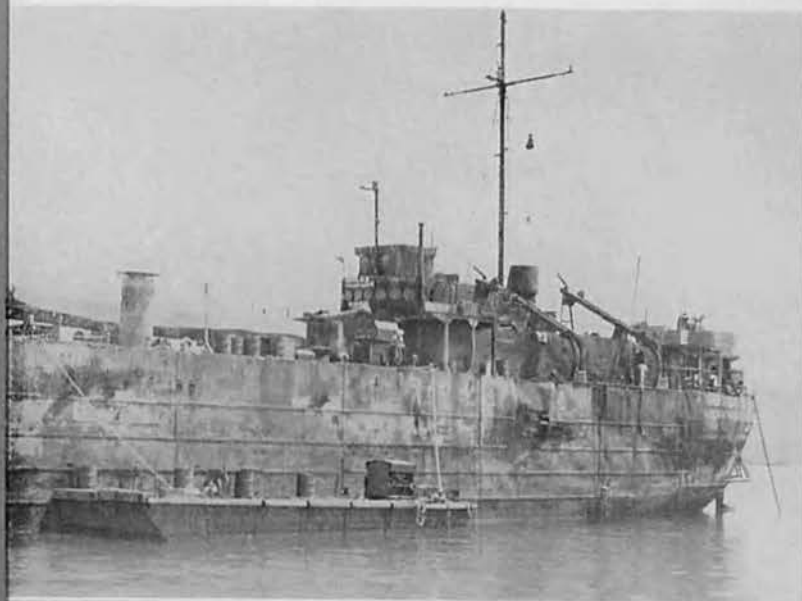


Pictures on these two pages are: (reading counter-clockwise) Navy and Marine Cemetery No. 1. 1008 area one year after we left—Broadway-Carter City Camp. War Information. Camp Carver—Hobbs Field, Cemetery, Guadalcanal in distance. 1008 War Bond Drive. Base Hospital No. 7 Receiving Station. Tennis courts (top right) and Halsey Field Area (lower right).





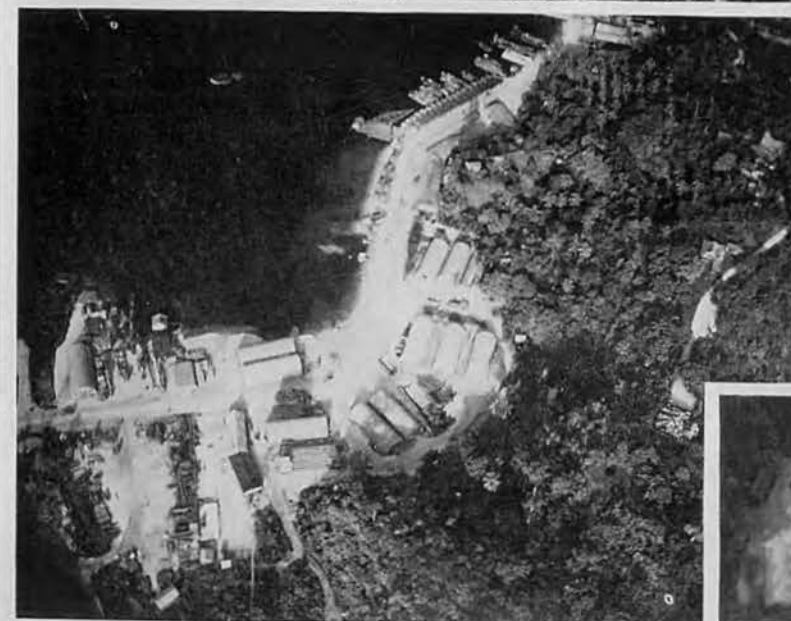
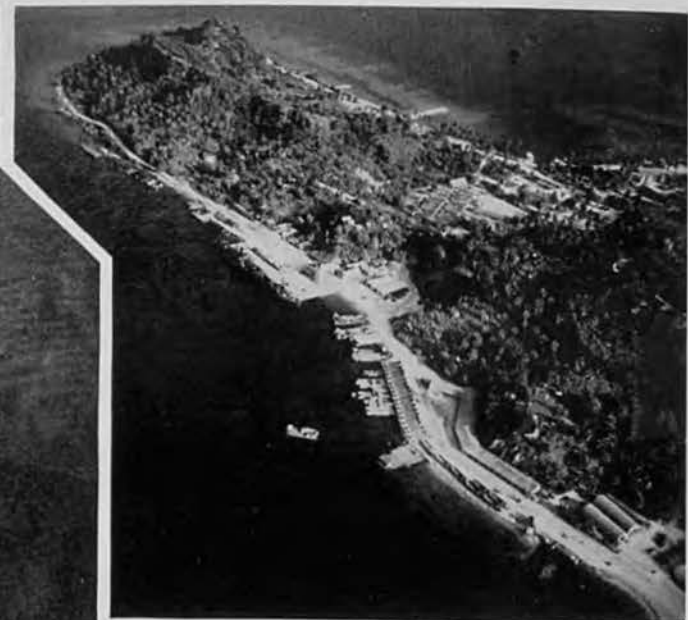
Among other duties 1008 mechanics and riggers removed and salvaged the entire superstructure, stern gun, hoist and steel of this LST, hit by an enemy bomb. The decking was completely rebuilt with new hatch covers placed off-center for accessibility by caterpillar cranes mounted on barges. Upper pictures show the exterior and interior of the ship when delivered to the 1008 shipyard for repairs. Lower pictures contrast the decaying hulk that was towed in and the completed storage barge that was towed out.



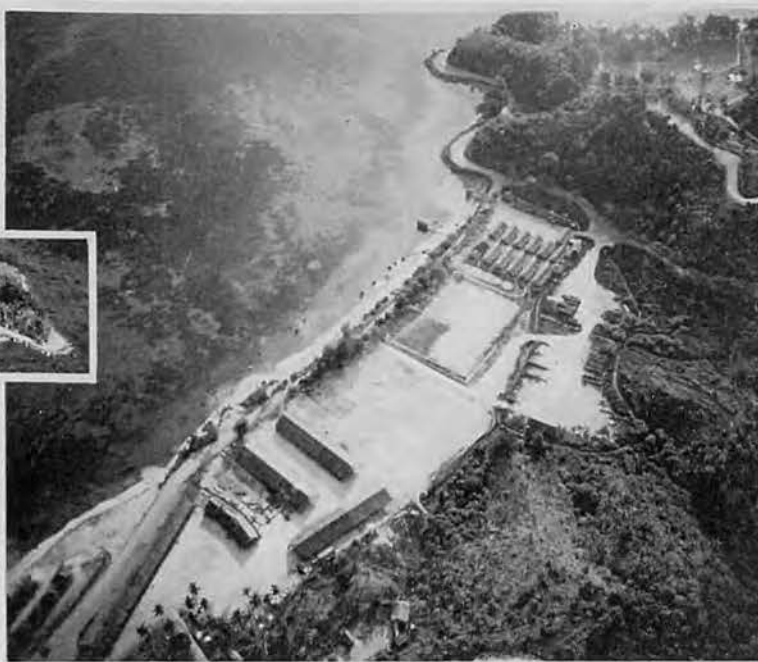


These photographs show the native police boys going through their manual of arms. Signal drum is seen upper left hand picture. The British Solomon Islands native police are part of the Islands' defense force and such several of the boys in these pictures served as scouts against the Japanese during their occupation of the Solomon Islands. These scouts worked both independently and cooperatively with the American Marines. The boys are recruited for two years minimum service from all the islands of the Solomon group. The native police in these pictures came from Malaita, Ontong Java, Florida Island and Guadalcanal. In general their duties require them to serve summons for tax evasion, bring in criminals, and keep law and order.





Reading counter-clockwise: Makambo (near), south end of Tulagi (center), Songonangona (rear left), 1008 Camp—East tip of Tulagi. Shoreline bulkhead, GSK quonset warehouses, empty ammo cases, storage and public works yard. Bottom to top: Sturgis dock, small stores, Post Office, Government Dock, signal tower, freight yard, GSK provisions and warehouse and shore bulkhead. Pier No. 6, boat repair and torpedo shops right; oxygen plant site in distance. Looking from Pier No. 6 south toward Government Dock.



Southeast point of Tulagi. 1008 camp at extreme left. All coral roads, bulkheads and storage areas constructed by 1008. Administration area in center, Halsey Theater area middle distance, GSK warehouses, lower right.

Top left to right: Site of Base Hospital No. 7 at "Blue

Beach" where landing of Marines took place in 1942. Former receiving station on west side of Tulagi. All huts have been removed and vegetation has begun to grow. Former P.T. repair base, showing two old pontoon dry-docks. Bottom left to right: Halsey Field Area, 521 Camp, 9th Special Camp. Blue Beach Base Hospital Site in center

of picture. Hobbs Field, Cemetery in distance. Note: U. S. Marines made first landing on this site. Bottom to top: Navy provisions (for shore based activities), Hobbs Field, Tulagi Army, Navy, Marine cemetery, Camp Carver (Colored base company).





Top to bottom by columns: Site of AATC at Siota. Native church and Melanesian mission buildings remain. Mouth of Utah Passage. Units of the Jap Fleet escaped through this narrow water way. Utah Passage as seen from above Purvis. Halavo, RNZAF base and site of CBMU 505. Lyons Point, Iron Bottom Bay club on ridge, Melanesian Bishop's garden beyond club and

native quarters at bottom of picture. The fleet post office and Iron Bottom Bay club buildings were not dismantled. Carter City (LCRU No. 1) practically dismantled. Built by CBD 1008 on swamp site and small coconut grove. Gavutu. Causeway to Tanamboga at left. All buildings have been dismantled.



1008
SEABEE
DETACHMENT



The site of one dismantled shop (upper left). Compare with picture on page 42. Picture of 1008 Camp being dismantled (upper right). See page 41 for comparison. Notice nets are gone. Lower right is where Officers chow hall and living quarters were located. For comparison see page 77. Pontoon tow (left center and lower left).



RECREATION



This is the movie area at Halsey Field, Tulagi, Solomon Islands. It has a seating capacity of 2,000 persons, and is equipped with two DeVry arc lighted projectors.

This theater is considered one of the finest in the South Pacific, with adjustable screen to increase size of the stage for various troupes and amateur shows.



Bob Hope and Frances Langford with
Tony Romano (at left).



Bob Hope

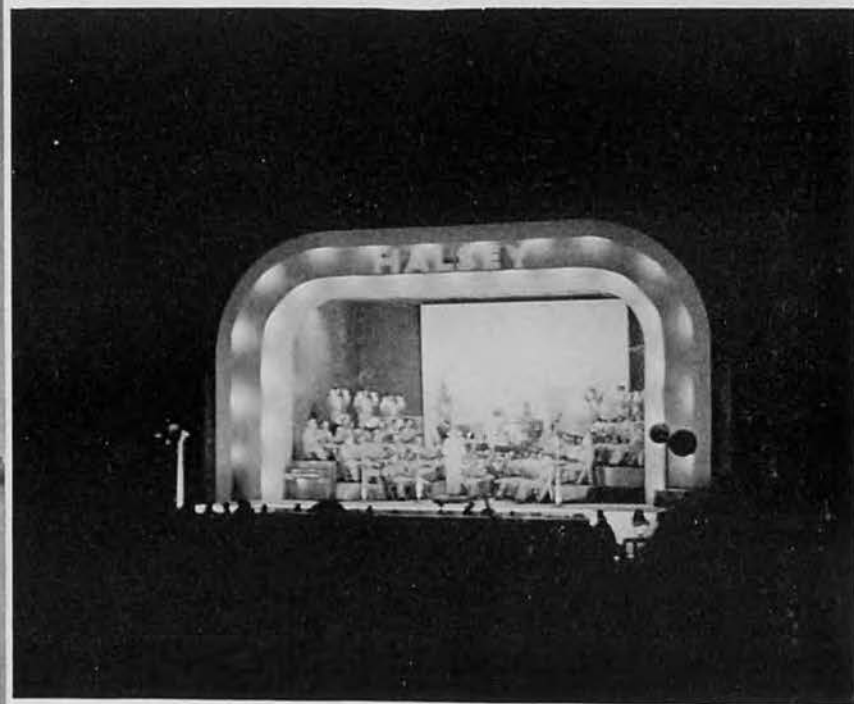




Above: Jack Benny. Top center: June Brunner and Jack Benny. Top right: Jack Benny and Larry Adler. Below: Carole Landis and Martha Tilton backstage.



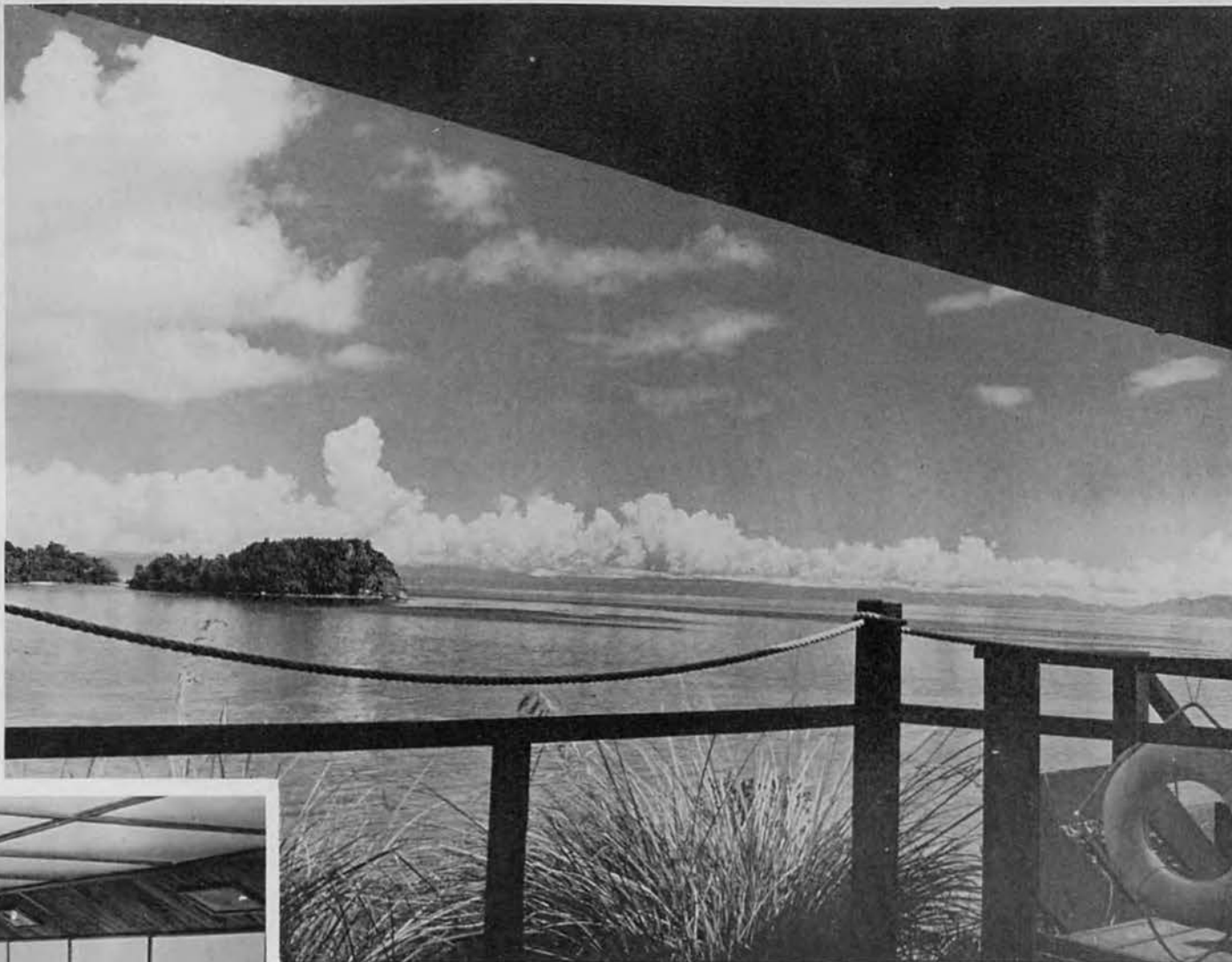
Large picture on opposite page, left to right: Martha Tilton, Carole Landis, Jack Benny, June Brunner and Larry Adler.





Fourth of July 1944 celebration in Tulagi. (Upper left) Basketball game between Tulagi All Stars and the Guadalcanal Champions. (Upper right) 1008 tug-o-war team taking all comers. (Lower left) Pillow fight. (Center right) U. S. Navy Nurse winning rolling pin contest throw for distance. (Lower right) Four-legged race, 1008 team out in front.





1008 Officers' Club. Upper left: View of club. Lower left: Interior view. Picture above shows a magnificent view of sky and clouds across the water from the veranda of the club looking toward Guadalcanal, with small islands showing in the foreground.



Pictured above is our Mess Hall decorated for Christmas 1944. Below is our Camp Canteen showing its popularity with the men. On the left is the 1008 Volley Ball Team; 1008 Regulars (center); and 1008 Hobby Lobby (lower).





Team pictures on this page are the 1008 Regulars; 1008 Wild Cats; and 1008 Regulars, consolidated with Chef's Carter City team.

Softball games brought out much rivalry and keen competition.







Pictured above is the third draft of 1008 men leaving Tulagi, November 1, 1944, on A.P.C. to Guadalcanal, for further transfer to the 1007 Detachment.





Hdq. Co. No. 1—First Row (left to right): J. F. Teschler, W. J. Crokor, R. D. Hoag, R. J. Geus, J. C. Raquin, H. G. Barlow, K. R. Key. Second Row: J. Rodman, G. M. Sanders, R. L. Holmes, F. S. Szyblat, B. McCurley, S. Hoffman, G. L. Sprague, L. L. Bronneman, L. H. Nolley, H. C. Trowinger. Third Row: M. W. Campbell, W. B. McDowell, J. W. Collier, I. D. Alderson, A. Petrosky, V. A. Nowak, R. C. B. Sachse, M. Elfron, D. M. Ballew. Fourth Row: J. Vankirk, W. E. Brooks, A. J. Roach, P. G. Kieffer, C. W. Taylor, M. M. Fortner, E. S. Donnell.



Hdq. Co. No. 2—First Row: T. M. Flannery, R. B. Gross, A. L. Harper, A. F. Clougherty, H. E. Carnes, R. E. Allen, H. S. Myers, H. J. Minyard, W. R. Meeks. Second Row: G. E. Williams, R. F. DeNico, W. A. Spangler, L. S. Murphy, H. C. Minyard, C. A. Smith, T. F. Phillips, J. L. Rosier, M. M. Gibbons. Third Row: R. Price, J. W. Burke, M. Baker, L. Martinez, H. N. Gerry, H. E. Myers, D. Elam, A. Wollos, W. J. McGuiness. Fourth Row: A. Albizo, H. I. Miller, H. C. Fleming, J. C. Blackmon, R. L. Adkison, A. B. Sanchez, W. Clark, R. K. Durkin.



Co. C. Plat. No. 1—First Row: R. T. Switzer, S. O. Holt, A. J. Becker, C. R. McDaniel, N. E. Davey, F. I. Beck, H. G. Potter, P. A. Spotts. Second Row: F. W. Miller, D. Byrd, W. C. Gibbs, R. P. Collins, G. Lame, P. A. Cook, C. E. Wichers, D. R. Dunham, L. E. Thompson. Third Row: D. R. LaForney, R. O. Clark, V. Grantham, J. D. Sandberg, J. P. Clifford, F. A. Dietrich, H. C. Starnes, J. F. Timmins.



Co. C. Plat. No. 2—First Row: H. R. Donahue, C. F. Lipp, K. Robertson, L. J. Hulin, H. D. Leclere, M. L. Fisher. Second Row: H. E. Plumley, R. L. Bowser, F. E. Kraemer, W. K. Leach, L. C. Luttrell, L. W. Smith, R. J. Daly, R. J. Cox, E. W. Grandall. Third Row: E. Bittman, C. W. Boyd, J. C. Cooke, L. D. Moran, M. R. Tucker, R. E. Begley, L. E. Henderson, J. T. Harlow, R. E. Stover. Fourth Row: E. F. Pardy, H. H. Webb, J. A. Hoot, W. A. Jackson, S. F. Sanders, O. L. Stout, B. L. White.



Co. C. Platoon No. 3—First Row: K. E. Tuomi, A. E. Tuomi, W. L. White, E. L. Wofford, M. G. G. Simon, B. A. Lynn, A. W. Fogarty, F. A. Maddux. Second Row: H. H. Knapp, J. Cherepula, A. R. Maslar, C. Belin, R. E. Pardue, E. B. Ellis, L. A. Beiniker, H. E. Chapman, C. W. Whisnant, R. G. Lynn, J. P. Laird. Third Row: R. I. Martinkovich, R. M. O'Neal, N. F. Vinson, O. J. Thompson, A. E. Gates, R. W. Goodall, H. M. Davis, M. D. Calvert. Fourth Row: G. C. Ford, H. F. Smith, A. O. Brown, J. L. Withrow, J. D. Featherston, D. M. Miller, J. H. Steinmetz.



Co. C. Platoon No. 4—First Row: R. S. Long, V. F. Cook, A. W. Neil, J. H. Pieper, D. M. Thornhill, C. Pacileo, D. H. McWilliams. Second Row: W. V. Reed, L. E. Elwood, J. J. Murtaugh, B. G. White, R. E. Barrick, J. T. Winn, R. E. Mullins, T. J. Burns, W. S. Choromanski, P. G. Matthews. Third Row: F. A. Brady, C. H. Scott, A. F. Muldoon, J. N. Mills, C. L. Glover, D. M. Smith. Fourth Row: R. A. Cook, R. W. Anderson, C. S. Smaal, W. J. Franklin, C. D. French, J. J. Netopski.



Co. C. Platoon No. 5—First Row: G. G. Sanders, J. H. Shrum, W. Z. Willis, W. L. Friday, N. K. Parker, C. L. Aly, F. E. Hill. Second Row: A. M. Wighton, E. B. Dyer, G. E. Metzger, D. D. Orshansky, A. Silva, T. G. Smith, T. Gregorich, A. Westerfield, C. C. Hall. Third Row: E. E. Hill, C. K. Ralston, F. R. Oldham, L. M. Graham, C. Collins, A. G. Peterson, E. E. Clark. Fourth Row: L. L. Lawmaster, A. W. Ogile, H. M. Robertson, J. L. Walker, A. E. Hefner, R. H. Willcox, H. N. Nollman.



Co. C. Platoon No. 6—First Row: W. C. Sanders, R. W. Wallis, E. W. Moseley, O. S. Welch, J. M. Gilleland, J. D. Robinson, H. A. Malone. Second Row: R. M. Woodley, O. Scott, J. W. Schlicher, J. P. Keating, F. A. Lofaso, E. D. Ham, N. J. Bott, R. D. Gilleland, W. B. Hennessy. Third Row: J. W. Ellsworth, K. A. Sears, C. N. Maguire, M. L. Dey, C. Prince, H. G. Hurlbert, R. A. Hosmer, R. G. Dyer. Fourth Row: J. E. Gilson, M. B. Horney, W. W. Weiss, W. H. Watters, K. W. Nutting, V. C. Powell.



Co. D, Plat. No. 1—First Row: L. C. Wasser, J. K. Backora, R. S. Bowman, N. P. Mackey, J. W. Maxwell, C. G. Wall. Second Row: F. J. Burke, D. E. Peterson, J. Sullivan, M. D. Reed, H. W. Broughton, R. Lee Smith, H. B. McGowan, W. T. Vinson, J. T. Sparke. Third Row: G. E. Hopper, G. Pallock, W. C. Durr, F. F. Krutoff, F. F. Shaw, F. J. Beauchamp, J. Warren, F. A. Underwood, J. G. Eckman. Fourth Row: T. B. Regan, D. H. Shirley, F. A. Dew, V. S. Mott, W. T. Ward, F. N. Wright, D. R. Skinner.



Co. D, Plat. No. 2—First Row: A. J. Vest, E. H. Barnes, E. M. Kulis, J. W. White, G. L. Jones, R. L. Fortinot. Second Row: E. L. Madden, L. M. Brown, H. C. Rose, A. F. Oliver, M. E. Wade, R. H. Ewart, W. C. Milligan, T. W. Clark, L. H. Kelly. Third Row: A. M. Hunter, C. Scabarini, P. R. Welch, T. A. Schaugnessey, J. J. Welch, G. P. Strebig, O. A. Meaux, E. H. Chandler. Fourth Row: C. E. Weimer, J. J. Wellman, J. Wargetz, R. L. McElroy, A. C. Marshall, Q. Snodgrass, P. L. Riehl.



Co. D, Plat. No. 3—First Row: F. Coulter, C. C. Nicholson, E. J. Owens, J. D. Hampton, R. B. Wilson. Second Row: S. S. Galczynski, V. H. Litchford, L. Hayes, I. F. Miller, W. W. Craik, C. L. Adams, R. B. Lucy. Third Row: W. A. Young, E. B. Kimpel, R. E. Milliam, W. C. Branchoud, I. R. Kirby, L. E. Smith, L. G. Davis. Fourth Row: R. T. Hunstinger, W. H. Leathers, R. L. Williamson, B. B. Baker, R. H. Whitman, L. K. Schwab, A. E. Young, C. J. Pope.



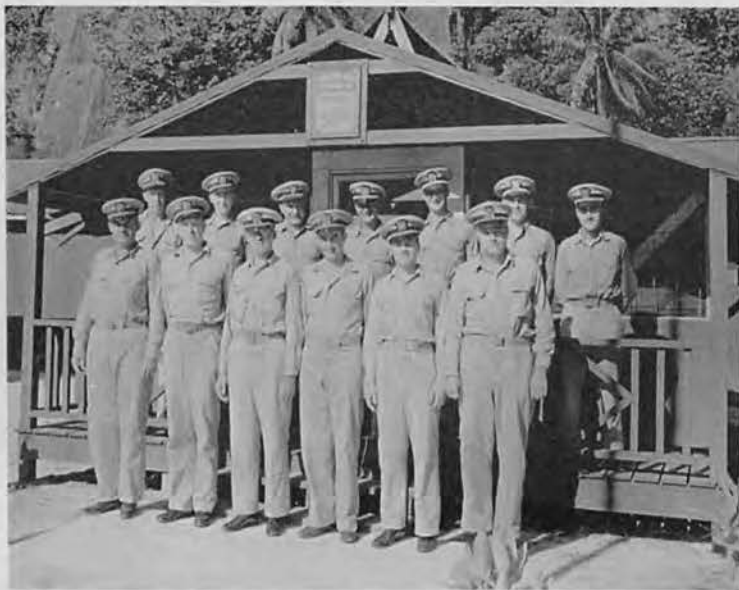
Co. D, Plat. No. 4—First Row: B. R. Yokley, A. W. Bedell, E. G. Ricketts, C. P. Goodwin, E. B. McLain. Second Row: J. B. Frey, J. H. Nail, K. Bentz, R. E. Welday, A. D. Jackson, H. S. Zimzewski, J. R. Himes. Third Row: A. W. Warren, W. C. Squib, E. L. Branch, F. H. York, K. C. Young, M. L. Rogers, E. J. Mabee, G. O. Smith. Fourth Row: A. T. Williams, M. R. McMinn, T. A. McDonald, J. A. Fish, C. L. Foltz, B. A. Rocheleau.



Co. D, Plat. No. 5—First Row: E. R. Hester, T. L. Merahon, M. S. Arruda, H. W. Gabbe, T. N. Baldree, C. J. Souza, C. D. Wright. Second Row: R. R. Oesch, R. T. Hennigh, G. C. Fusa, J. D. Warren, W. L. Shoemaker, C. B. Parrish, W. W. Hancock. Third Row: D. Z. McCullough, J. W. Lindsey, W. W. Bunling, J. J. Paluch, R. Garza, D. E. Burgess, H. D. Morris, F. C. Boehler. Fourth Row: C. W. Gully, J. B. Stephens, R. H. Martin, H. D. Roberts, R. H. Weisseleder, C. Zubal, P. Benda.



Co. D, Plat. No. 6—First Row: J. H. Pixler, C. J. Sims, C. V. Rightmer, C. A. Davis, J. Tauron, R. Leonard Smith, F. B. Brink. Second Row: R. D. Camp, R. J. Tymon, M. E. Ainley, G. M. Oliver, W. C. Brown, H. E. Montague, E. E. Wade, E. B. Duke, J. Peterson. Third Row: P. P. Jones, A. W. Lippitt, F. J. Mason, J. D. Stelyn, B. W. Robbins, J. White, F. Burson. Fourth Row: C. Puckett, R. A. Parson, C. D. Sanford, C. C. Poque, F. Chetoka, K. R. David.



Officers—First Row (left to right): W. A. Shaw, C. E. Dunn, L. F. Hammond, L. P. Golden, W. R. Firth, A. B. Lahti. Second Row: A. B. Thomas, I. F. Ruth, S. J. Fey, Jr., H. K. Sharpe, M. F. Phelps, J. W. Humrichous, J. R. Suprenant.



Transferred to CBD 1007—First Row (left to right): R. R. Hall, V. R. Rillo, J. P. Gentry, V. J. Barbarino, A. L. Carlito, F. E. Barron. Second Row: V. W. Knight, A. J. Hernandez, N. W. Floyd, L. M. Johnson, M. C. Hill, A. Romano, W. L. Lingenfeller, R. F. Johnson, F. W. Thornton. Third Row: G. A. Walker, R. W. Averette, R. B. Rorer, F. C. Crissey, M. C. Waggoner, C. A. Cash, E. J. Signori, B. B. Long, W. H. Hurt, C. Kosich.



Transferred to CBMU 517—First Row (left to right): G. R. Litchfield, C. P. Doran, O. C. Potter, J. L. Willis, R. L. Furlong. Second Row: B. L. Prince, O. C. Reynolds, G. F. Holtzapple, E. W. Payson, S. R. Radwanaki.



Entering a Native Village ...



We show here some native village scenes on Little Florida. Upper left picture is native court for the entire area. Other pictures show native way of living.



The native name of Florida Island is Gela, in which the *g* is pronounced like *ng* in "finger," not *ng* in "singer." The Island was discovered and named by the Spanish leader Mendana in 1567. It has sometimes been called Anuha.

The following notes about the natives of Florida may be of interest to those who spent many months on their island.

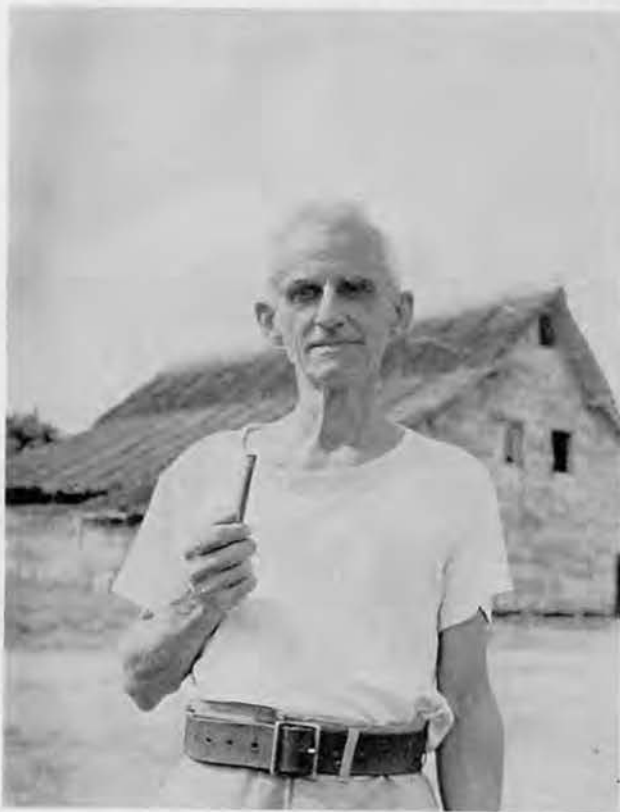
The people are divided into six clans of which the three main ones are The Great Cat's Cradle, The Little Cat's Cradle, and The Crab. Every Florida boy belongs to the clan of his mother, which is always a different one from that of his father. All the members of his clan are his relations, those of his own standing in the clan are all his brothers, and as there are some members of each clan in every village of Florida he will find brothers in every village and be sure of hospitality.

The boy must marry a girl of another clan, so his children will not belong to the same clan as himself. The land for gardens belongs to the clan, but every member has a portion of it, enough for a garden which will support himself and his family for his lifetime. The gardens are well back from the villages, sometimes two or three miles, on the Matanga, the coast hills, so that visitors to the villages never see them; but they are large, well kept gardens of yams, bananas and other vegetable food. The chief of the village is properly the senior member of the clan which is most numerous in the village. If there are more Crabs in the village than members of other clans, then the senior Crab is the chief. In the following generation it would be impossible for the Crabs to be most numerous, for all their children would belong to Great Cat's Cradle or Little Cat's Cradle or of one of the smaller clans, so the Chief would then be a member of some other clan.

Most visitors have seen the native money. It is made not on Florida but on Malaita, because there the red oyster, *Homu*, from which it is made grows much larger. The red edge of this oyster is cut up into small red disks, a hole bored through them, and they are strung in lengths of fathoms. There is also white money made from the shell of a bivalve (sp *Area*) called *Kandaku*. There are about 15

varieties of shell money, each kind having a different name, and each being highly prized. The most wealthy natives possess pigs, an important source of meat, or have acquired the skill of making canoes. The number of daughters, of marriageable age, also adds to the wealth of the native family.

When a boy wants to marry a girl the money used is



DR. FOX

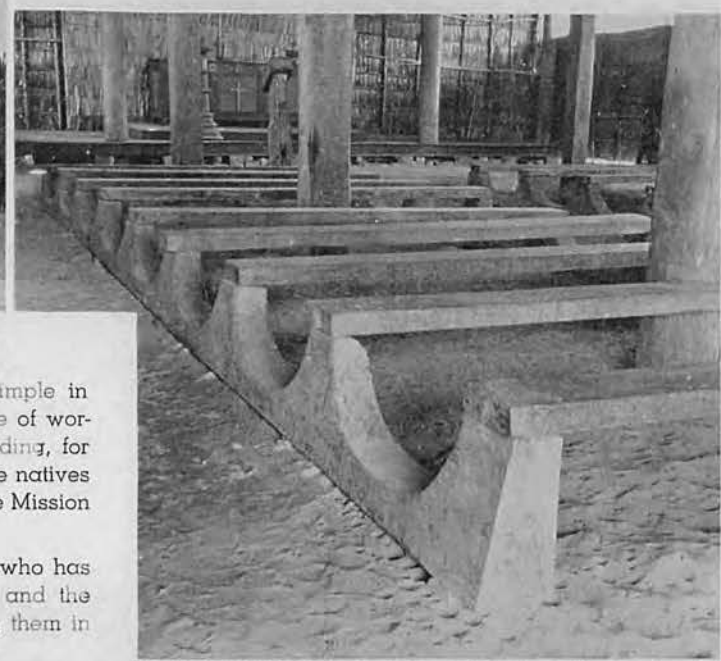
called *Peupelu*, which some white men have translated "bride price." It is not a fair translation. Florida people deny that they buy their wives. What happens is that the parents select a suitable girl for their son. Sometimes he does this for himself, in any case there will be no wedding unless he and the girl are both willing. Then the boy's

father, helped by the boy's uncle (mother's brother) and his elder brother, gives so much native money (at present three *isa* is about 35 dollars) to the girl's father to pay for the wedding feast, not to buy the girl. The girl's father then provides the number of pigs which this money will purchase. When the money is paid the boy's people bring the girl (generally from another village) back to their hut. About two months later the girl's family deliver the pigs. The wedding feast constitutes the marriage and after the feast the boy and girl are man and wife. After the marriage feast the native priest comes along and performs the Church ceremony.

The boy pays nothing toward the marriage, but must rely on his father, uncle and elder brothers. If he has been lazy, and not helped in garden work they may not be willing to pay the marriage price. During the last year there has been fierce controversy as to whether the *peupelu* should be lowered from 100 dollars to 70 dollars. This and not the war, has been the "chief political question" in Florida this year. The girls of Florida have been especially indignant at the proposal to lower it to 70 dollars. "We shall think twice about getting married," they say, "if we are not worthy of a decent marriage feast."

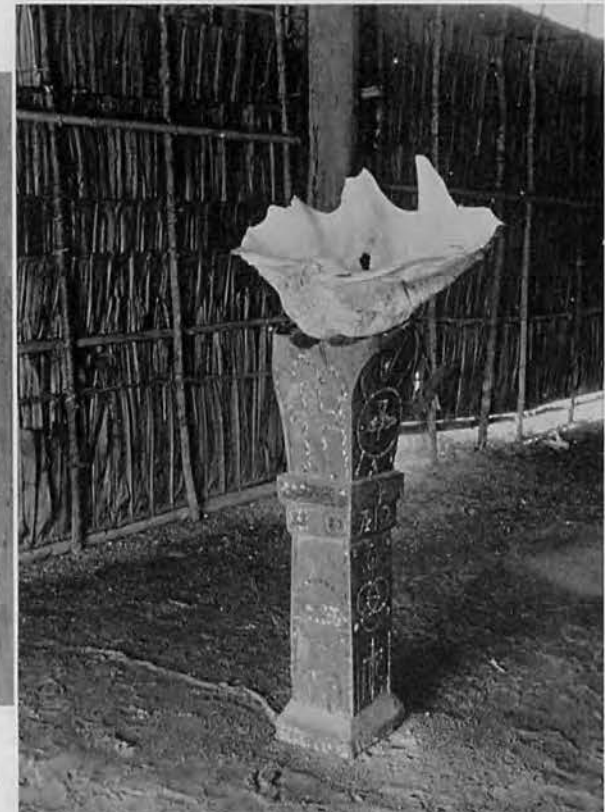
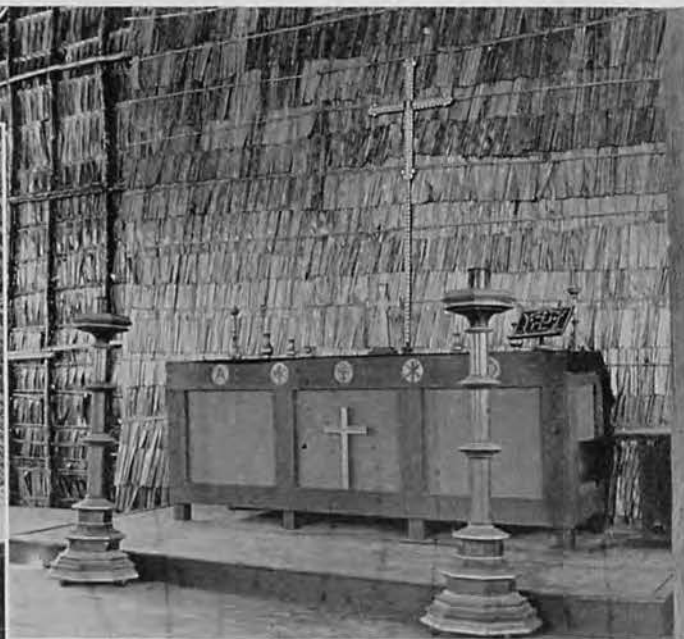
The Florida people have welcomed the Americans, especially the American Marines who came first and are always spoken of as the *Vure Tabu*, the Holy People. "Because," say the Florida people, "they were *Tabu* (dedicated to war), they ate poor food, slept on the ground and lived rough. But while they were here it was as safe for our women to go about, as for them to do so among ourselves; nor did they ever steal, and all our goods were quite safe while they were here." So they speak of their beloved Marines; but, by a mispronunciation of the word *Marine* they call them the American Morons.

The Americans who followed, though not up to the standard of the Marines in the eyes of the Floridians, have also won their respect as a result of kindness, generosity and fair dealing. The people of Florida will long remember them and wish them well wherever they are.



Here we show the native type of architecture which is simple in design while affording shelter for the natives in their house of worship. Much labor and creative genius goes into such building, for without the many machines and tools which we possess, the natives fashion pews, altar and many other necessary fixtures for the Mission by hand.

This Mission for many years has been guided by Dr. Fox who has been instrumental in the building of religious education and the uplifting of the standard of living of the natives, instructing them in the Christian way of life.





Natives constructing church for the Bishop of Melanesia at Lyons Point, Florida Island. The pictures on this page show how the natives construct buildings, and the various materials they use in the hand-fashioning process, not having the modern equipment we possess.



When you approach the camps of the Florida Island natives, probably the first to greet you will be one of the men of the tribe. Soon both he and you will be surrounded by the younger boys of the village. In this picture we have seven typical boys from one of the tribes, with their bows and arrows—as precious to them as a BB gun to an American boy. To a psychologist it might appear that these boys live in an ideal society. They have plenty to eat, no worries, and are idolized by their families. However, to a doctor the reverse would be true. They all have chronic malaria, enlarged spleens, and other ailments. They are covered with flies most of the time; their homes have dirt floors and no sanitation. Nevertheless, no one seems to enjoy life more than they.



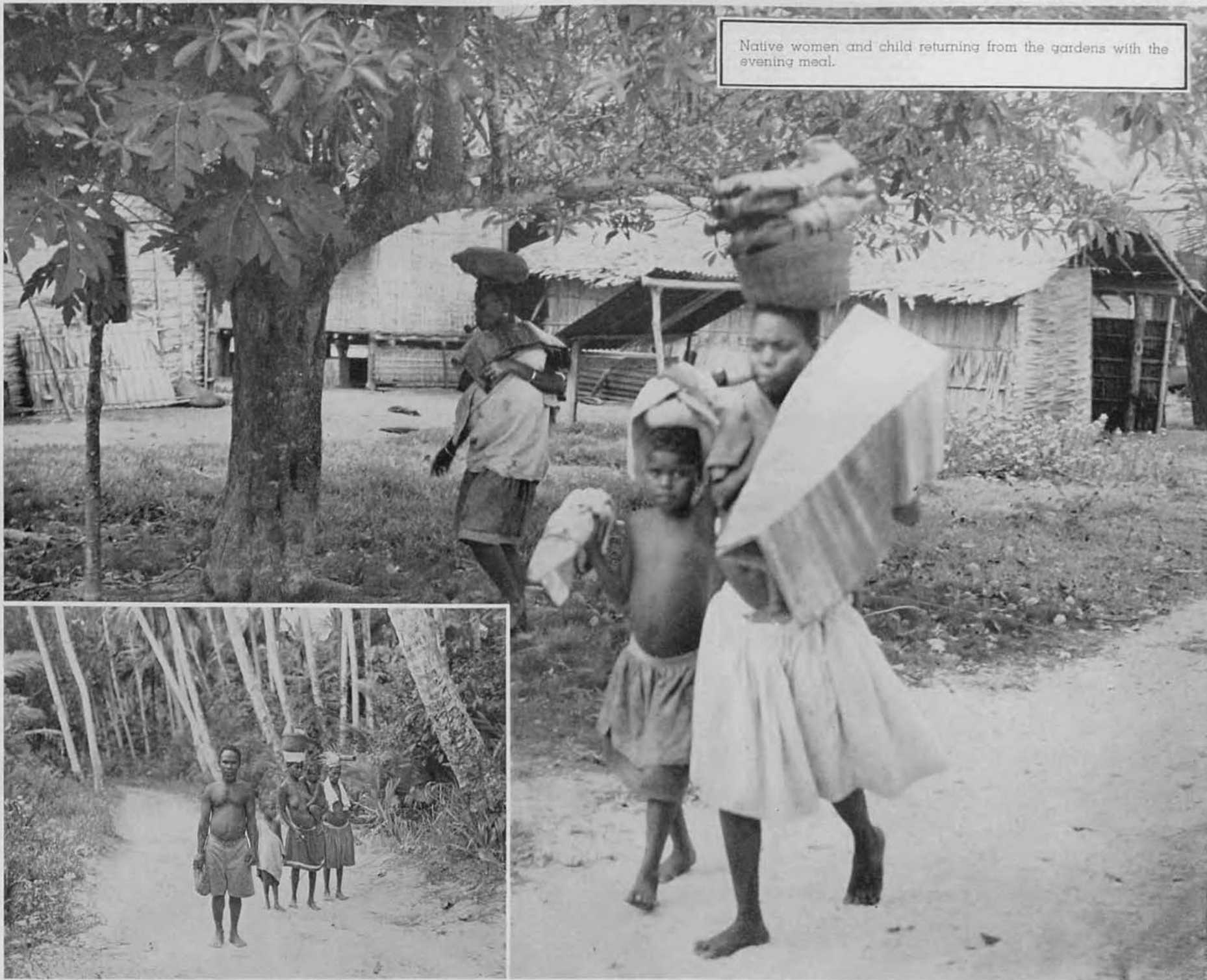




The natives liked having our photographer take their pictures, whole families lining up for the occasion. Contrary to popular opinion, they like to wear clothes. Lower left: Native "bugler" calling assembly on a conch shell.



Native women and child returning from the gardens with the evening meal.





It is characteristic among the natives in this area that the women are considered the beasts of burden, and do all heavy work for the village, often carrying their young with them while performing the many tasks of everyday life. The natives liked the target cloth and whenever they could obtain it they would fashion it into clothing for themselves. Three of the pictures show the natives dressed in target cloth, ready to perform one of their many native dances. On the opposite page in the background are the breadfruit trees.





To anyone who has been in the South I think one glance is all that is necessary to identify these items as the so-called hoards of plenty for the natives in their trading with the American candy, tobacco or the almighty dollar.

There is, of course, no way of estimating how many of these items found their way back to the states but many thousands is a conservative guess. It can well be seen that a man was judged by the quality of his eyes. The comb, cane, shells and gourd skirt are no doubt authentic and we hope the war club is also, but there is no question but what many of our boys could make better ones—and did!



THE ISLAND OF MALAITA



Malaita Island, the most populated island of the Solomons Group was probably the least touched by the war. Consequently the habits and customs of the native population was but slightly changed by the coming of the Americans to the Solomons.

Those of us who had an opportunity to visit the island could see quite a difference between the Malaita native and those we had been accustomed to seeing around Tulagi and Florida Islands.

The thing that impressed most of us was the fact that the natives on Malaita are scarcely a generation removed from cannibalism. Every now and then we would see an old fellow who had the reputation of eating human flesh.

Although there are many different languages and tribes, the natives of Malaita can be roughly classified as two groups—the Salt Water people and the Bush people.

The distinction comes from their living habits. The Salt Water people live along the shore and the Bush people live back in the hills. The Salt Water people seem to have a darker skin than the Bushmen and their skin is quite shiny compared to the Bushman's dull skin. In general the Salt Water people are healthier and a bit more civilized than the Bushmen due to their more frequent contact with white men.

THE BUSH PEOPLE

The Bush natives obtain the largest part of their food from gardens. There they grow native vegetables, chiefly taro, which somewhat resembles our white sweet potato. The gardens are planted and cultivated entirely by the

women who do practically all the labor in the villages.

The natives' water supply is derived from the clear, swift flowing streams. The native custom forbids the use of the streams for anything but bathing and drinking. Daily each woman fills enough green bamboo tubes with water to take care of the drinking needs of her family. Native custom segregates the drinking tubes of the men from those of the women, and it is unlawful to drink from the bamboo tube of the opposite sex.

To visit the Bush villages one must walk through a very thick jungle along narrow paths worn by years of travel. All such travel must be by single file. Apparently the native guides have very little trouble following these narrow trails, for they never seem to hesitate even though the trails cross and recross each other.

In their native state the pagan natives walk around with the same amount of clothing as one sees in a Seabee shower. That is, all except the married women who wear sort of a native style "G-string." Expecting white visitors, they will dig down into their belongings and come out with the usual skirt or lava-lava loin cloth. One can easily notice that they are not accustomed to such finery because before they sit down they gently raise the skirt.

The pictures on page 99 are scenes taken in a typical native Bush village on Malaita.

In the lower right hand corner, the entire population, men, women and children pose at the village entrance. The women sit on the left and the men on the right.

The picture in the upper right hand corner shows meal time in the home for a typical native family. The man sits

on his side of the hut holding his bamboo water tube. The women are cooking taro. It can be prepared in one of two ways. First method merely places the unpeeled taro into the hot coals allowing it to bake. In the second, the taro is broken into small pieces and placed into a green bamboo tube. The ends of the tubes are sealed and it is placed in the fire and allowed to remain until the outside is charred. It is then removed and broken open. This results in a thorough steam cooking of the taro, very much the same as would be obtained in our pressure cookers.

The other pictures on the page show the Bushman's method of making fire by friction. An old chieftan with his betel nut and a bamboo filled with lime and a typical Malaita bushman.

THE SALT WATER PEOPLE

Because of their constant warfare with the Bushmen, the Salt Water people withdrew from the island of Malaita proper and began building little islands for their homes in the lagoon that runs along the eastern shore of Malaita. These islands have become famous and are known as the man made islands of Langa-Langa Lagoon. They vary in size from tiny dots populated by one family to large villages of four hundred or more.

The chief industry of these islands is the manufacture of native money. This money is the only money used in the Solomons for buying wives and other exclusively native transactions. It is made from certain sea shells, cut into disks, ground, drilled and strung in fathom lengths on native made string. The tools used in this manufacture are very primitive.





Another skill which the Salt Water people possess is the art of boat building. Their canals are hewn entirely by hand. They are held together by rope made of the bark of trees and waterproofed by a putty-like substance extracted from the nut of a certain tree. A white man marvels at the work done by these people with their primitive tools and methods.



The pictures on this page were taken at the Catholic Mission at Buna Station, Malaita. (Marist Fathers.)

The picture in the upper right hand corner was taken inside the school boys dormitory. Each village has its native teacher who gives the children a primary training. The older and more apt pupils are sent to the mission station where they are taught reading, writing and arithmetic. Their work is very good. The most promising are sent to the Fiji Islands for higher education and return to their native villages as medical practitioners, teachers, etc.

In the lower right hand corner Most Reverend Bishop Aubin, the Catholic Bishop of the South Solomon Islands, poses with four native Marist sisters. These women have been trained by white sisters and have taken the same vows that the white sisters do. They now are doing their part in educating the natives of Malaita.



The other views on this page show the mission chapel. In the foreground of the picture in the upper left hand corner you can see a cart drawn by two bullocks, the only means of hauling at the station.

The Salt Water people seem to adorn themselves with more tattooing, jewelry, etc., than the Bush people. They punch holes in their noses and insert pieces of metal and shells. The women have the whole upper part of their bodies covered with rosettes actually cut

into the skin. The married women, and some men, blacken their teeth in another means of adornment.

The pictures on page 101 are scenes taken in a typical Salt Water village. In the upper right hand corner is a shot of one of the largest man made islands, below that a street in one of the villages on a man made island and below that a pagan temple.





In the upper right hand corner a native canoe rests under its thatched shelter, and below, the Chief of the village displays several lengths of native money. The crude looking tools in the lower center are the money making equipment of the natives. The drill rests on the large grinding stone. Coconut shells hold the grinding compound rock dust and water.





SO LONG, JOE

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