

Overseas

PHOTO

Record

Pictures and Arrangement by
MAURICE BROUN

COVER AND DRAWINGS BY THOMAS KENNEDY

1944

N.C.B.

17TH

SPEC.

1945

Reproduction and Distribution arranged by

LIEUT. H.J. CURRAN DC-USNR

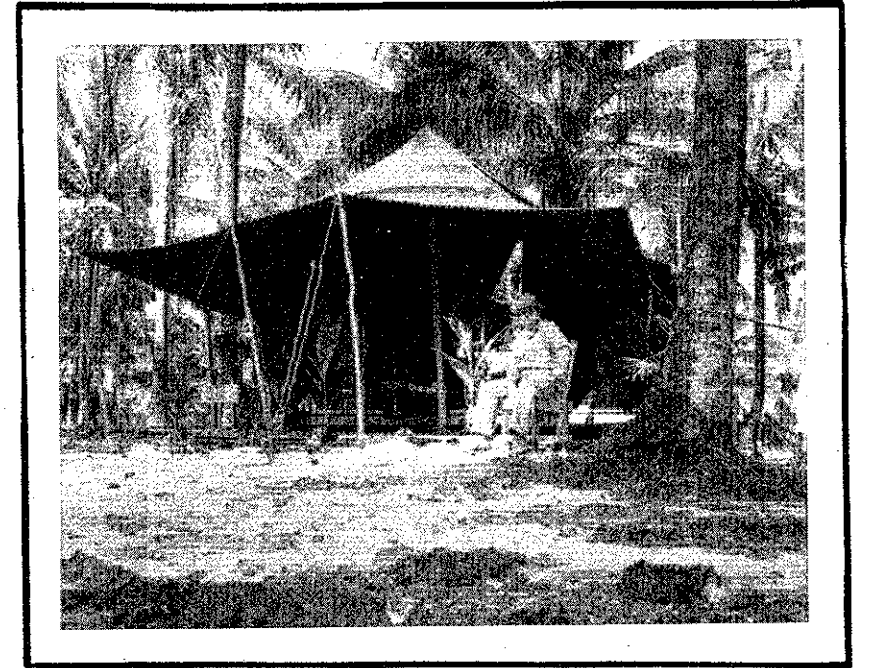
- and -

LIEUT. W.T. CORBETT MC-USNR

*Material in this book will not be made available for
publication in the press or broadcast over the radio.*

Banika

ISLAND

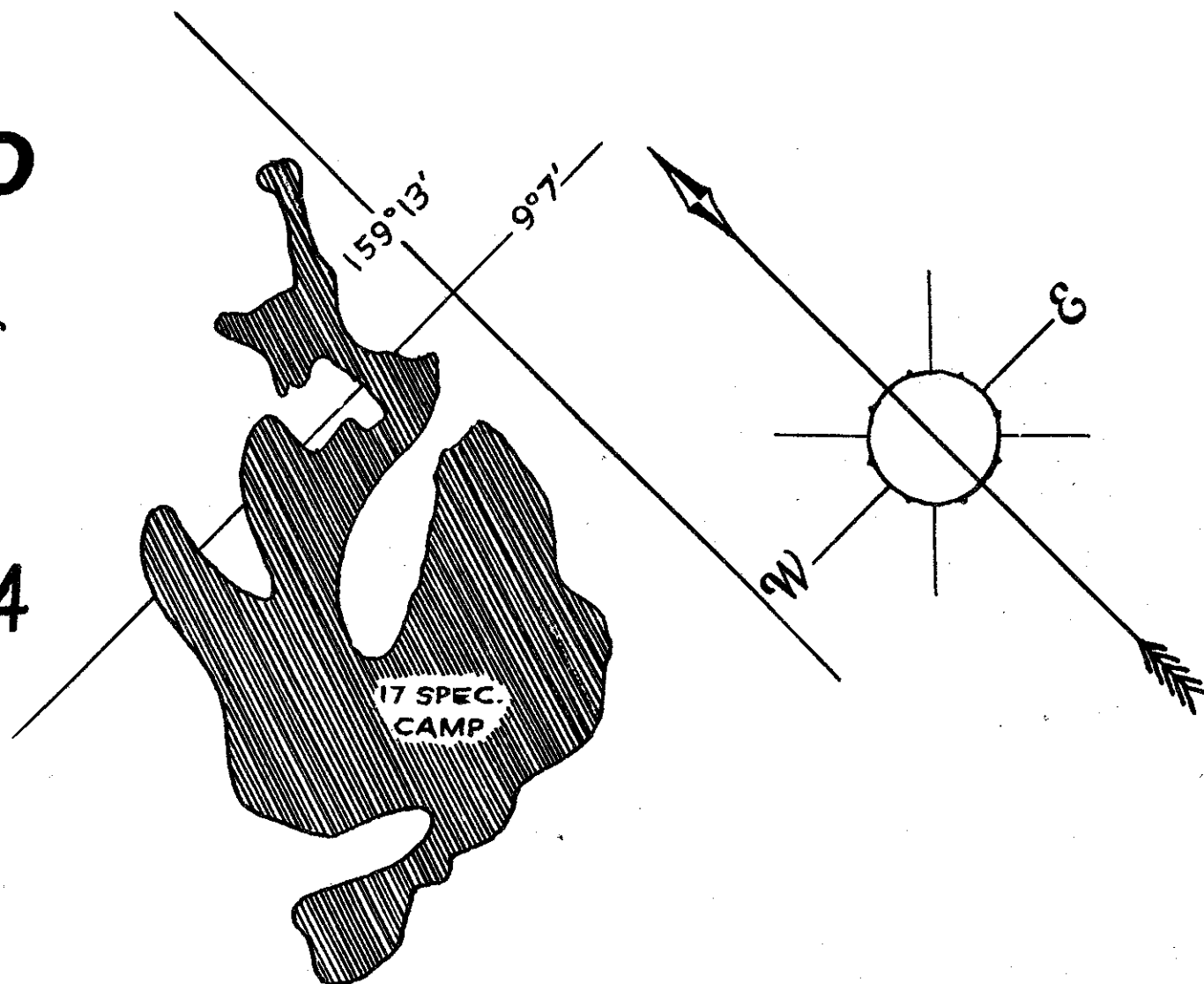


Lt. Comdr. Moses E. Berry

IN THE
RUSSELL GROUP
in the Solomon Islands



JANUARY - MARCH 1944



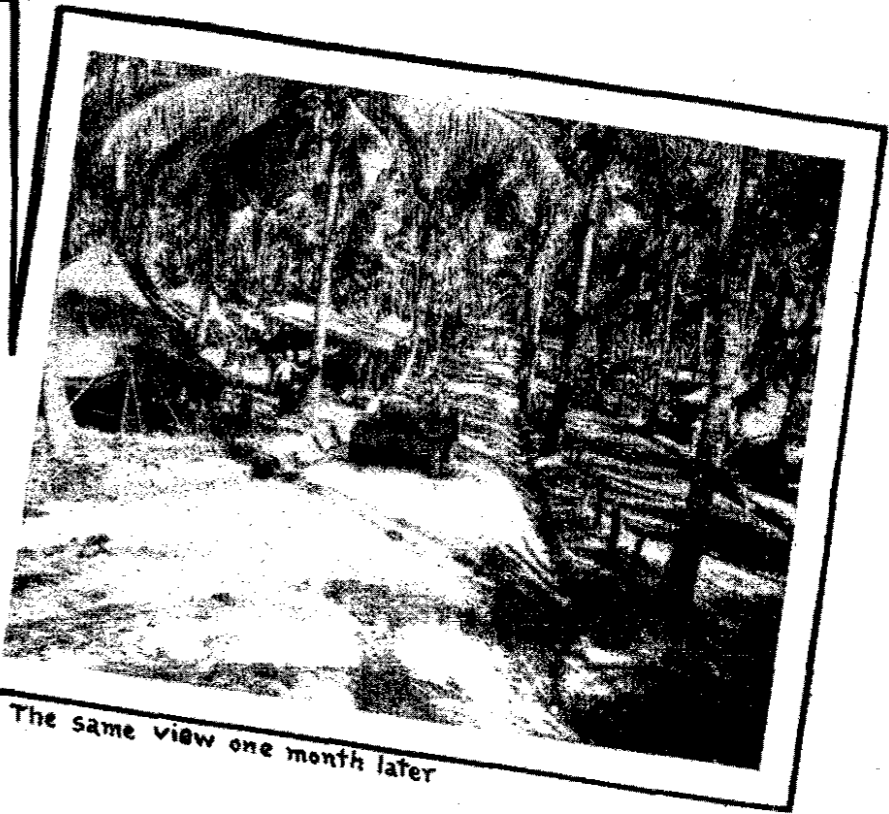
"and then came the great awakening when we landed in the Russells on our own - no barracks and showers - just an empty, damp jungle. 'This was the spot'." Lt. Comdr. M. E. Berry



A tent city sprouts and flourishes - Co. D, 12th January



"Hollywood Blvd." - a mud-chokeed road bisecting camp



The same view one month later

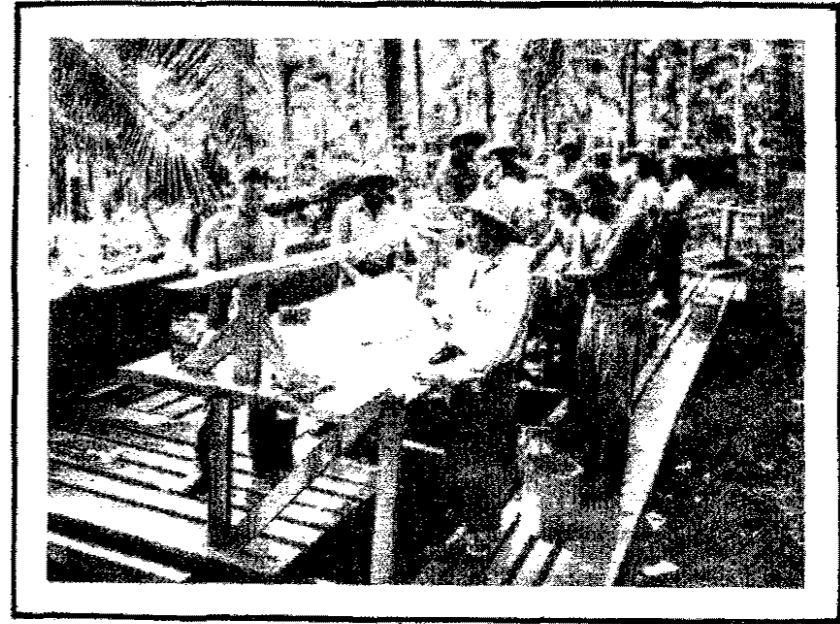


Under the spreading coconut trees....

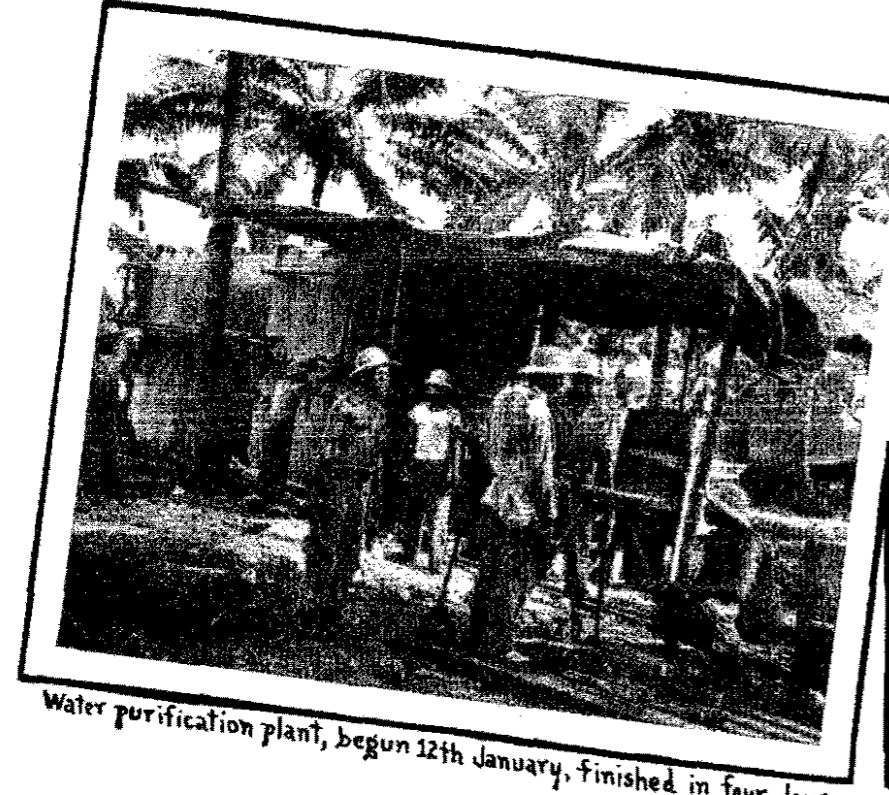


H.W. Brunner

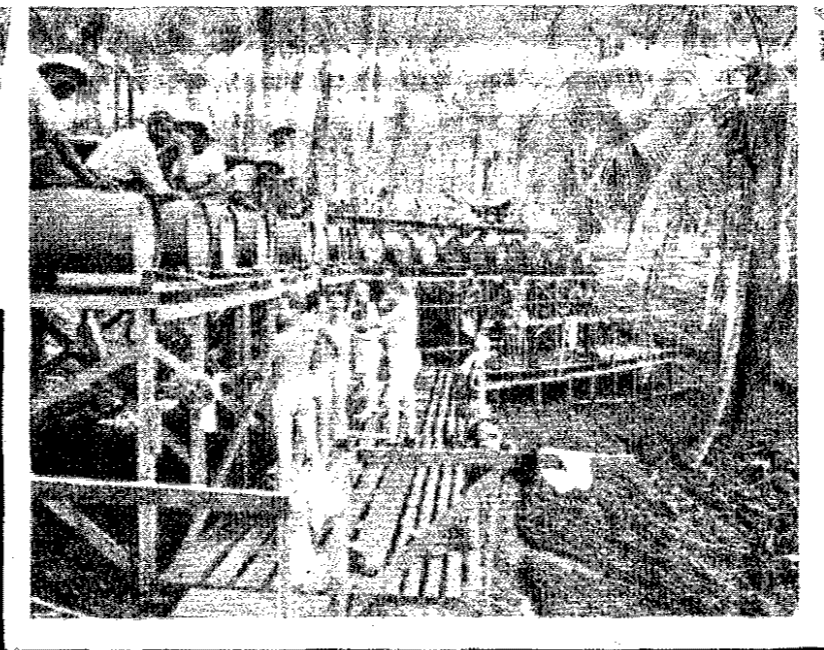
L.A. Butts



...incessantly scrubbing, sud-making Seabees



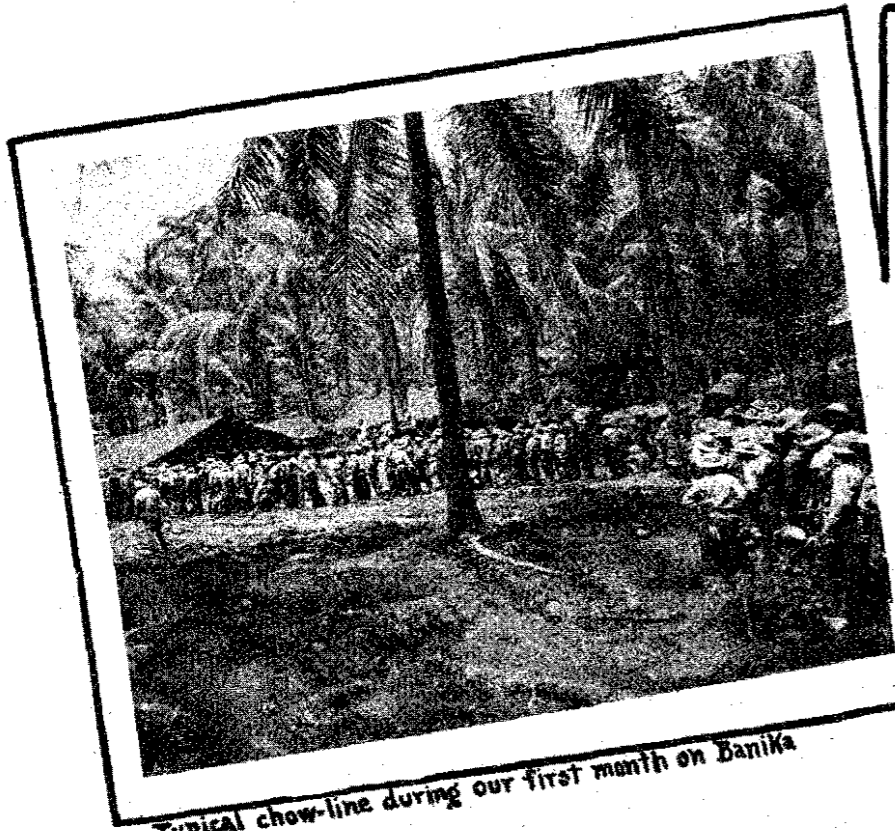
Water purification plant, begun 12th January, finished in four days



Shower hour, after 1630 - choicest part of the day



Anson M. Chipman's ditch-diggers lick the mud problem



Typical chow-line during our first month on Banika



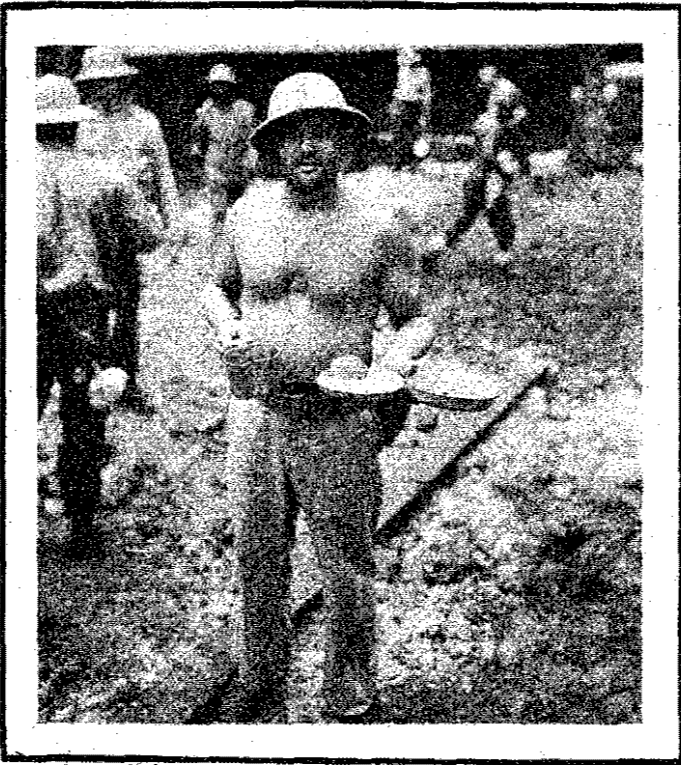
..thru the galley, a converted saw-mill shed, 26th January.... All cooking equipment hand made!



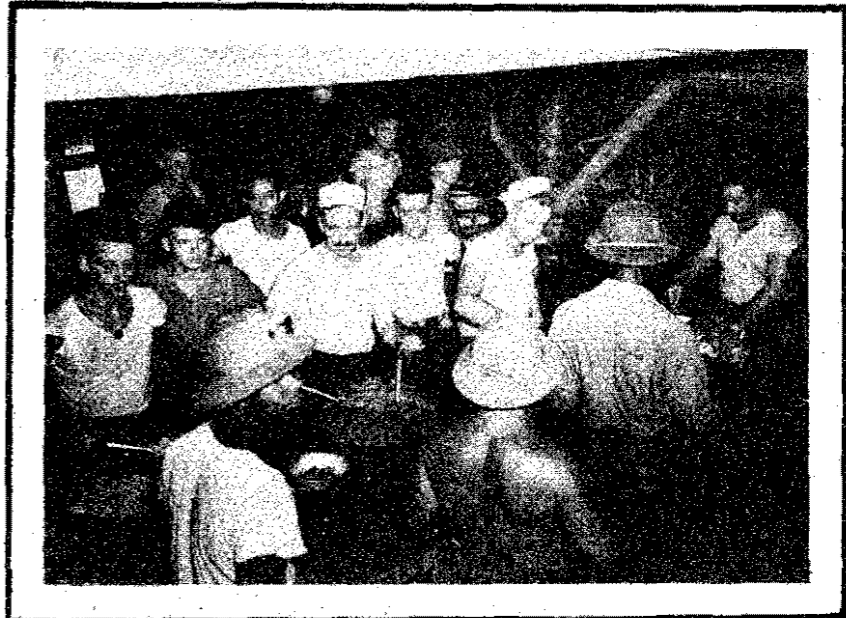
Our air-conditioned mess-hall, enlarged and screened-in by mid-February



The vitally important butchers and bakers



Intercepted on way to mess-hall



Galley crew dishing out stew. Food containers made of oil drums



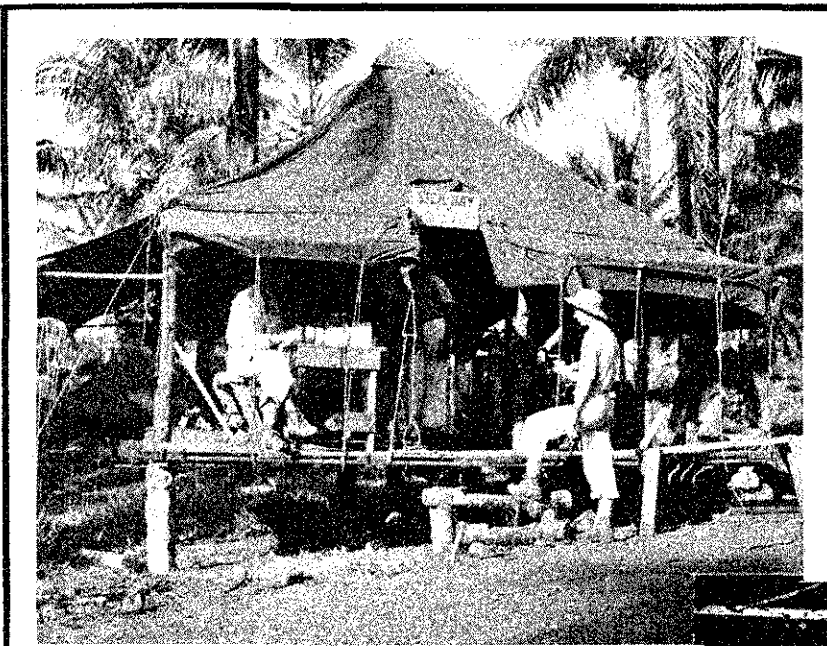
Exhibit A - the bakers mix dough in basins made of gas drums



Our quaint and curious scullery



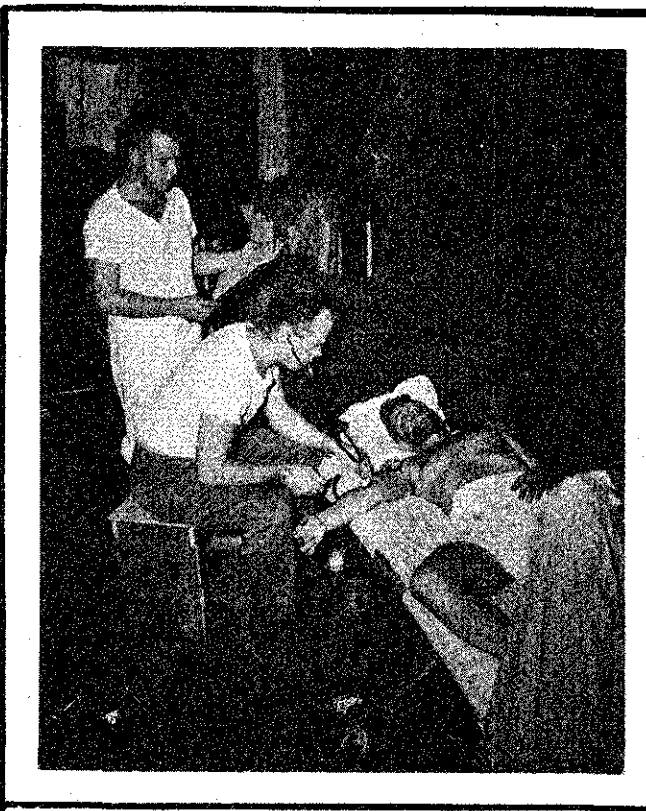
We enjoyed our first overseas bread on 27th January



Fully organized, ready for business on 19th January

Medicine Men

OF THE SEVENTEENTH



Not so bad as it looks! Dr. E.L. Aaberg, Pharmacist R.J. Michaud, T.V. Barber



Dr. W. T. Corbett, assisted by B.R. Brendle and A.M. Lowe



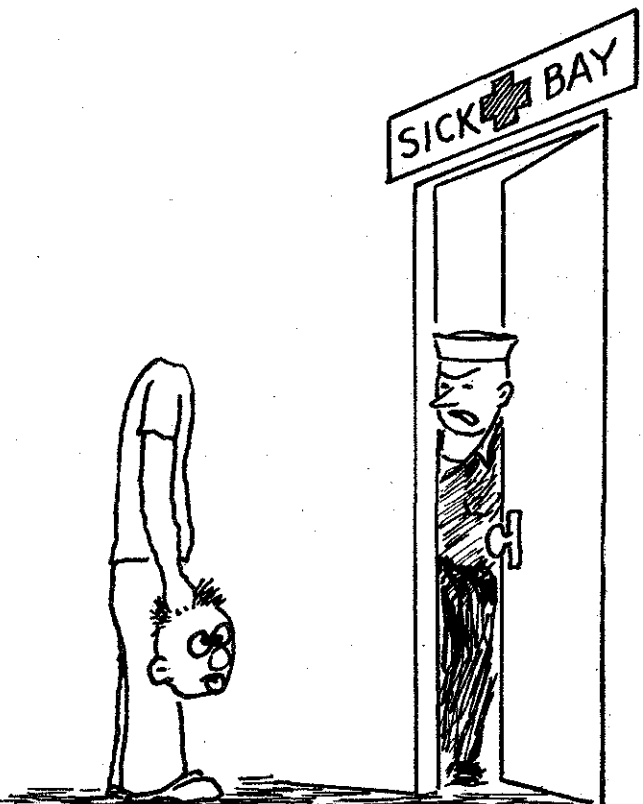
Pharmacist W.G. Myers and Corpsman A.M. Lowe



Pharmacist G. A. Lussier



Our jungle Lab, and boys who built it

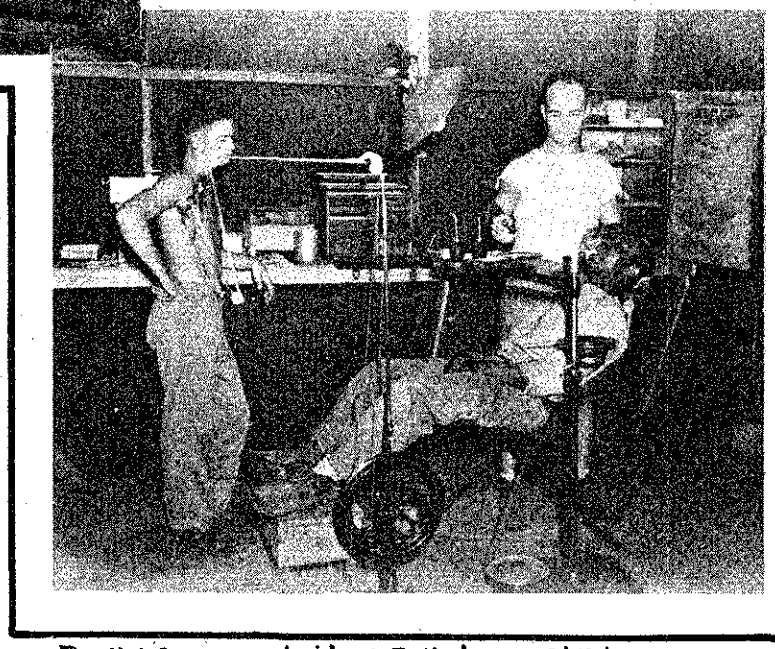
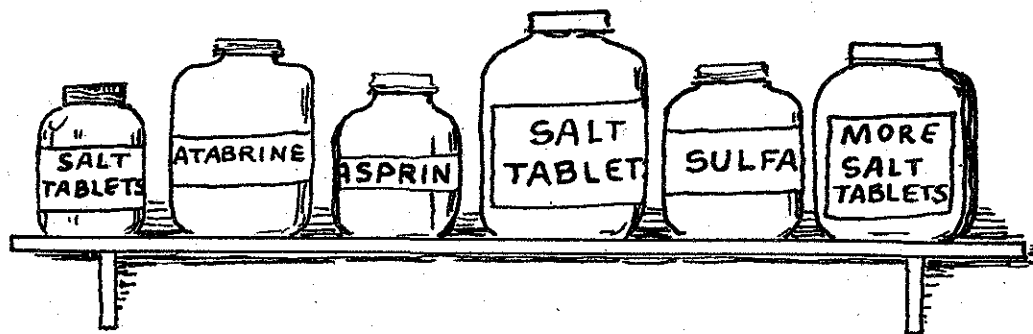


"Fer th' last time, sick-call aint till 1730."

NO DUTY
16 Nov 44
Doubt to Wilson
H. M. G. H.



Mail for morale - hospital patients M.T. Tutone and R.J. Sisk



Dr. H.J. Curran and aide, L.D. Hudson - 3d February

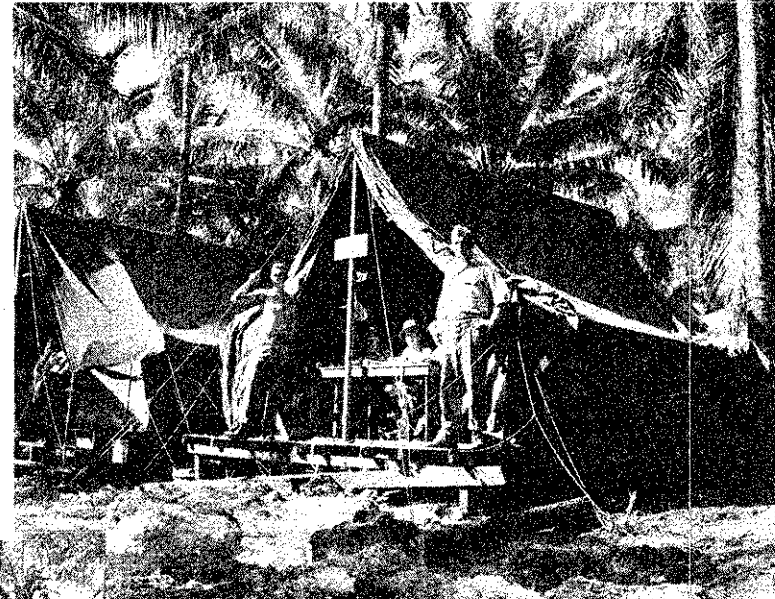
Specialties AND SUNDRY Services



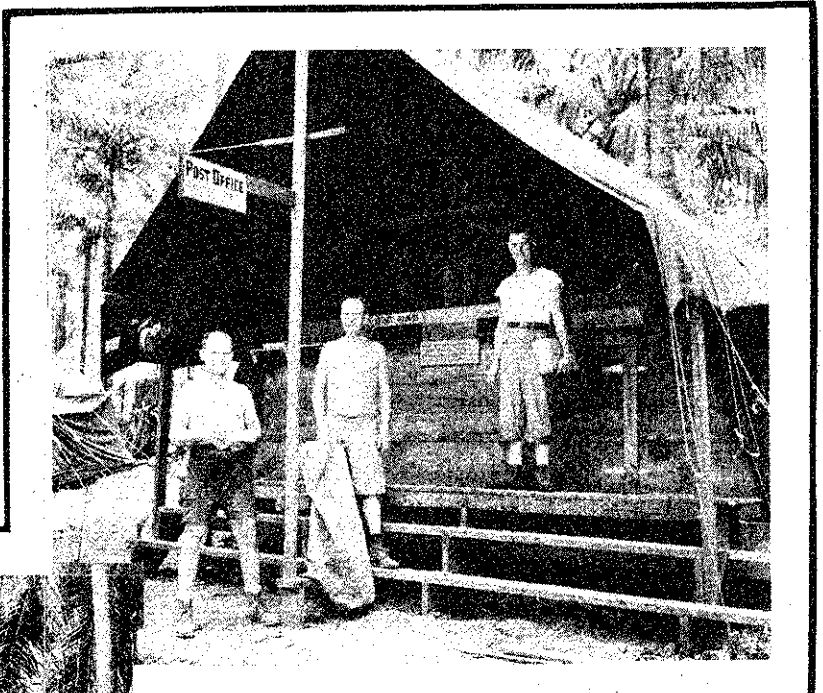
Brush-wielders T.B. Kennedy and A.L. St. Cyr - 5th February



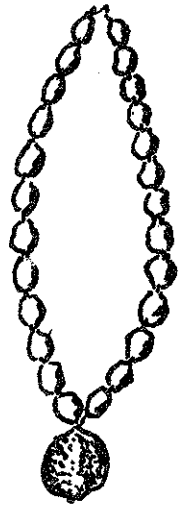
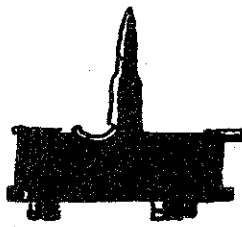
Gunnery mate W.E. Koontz and his henchmen, H.W. Stanard, D.L. Sublett, A. Paterson



D.E. Bean, A.L. Gray, T.H. Caraway, R.F. Corsair, Corp. P.F. Davis - operators of our first clip joint!



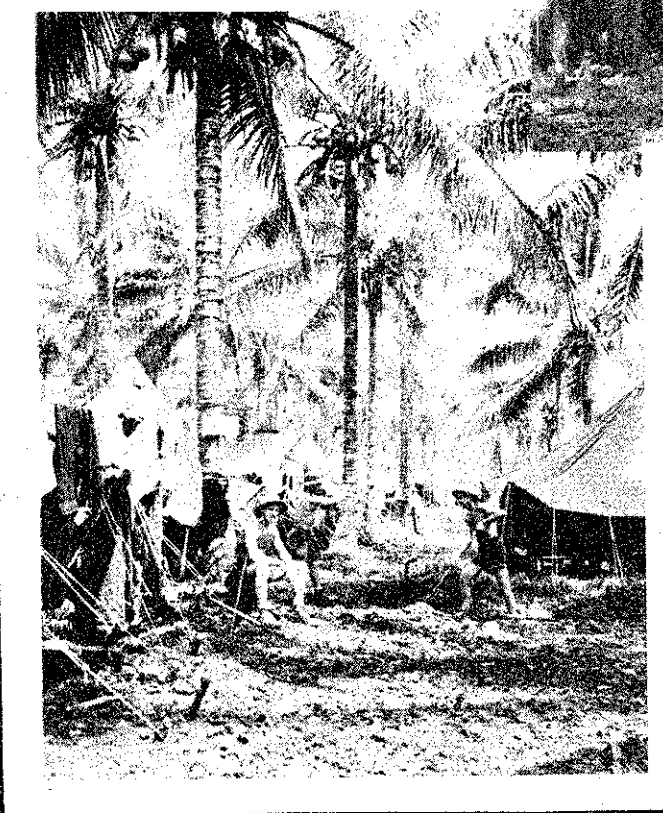
Mail specialists W.E. Meyer and L.M. Newton - - A.M. Lord SKac, assisting, returned to the States 13 February, an Ensign!



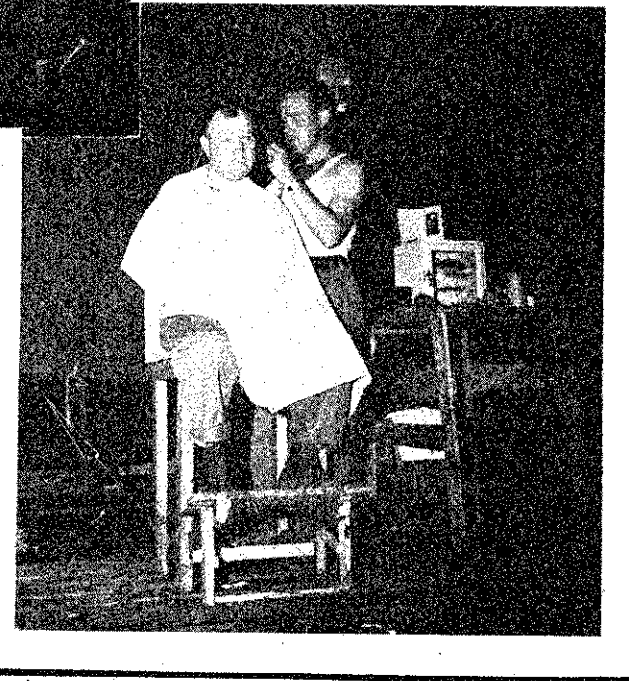
Ship's store - focal point of camp every afternoon



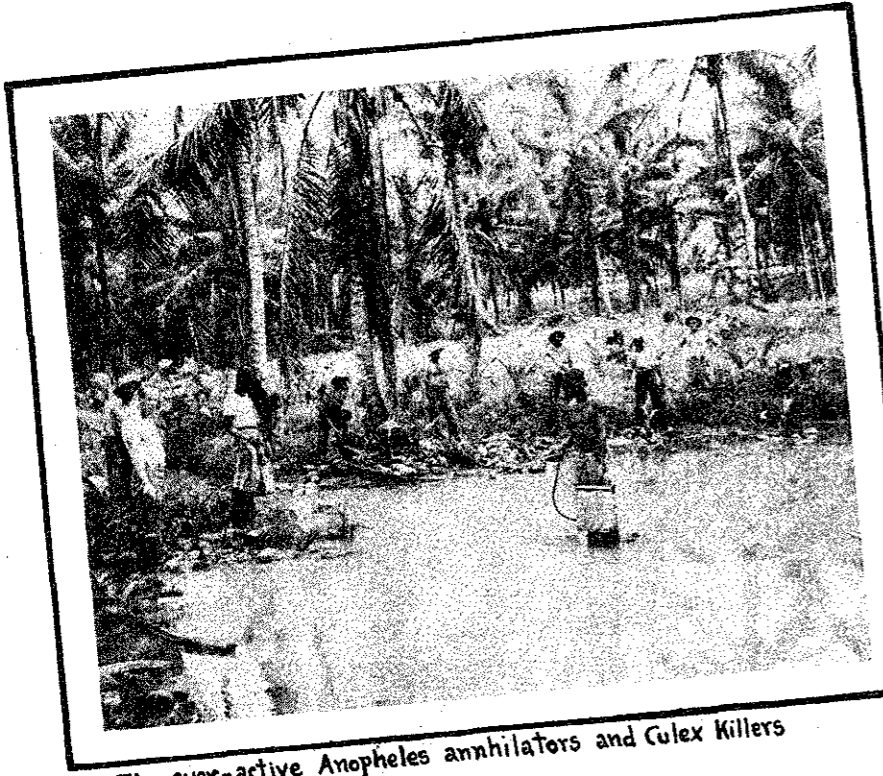
Cobblers L. McCadden and J. Jefferson prolong the lives of weary, mildewed shoes - 9 Feb.



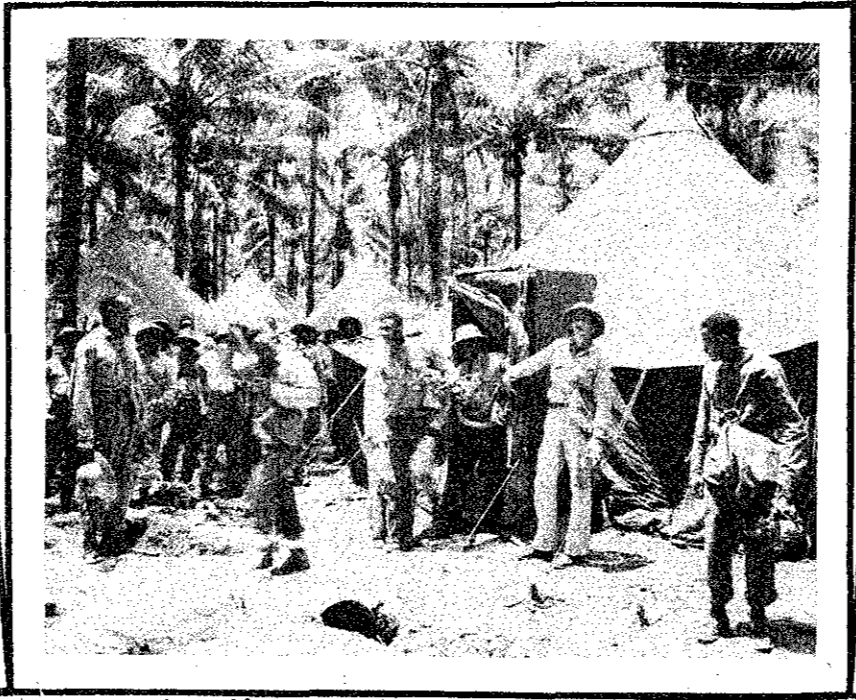
Tony Martins and Robert Elliot combating Banika mud in a back 'street' of Headquarters area



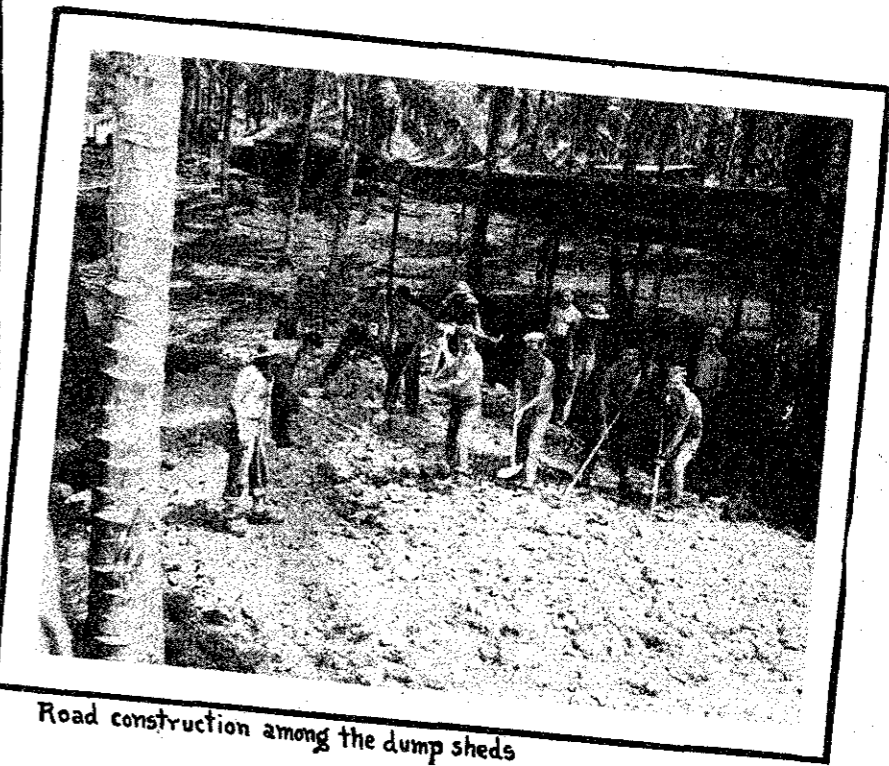
Lt. J. Lundy and C. Brigman, jungle eradicator...



The ever-active Anopheles annihilators and Culex Killers



Hollywood Blvd.'s Horror Chamber—even with gas masks!



Road construction among the dump sheds



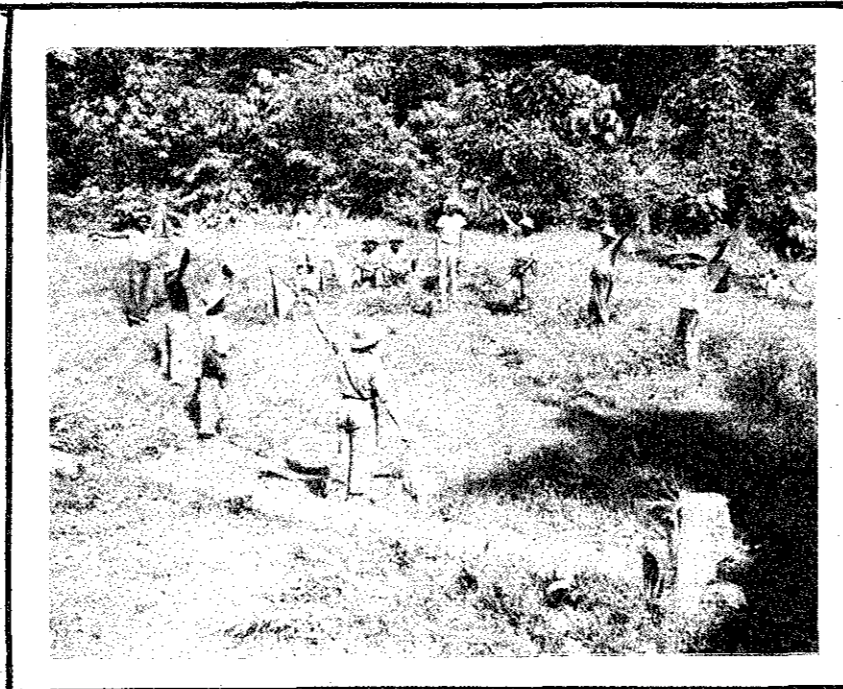
In a lovely little valley, one mile southeast of camp...



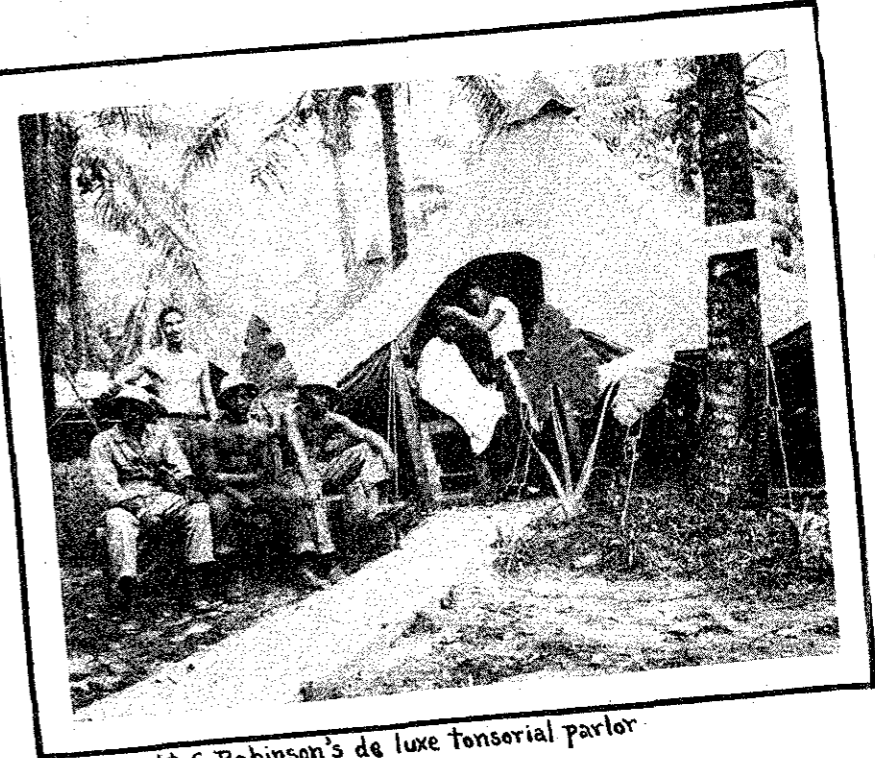
...our cooks and bakers warm up to a different range—14th Feb.



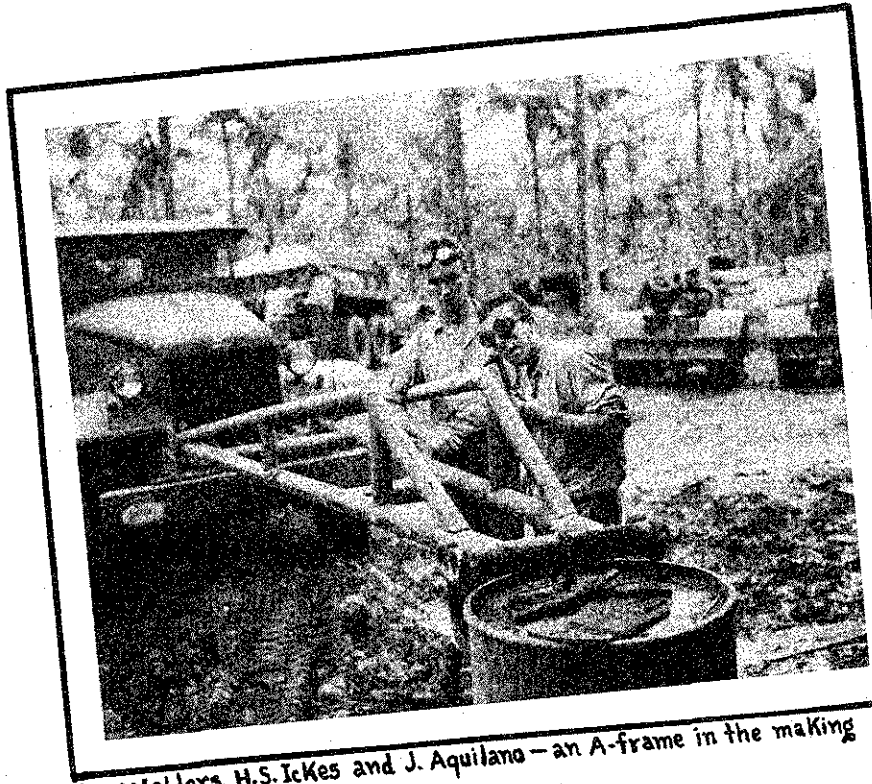
A typical street, well-kept and neat—Company A



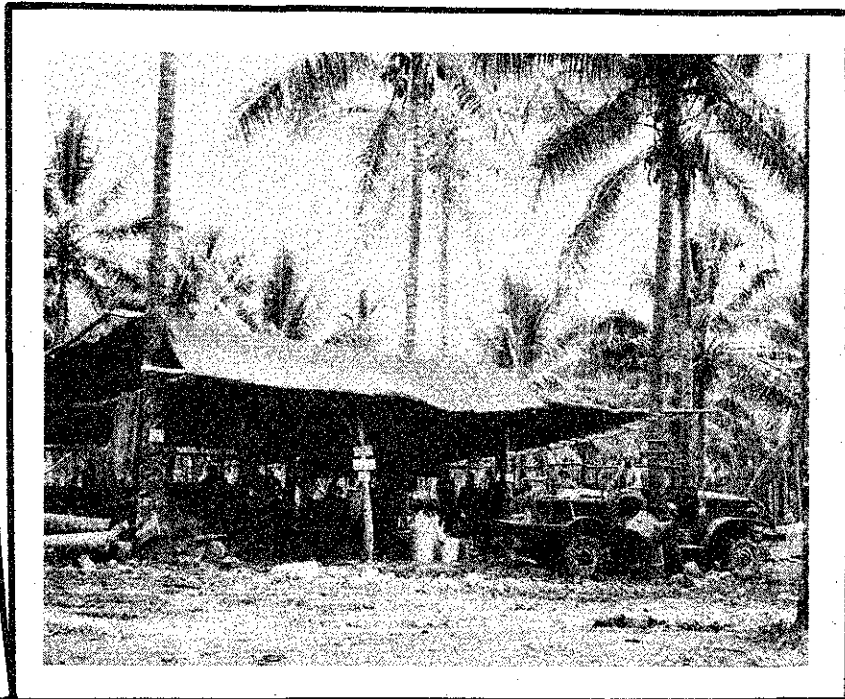
Signal school, every forenoon, directed by H. W. Brunner (in shorts)



Emmett C. Robinson's de luxe tonsorial parlor



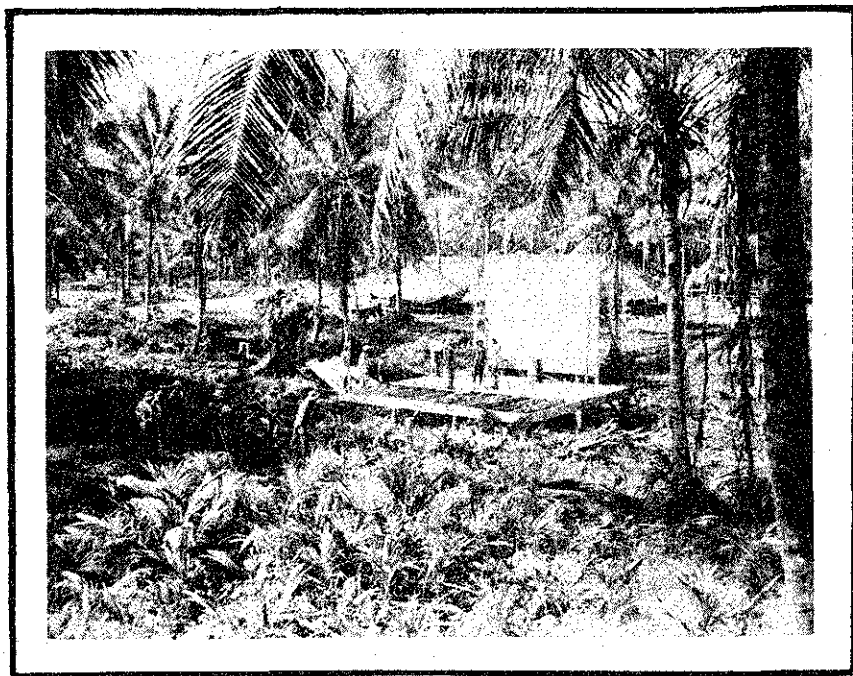
Welders H.S. Ickes and J. Aquilano - an A-frame in the making



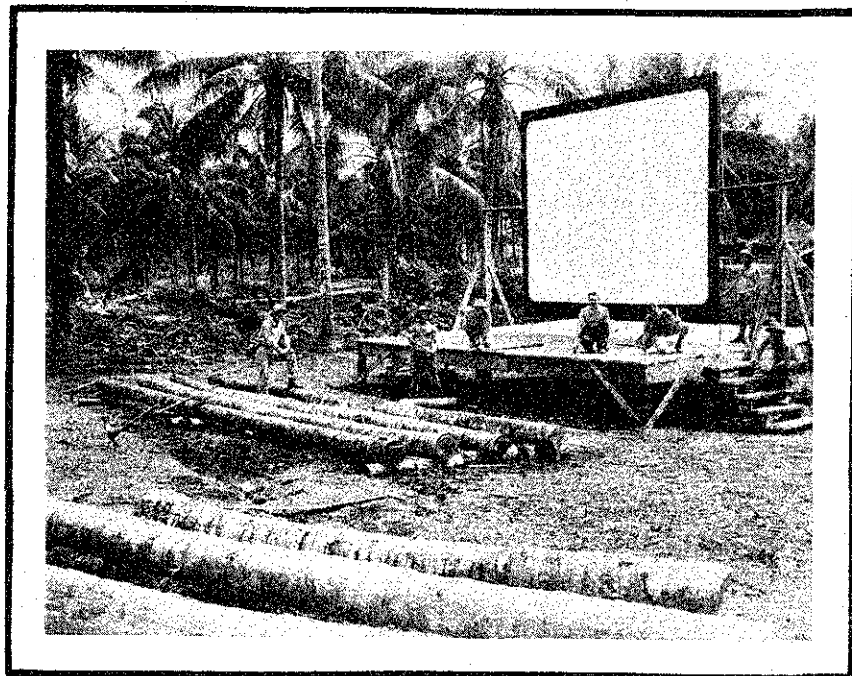
The Motor Pool, one of the busiest spot in camp



Lubrication specialists R.L. Barnes and E.A. Sparkman



The Unfinished Symphony, late January, after a prodigious amount of clearing



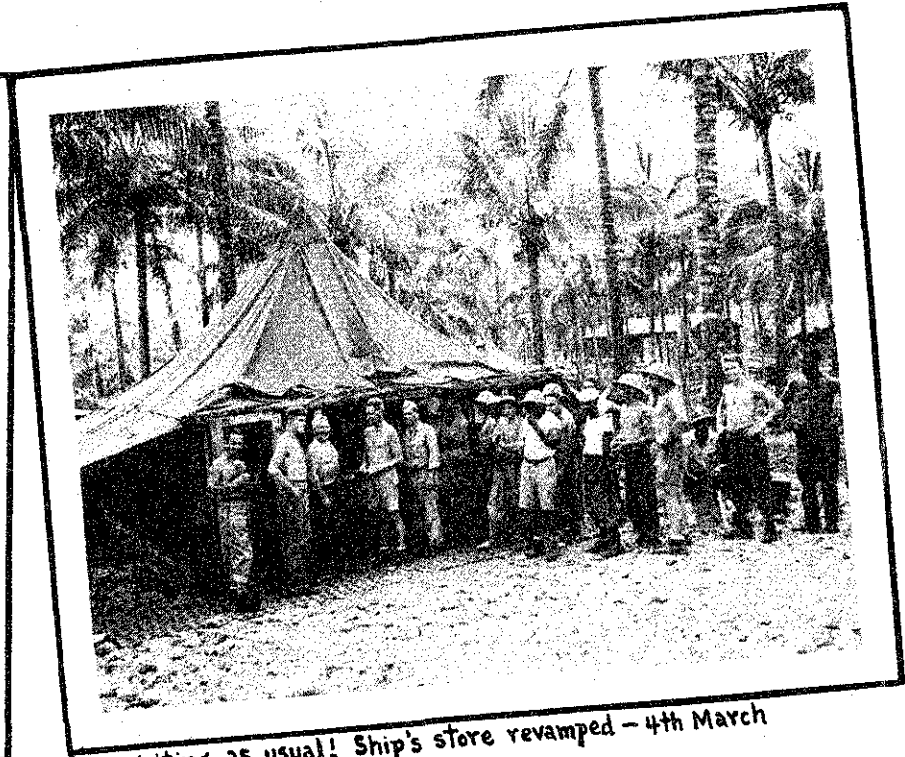
One month later. A projector was all that was needed, it never came!



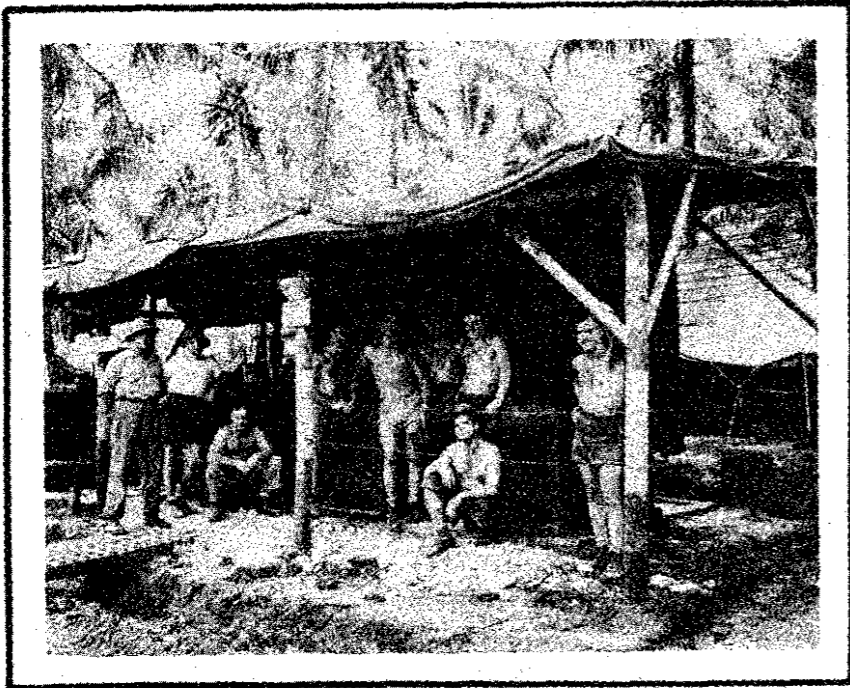
Sequel to #12 - improved galley area, firm coral footing - late February



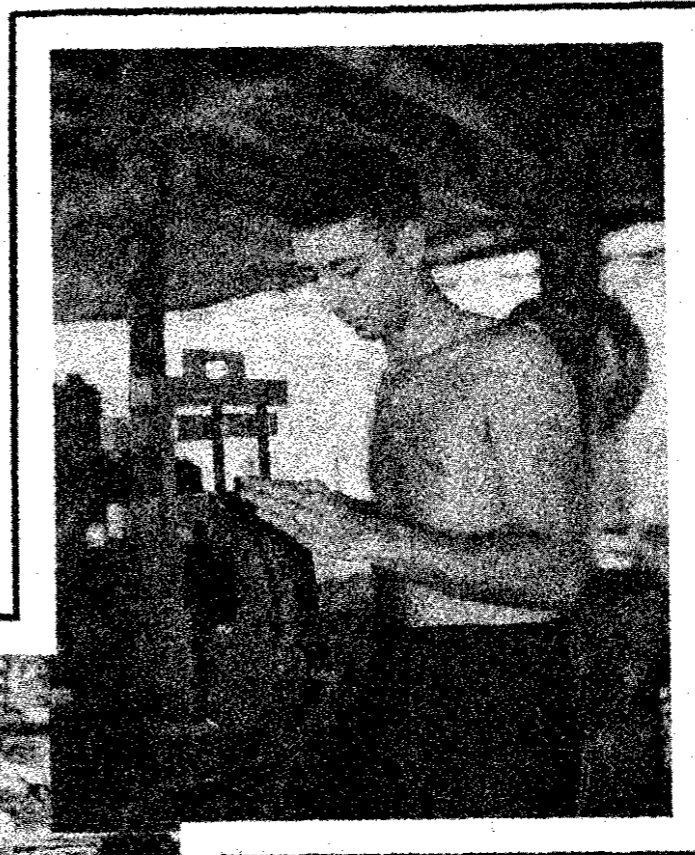
Officers et al, who make Headquarters tick - 3rd March



Waiting, as usual! Ship's store revamped - 4th March



Seventeenth Special Power and Light Company - A. Burckhard, T. V. Barber, R. E. McArthur, D. E. Graves, A. Steinke, W. E. Pringle, E. J. Nizolek, J. H. Marquis, and R. C. Elliott



Electrician D. Graves making a switch from a shell casing



L. E. Patterson and W. D. Lammey with their LST demonstration model, 6' long, 14" wide, 6" deep, made in early March



Lineman E. J. Nizolek



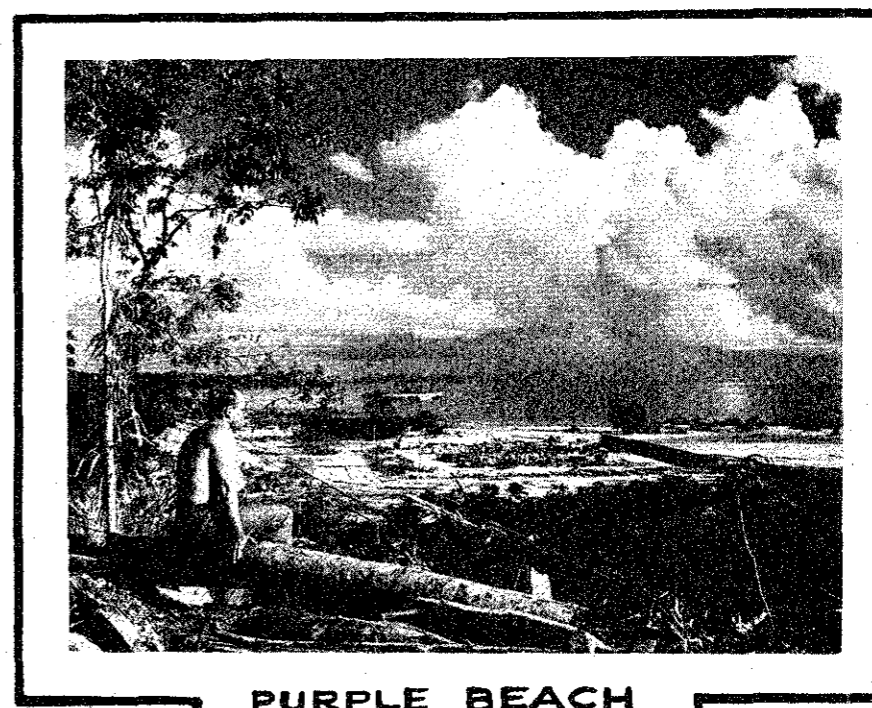
Calers

Emirau

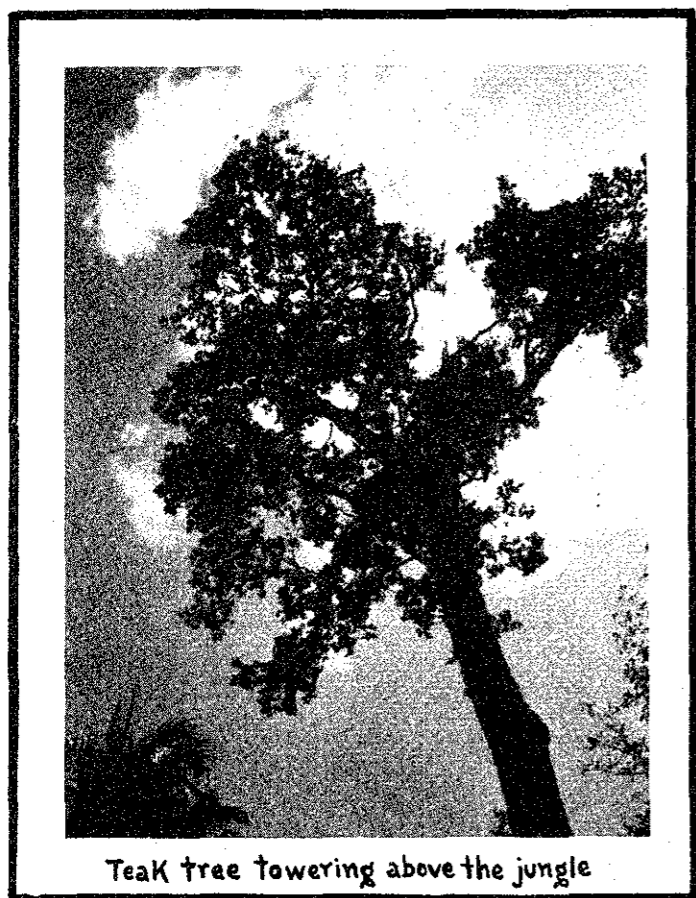
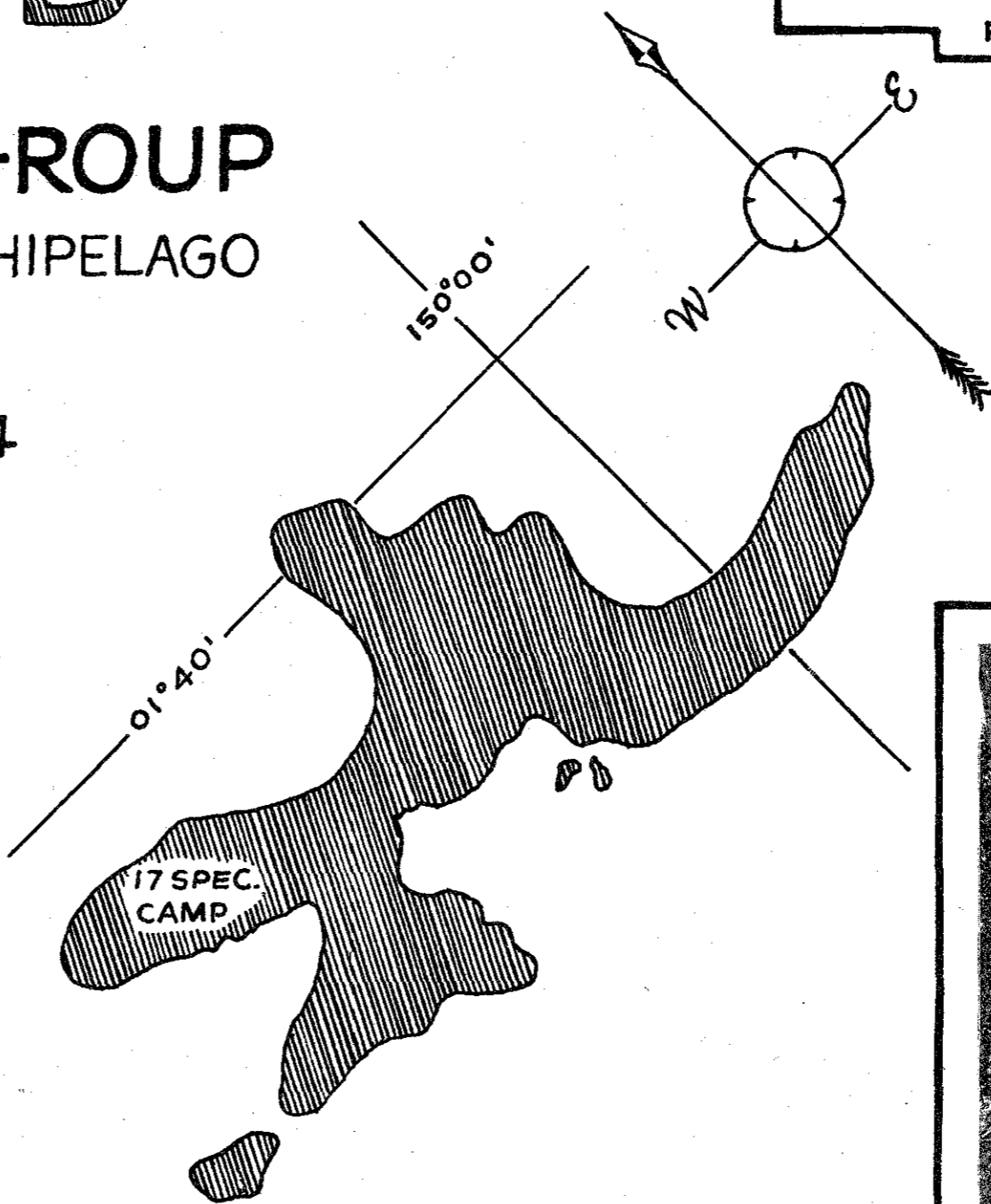
ISLAND

IN THE
ST. MATTHIAS GROUP
OF THE BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO

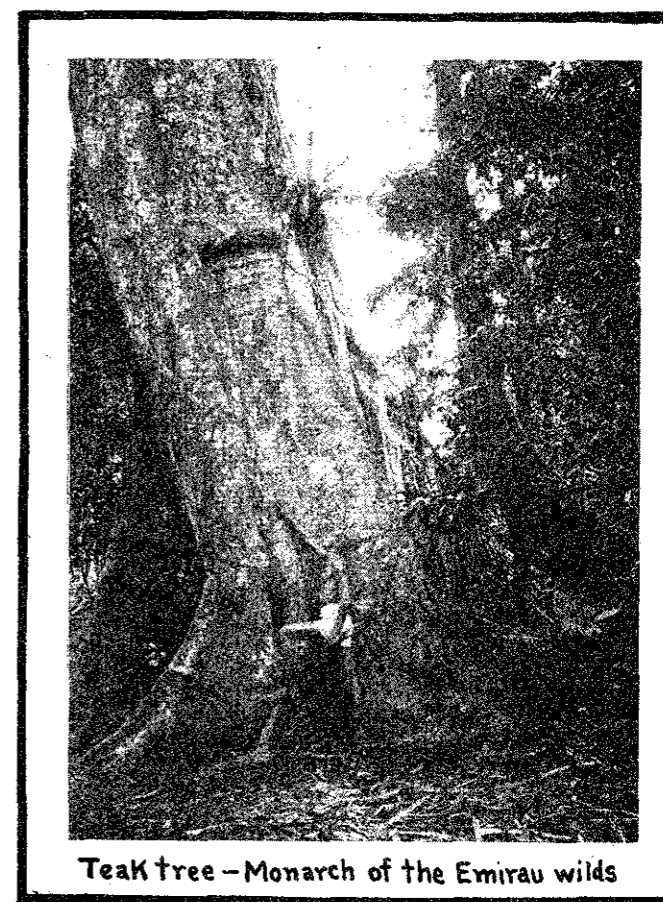
APRIL — AUGUST 1944



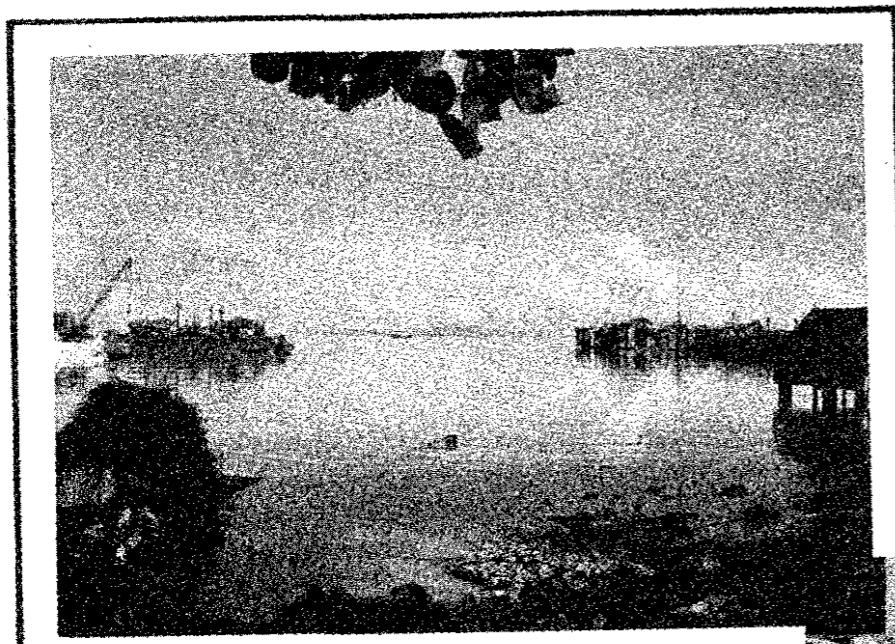
PURPLE BEACH



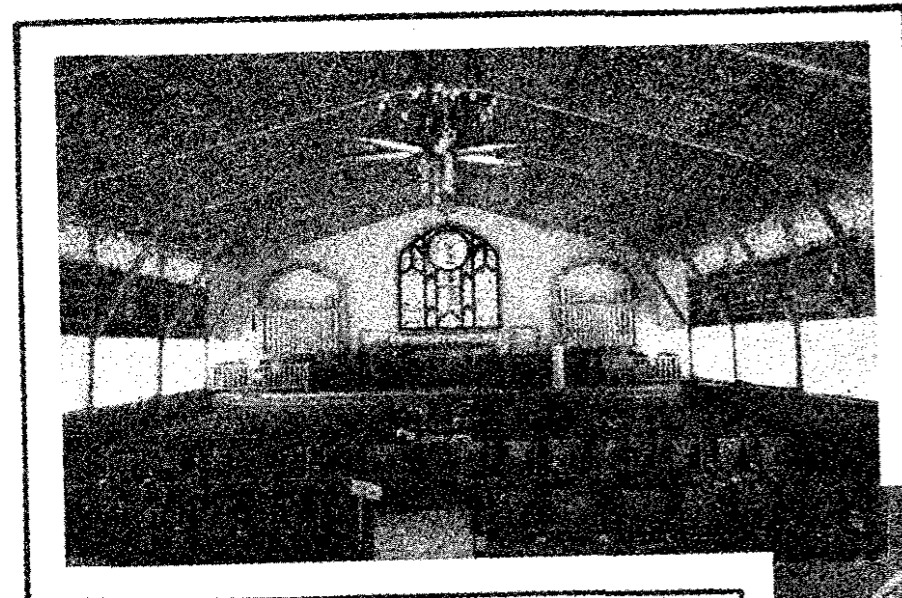
Teak tree towering above the jungle



Teak tree - Monarch of the Emirau wilds



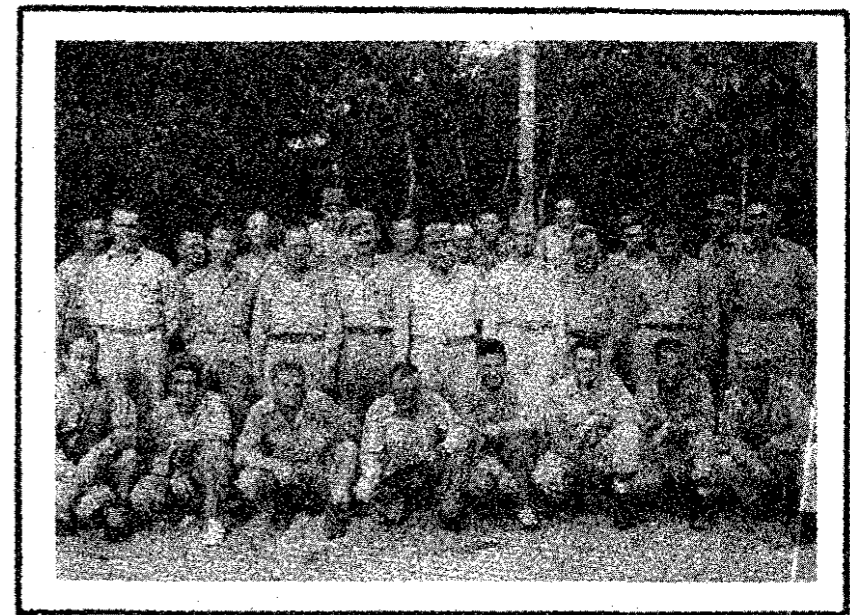
MUSSAU on the horizon, as seen from the M.T.B. Base



Island Chapel, built by Seabees. The only Chapel in the Southwest Pacific with stained glass altar windows. Placques decorating upper walls represent outfits based on Emirau.

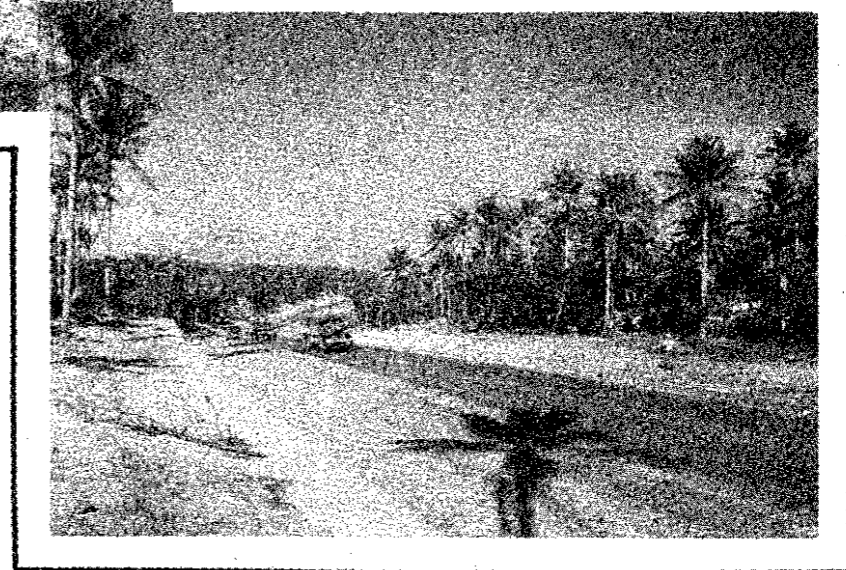


At the ever-busy M.T.B. Base

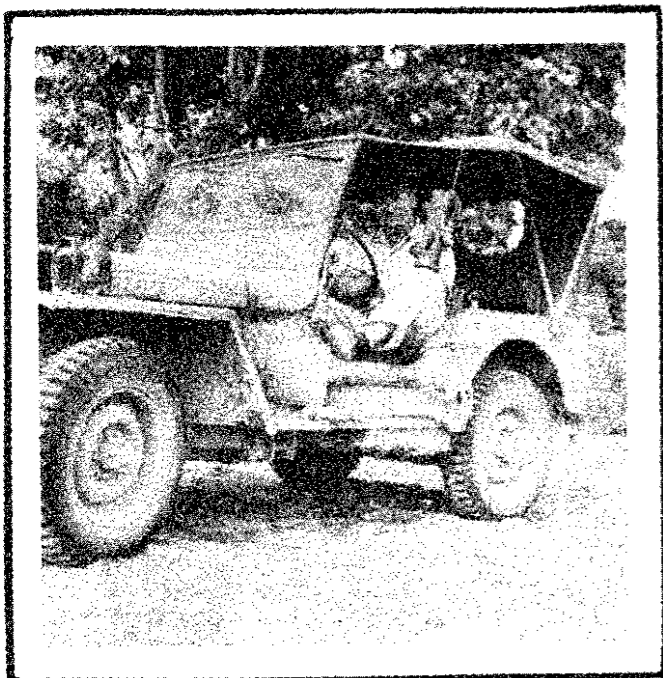


Seventeenth Special Gold Braid

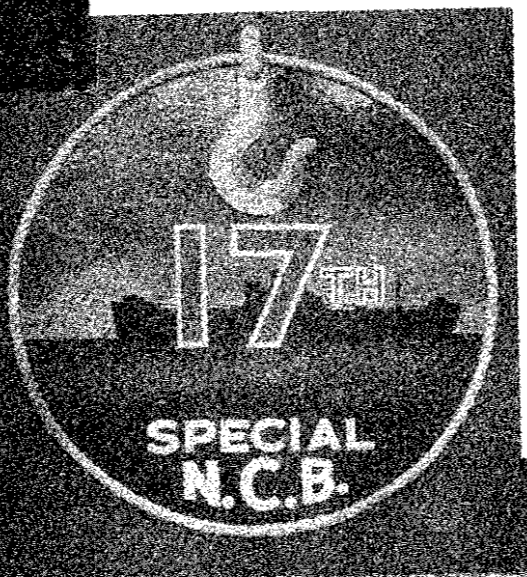
24th July



Emirau's central highway, built by the 27th and 98th N.C.B.s



Jeepers creepers!



Placque made by T.B. Kennedy, hanging in the Chapel



Island Chapel, on the edge of the jungle, above Purple Beach Aug. 5

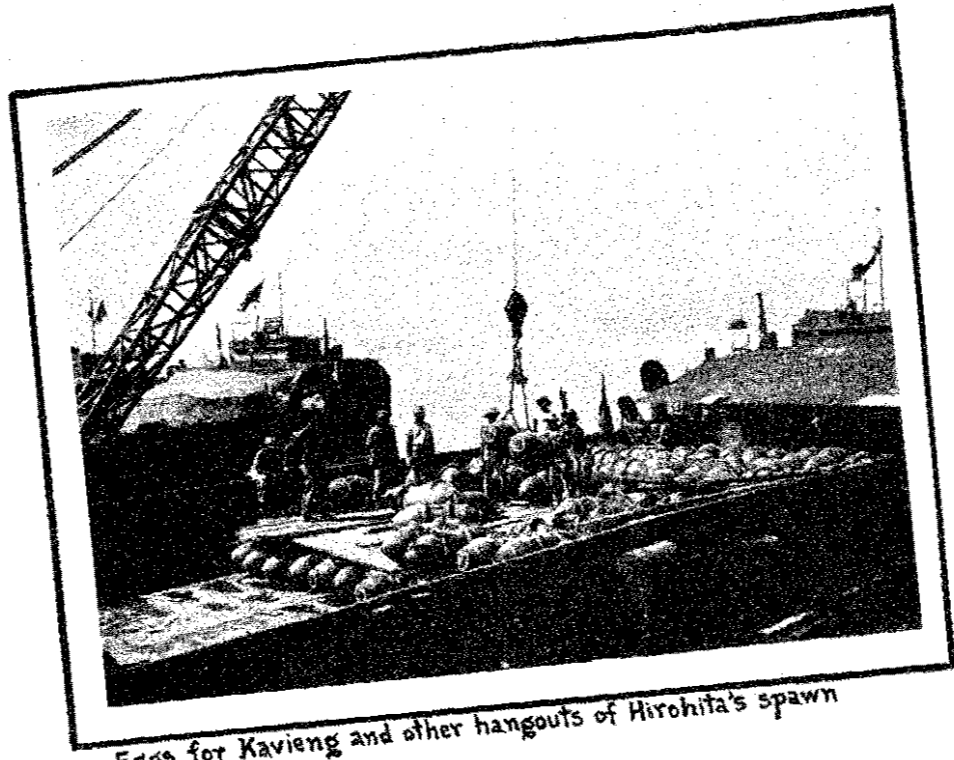


Native village near our camp

BLACK BEACH



Black Beach, before operations, late March



Eggs for Kavieng and other hangouts of Hirohita's spawn

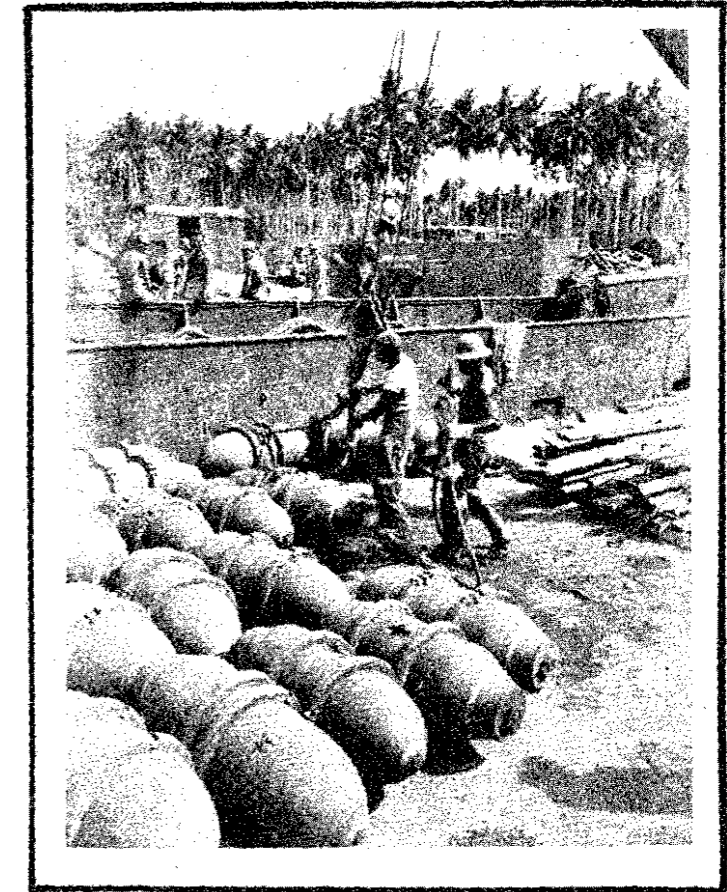


Over-all view, at height of operations - 23d April



One thousand pound bombs leave an LCT

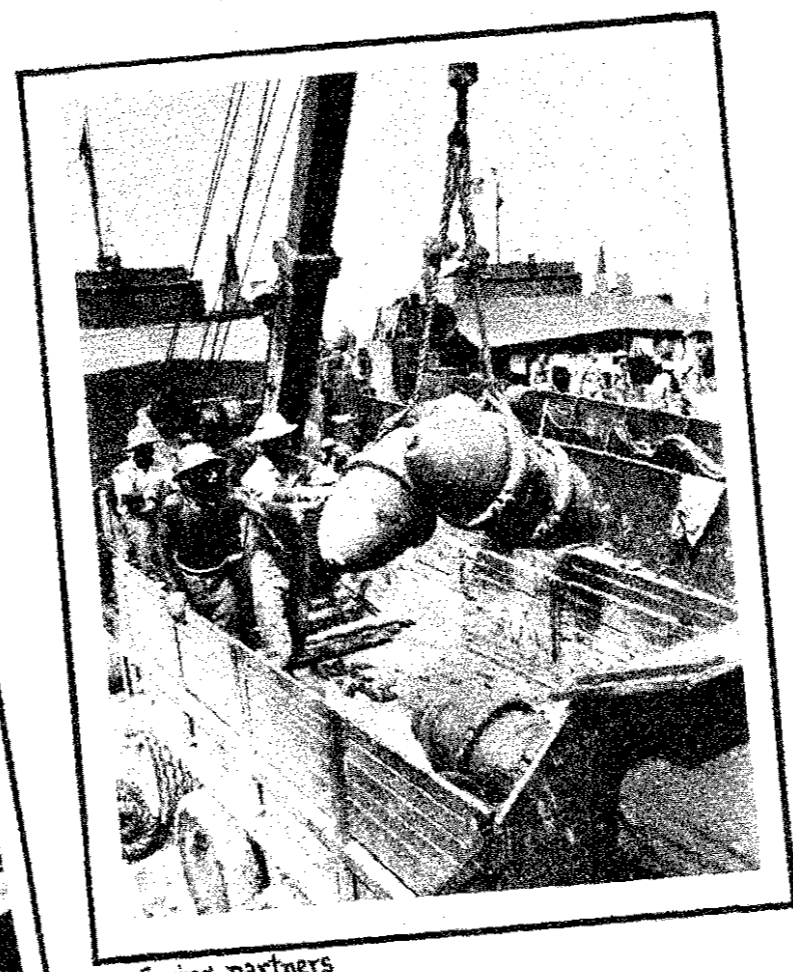
We Stevedore to Win the War!



We keep the hook moving while Army lads look on



Under the equatorial sun - this ain't fun!



Swing partners



Discharging depth charges

PURPLE BEACH ~



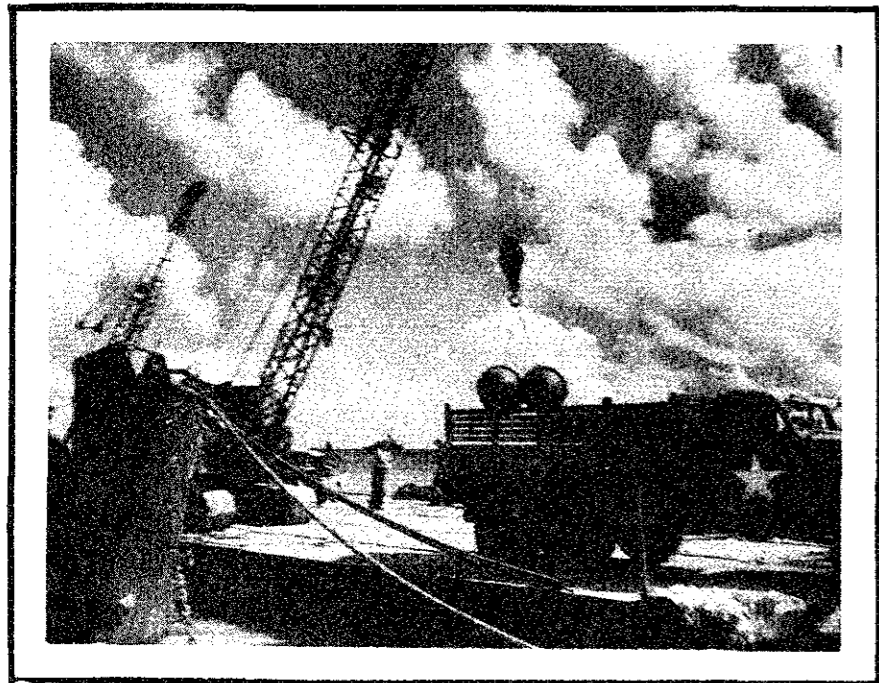
Purple Beach before completion of installations, 6th May



The inevitable bulldozer prepares the beach ...



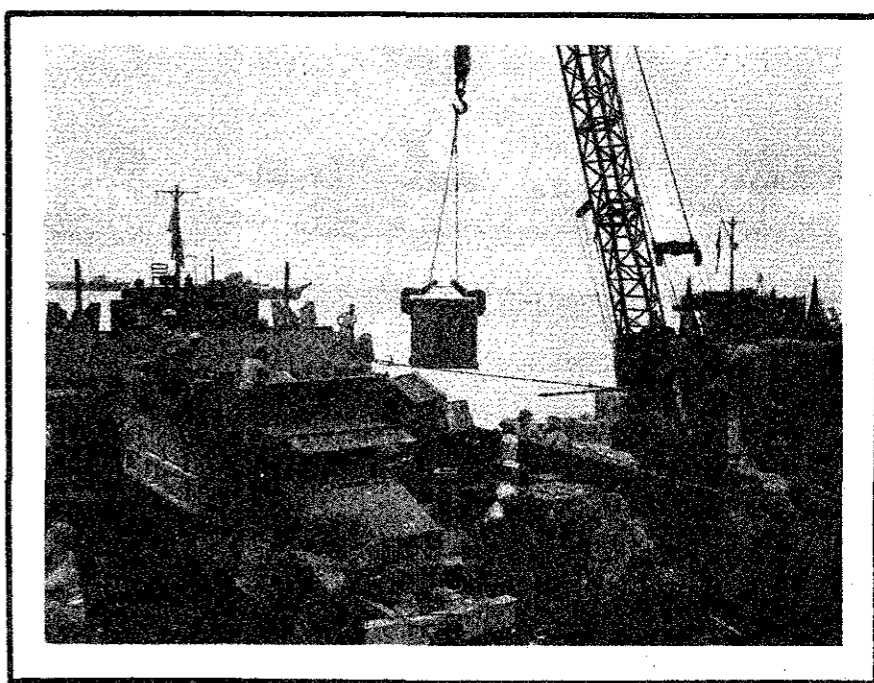
... for discharge of rolling stock



Each a thousand pounder.



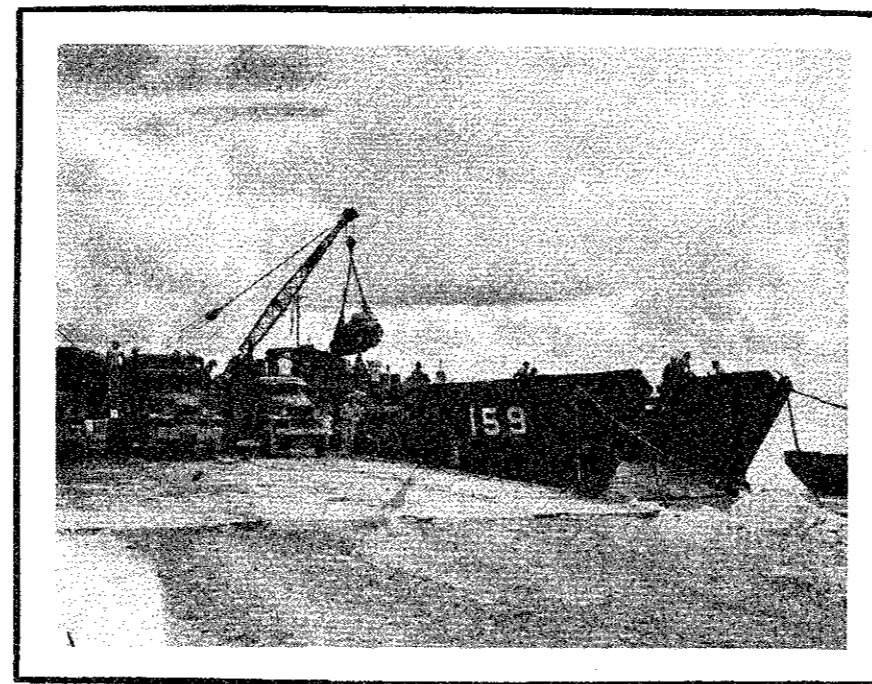
Bustling, bristling activity whenever the ships come in



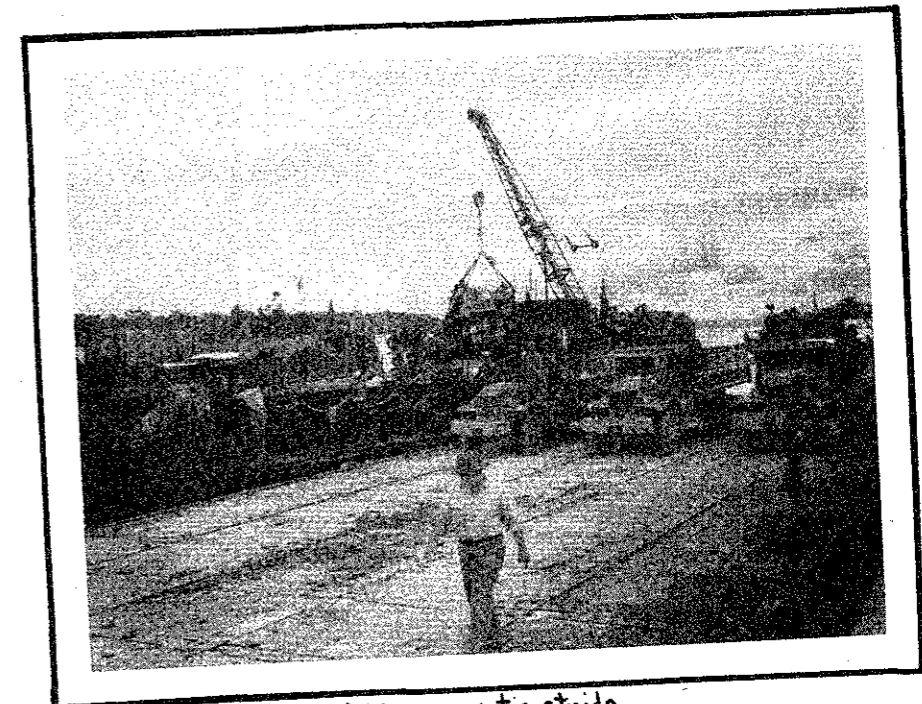
Box-hooks discharge general cargo



84 Personal gear of our neighbors, the 88th NCB



Same as # 84, front view



Lt. John Lundy and his energetic stride

OUR THEATRE OF ACTION FROM EARLY MAY TO MID-JULY



Destined for a highly useful career - a "reefer"



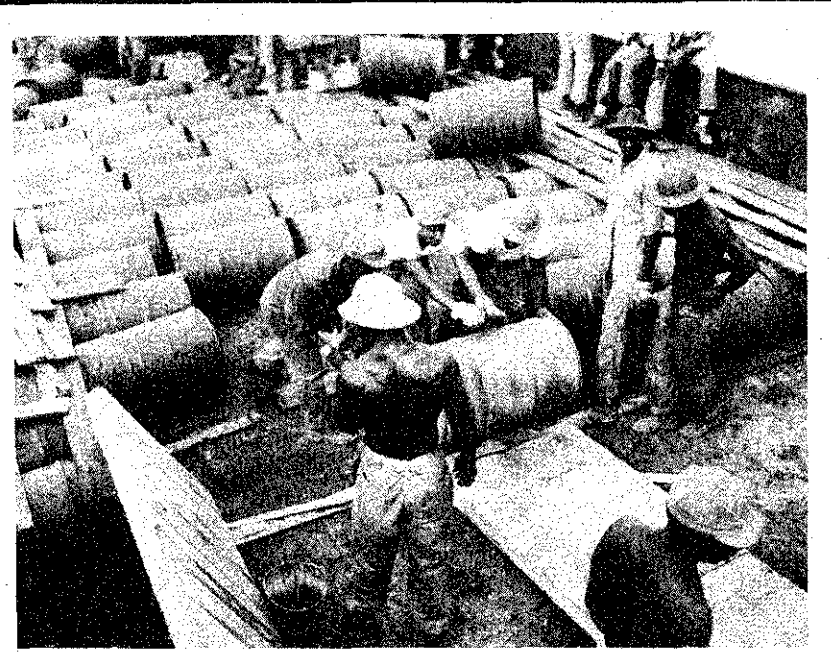
Typical scene at Purple Beach



The Northwest lifts a complete sawmill



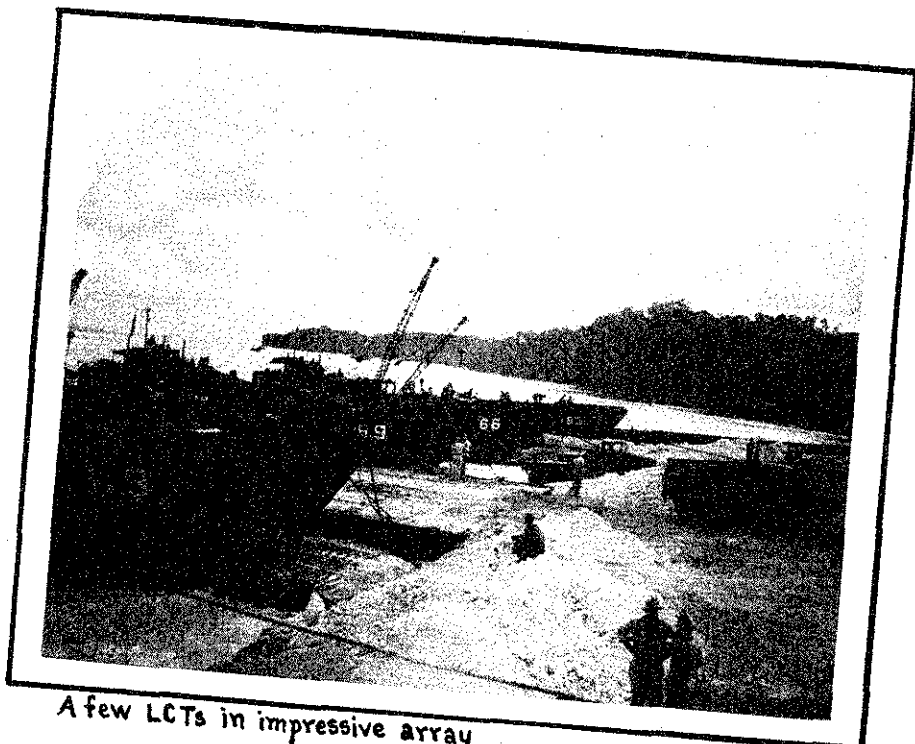
Discharging general cargo



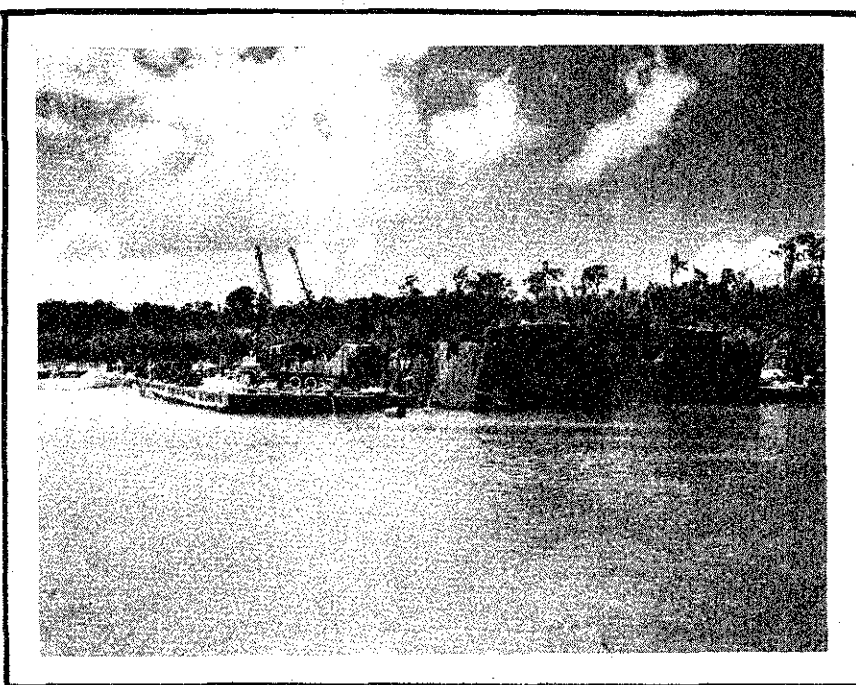
Oil drums, nostalgically suggesting a familiar tune!



They keep the hook moving



A few LCTs in impressive array



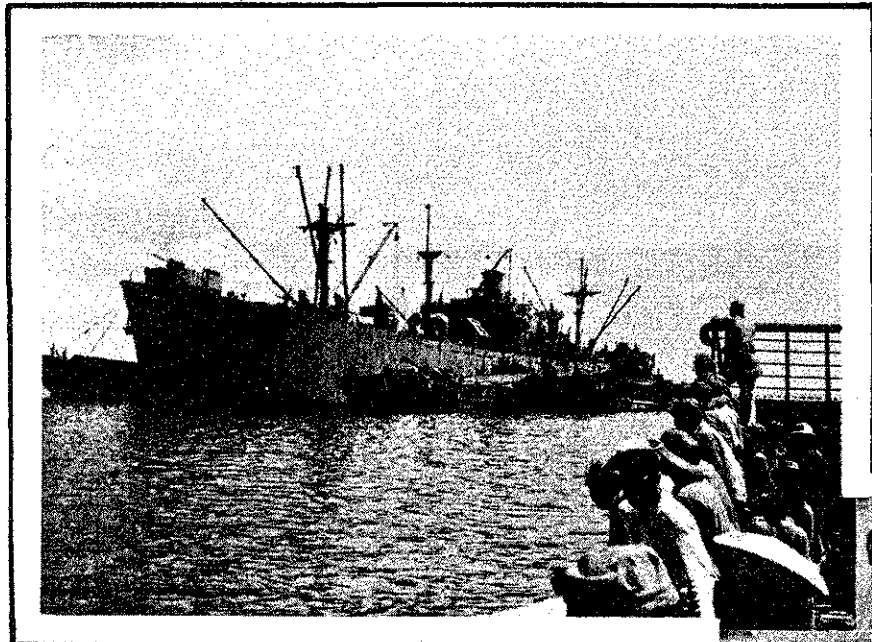
View of dock area as we approach in a barge



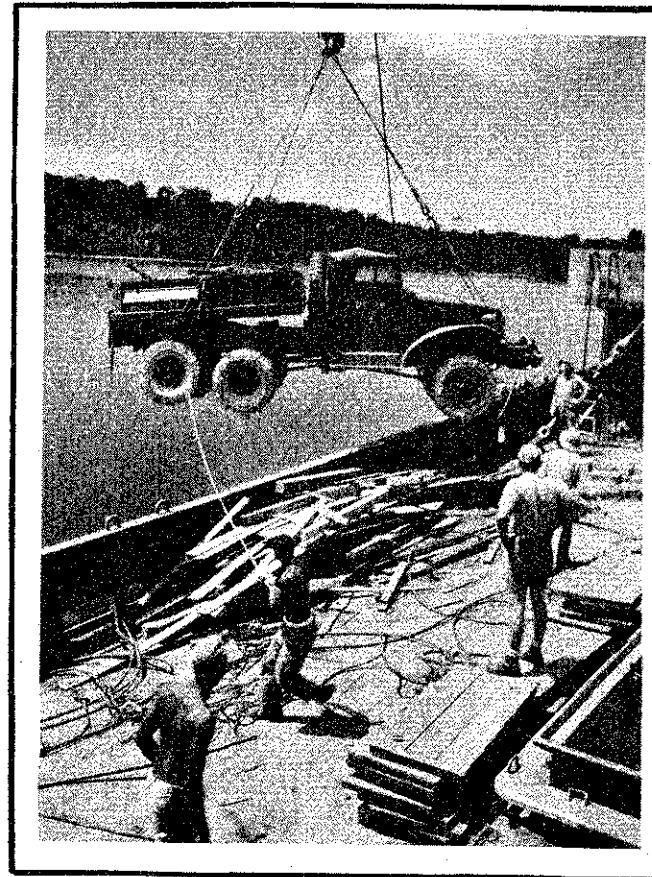
Finger piers by mid-June complete the installations

Aboard the Liberty Ship, JACK LONDON

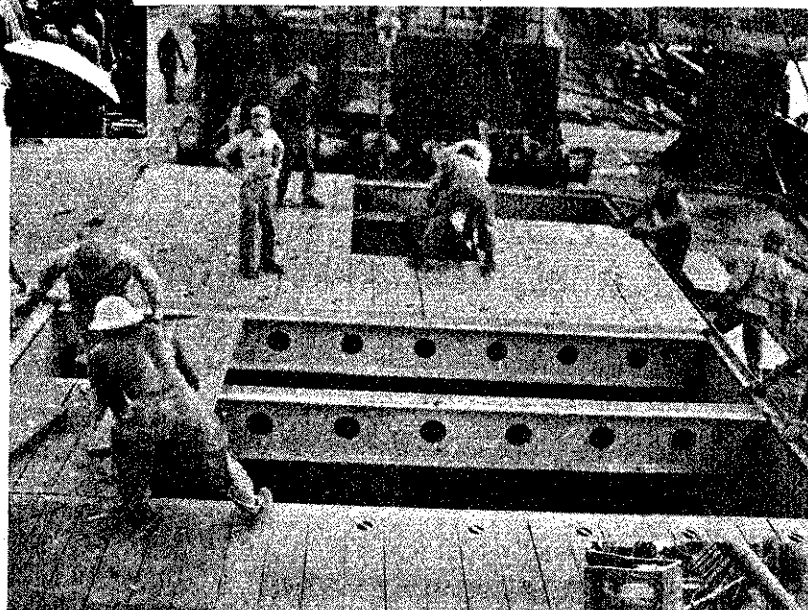
...one of the many vessels
unloaded by the men of the
17th Special
29th & 30th MAY



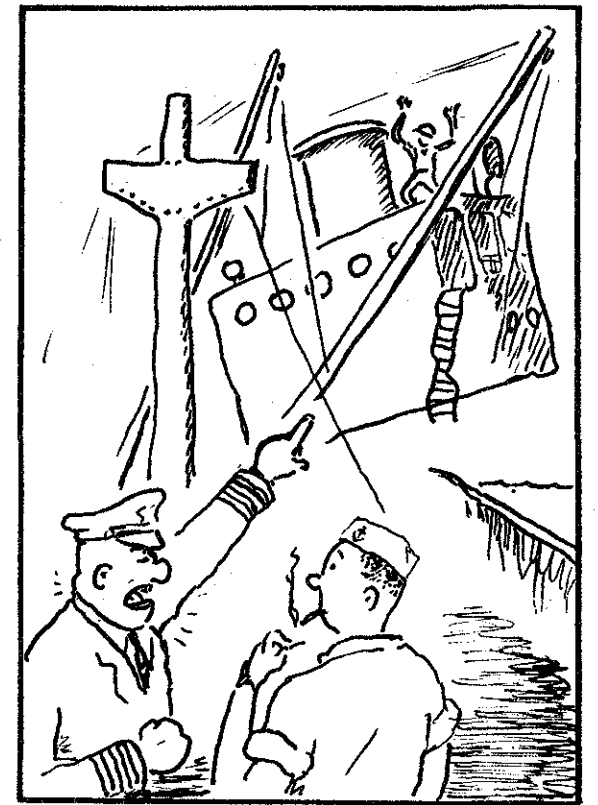
The Jack London, hedged about by LCTs



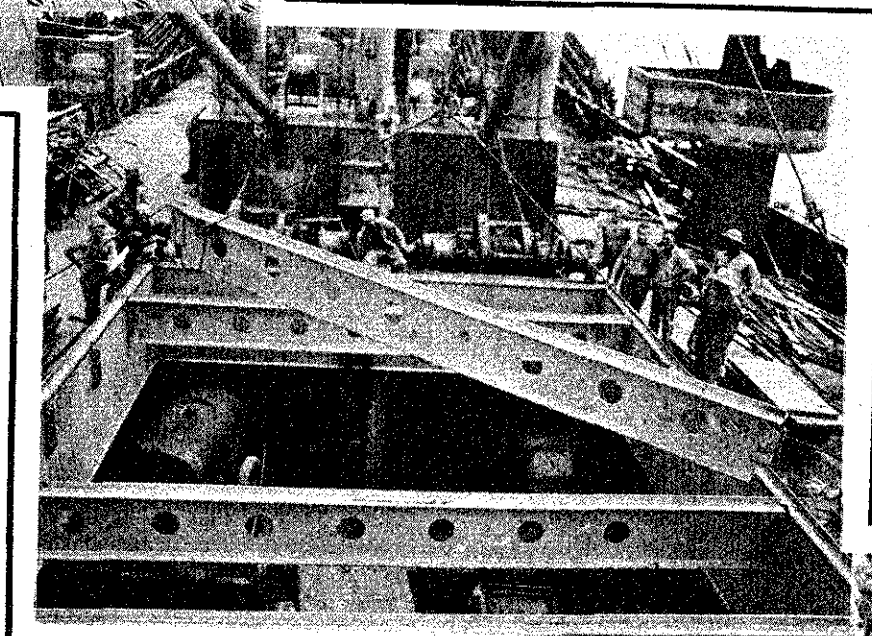
Over the bulkhead



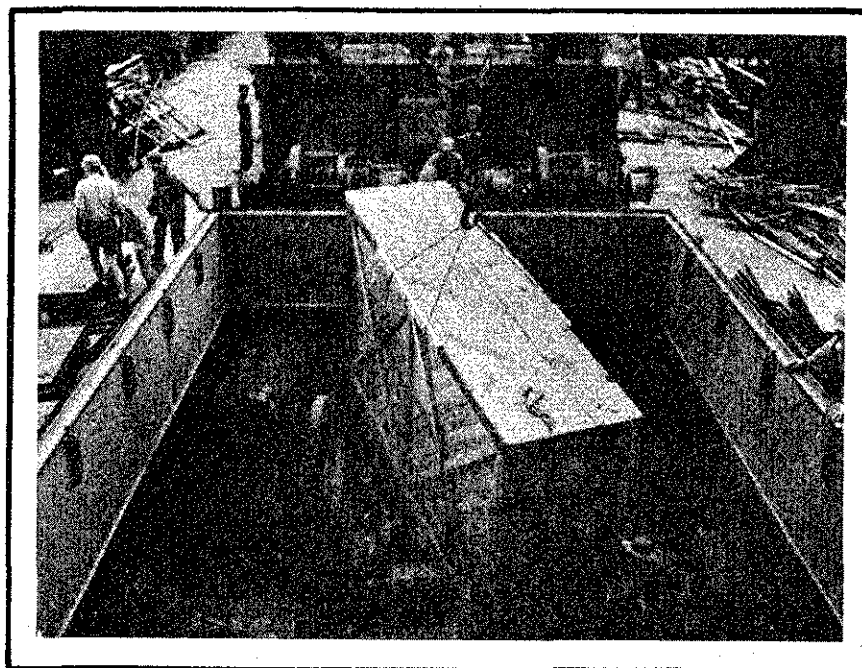
Stripping hatch covers



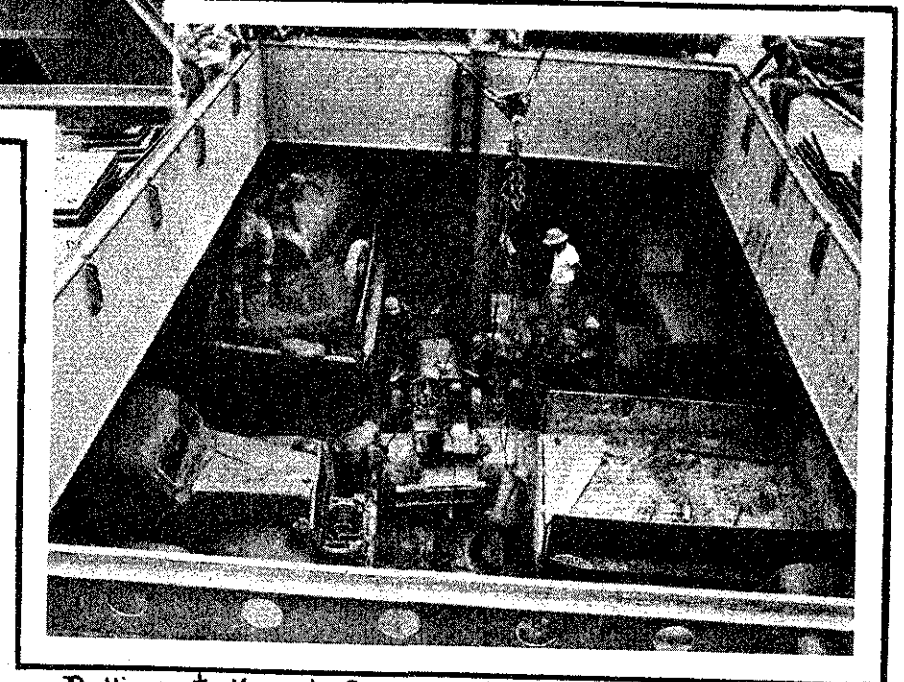
"Tonnage hell - put my deck-house back!"



Off come the hatch beams



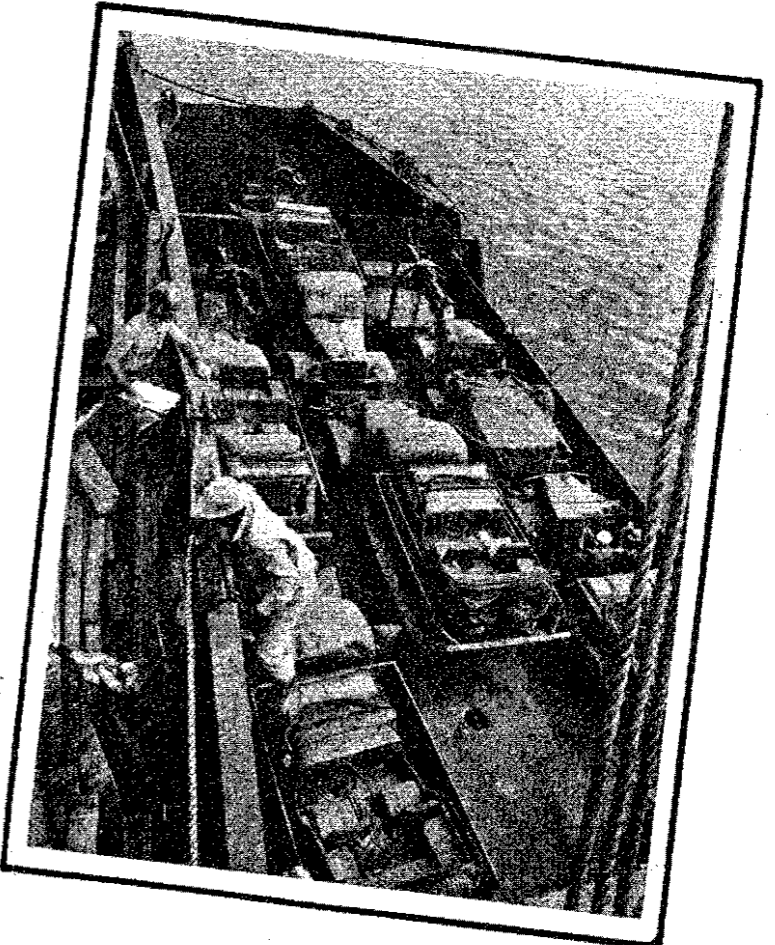
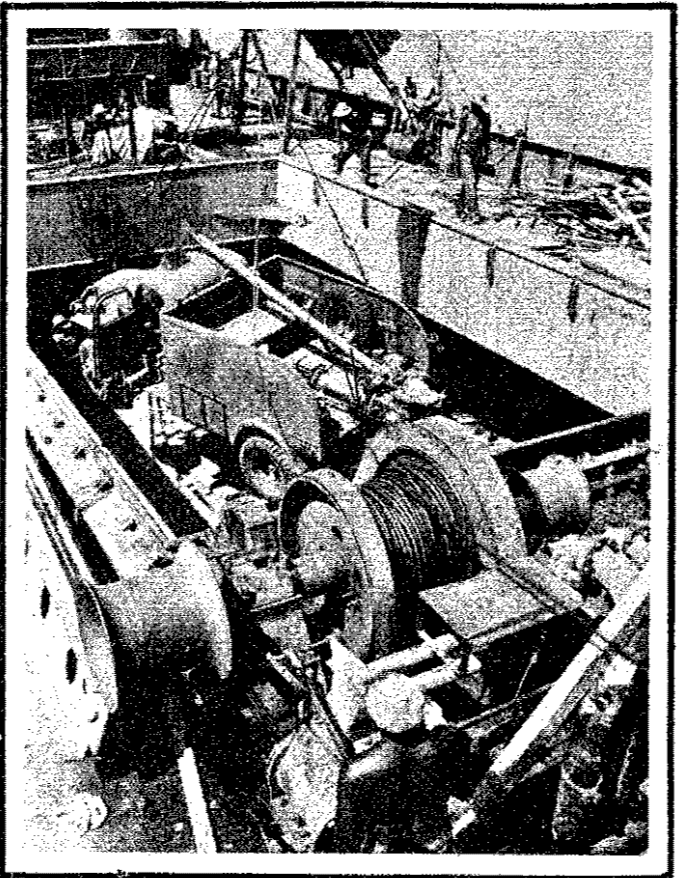
Aeroplane wings in the big box



Rolling stock ready for removal

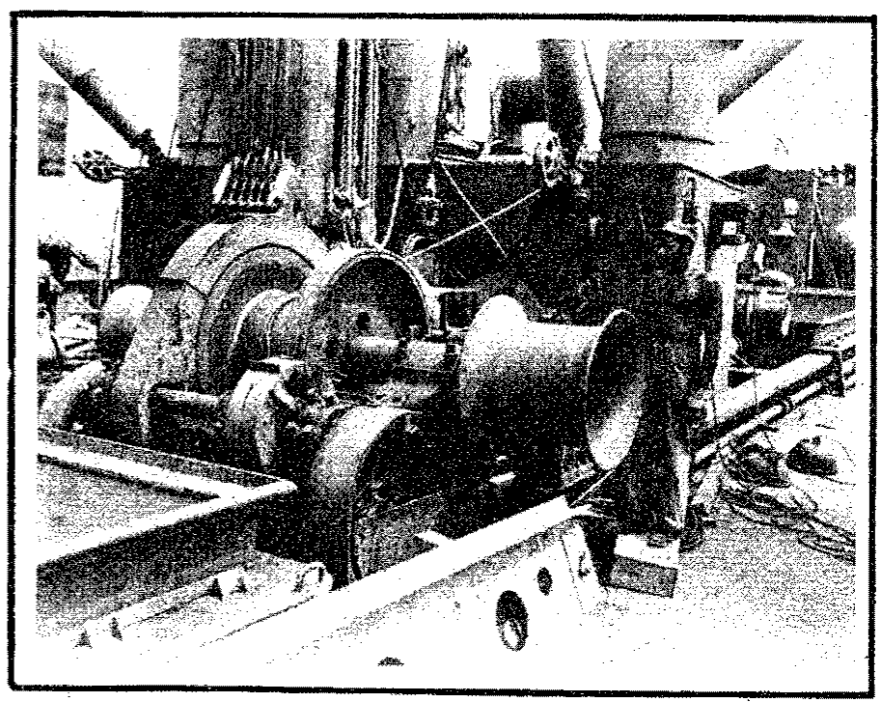
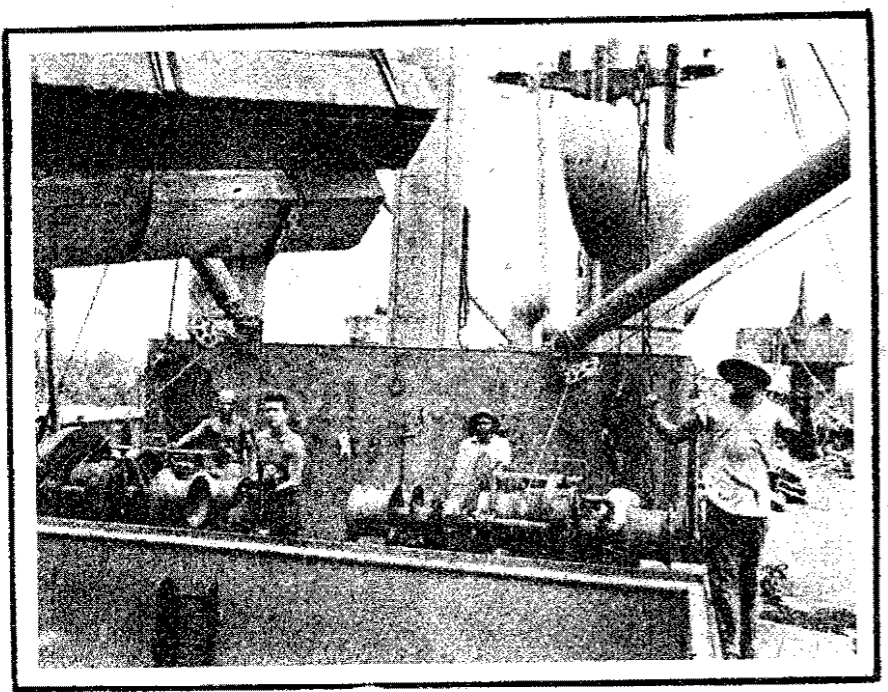
From the holds of ships comes the materiel needed to
send the Jap reeling backward over the Pacific. Here
is where the 17th Special gets in some hard punches.

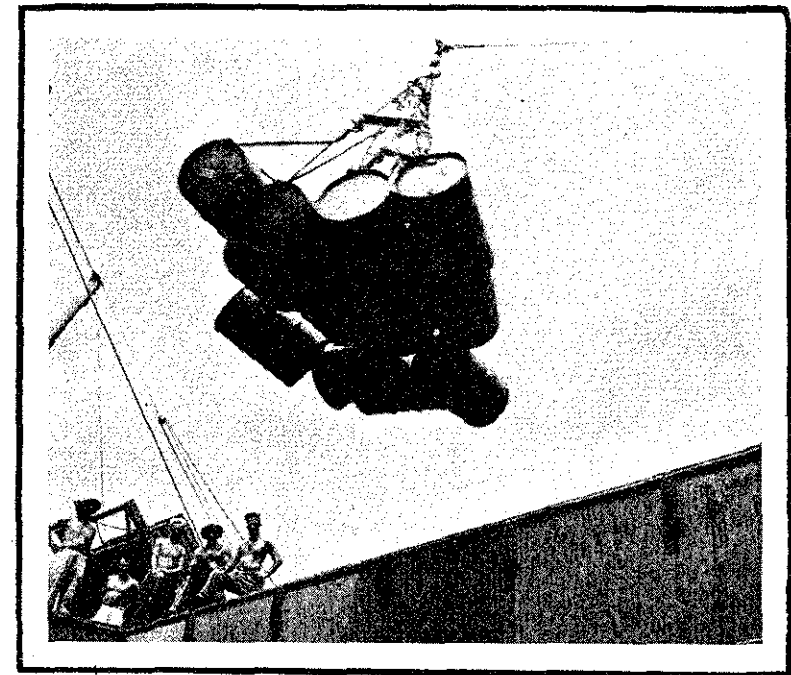
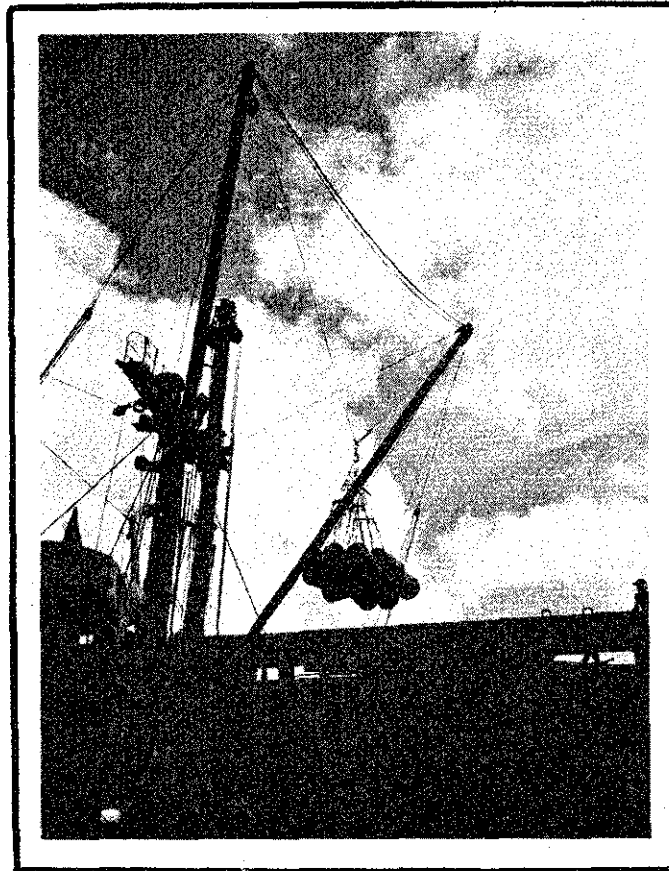
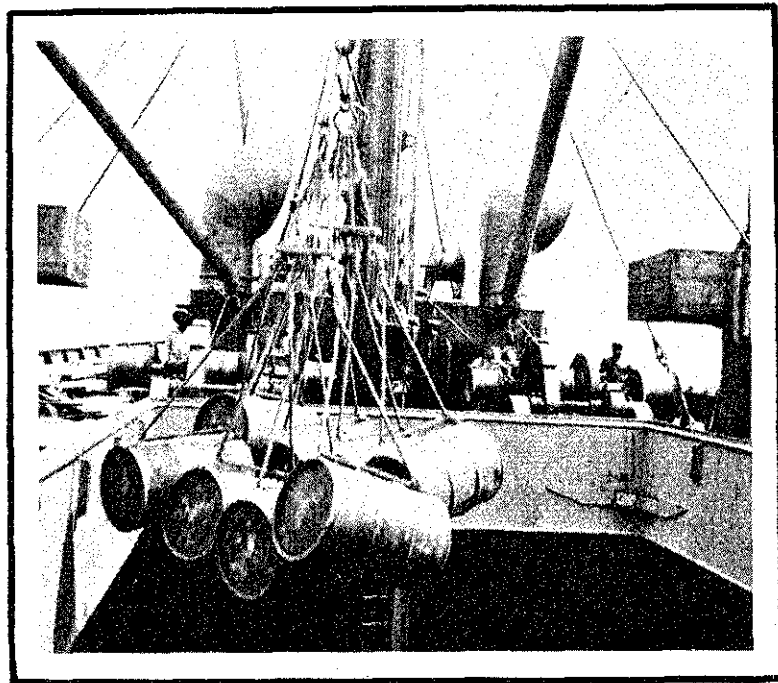
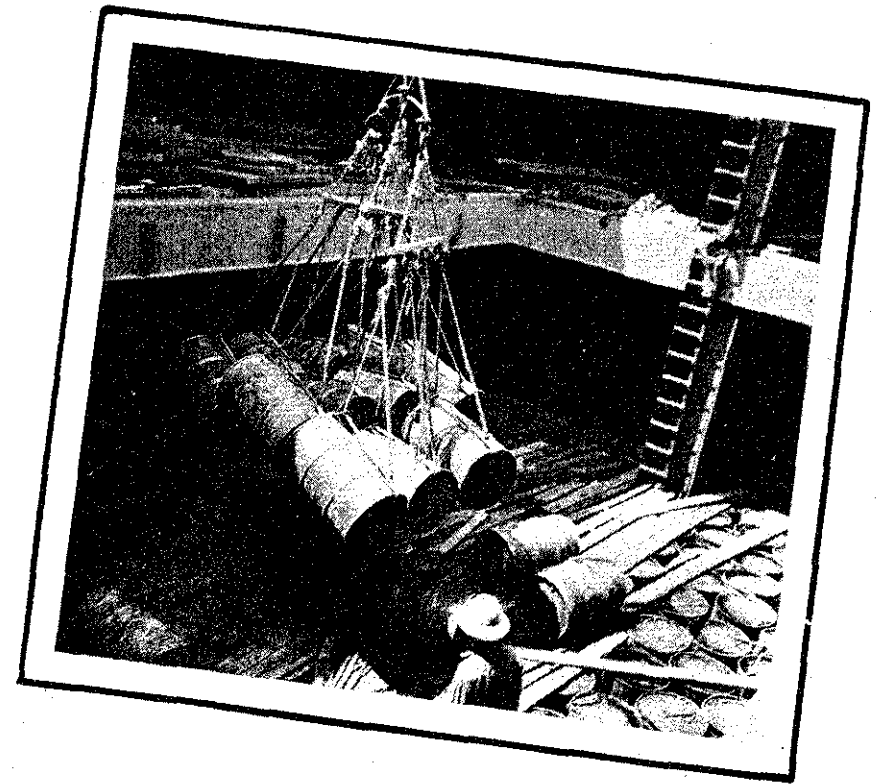
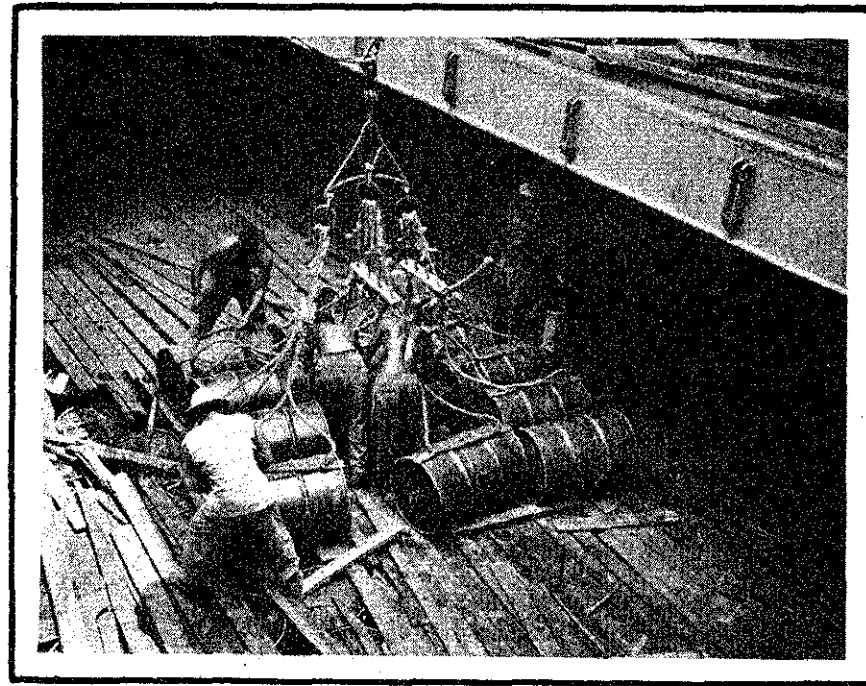
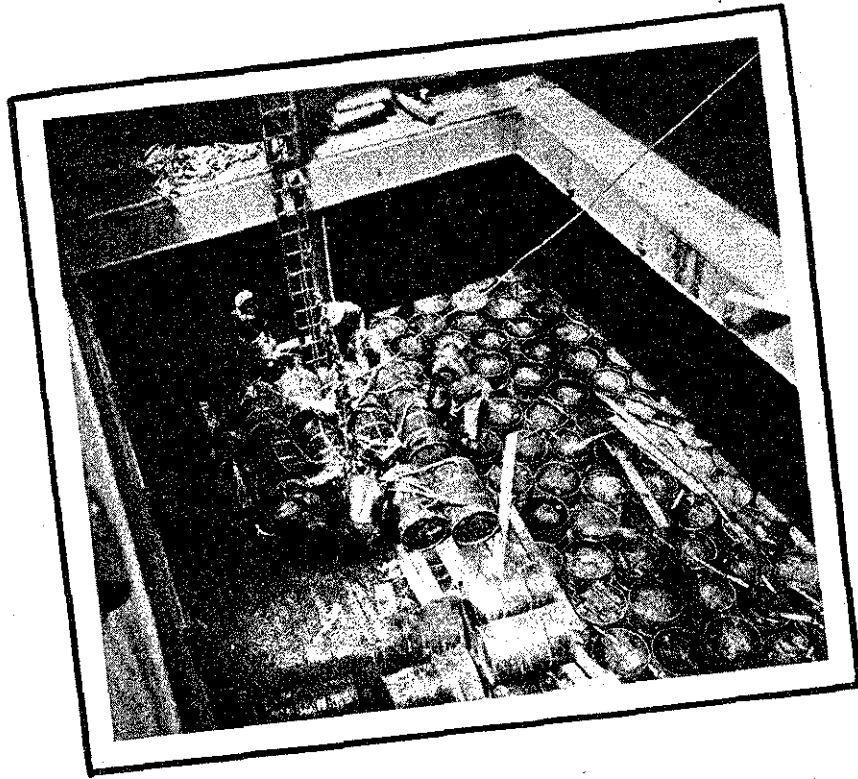




"THEY SHALL NOT WANT"

...our pledge fulfilled, the battalion having made numerous records in the field of military stevedoring





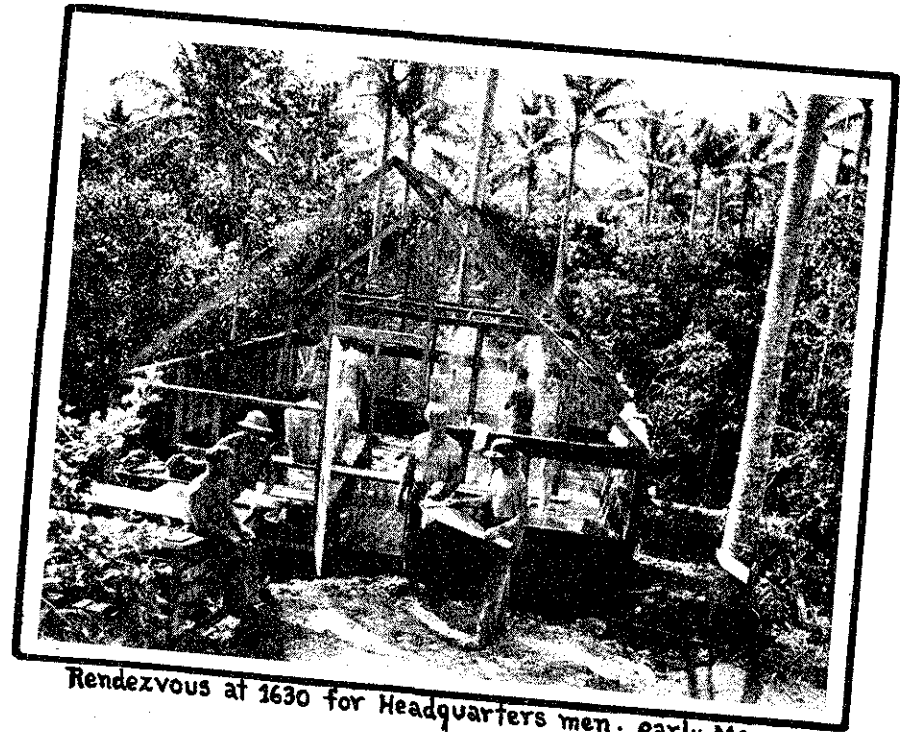
DISCHARGING OIL AND GAS DRUMS FROM THE JACK LONDON
USING THREE SETS OF BARRELL CHIMES



Our camp site, a neglected coconut grove, as found in mid-April



One month later—a luxurious camp, completely equipped

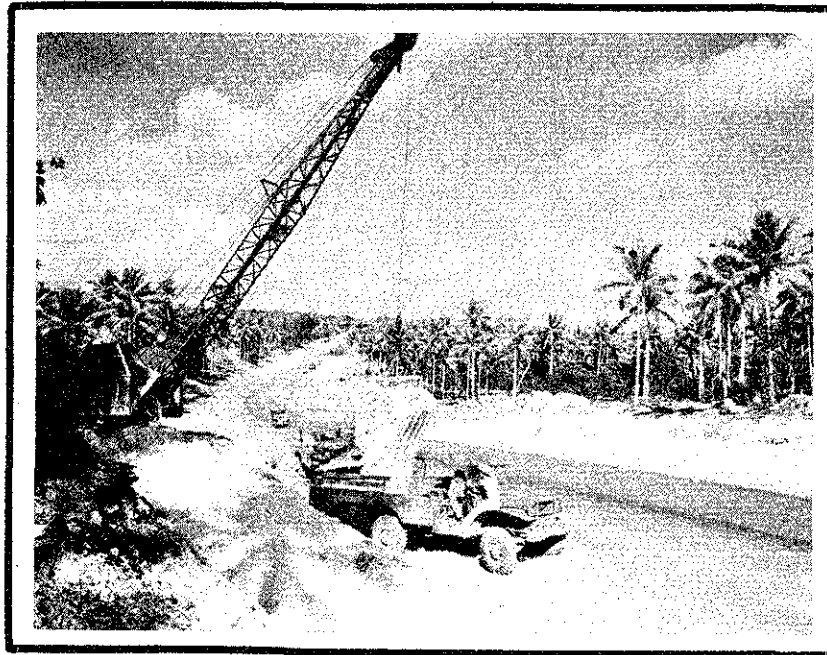


Rendezvous at 1630 for Headquarters men; early May

OUR CAMP



Coral for our excellent roads about Camp



Seabee super-highway bisecting our camp

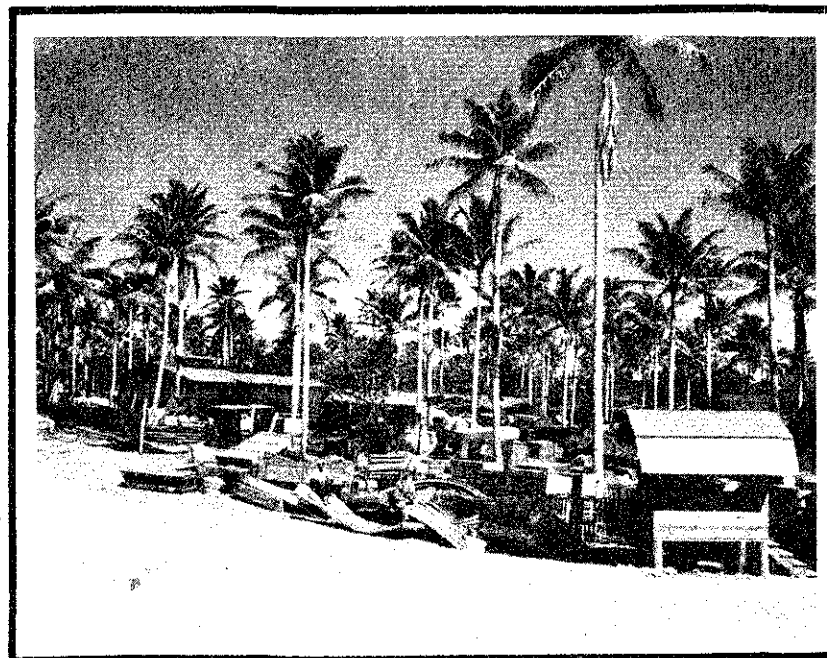


Ditch-digger prepares way for water-pipes

THE FINEST ON EMIRAU!



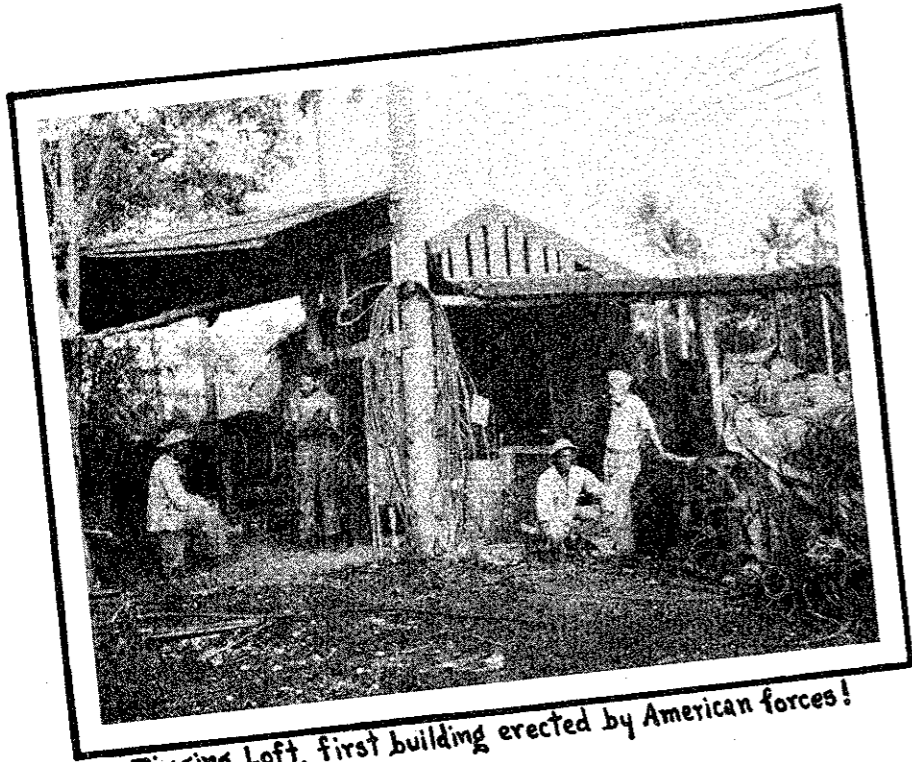
Late April—gear and cargo arrives from BaniKa



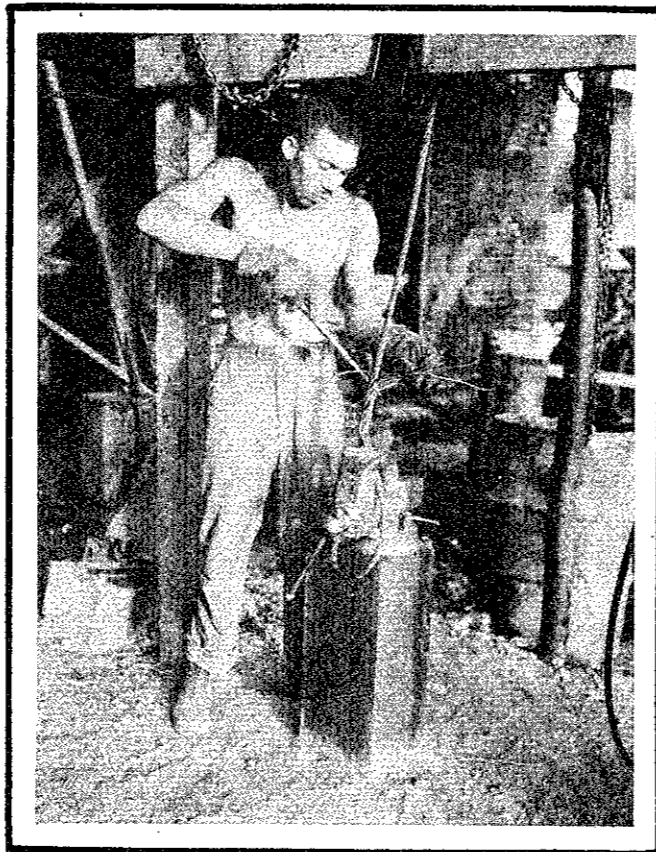
The Battalion dump; completed galley in the background



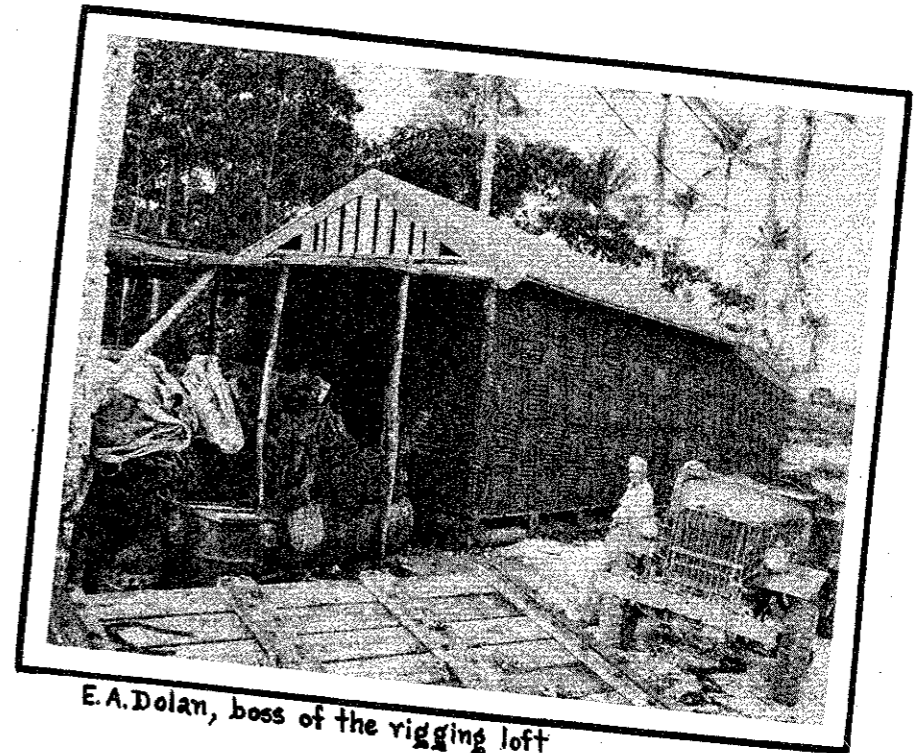
BaniKa-built A-frames helped enormously



Rigging Loft, first building erected by American forces!



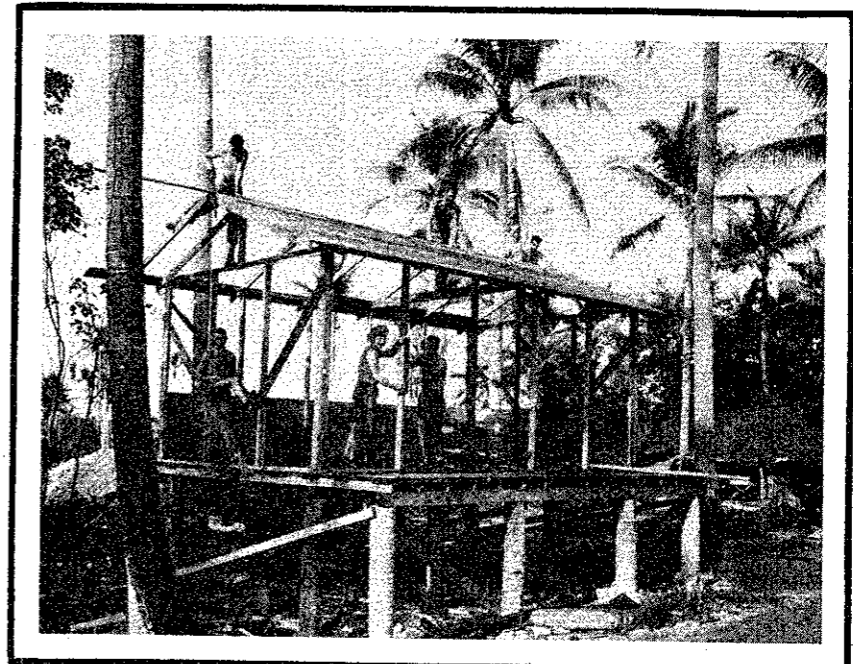
Wm. McBride, one of Dolan's lofty lads



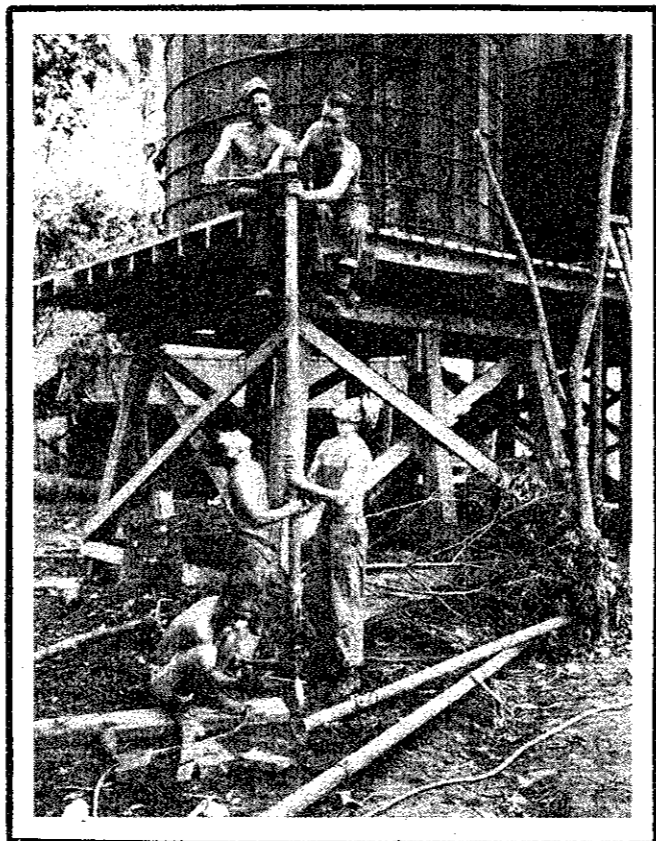
E.A. Dolan, boss of the rigging loft



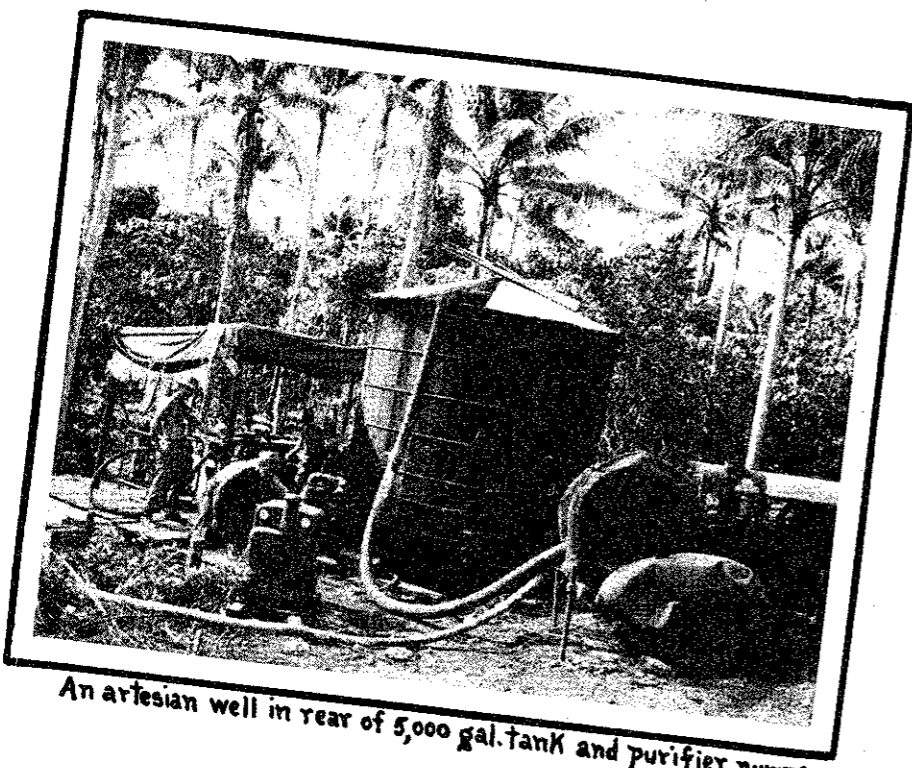
Barrier for bad boys, or more bluntly, the brig!



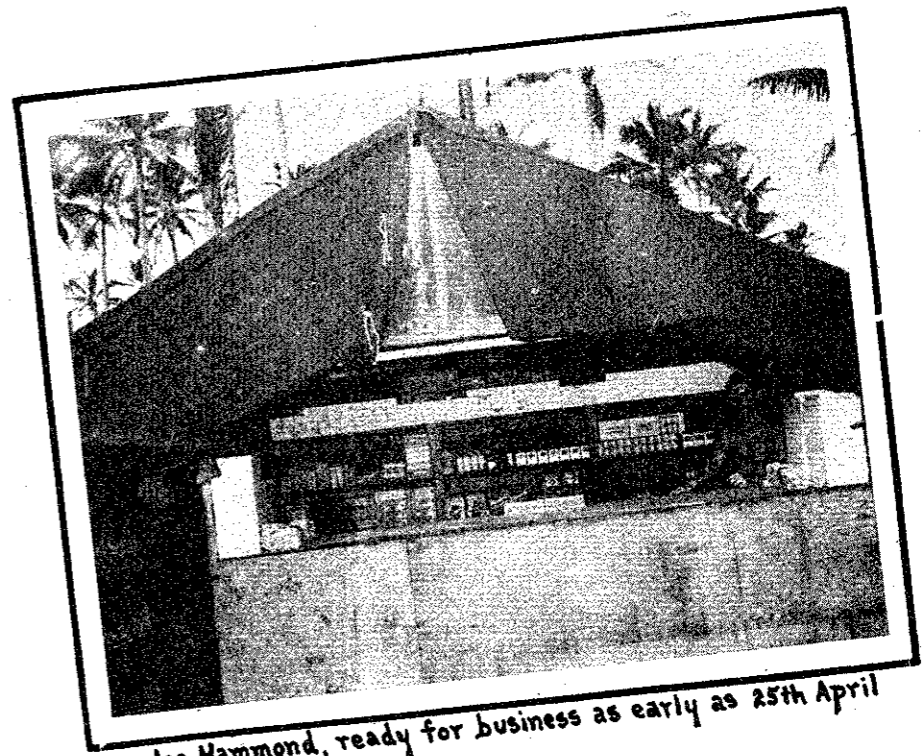
'Holy Joe' Moore, handling saw near Heaven, helps build G.I. house!



Busy ship-fitters quickly rig up water system



An artesian well in rear of 5,000 gal. tank and purifier pumps



Joe Hammond, ready for business as early as 25th April



The Motor Pool, every automotive service rendered



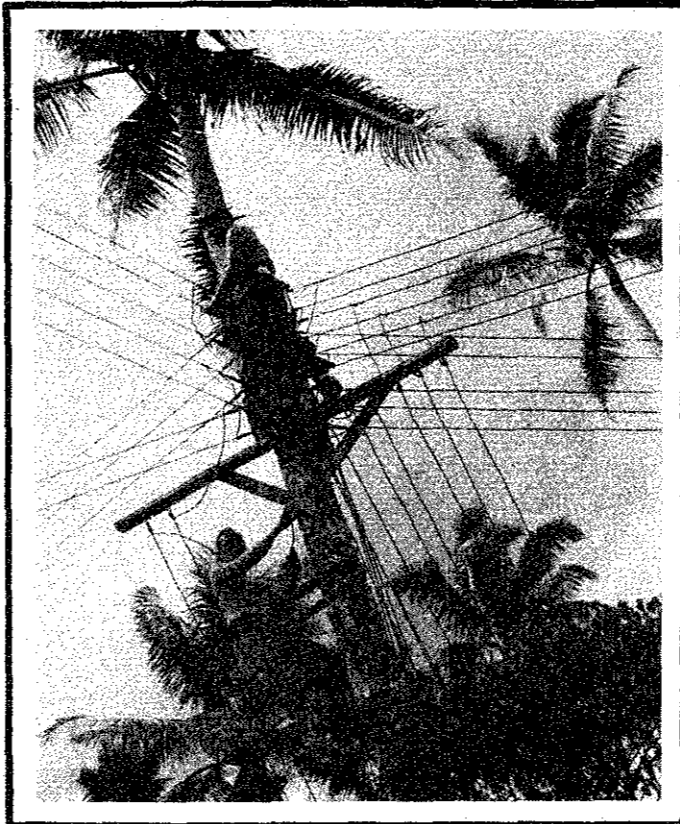
Tuckered out trucks treated by T. Hamilton and W. Smith



Frank Randolph - George Raavis, tireless tire experts



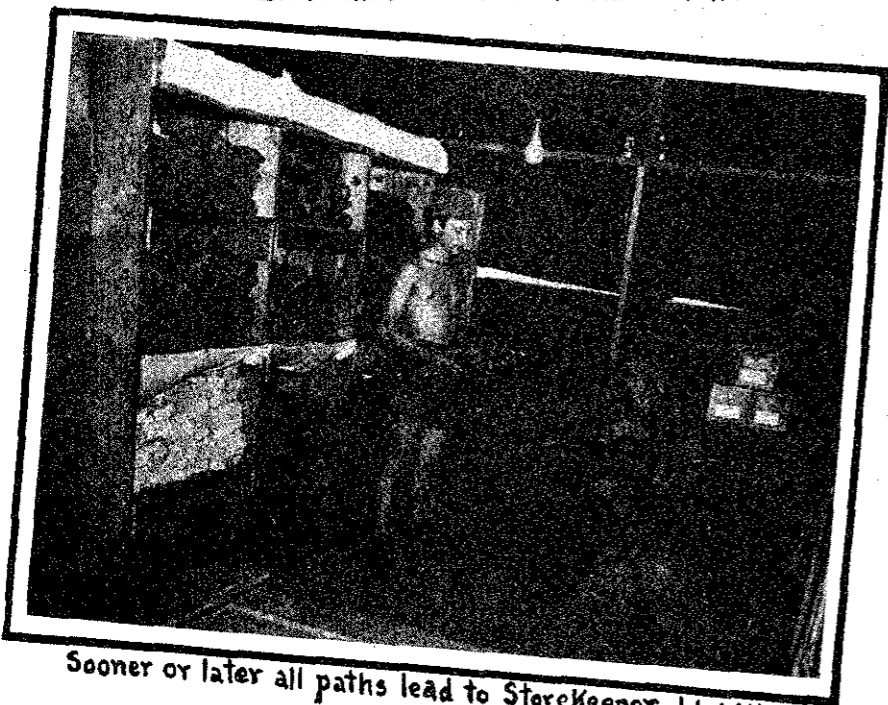
Blacksmiths J.D. Petrocelli and W. M. Glass



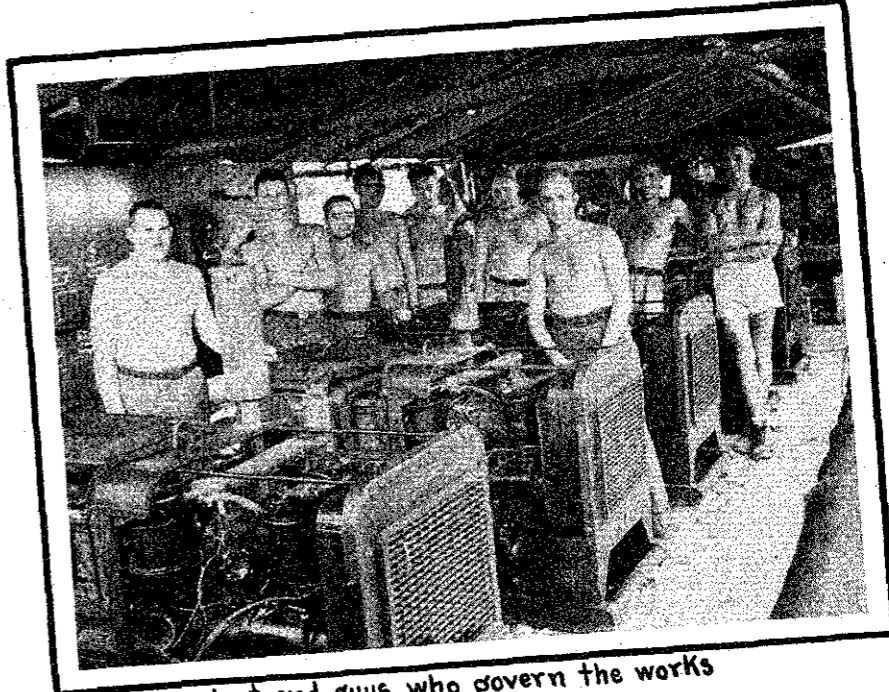
J.H. Castle - E.B. Becker on distribution lines



"Papa" T.H. Gray

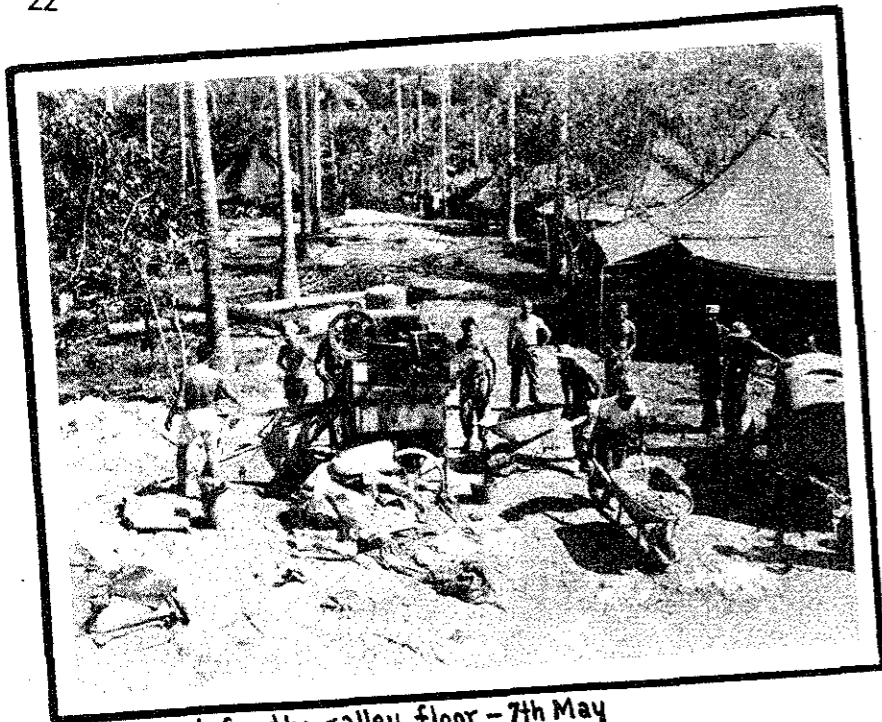


Sooner or later all paths lead to Storekeeper J.L. Lilley

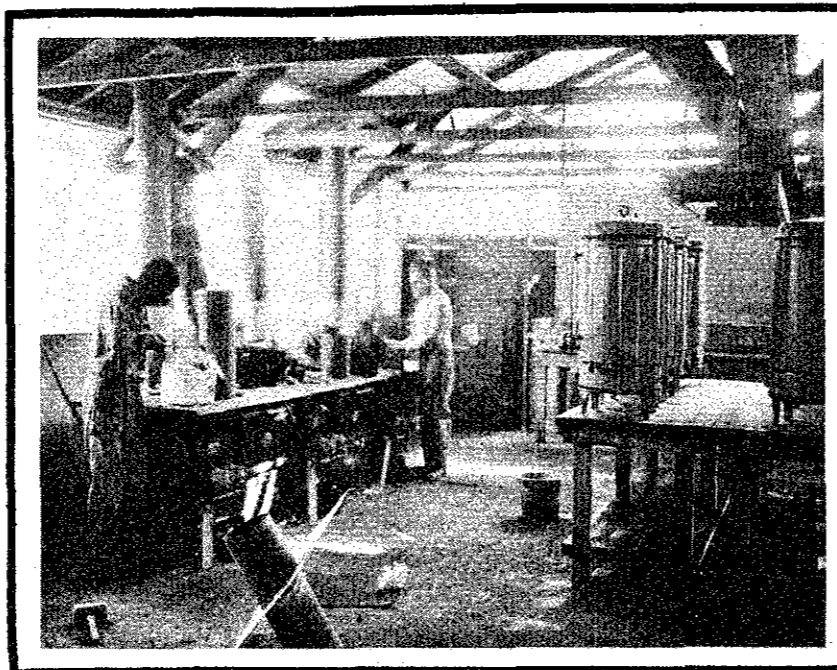


Power plant and guys who govern the works

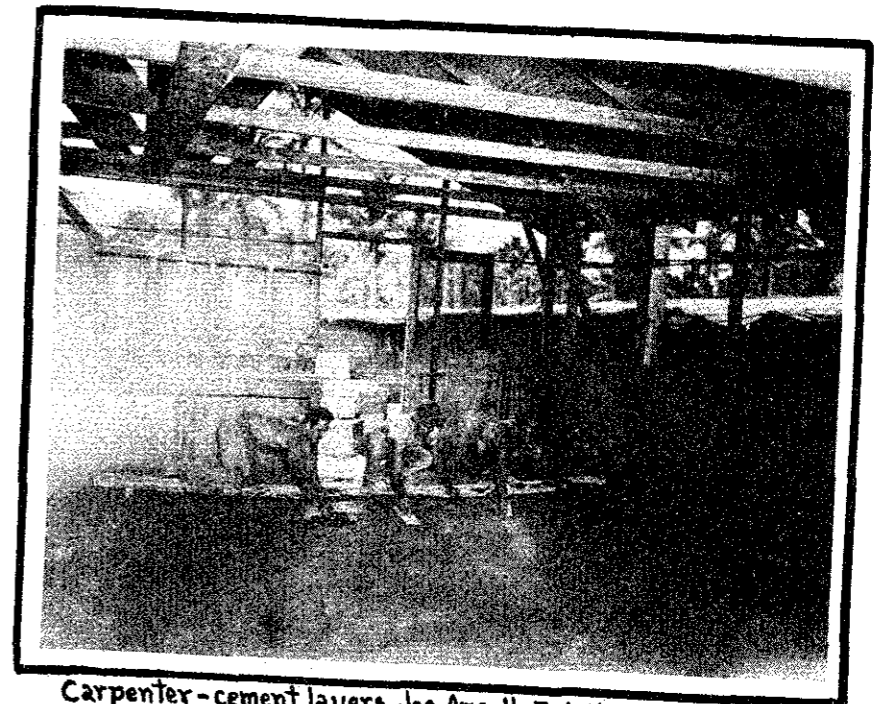
GALLEY and



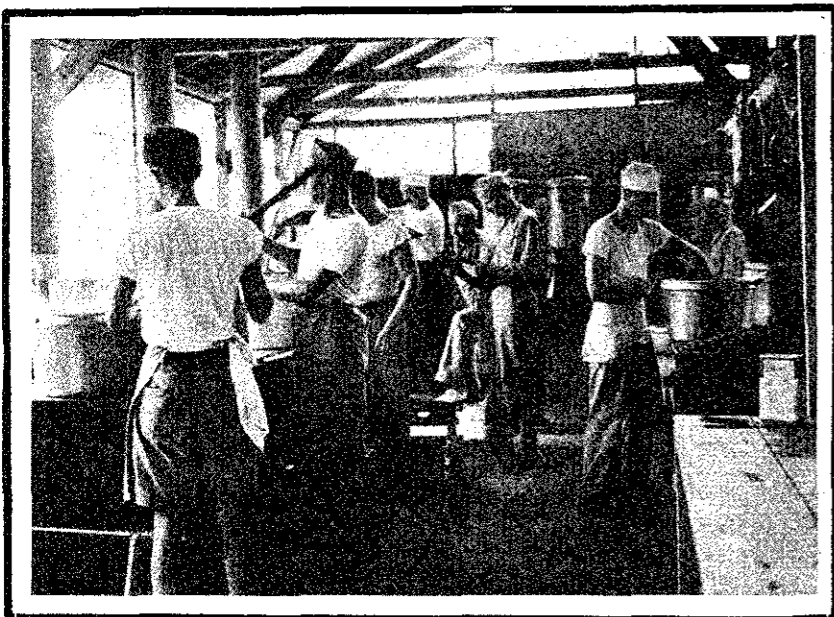
Cement for the galley floor - 7th May



Three days later, nearly ready for business



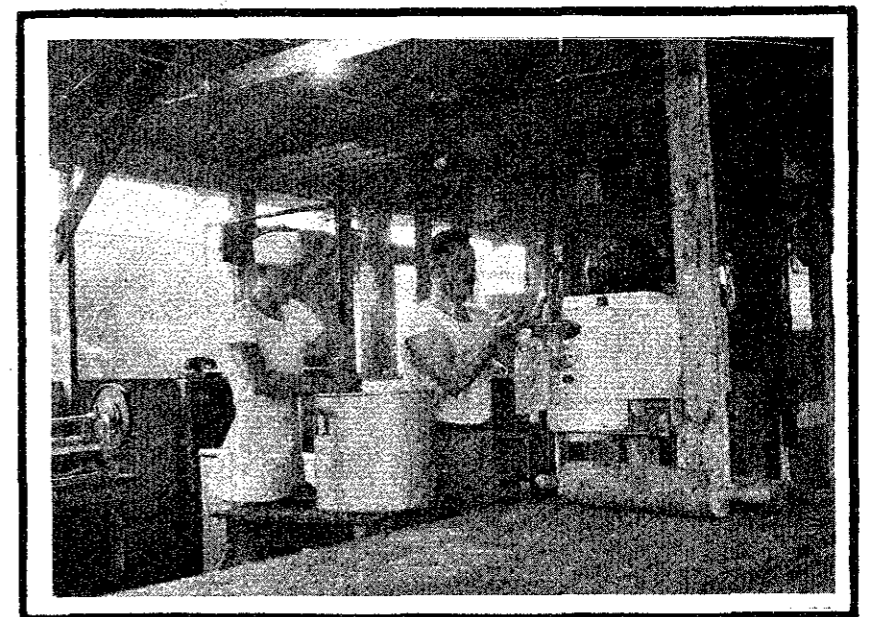
Carpenter-cement layers Joe Ansell, R.J. Hynes, W. Howell



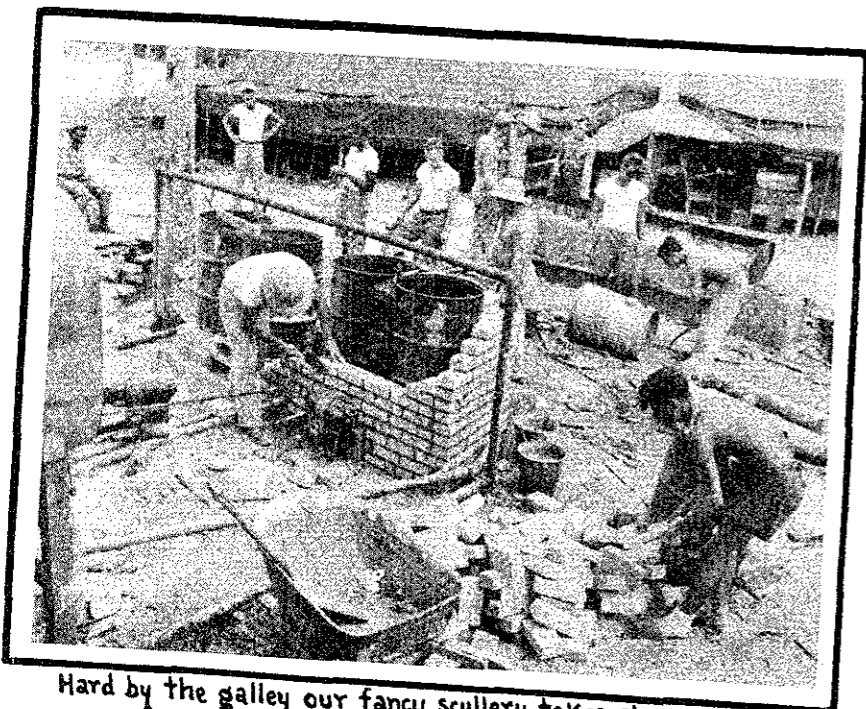
Galley crew in ideal set-up, "cookin' with gas" - 15th May



Bread and pies for ravenous guys, made by M. Griggs, P. Lewis, D. Haynes and M. Tutone



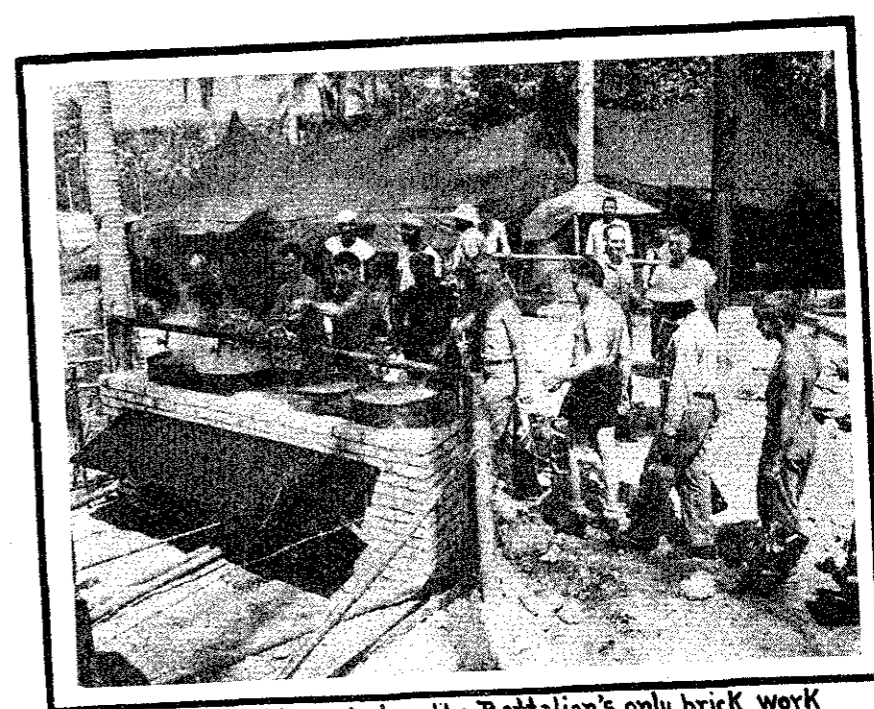
L. Turner and J. Kuzma grinding the hamburg



Hard by the galley our fancy scullery takes shape - 8th June



Galley approach spruced up by spirited gang of Co. "C"



Scullery working nicely - the Battalion's only brick work

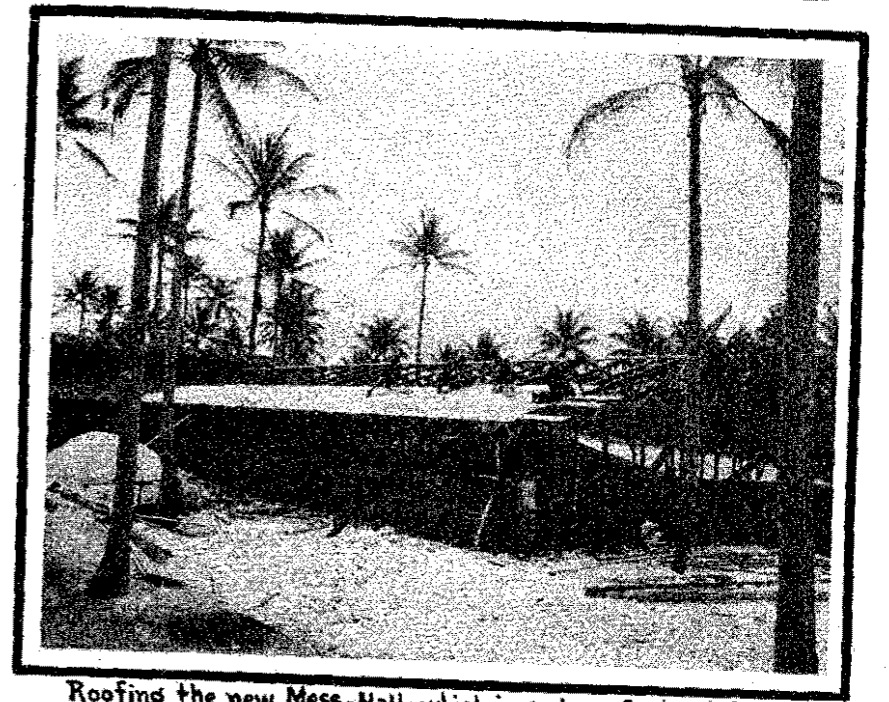
MESS-HALL



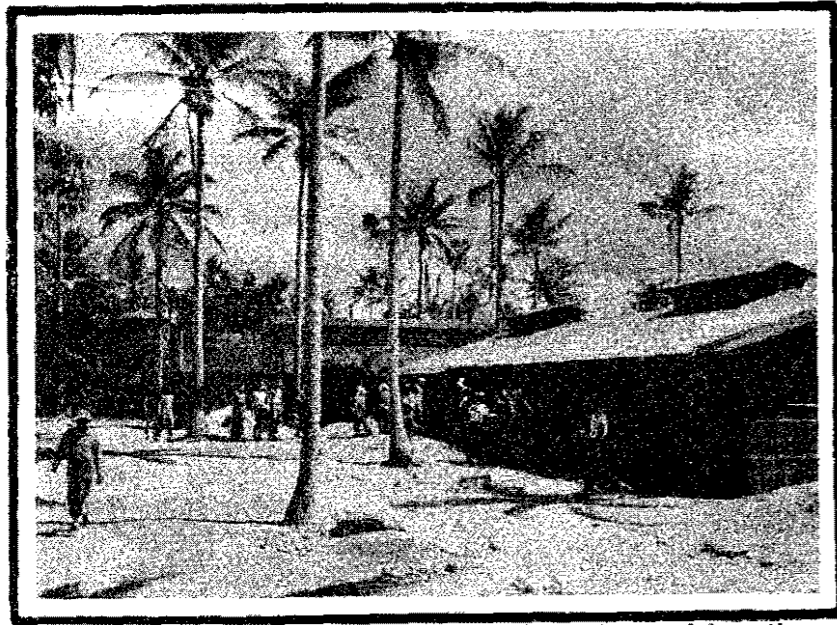
Footing of Mess-Hall; chow line forms at temporary Mess, May 15



Cheekers as well as carpenters pour the footing - 20th May



Roofing the new Mess-Hall, which is 30 by 70 feet, 3d June



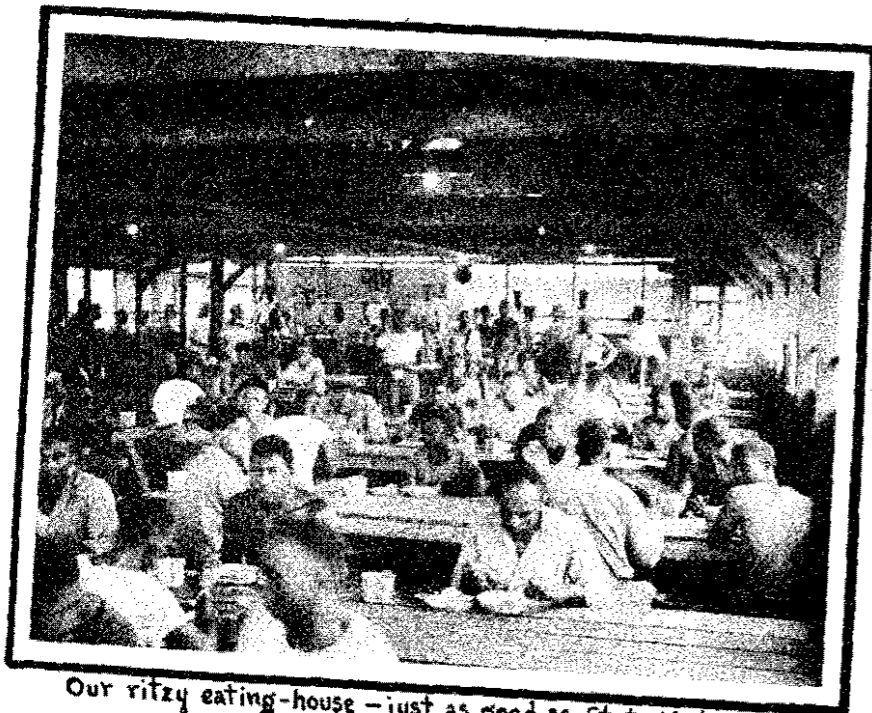
Completed 7th June. Meat storage refrigerator next to galley



Bugler John Hamilton sounds off, mess gear rattles in response



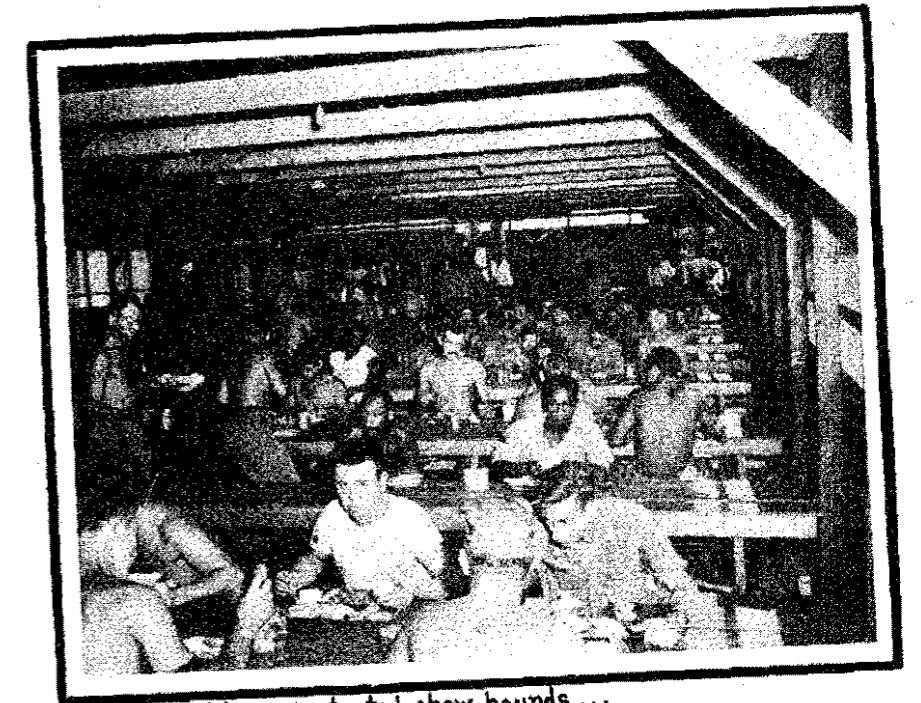
"Come and get it!"



Our ritzy eating-house - just as good as Stateside!



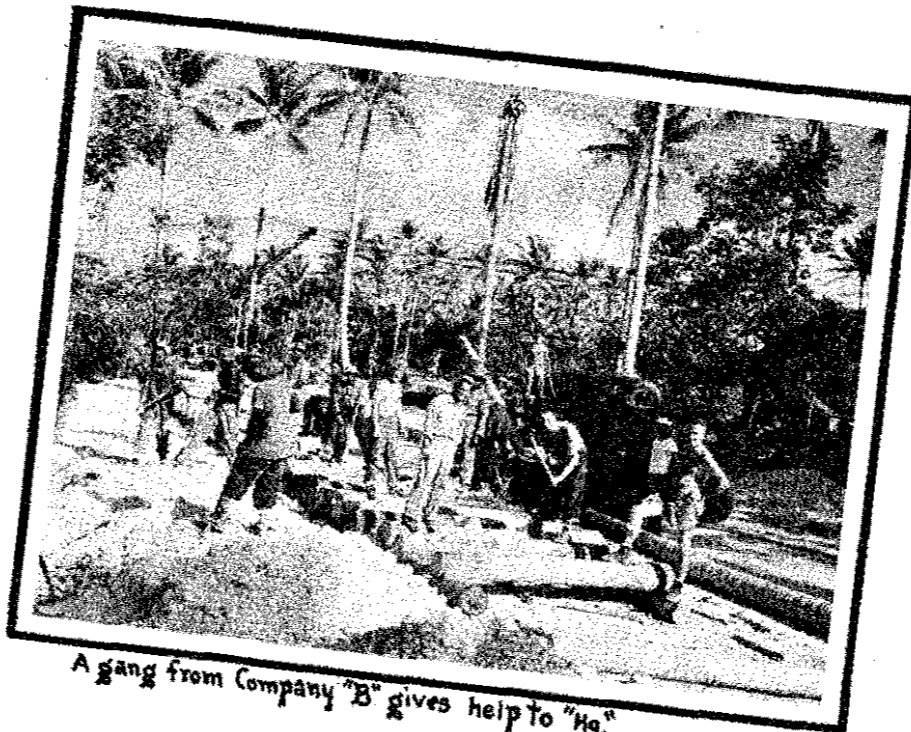
Chow call produces a stampede in Company "B"



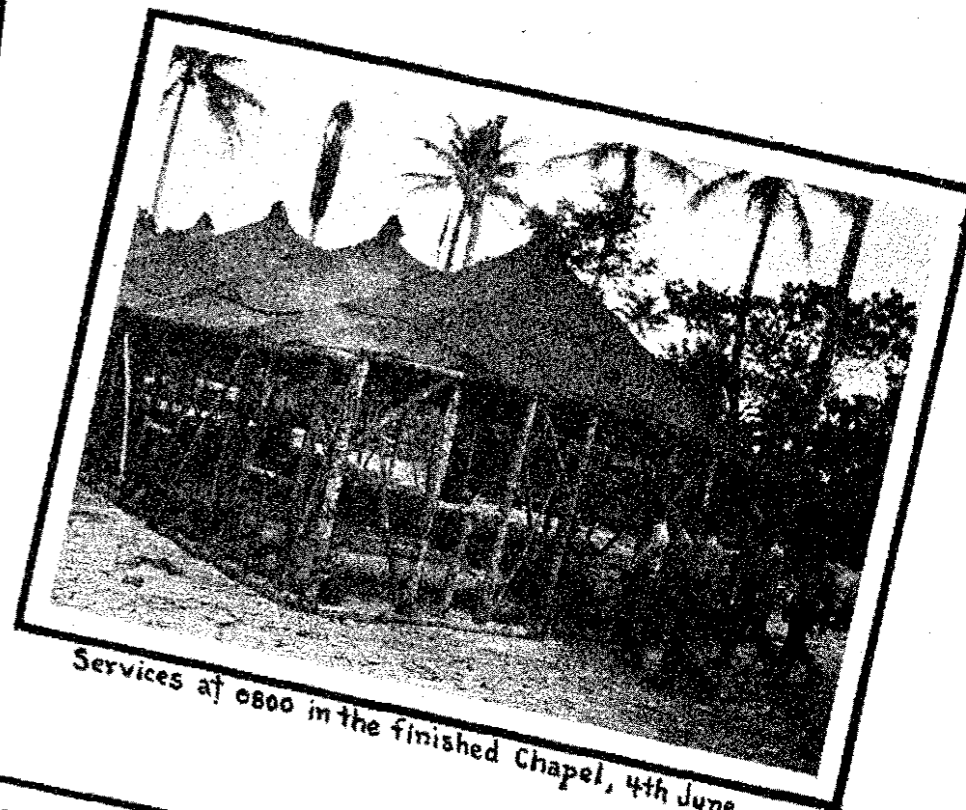
Sidelight on contented chow-hounds ...



Late May, the Chapel gets under way, with coconut-log seats



A gang from Company "B" gives help to "Hg."



Services at 0800 in the finished Chapel, 4th June



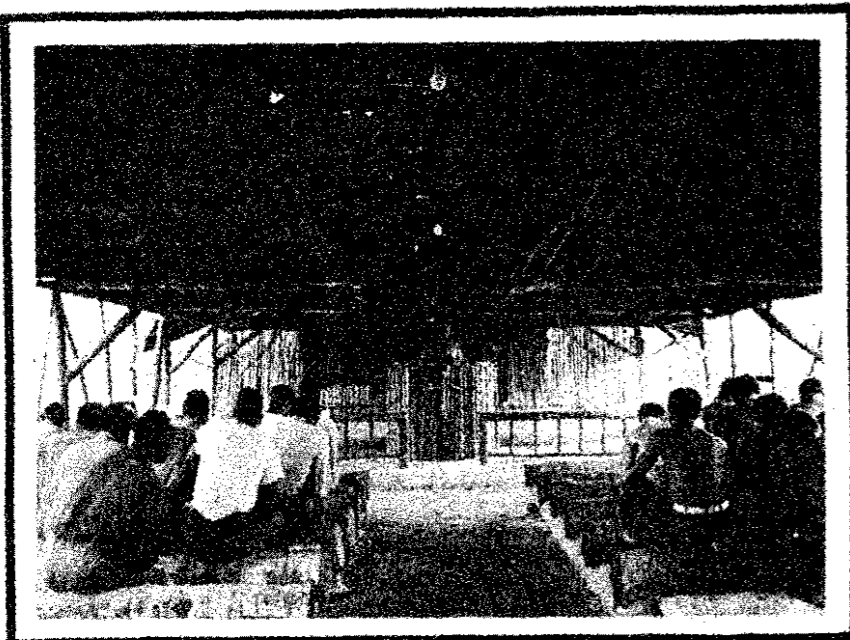
A frieze of natural twisted vine adorned the altar



O. E. Yeays CCM, planned and supervised most of the construction, A. L. Mize with hammer



Photo note: all interior pictures represent 1 sec. exposures



Native wood was used throughout construction

Chapel



Chaplain W. V. Lampe conducting Services



Along "Main Street," at Censors and Post Office - 17th July



H.H. Wheeler CEM and F.V. Barber, wizards of our P.A. and Telephone system, in Administration Bldg.



Censors: L. Horn, R.F. Corsair, C.A. Brigman, D.E. Bean 20th June



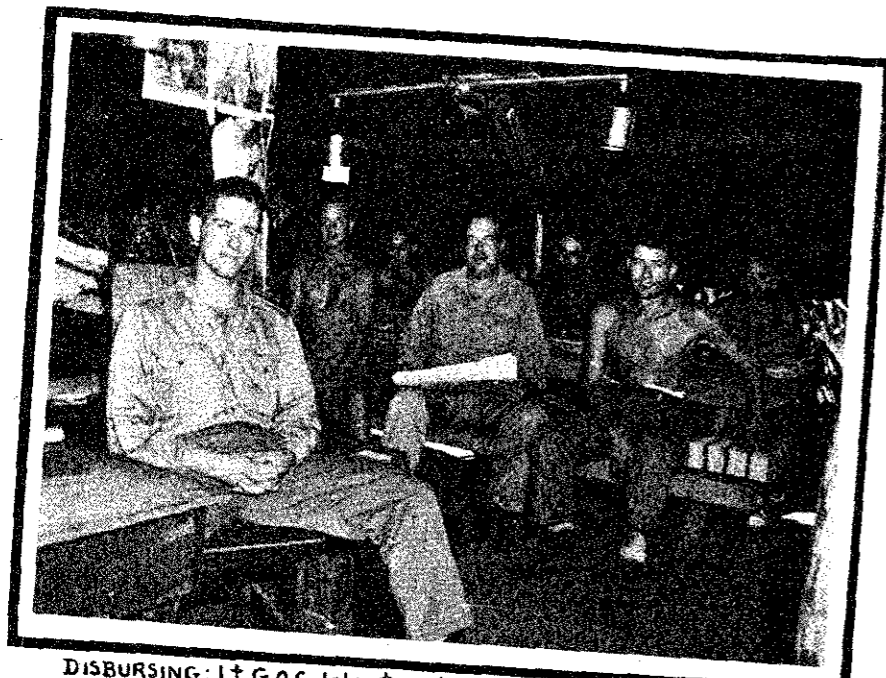
Officers' Mess-cooks: O. Wilson, W. Hill, F.J. Rhone, L. McDowell, and F.M. Decker



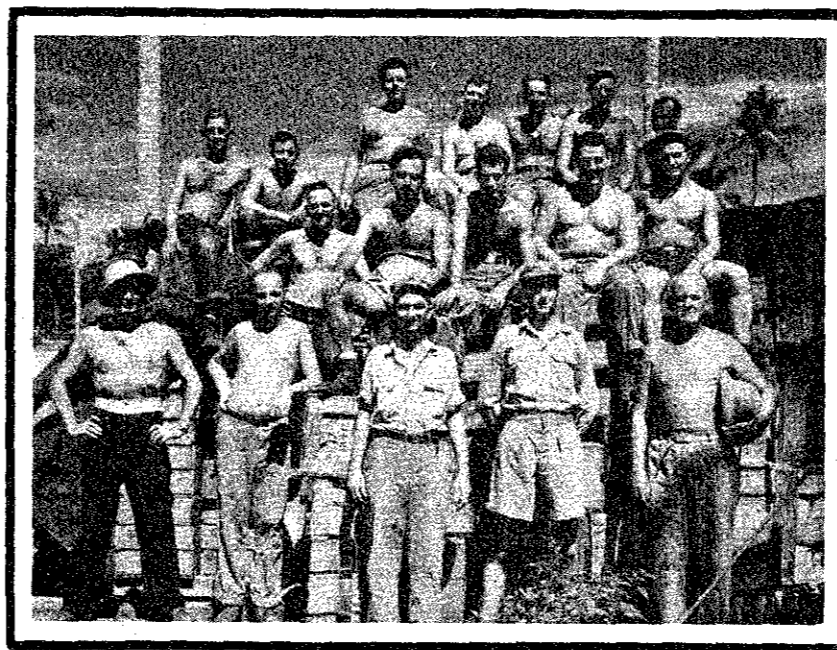
Colors - Administration Building 23d May



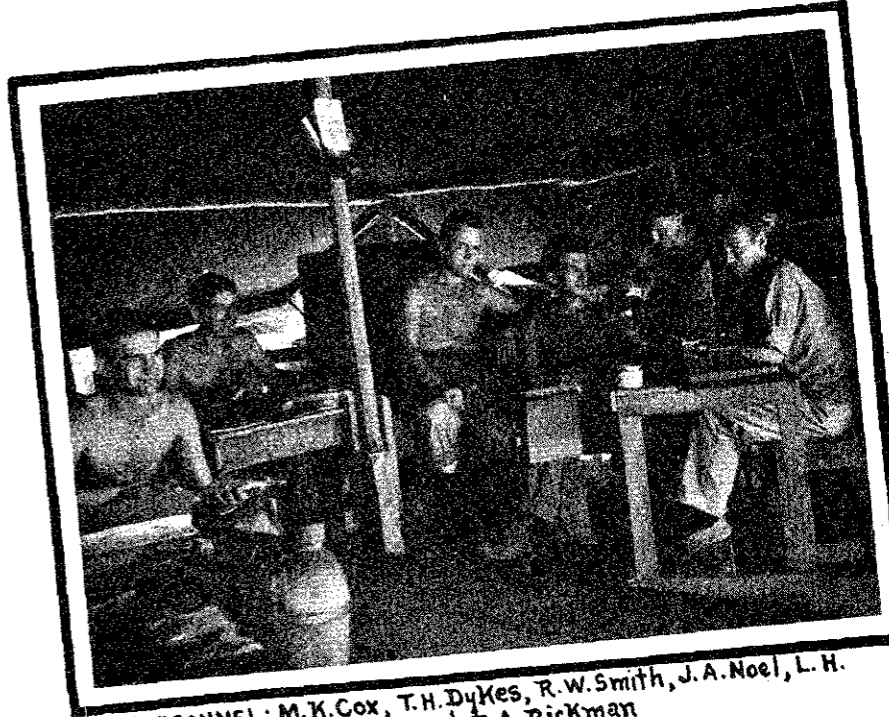
Hospital Ward 4th July



DISBURSING: Lt. G.O.C. Johnston, J.R. Giles, M.M. Biglow, S.M. Hageman, J. Ginsberg, B.E. Pierce and L.C. Noonan - 4th July



The Supply Boys in toto - 8th July; top to bottom: J.A. Reed, J.A. Hammond, A.J. Marino, R.S. Olson, W.C. Wood, R.W. Overstreet, W.E. Nelson, W.R. Meador, M. Rosenblum, W.C. Moore, J.F. Burnett, J.L. Lilley, J.J. Walsh, J.F. Porter, J. Harrell, Lt. W.F. McGlynn and W.K. Turner



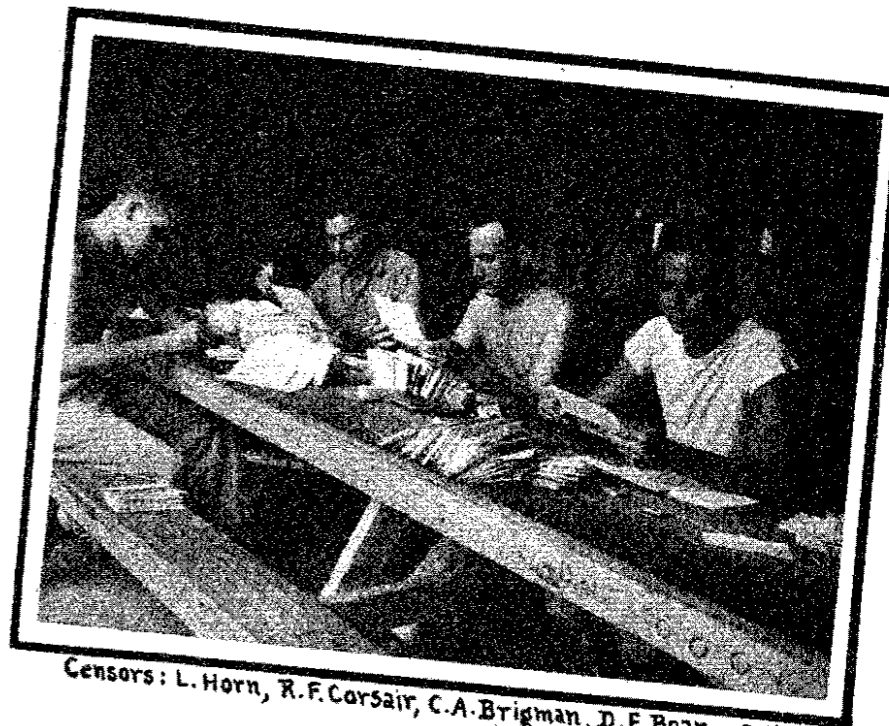
PERSONNEL: M.K. Cox, T.H. Dykes, R.W. Smith, J.A. Noel, L.H. Golay and T.A. Rickman



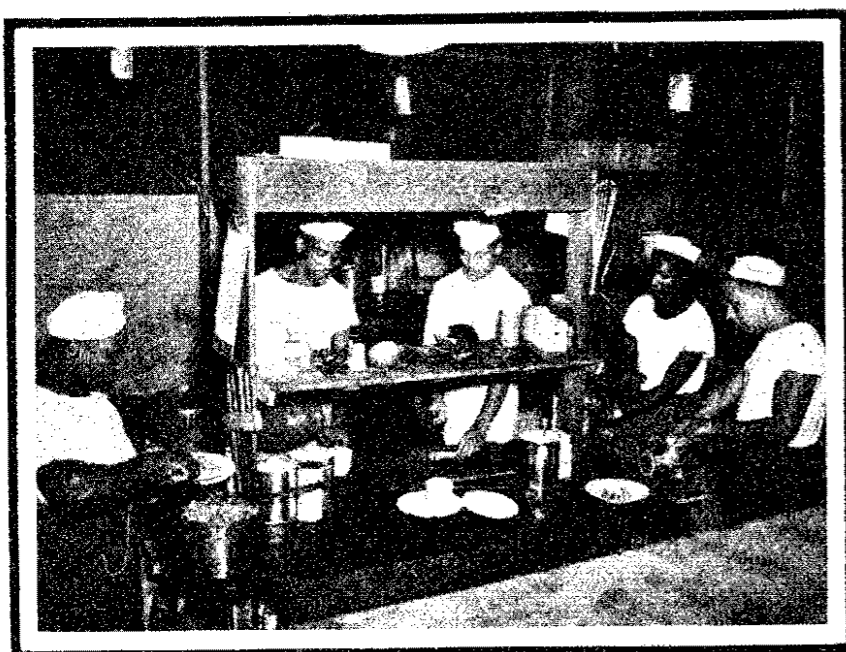
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Colors - Administration Building 23d May



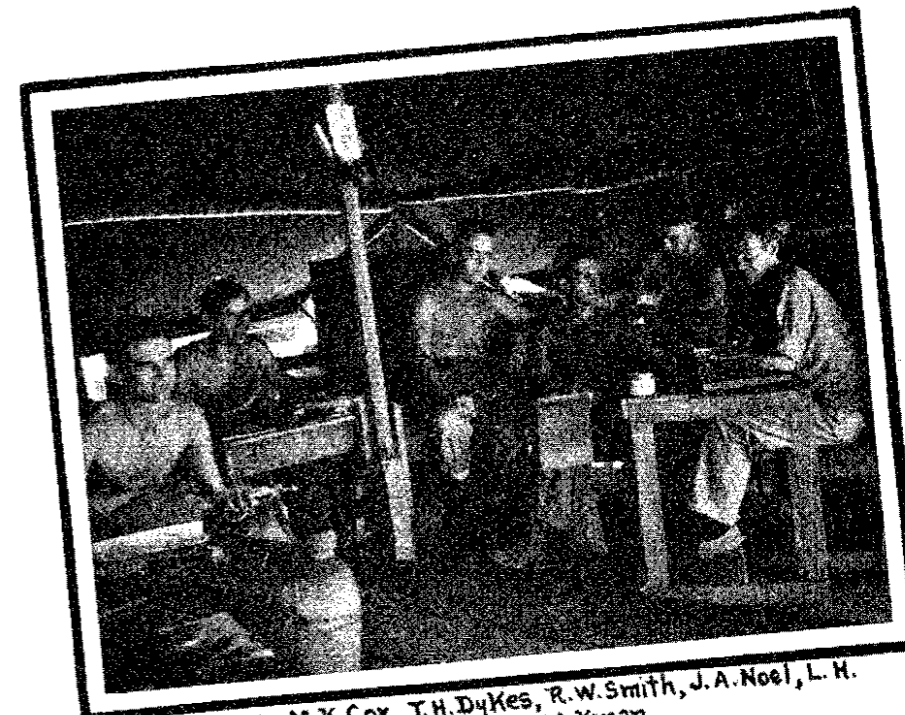
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PERSONNEL: M.K. Cox, T.H. Dykes, R.W. Smith, J.A. Noel, L.H. Golay and T.A. Rickman



A.D. Boggs, CBM at bat, Lt. A.C. Hill, Pitcher

OFFICERS *versus* CHIEFS *at the 27th C.B. ball field* 28 JULY Score: Chiefs 10-Off. 5



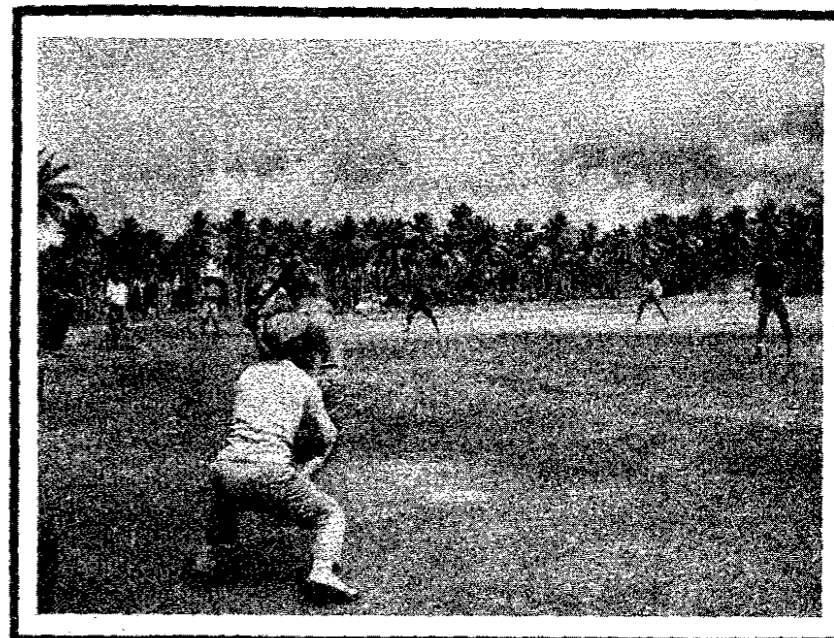
Ens. H.B. Grief rounding 1st base, headed for 2d



Lt. H.J. Curran at bat and Lt. T.F. Gaffey headed for home



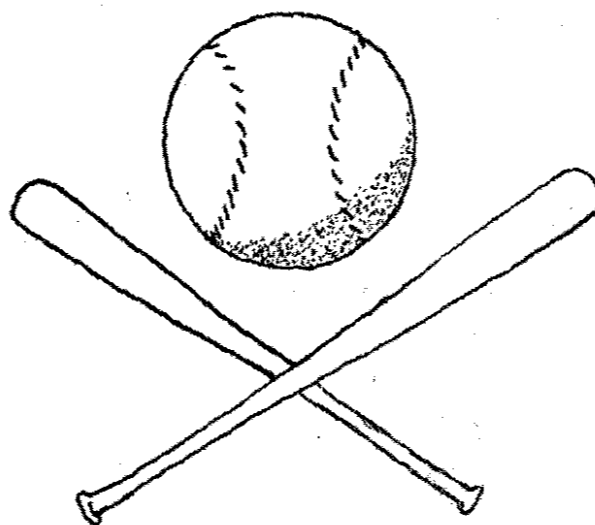
E.A. Bates, CSK thrown out at 1st



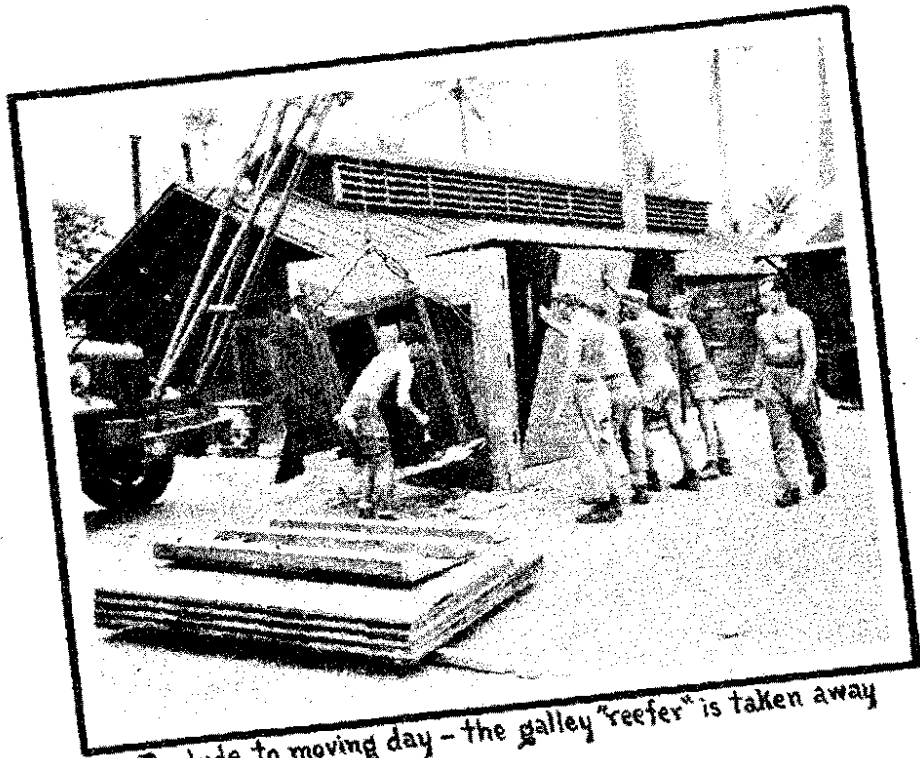
J.E. Tulley, CSF hits a single



Ens. R.J. Strange Scores a run



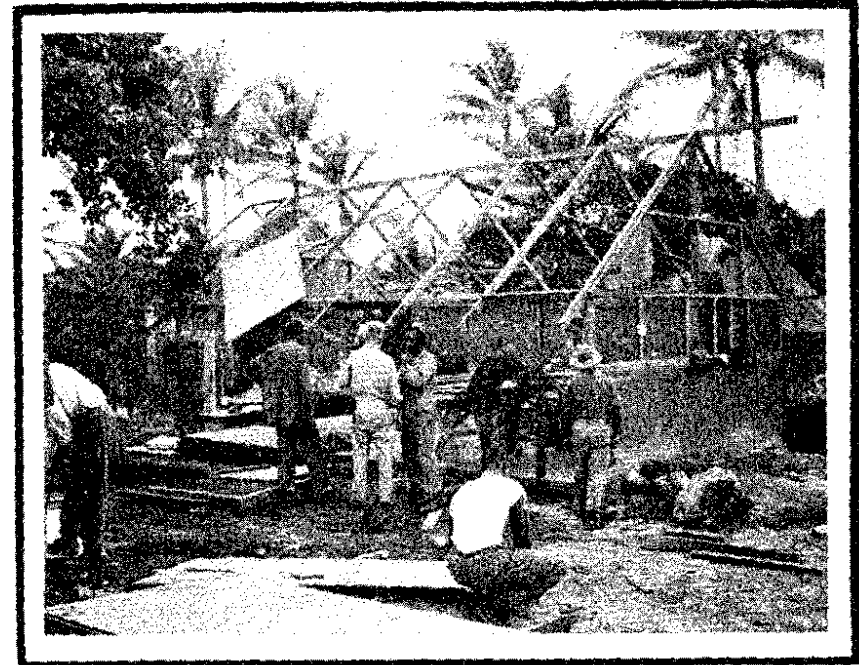
Ens. H.B. Grief "fled out" to H. Spears, CBM, 3d baseman



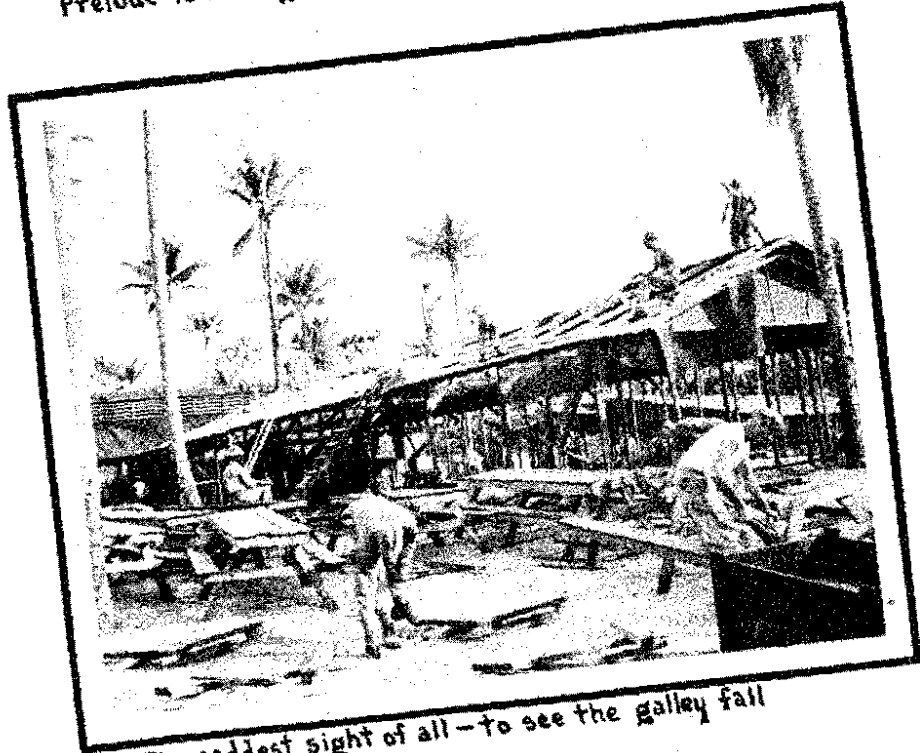
Prelude to moving day - the galley "reefer" is taken away



Anthony Lofton, Co. "C" prepares his field pack



When the Post Office comes down, its time to move from town



The saddest sight of all - to see the galley fall

Early August ...our last days on Emirau



The camp of our hearts' desire dissolves in a funeral pyre



Red Beach - one of Emirau's beauty spots



Along the curving scenic strands ...



Purple Beach at twilight, farewell to Emirau

THE CARGO COMBAT

EXTRA EDITION

7 DECEMBER 1944

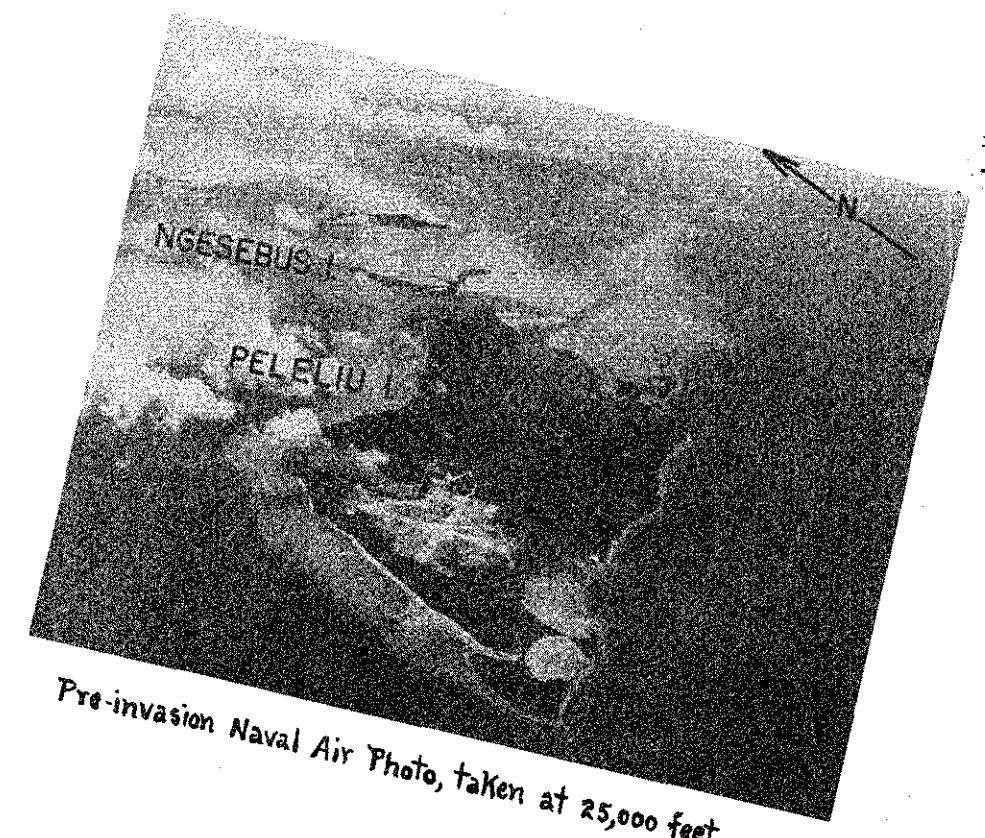
W. CENTRAL PACIFIC

17th Special Gains National Recognition for Invasion Role

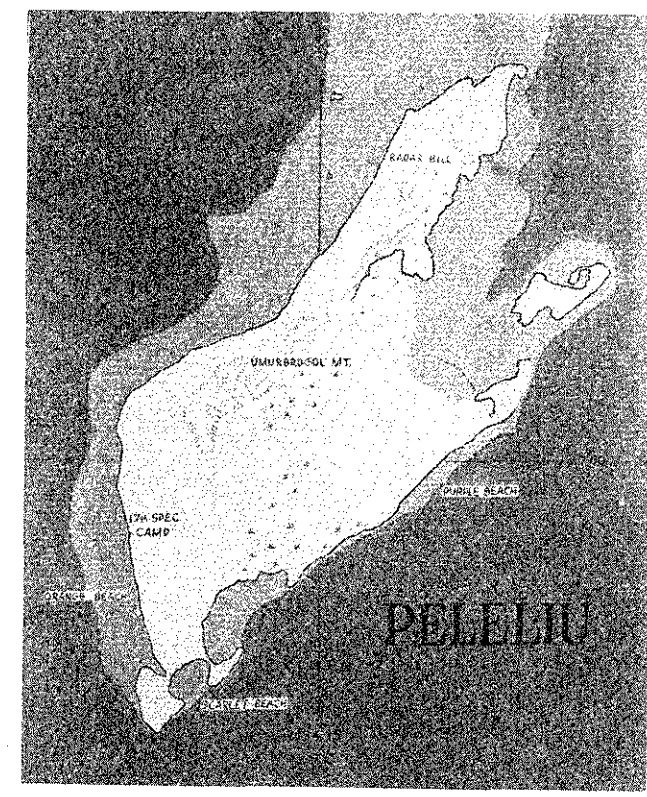
AS a result of the brilliant role it played in the invasion of this island in September, the 17th special battalion has received national recognition through a recent dispatch released by the Navy Department in Washington and distributed by the Associated Press.

Here is the story, as carried by the AP on Nov. 28: WASHINGTON, NOV. 28-(AP)- Volunteer services of a Negro Seabee battalion in the first hours of the First Marine Division's landing on Peleliu has won for the unit the coveted commendation, "well done." The unit was the 17th Special U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, and Lt.-Cmdr. Moses E. Berry, of Gulfport, Miss., was the officer in charge. The first section of the battalion, the Navy Department reported today, landed with the First Division on Peleliu two hours after the first wave of marines hit the beaches. The Seabees were part of the shore party, but while engaged primarily in that duty, on the first night responded to a call for volunteers when a shortage of ammunition was reported in the forward lines. Practically the entire battalion carried ammunition to the front and brought back wounded. The Seabees also took part in the fighting on our front when the Marines became shorthanded in that sector. Some of them manned 37 mm guns and "did whatever else was needed", the Navy reported.

PELELIU



Pre-invasion Naval Air Photo, taken at 25,000 feet



The Island is about six miles long

of the Palau Islands in the Western Carolines

SEPTEMBER 1944 — JUNE 1945

THE CARGO COMET

Volume I No. 4 WEST CENTRAL PACIFIC 15 November 1944

Marines Help 17th Special Take Island!

COMMANDER BERRY SALUTES 17TH
FOR EFFICIENCY DURING INVASION

To the men of the 17th Special:

Once again I take pride in commending this battalion for the distinguished part it played in the invasion of this island. In performing capably and bravely under the most severe circumstances, you reflected nothing but credit to the 17th Special. We have been complimented officially by those authorities in charge of the invasion. But perhaps a greater tribute to us comes direct from the Marines themselves--with whom we fought side by side in the same foxholes. "It might have been a different story without the 17th Special--no job was too hard, no task too dangerous" was their summary. That is high praise indeed.

So as your commanding officer, I congratulate you warmly for doing a tough job and doing it well. We were temporarily detached from our regular stevedore duties. Now, I point out to you we're in the midst of another tough, important task--unloading ships. We are shouldering the major part of the job alone of getting supplies and equipment ashore for the thousands of men and various units on the island. I call on you to continue to tackle this job with the same determination and efficiency with which you participated in the invasion. We must empty these ships as swiftly as possible, for they are needed in new invasions that will help end the war sooner. That's your job now--do it well.

Lt. Comdr. M.E. Berry
Commanding Officer

W. O. M.V. Bonnema and Richard Hynes, former chiefs in the 17th, are members of another CB group on this island.

The voice droned in husky tones over the PA. system: "All Seabees lay below to your quarters to prepare for debarkation."

That was us--the 17th Special--so we scrambled below for packs and rifles. It was 1000 the morning of D-day for the assault on this tiny speck of an island, a new outpost on the road to the Philippines.

The First Marines hit the beach at H-hour of 0830, and here it was just 90 minutes later and we were getting ready to plunge into what turned out to be the most spectacular and hazardous period of our lives.

From the deck of our troopship, we had watched since dawn a powerful segment of our fleet hurl tons of steel and explosives onto the island. Then we listened with satisfaction to an announcement that the Marines--veterans of Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester and Talasea--had successfully made their beachheads.

Now came our call, for the 17th Special, as a Seabee stevedore outfit (best in the Pacific) was to establish ammo and supply dumps on the beach. It was the last day of our ninth month of overseas duty.

So, we headed for shore, and thereupon ran into a raging battle which since has been rated the fiercest thus far in the Pacific--and the bloodiest. The 17th Special absorbed every bit of punishment and treachery and trickery that 12,000 fanatical, shrieking Japs could dish out.

First-wavers fought side-by-side with Marines in the same foxholes and were subjected to a deadly mortar barrage for days. Our men carried ammunition up front, and brought back wounded on the return trip. The first night, a stinking swamp knee-deep in muck had to be waded to get ammo up

(Continued Page 2)

The battle for Peleliu lasted 73 days
and 13,768 Japanese were killed.
(PRESS RELEASE)

15 November 1944

(continued from Page 1)
to the front lines at the edge
of the airstrip.

As the ammo was deposited in advanced foxholes, a weird chant could be heard from across the field: "Marine, we come. Marine, you die." It was the Nips, probably guzzling their potent saki drink and applying their false frenzy to mental warpaint, so they could join their honorable ancestors in proper style. Twelve thousand or so of them have made the one-way trip since then. The 17th Special got its share of the enemy, although its function wasn't to fight, but to work the dumps.

Narrow escapes were a dime a dozen for he first week, from mortar, machine gun and sniper fire. Commander Berry, dodging bullets and shells with the rest of his men, directed the battalion activities from the beachhead.

After the Marines crowded the Nips off our end of the island, the 17th Special turned again to its important task of unloading supplies. Working under the most difficult circumstances, our crack stevedores added new laurels for the battalion with some heroic emergency unloading.

The weather turned almost as hostile as the Japs, and a couple of hurricanes and typhoons were added nuisances. But the battalion weathered the good storms. You can't keep a good outfit down and that's why the 17th Special is receiving thanks these days for getting badly-needed supplies and badly-rations ashore to a hungry island.



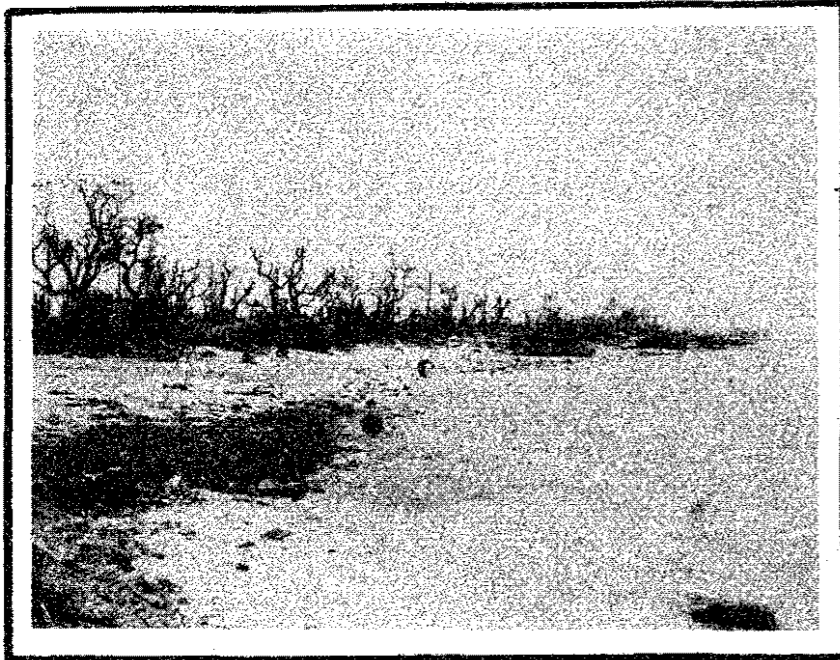
When foxholes were in fashion — till mid-October



Marines demolition experts — Orange Beach



Original galley area



Invasion beachhead; our camp just back of it



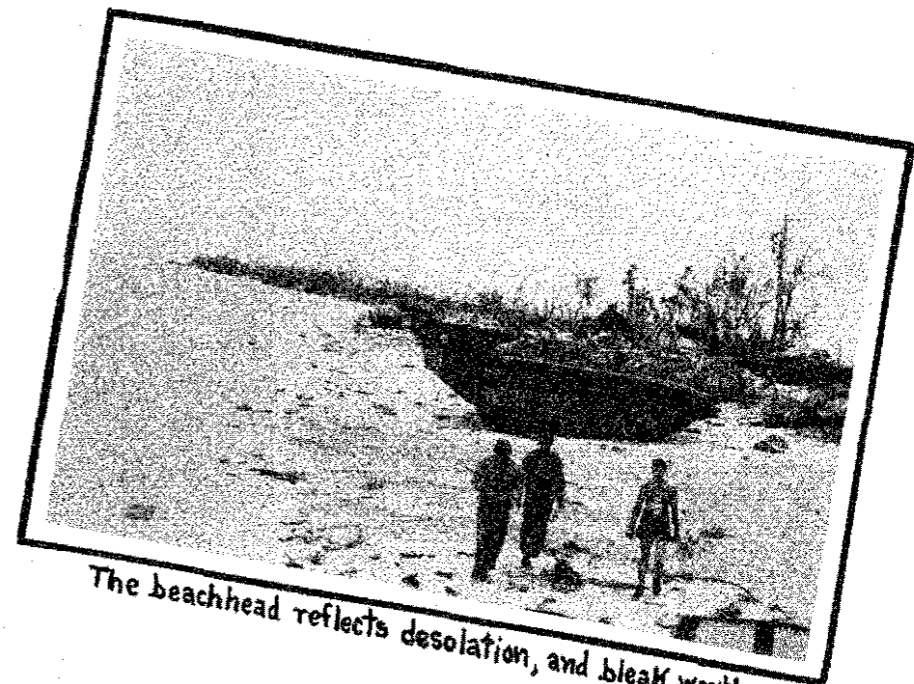
Debarcation from the S.S. Mermacport, 28 September; the Battalion 4Fs who missed the blood 'n guts!



Landing craft high and dry since D-day



C.B.s (73d) salvaging wrecked landing craft



The beachhead reflects desolation, and bleak weather



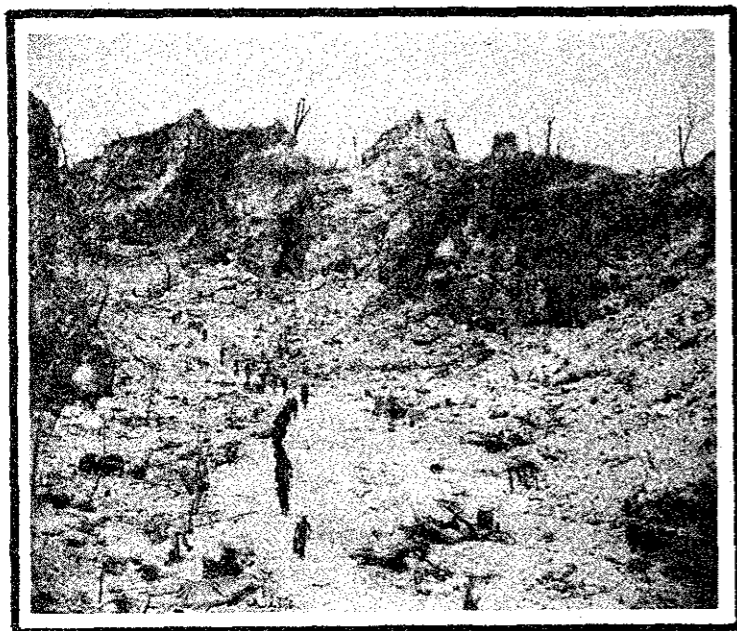
Knob at "Gropac 9" — once a Jap strongpoint



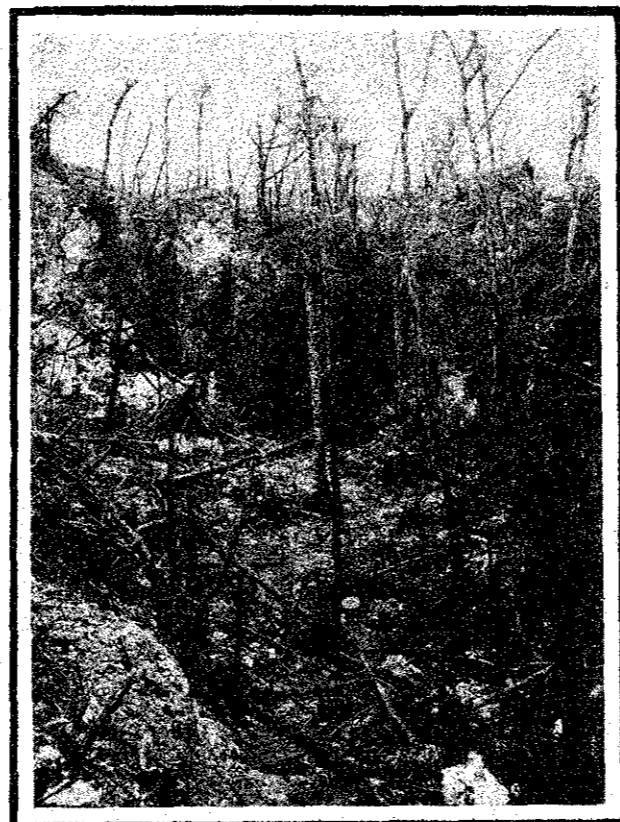
Invasion beachhead, as seen from top of Knob



Martin Vogel inspects a Jap pillbox



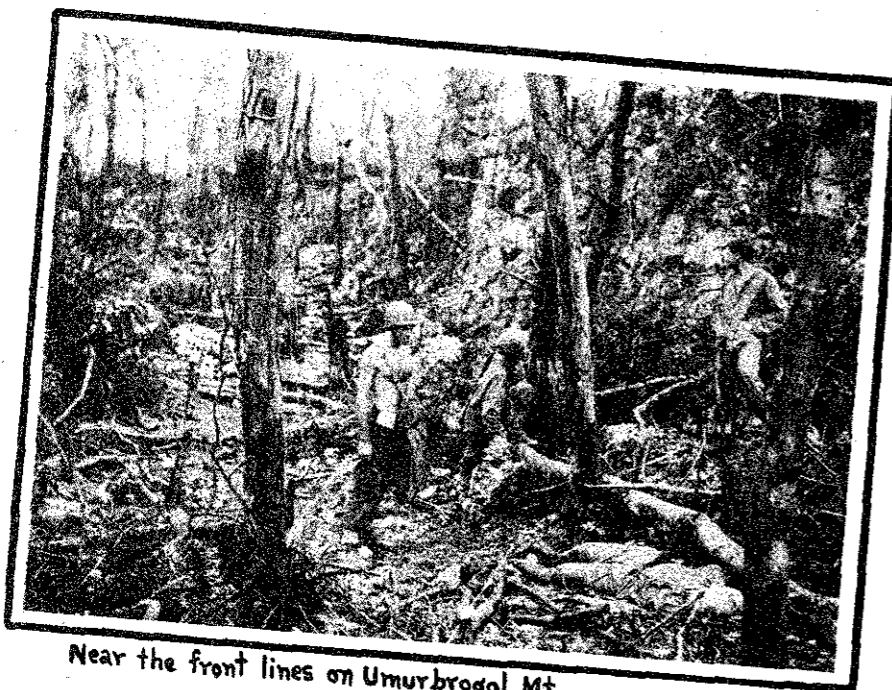
Returning from front lines — Marines of the 1st Div.



Typical terrain where fighting dragged thru ten bitter weeks



Trophy of successful hunting



Near the front lines on Umurbrogol Mt.



Down from the hills in a whirl of dust



Marines of 1st Division at a Command Post



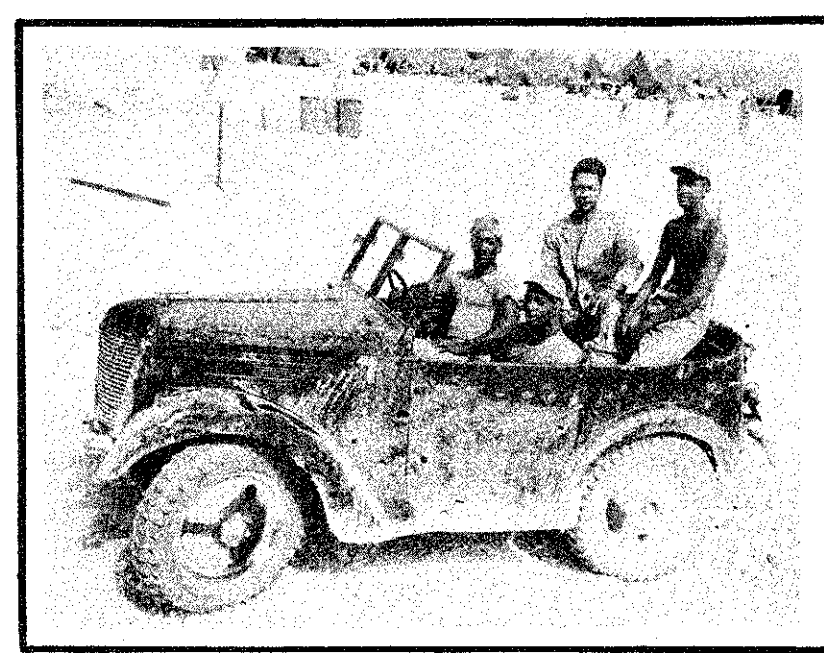
Aftermath of stormy September!



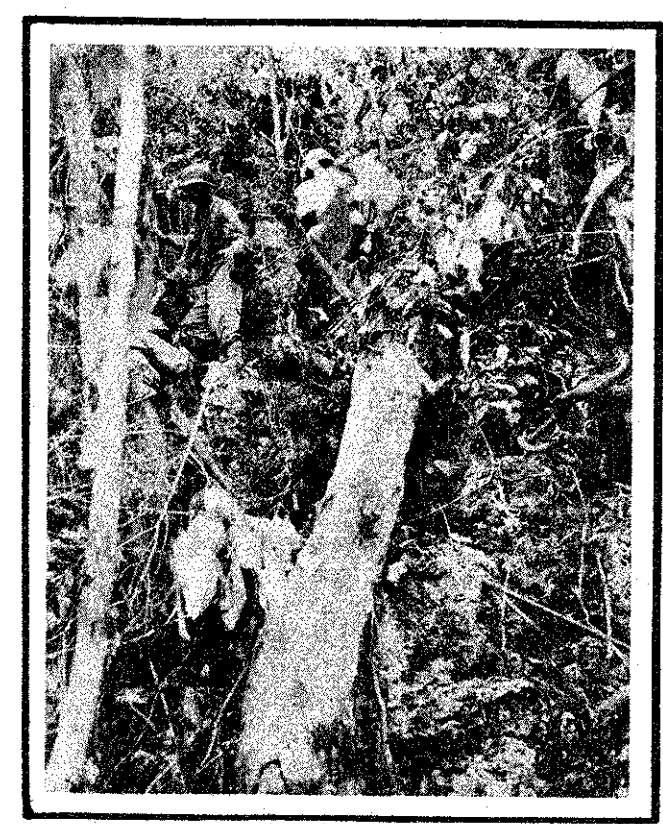
A quite familiar story — just another shorn of glory



Early landmark of our camp, and magnet for souvenir hunters



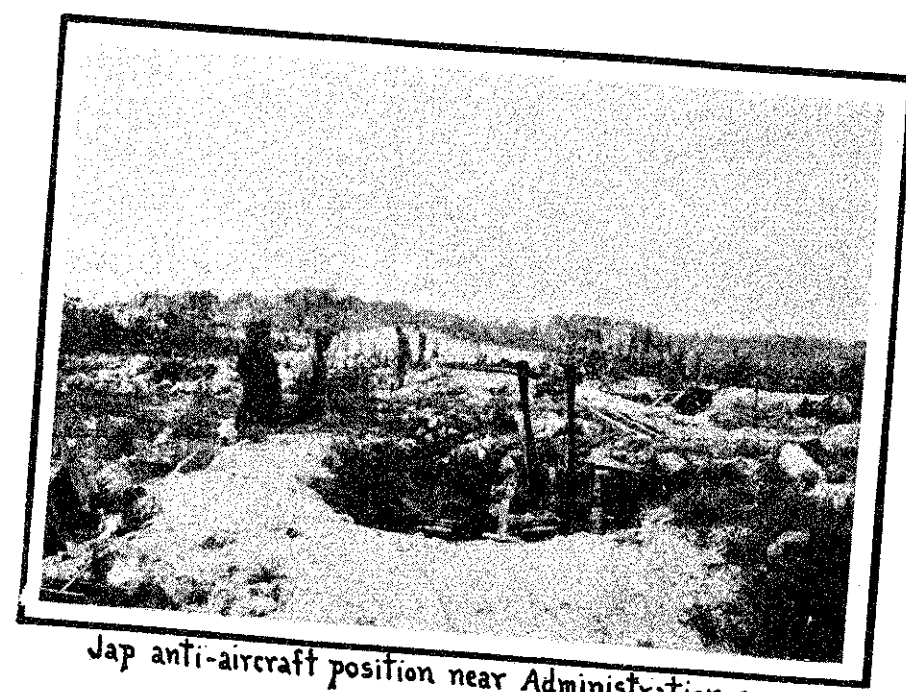
Cal Turner (wearing goggles) and his Jap jeep, bought from a Marine; a 2-cylinder job, it gets 40 miles per gallon of gas



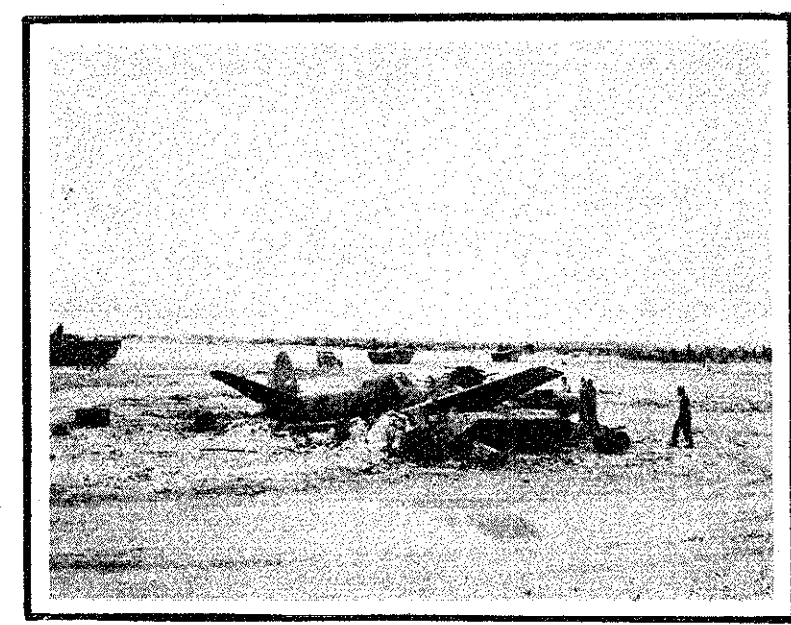
Marines have tough going in the hills



One of 12 Jap blitz-buggies



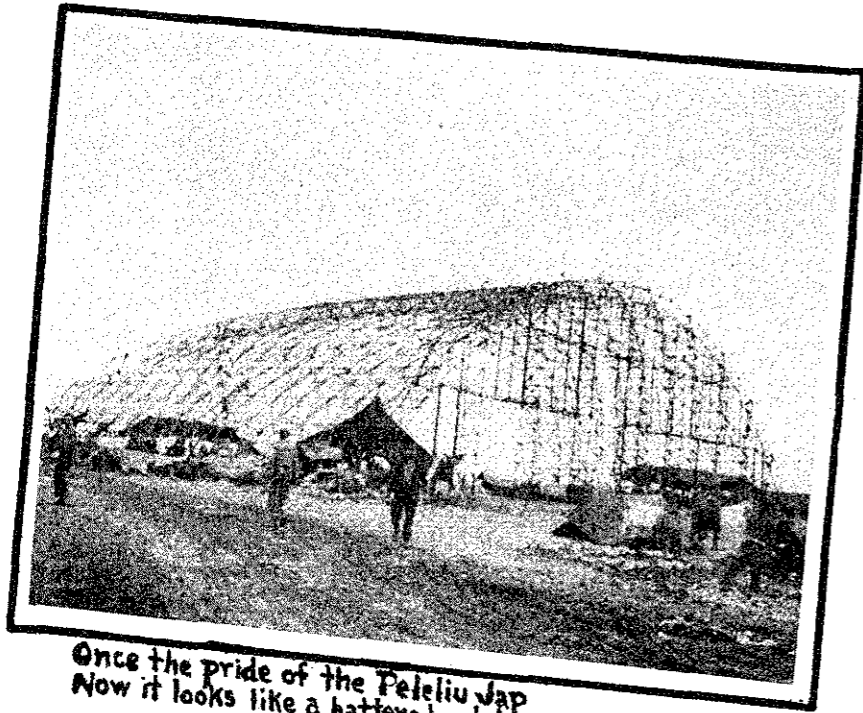
Jap anti-aircraft position near Administration area



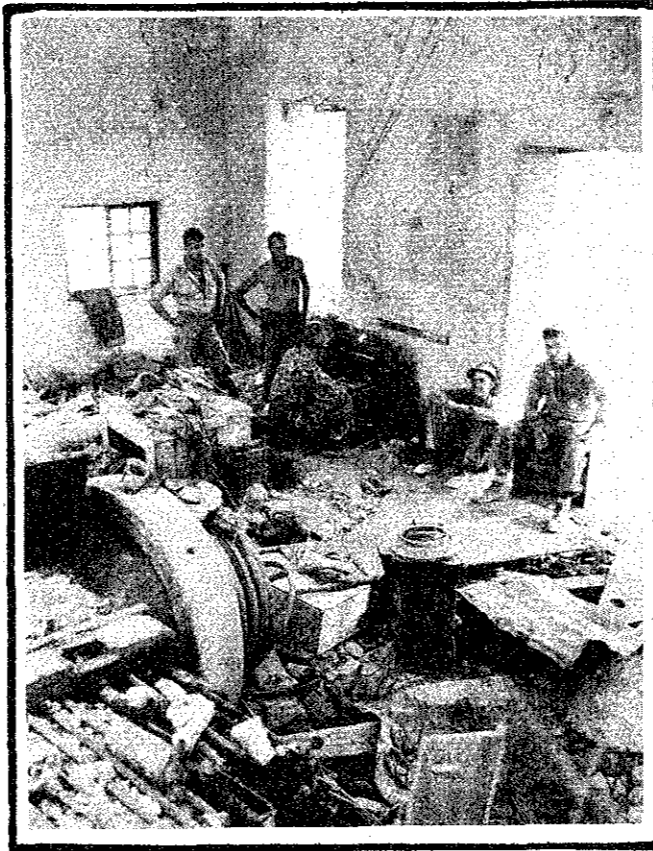
Everywhere along edge of airfield — tokens of Jap defeat



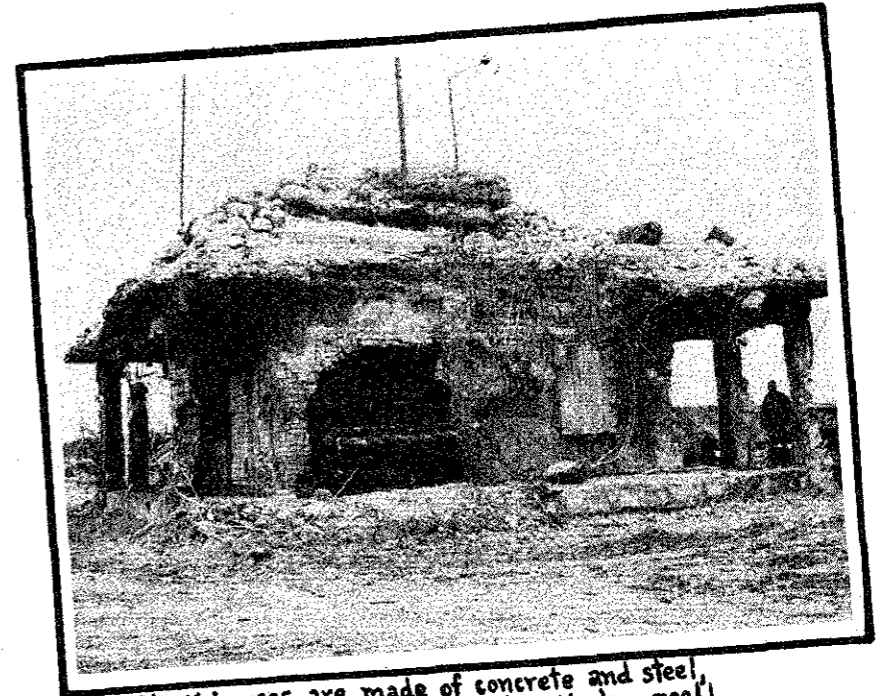
Off the beam for good, and Marines clearing area for VMTB 134 camp-site



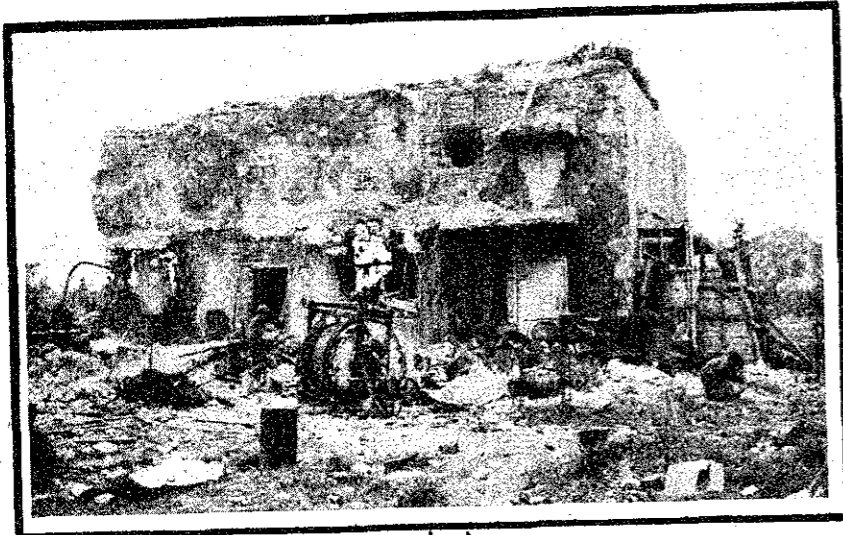
Once the pride of the Peleliu Jap
Now it looks like a battered rat trap.



Marine communications in rubble of Jap
power plant

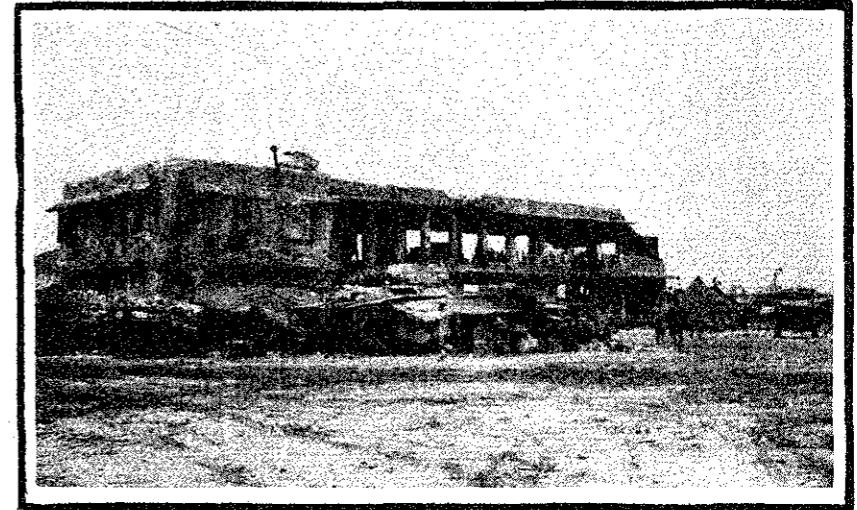


Block houses are made of concrete and steel,
But the thunder of Yanks will make 'em peel!

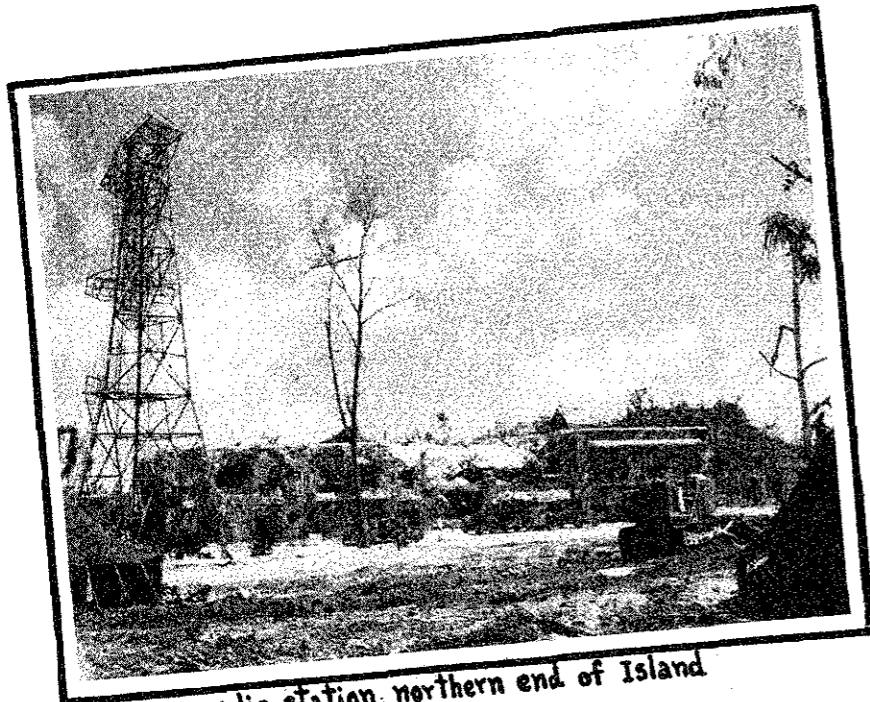


Block house in the Administration area

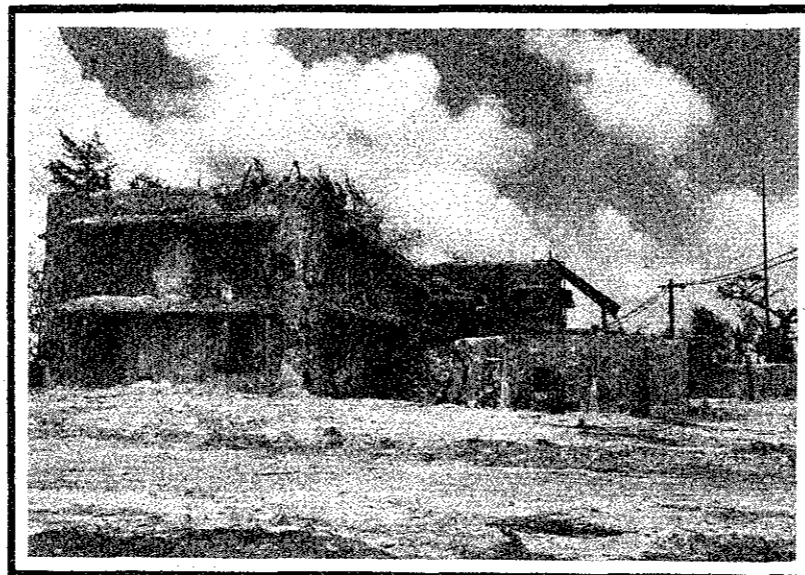
*Concrete examples
of why
Japs leave home*



Jap headquarters became our own Island Command



Jap radio station, northern end of Island



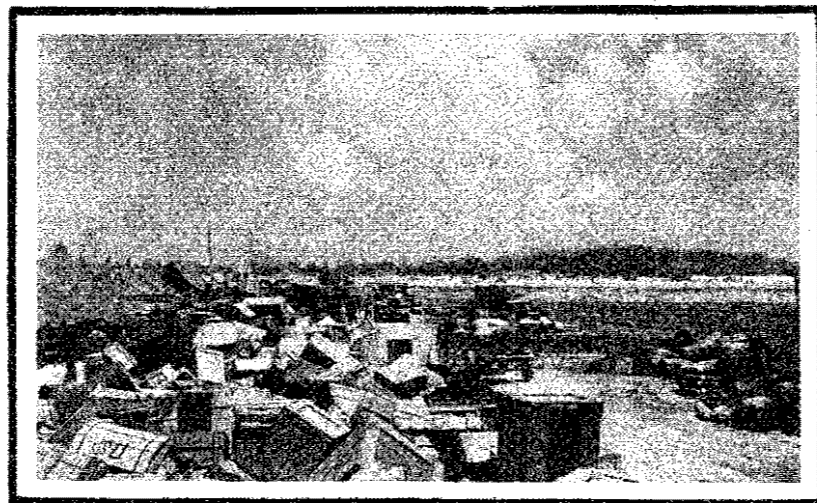
Rear view of radio station, and air-raid shelter



The radio station was air-conditioned by our Naval guns



C.B.s of 33d and 73d rushing work on airstrip - 12 Oct.



Our supplies came in, the airfield grew, and out of the hills came Jap bullets occasionally



Bulldozers roared alongside camp day and night



Flame-throwing tanks, and crews, were camped with us

*The Airfield
adjoining our quiet,
peaceful camp-site!*



Corsairs crowded the finished airstrip - 27 October



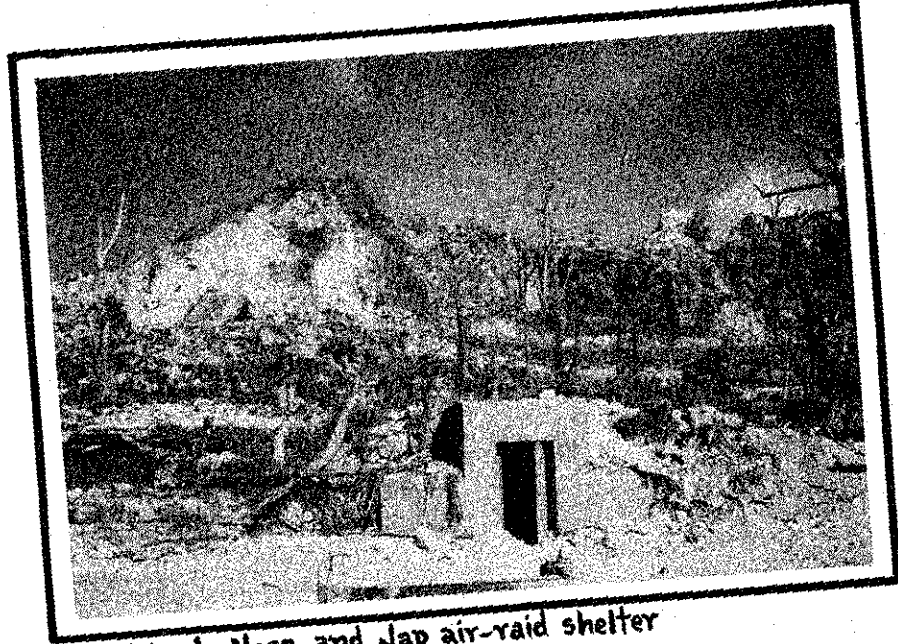
As it looked from camp in early November



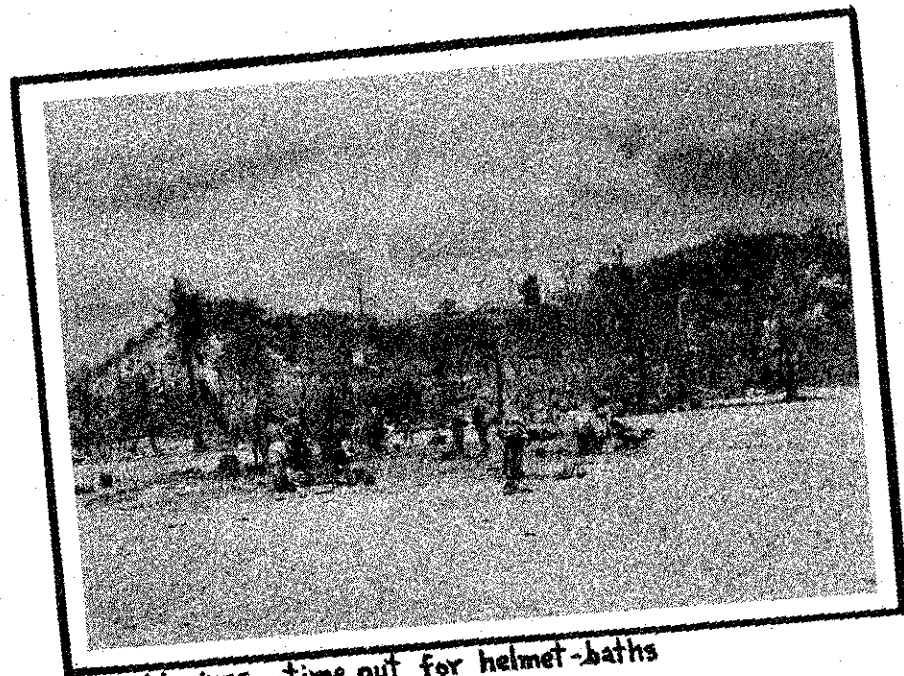
Former battleground - another Seabee triumph



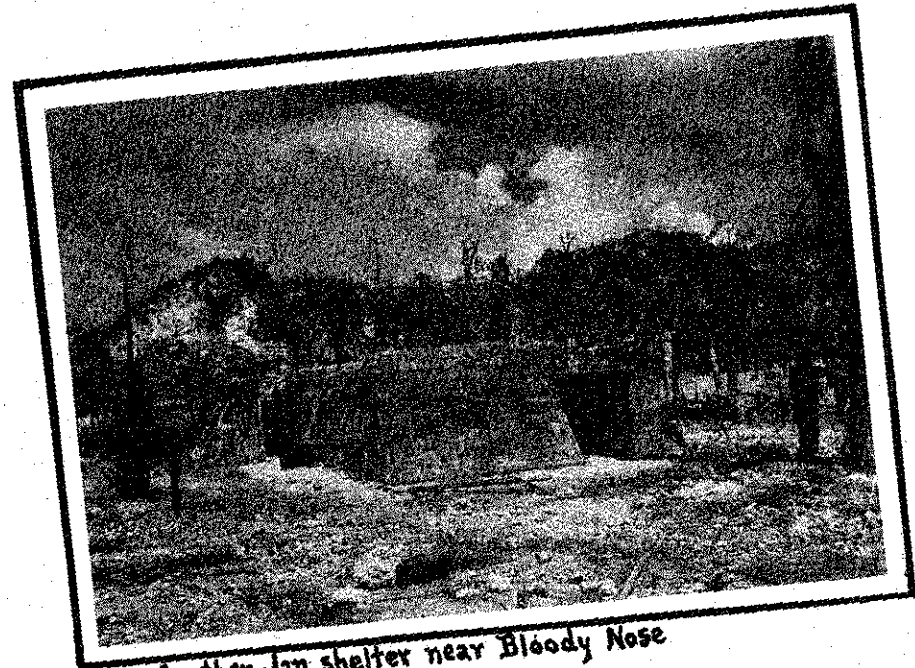
Thunder-birds and thunder-heads



Bloody Nose and Jap air-raid shelter



Marines - time out for helmet-baths

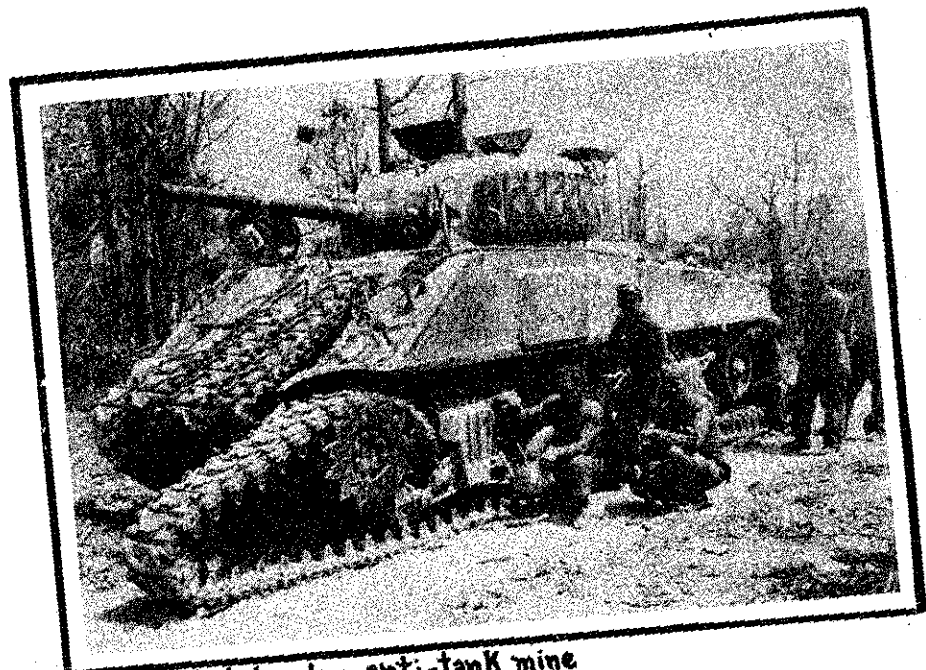


Another Jap shelter near Bloody Nose



Torpedo assembly plant in our camp area

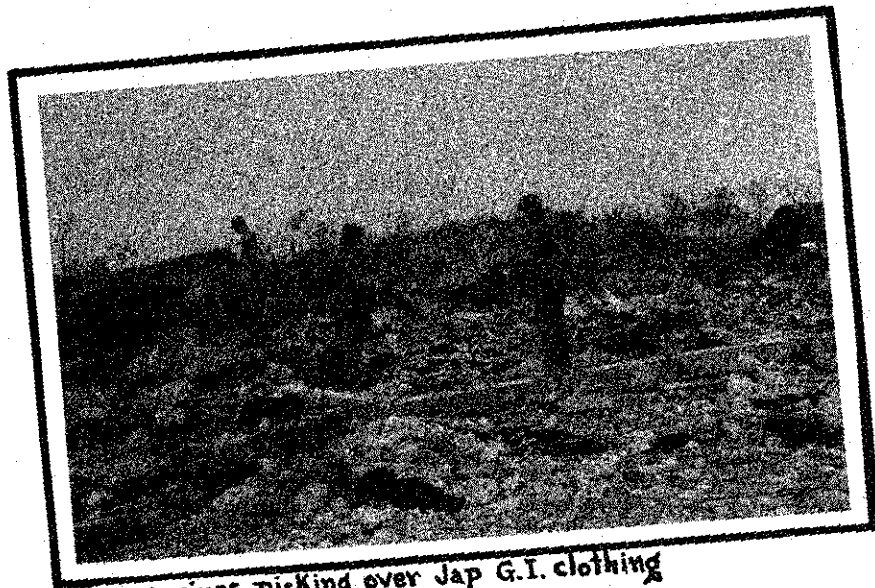
Landmarks and Trademarks
Early October - 1944



Halted by Jap anti-tank mine



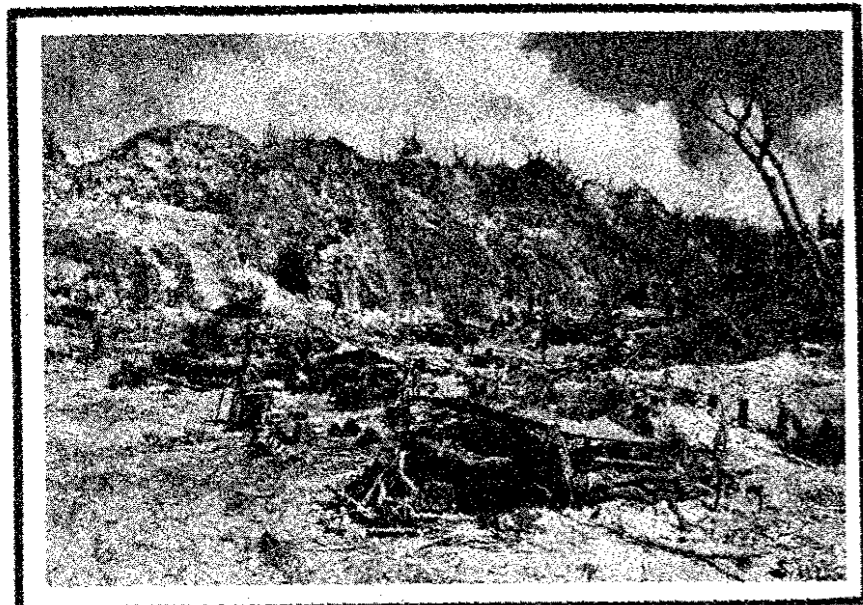
Jap Howitzer in cave on Bloody Nose



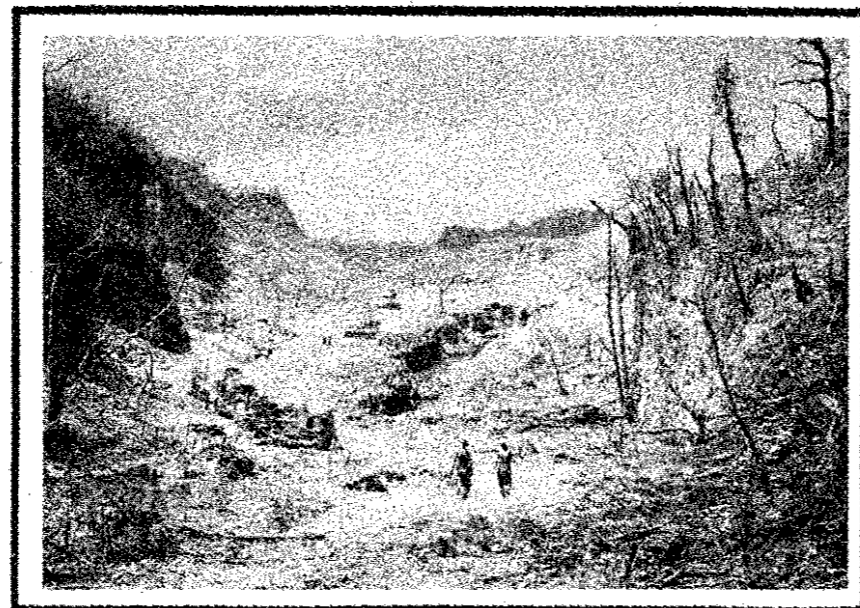
Marines picking over Jap G.I. clothing



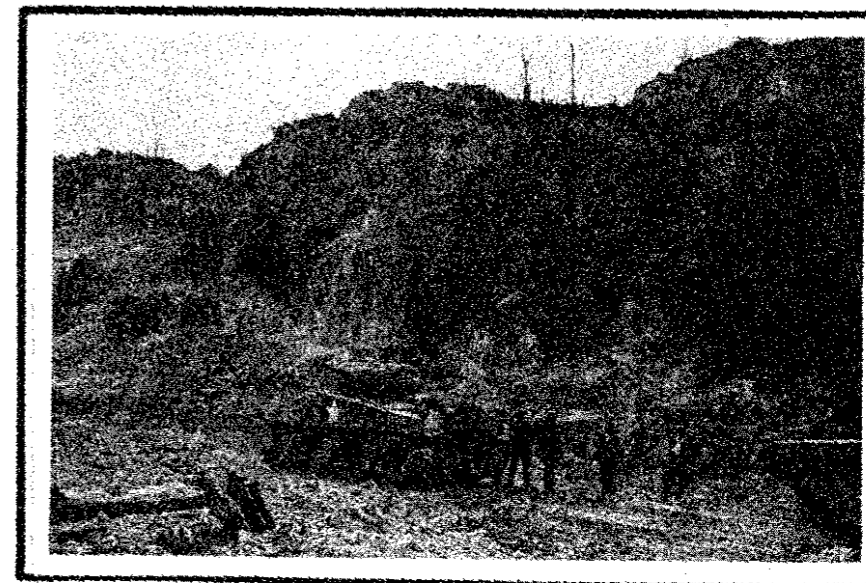
Approach to Death Valley



Front line of 81st "Wildcat" Inf. Div. during lull



Long view of Death Valley, looking south

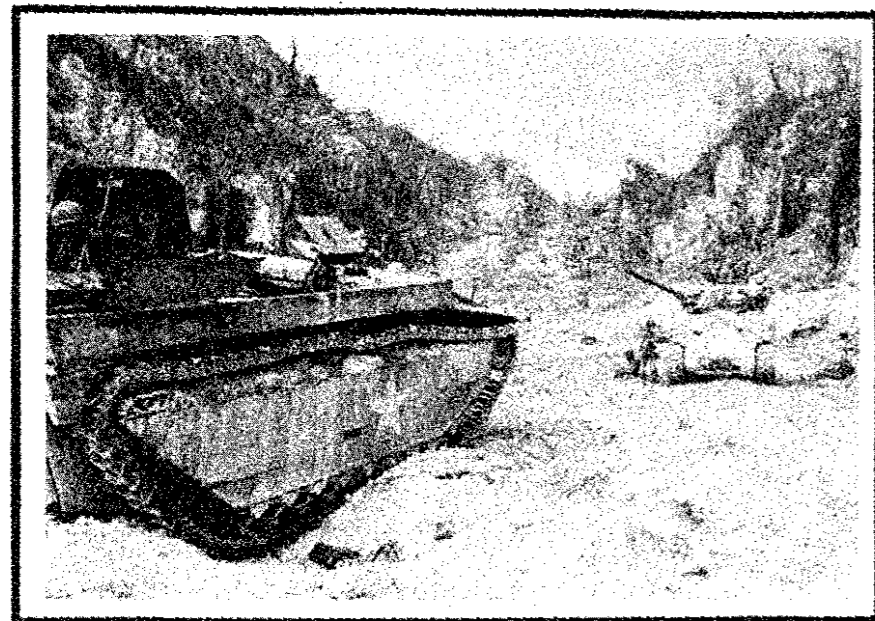


Surrounded by Japs, concealed in the many caves



Grenade barrage

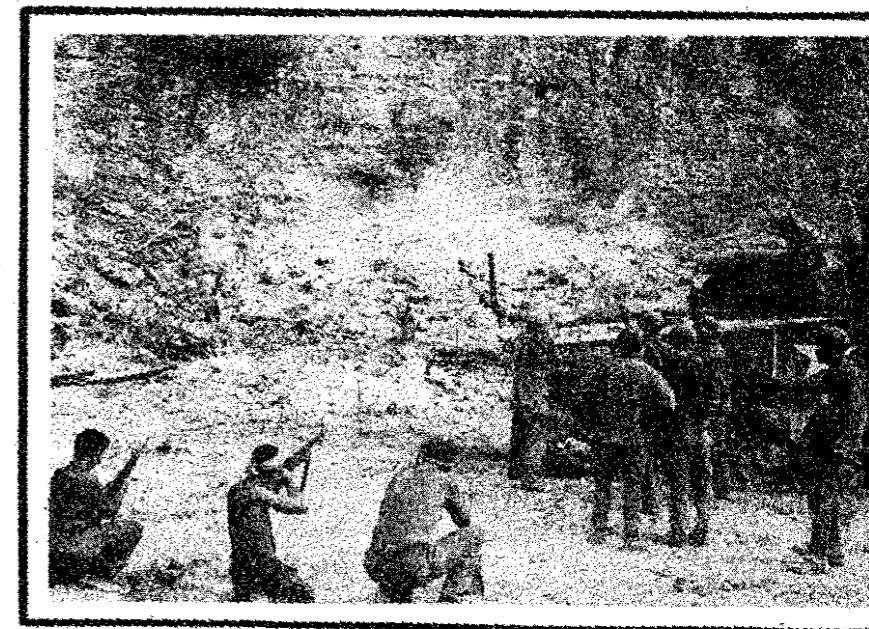
*Details of Death Valley
Late October*



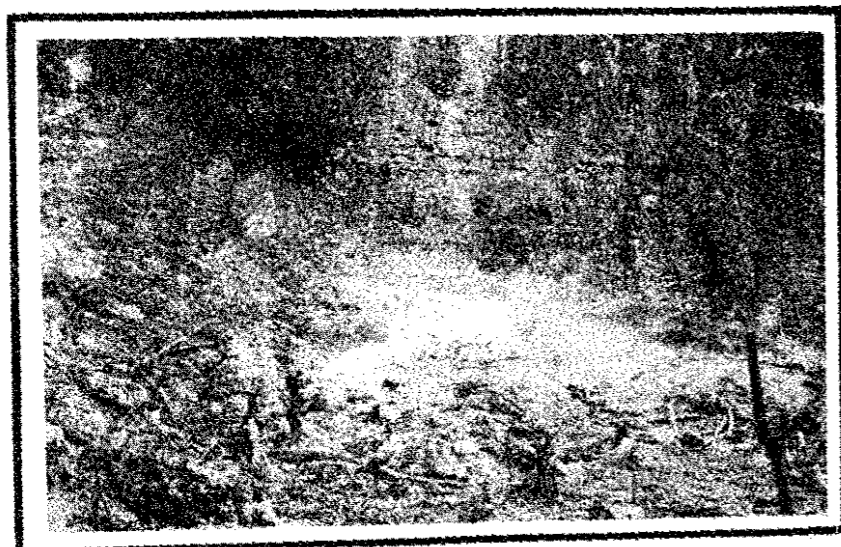
Flame-throwing tank stopped by a mine



Reflections on five Sons of Heaven



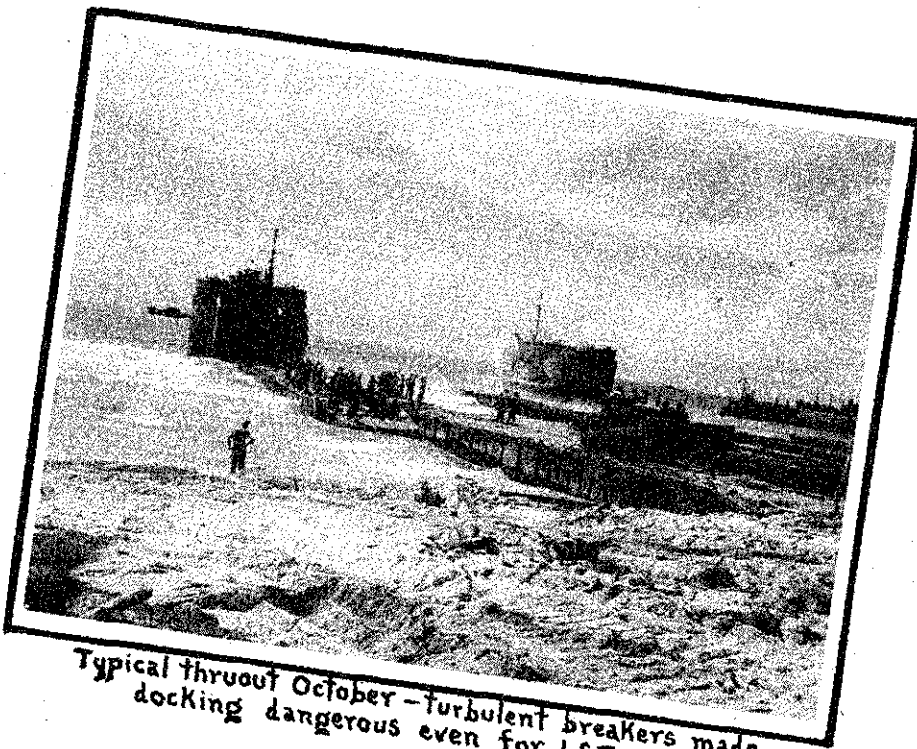
Pot-shots at cave-dwellers



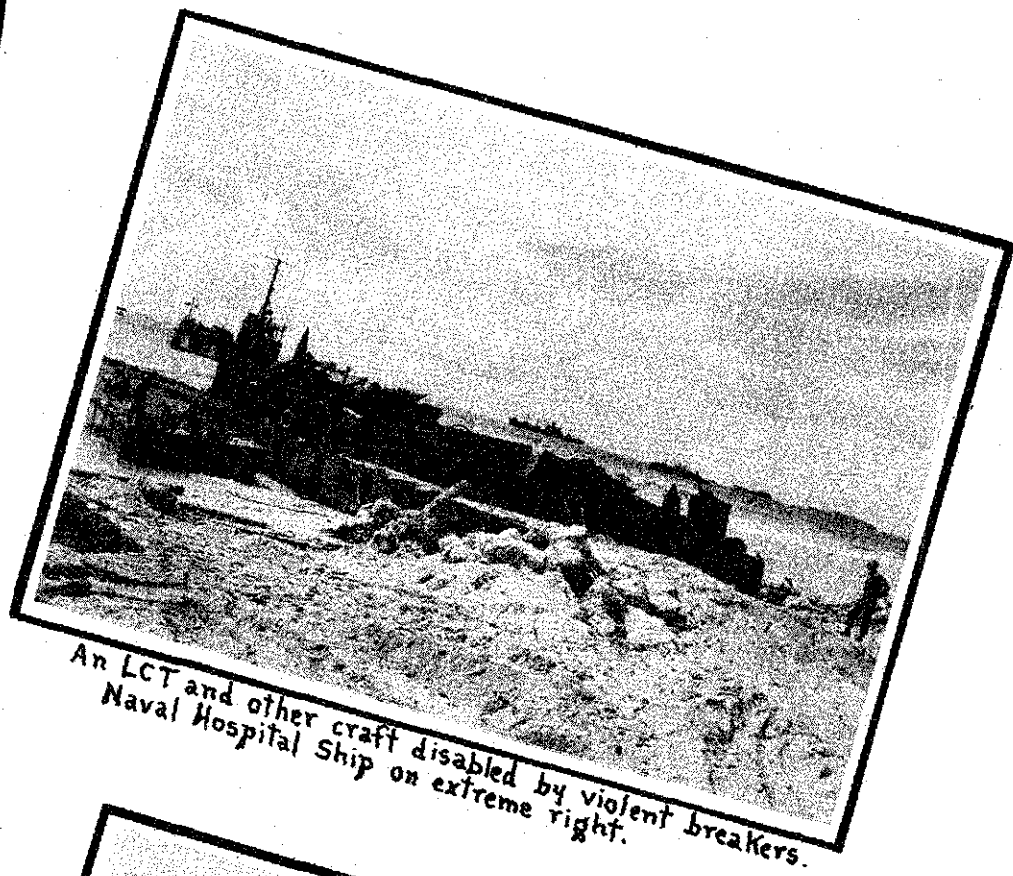
Flame-throwers in action



A 'duck,' laden with cargo, returns from offshore ship



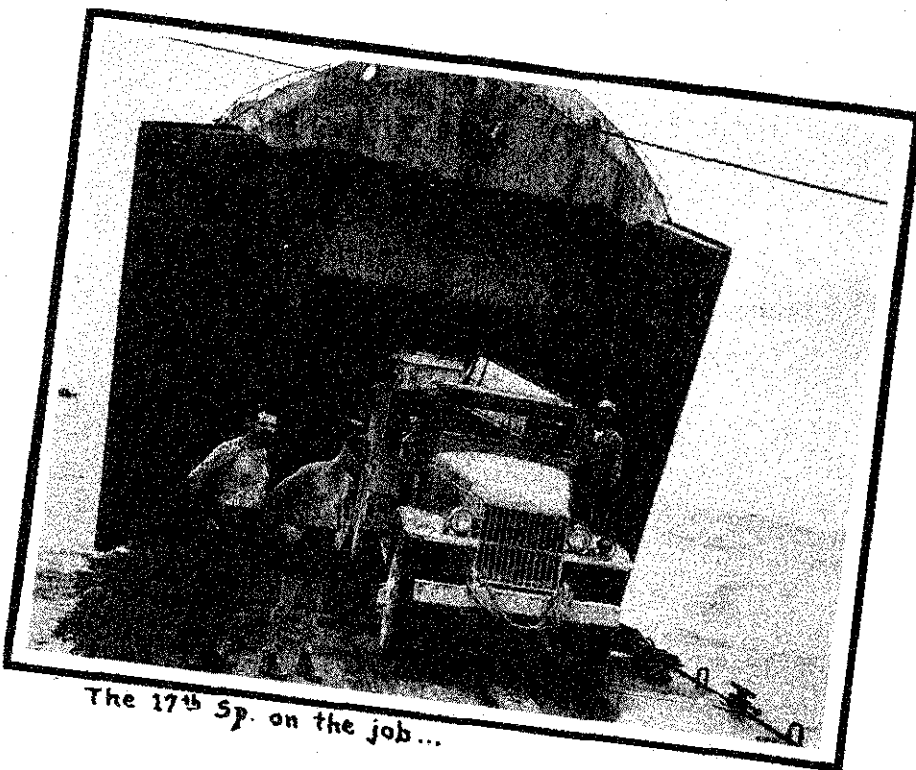
Typical throught October - turbulent breakers made docking dangerous even for LSTs



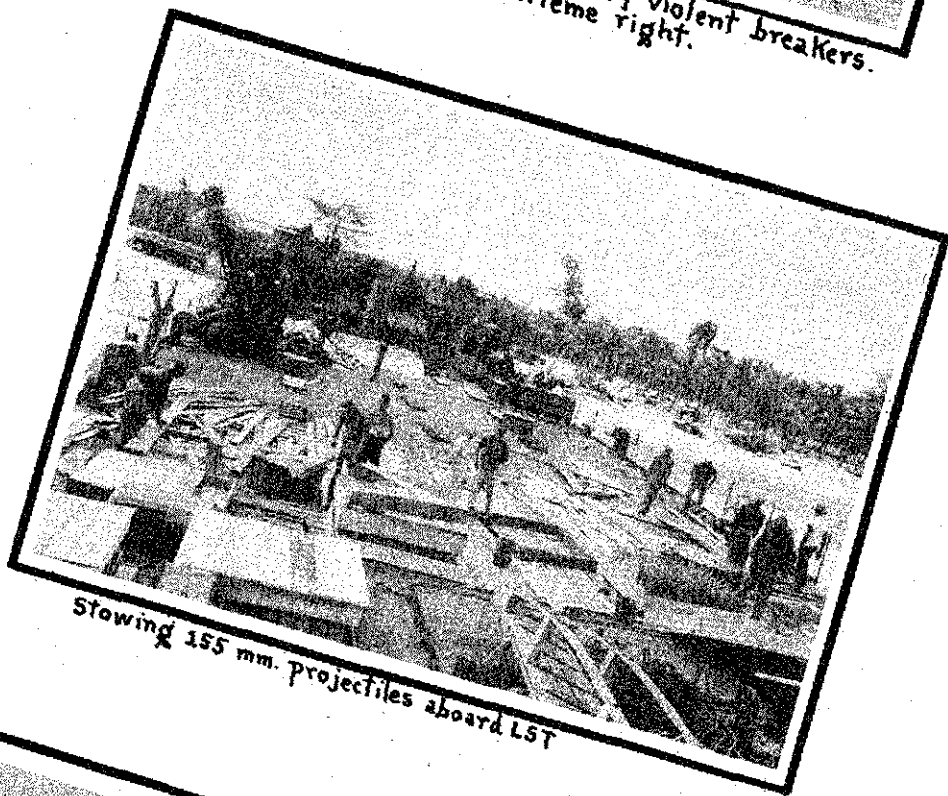
An LCT and other craft disabled by violent breakers. Naval Hospital Ship on extreme right.



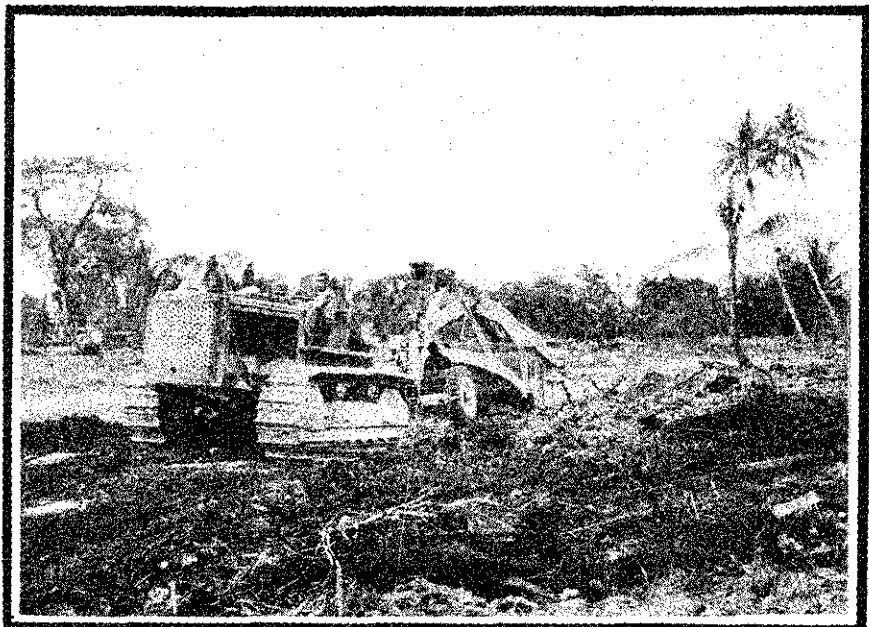
Maintenance and operation of the beach was done by CBMU 571 and 17th Sp.



The 17th Sp. on the job...



Stowing 155 mm. projectiles aboard LST

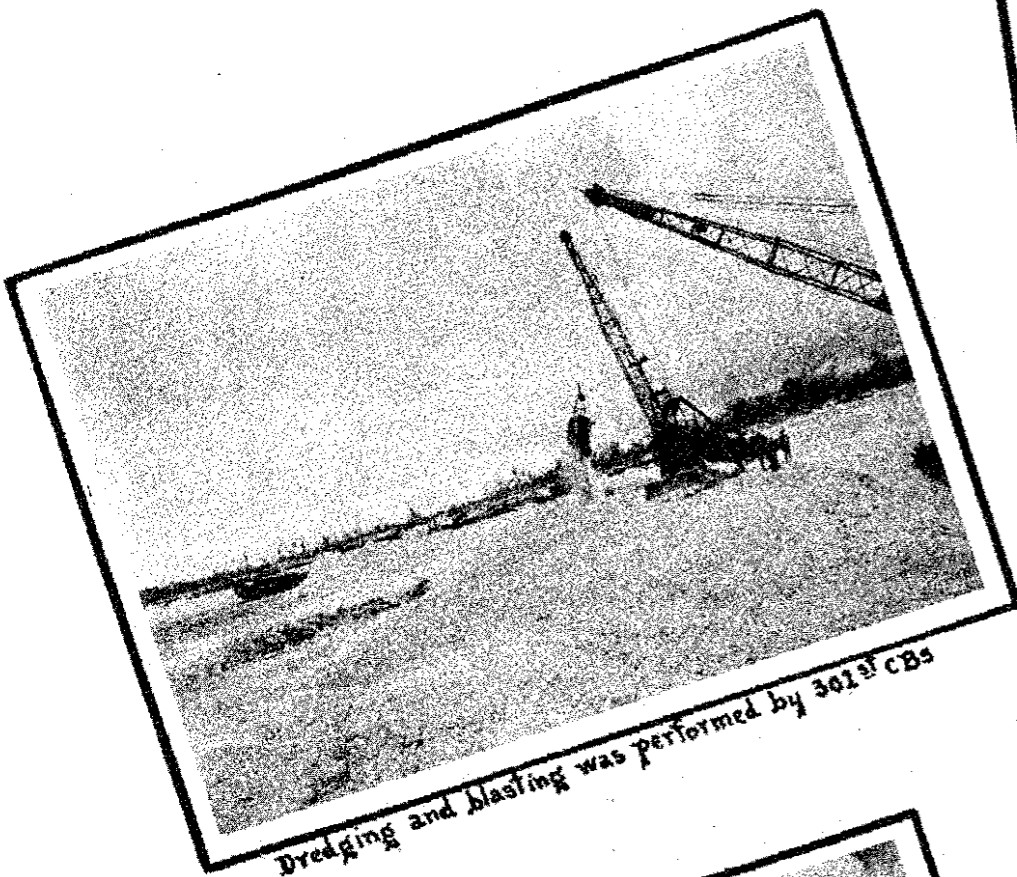


The road to Purple Beach, 8 October - construction by 73d CBS

Purple Beach - the successful handling of ships and cargo under the worst conditions



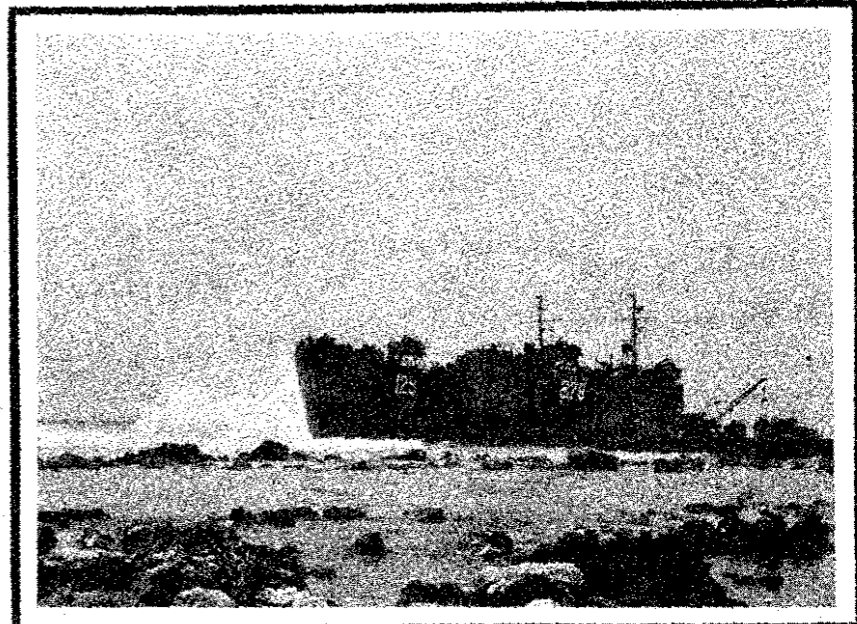
...and the same, three weeks later; originally narrow, muddy



Dredging and blasting was performed by 301st CBS



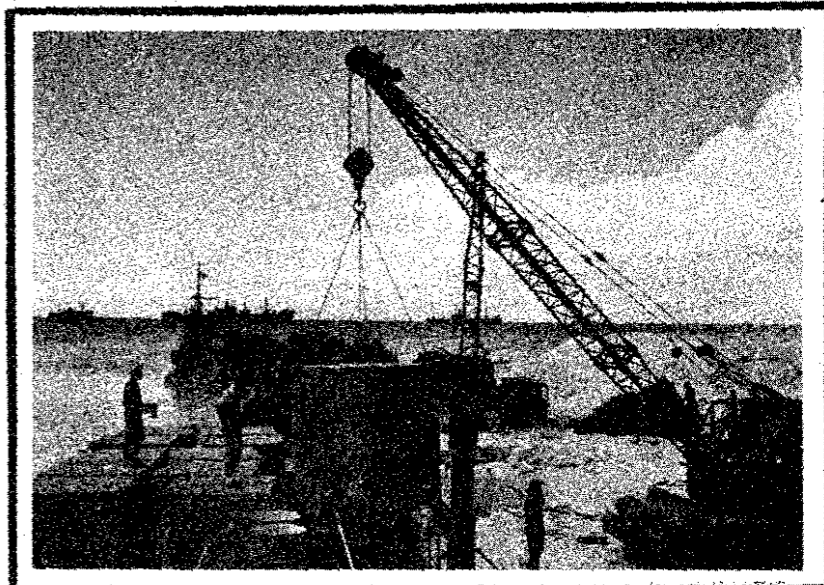
Daily thru October and November mighty blasts shook Peleliv, as dredging and causeway operations proceeded



Grounded from late September to late October



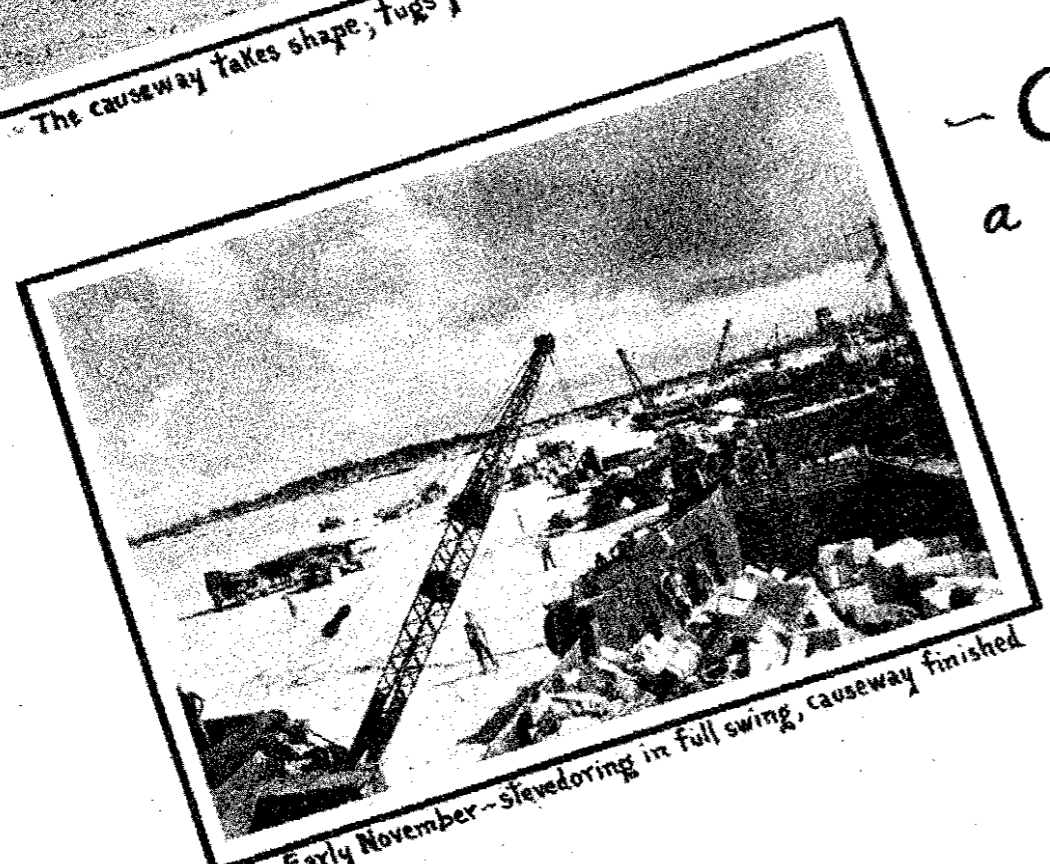
Like a geyser, surf and sand shoot skyward



Late October - supplies unloaded as causeway nears completion



The causeway takes shape, tugs pull LSTs off the rocks



Early November - Sievedoring in full swing, causeway finished

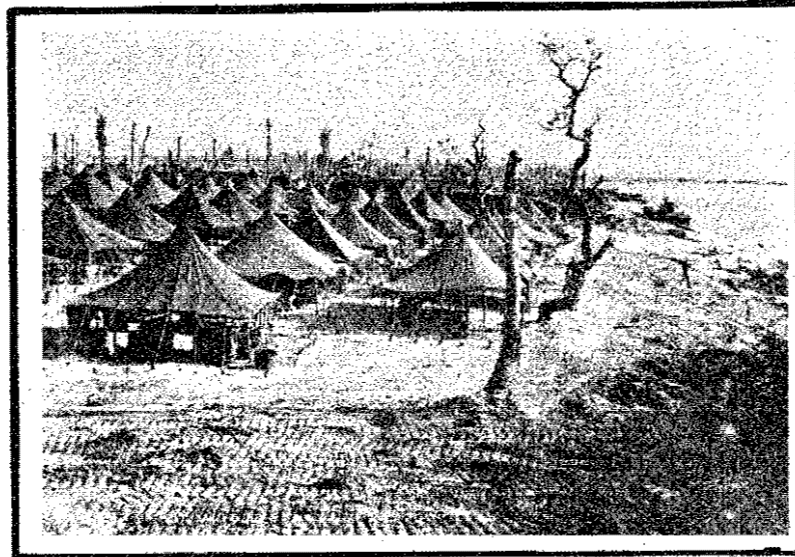
*Orange Beach -
a brilliant accomplishment
in the face of
heartbreaking
adverses*



To the glory of the 301st, 73rd, and 17th Sp. C.Bs ...



Bulldozers rub out foxholes, 15th October

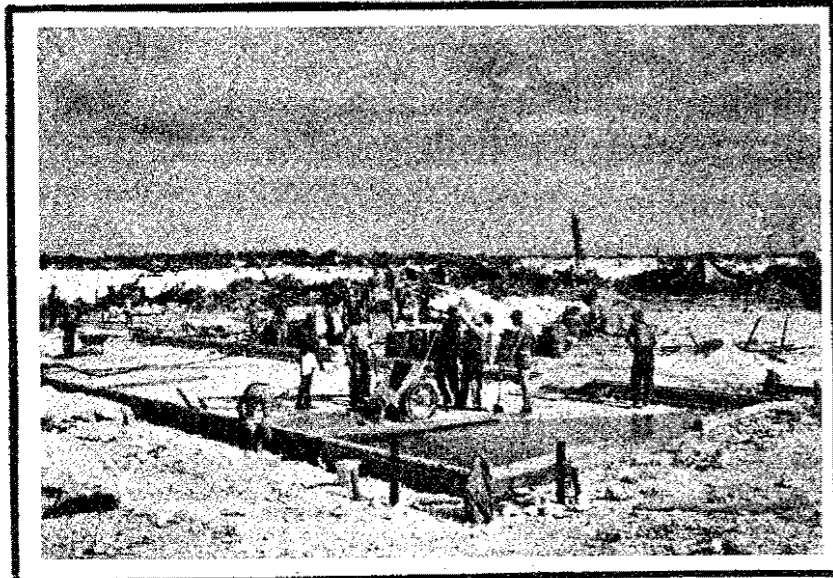


...and pronto! next day Co. "B" fringes invasion beachhead

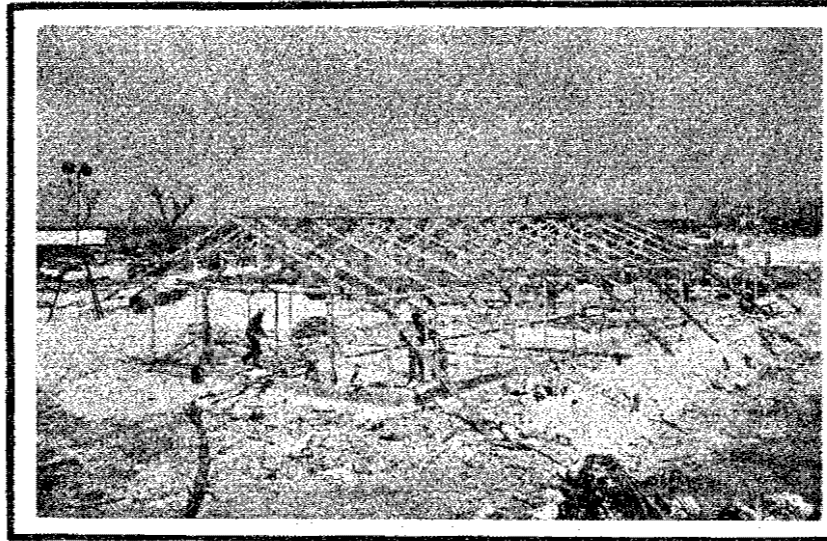


Preview of Rigging Loft and Transportation areas - 20th October

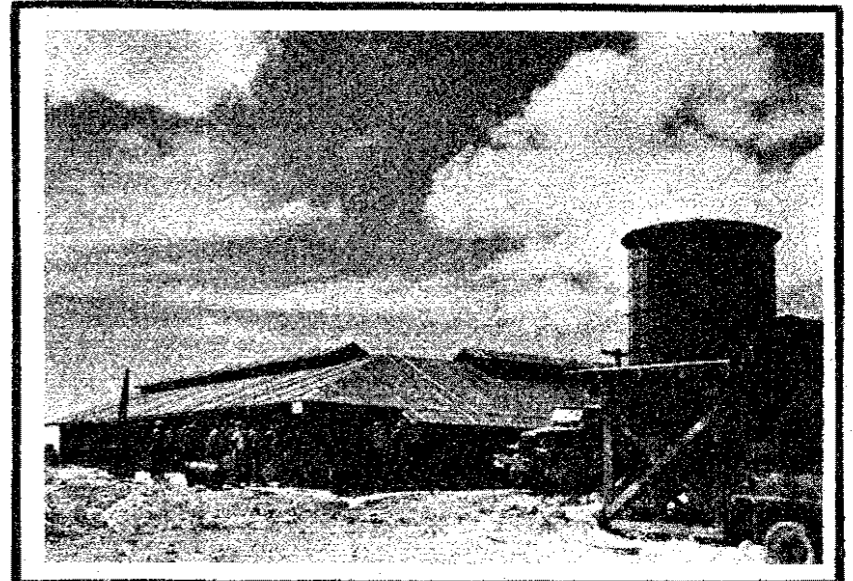
CAMP PROGRESS



Galley foundation - 31st October

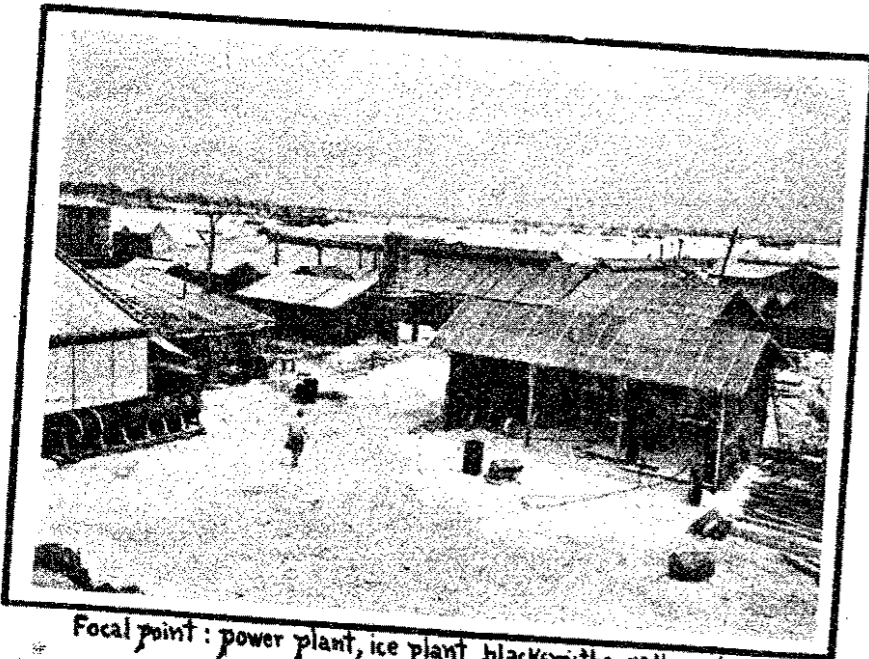


...and four days later

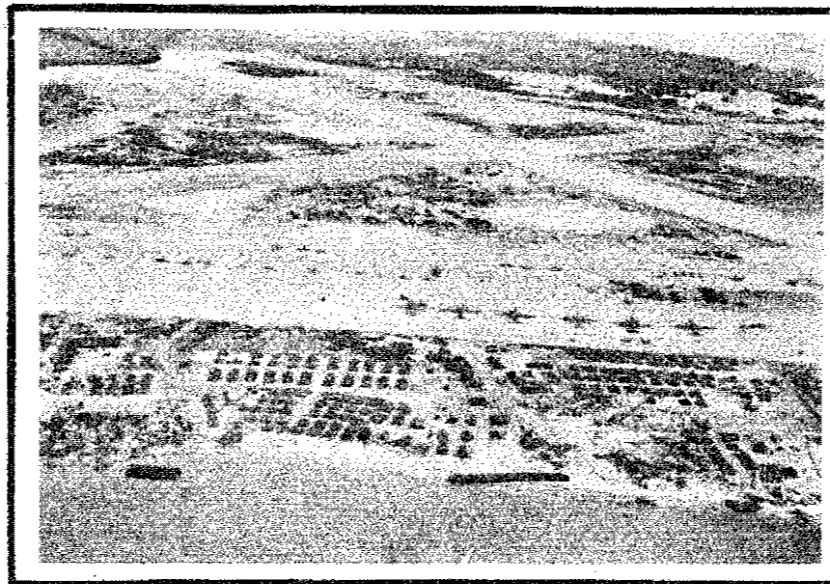


A going concern, concerning everyone, by Thanksgiving Day

FROM FOXHOLES TO FERRIC FABRICATIONS



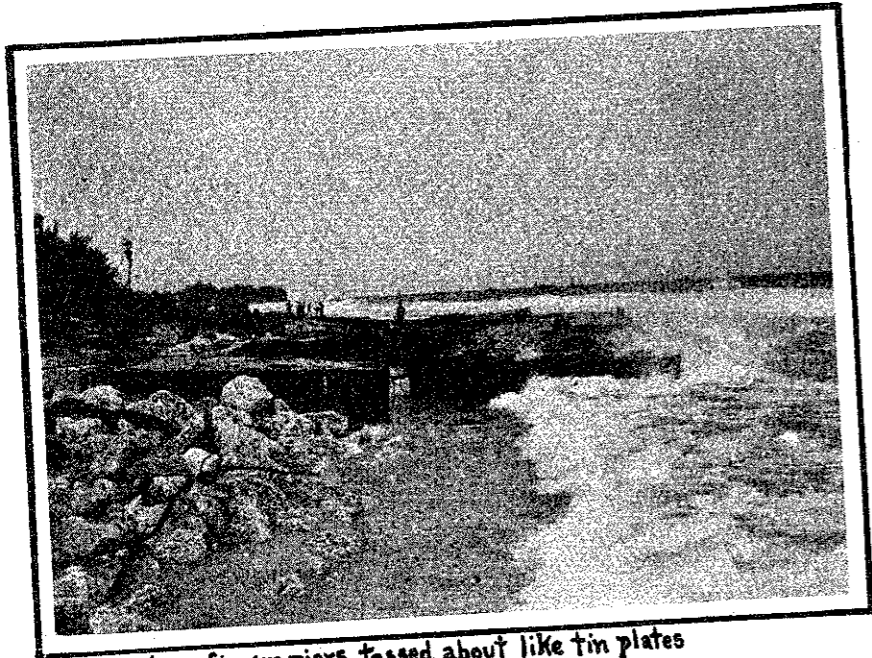
Focal point: power plant, ice plant, blacksmiths, galley, etc.



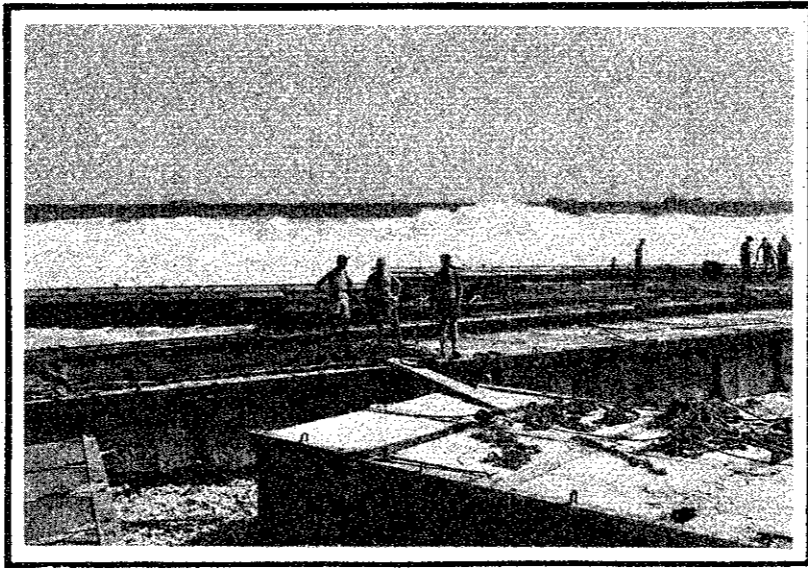
Bird's-eye view of camp, 700 feet below - 13 November



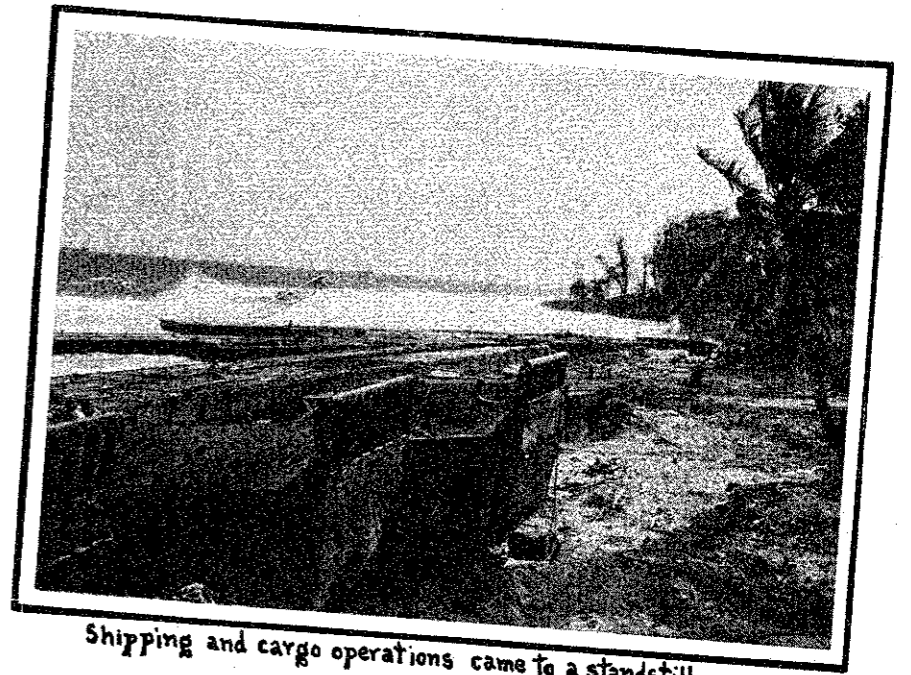
The Administration Area - late February



Pontoon finger piers tossed about like tin plates

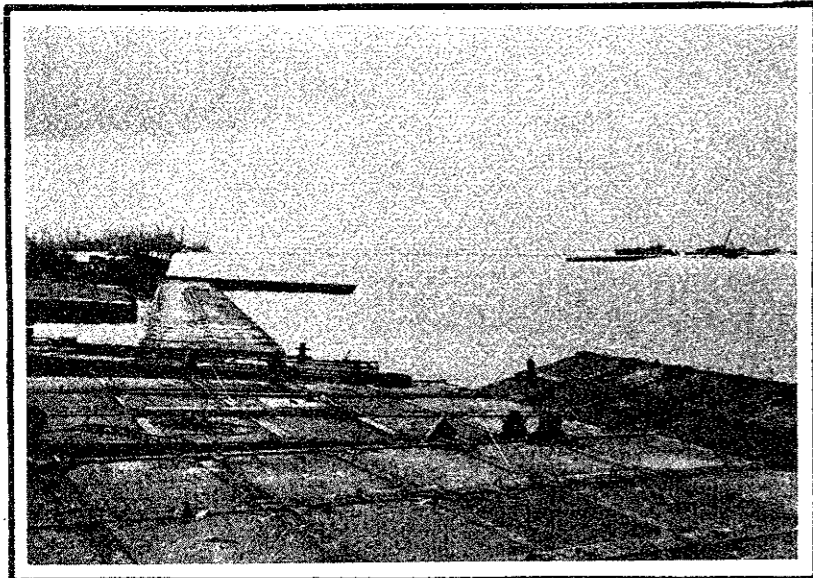


All ships stood well offshore

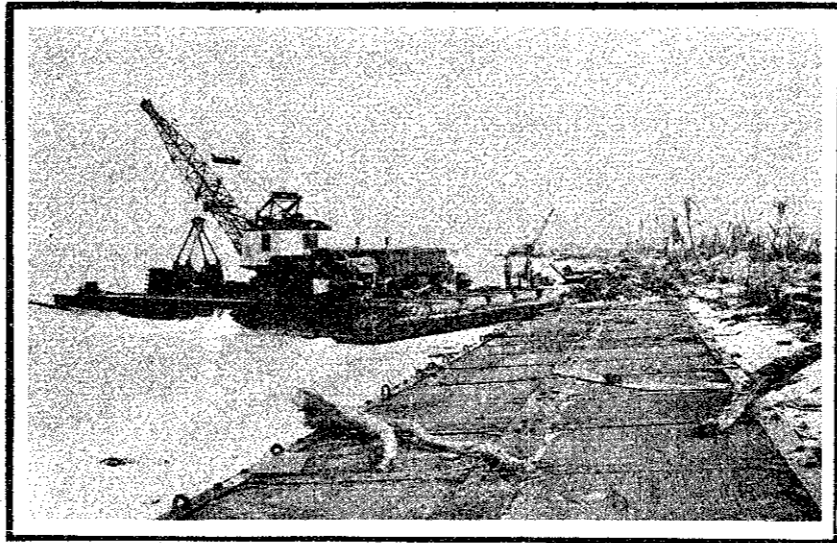


Shipping and cargo operations came to a standstill

AFTER THE TYPHOON



Remains of the busy causeway...



...pontoons and debris



...strewn as far as one could see

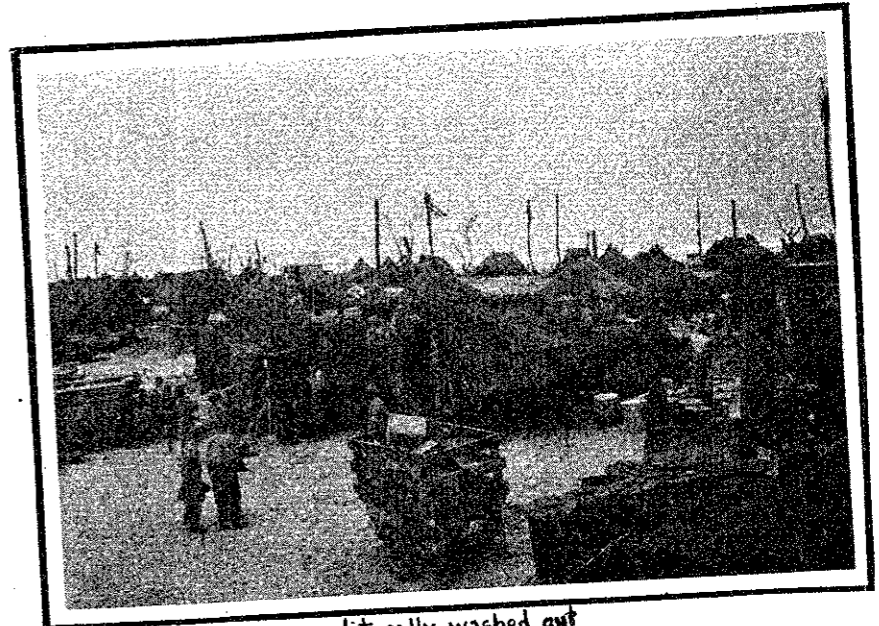
7 NOV., 1944



The storm was no respecter of Officers' Country!



Tangled telephone lines testified the typhoon's fury



The galley area - literally washed out

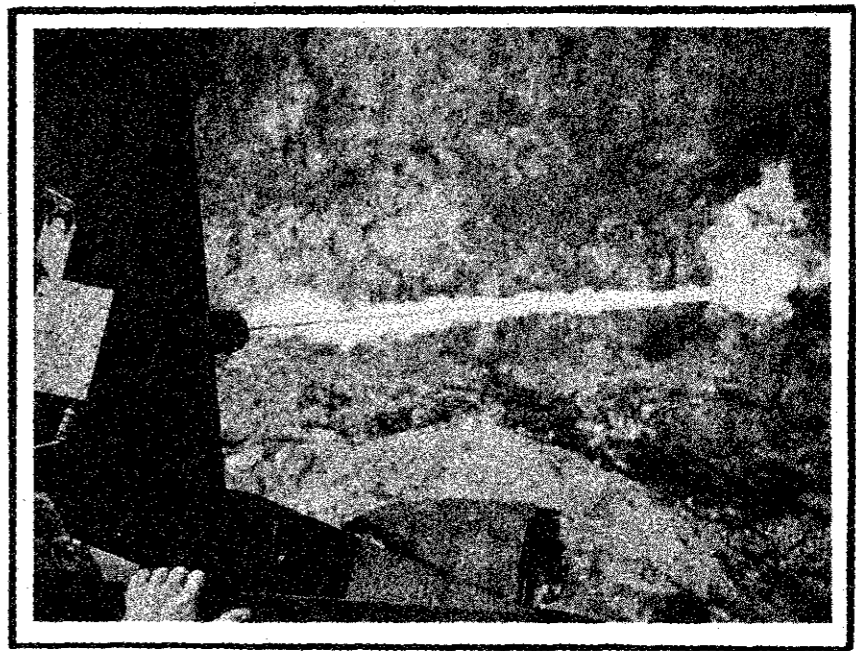


Heading for the hills to smoke out Japs

In and About THE LAST POCKET OF



Awaiting action: an Army tank, with Navy flame-throwers manned by Marines



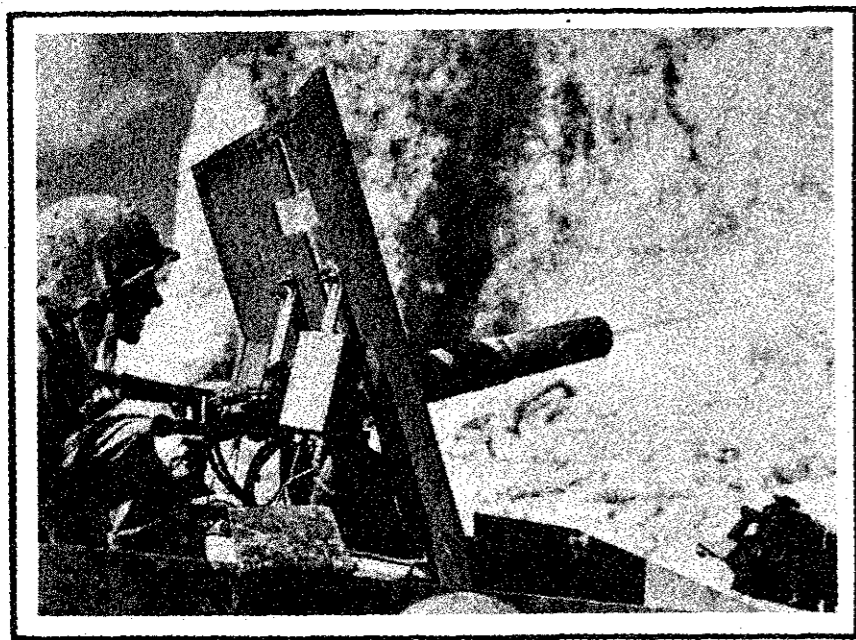
Flames lick deep into and around mouth of cave



Liquid death spurts into Nip hideout



Approach to "Sisters' Ridge" - 81st Inf. Div.



Marine flame-thrower in action



Casualty from summit of "Sisters' Ridge"

"The Bowl"

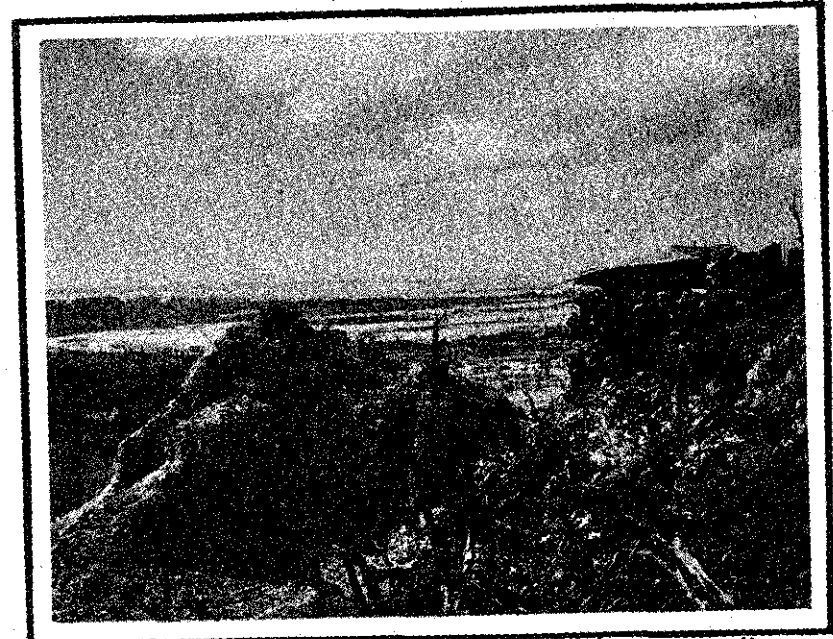
ORGANIZED RESISTANCE



Looking into The Bowl and northward from summit of Sisters' Ridge, 260 ft. elev., highest point on Island



The Bowl - where the 323rd "Wildcat" Regiment (81st Inf. Div.) mopped up the last Peleliu Japs



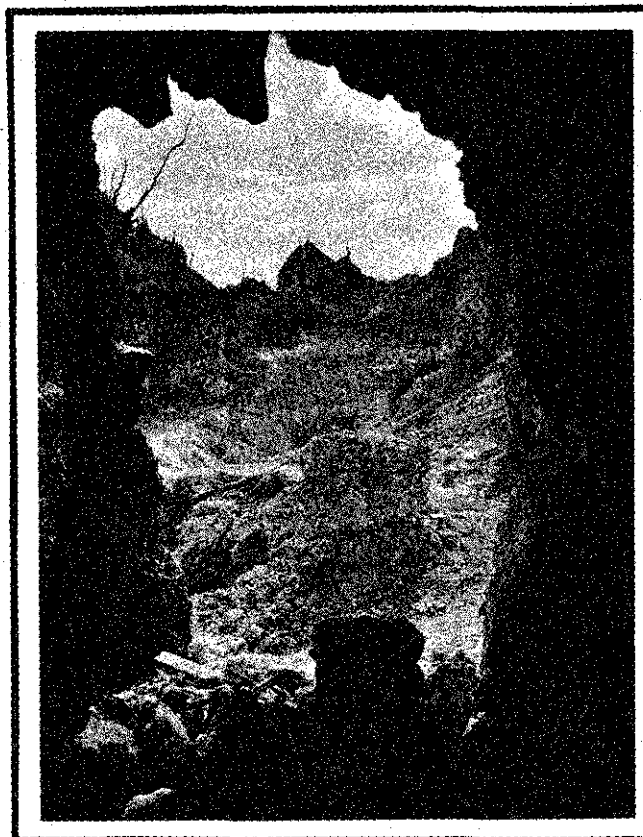
"Baldy," as seen from summit of Sisters' Ridge, with airfield and Scarlet Beach in background



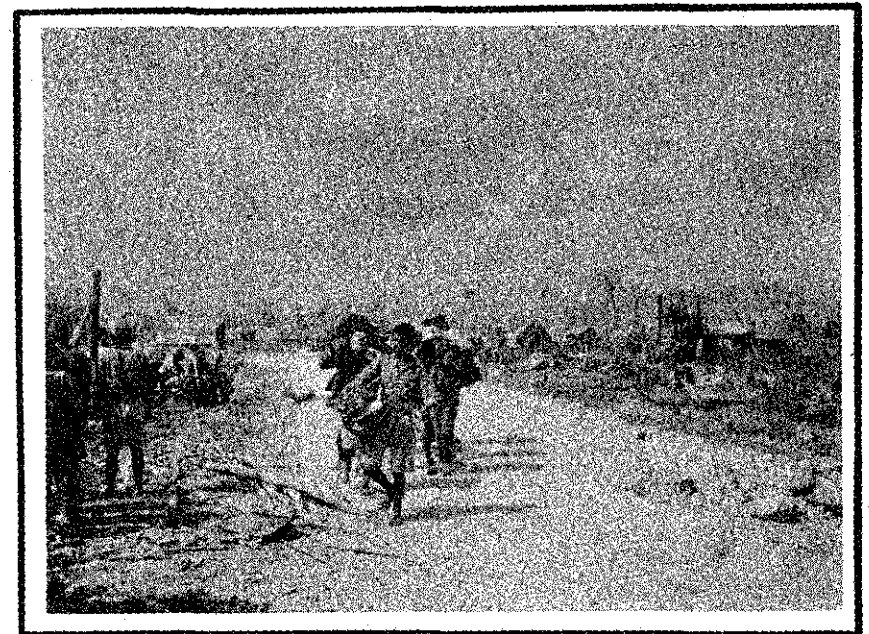
"The pause that refreshes" - that letter from home



A very few Japs did not join honorable ancestors



At the mouth of this cave, at 1100, November 27, ended one of the bloodiest campaigns of the Pacific



About to enter the prisoners' camp



Marines of 1st Div. exhibit rare 1000-stitch belt and Jap rifle

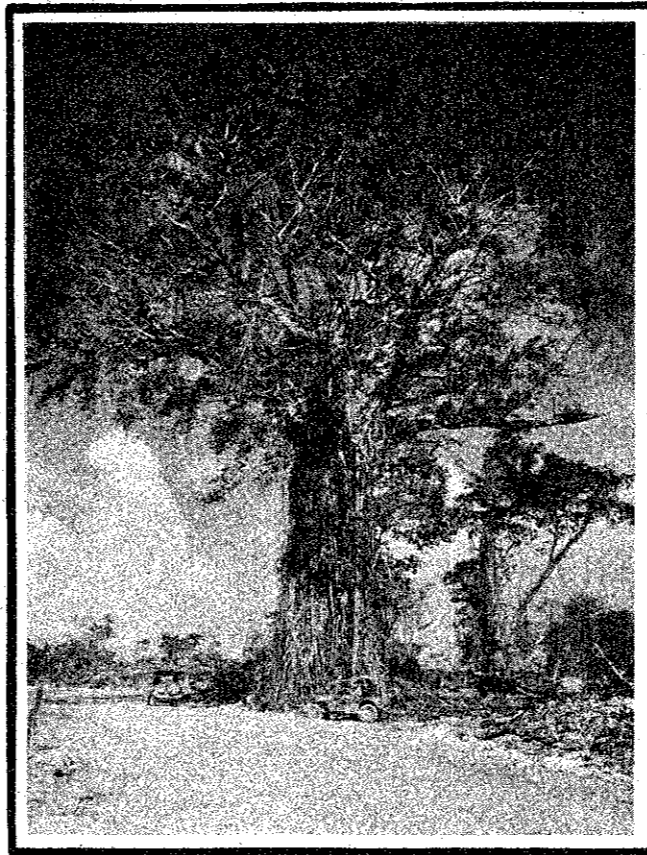


Infantrymen of 321st, exhibit Jap saber - 24th October

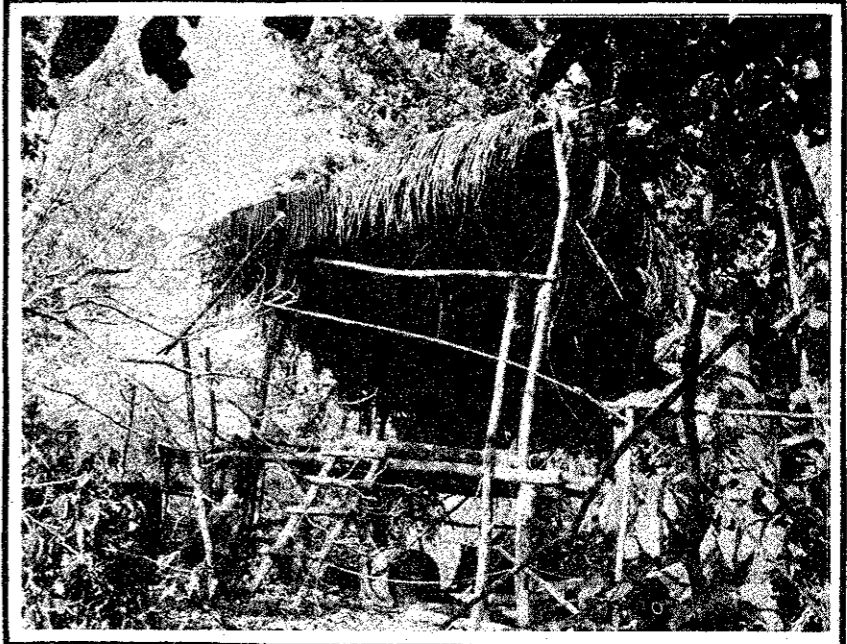
SOUVENIRS



Preparedness - 81st Wildcat Inf. Div., north end of Island

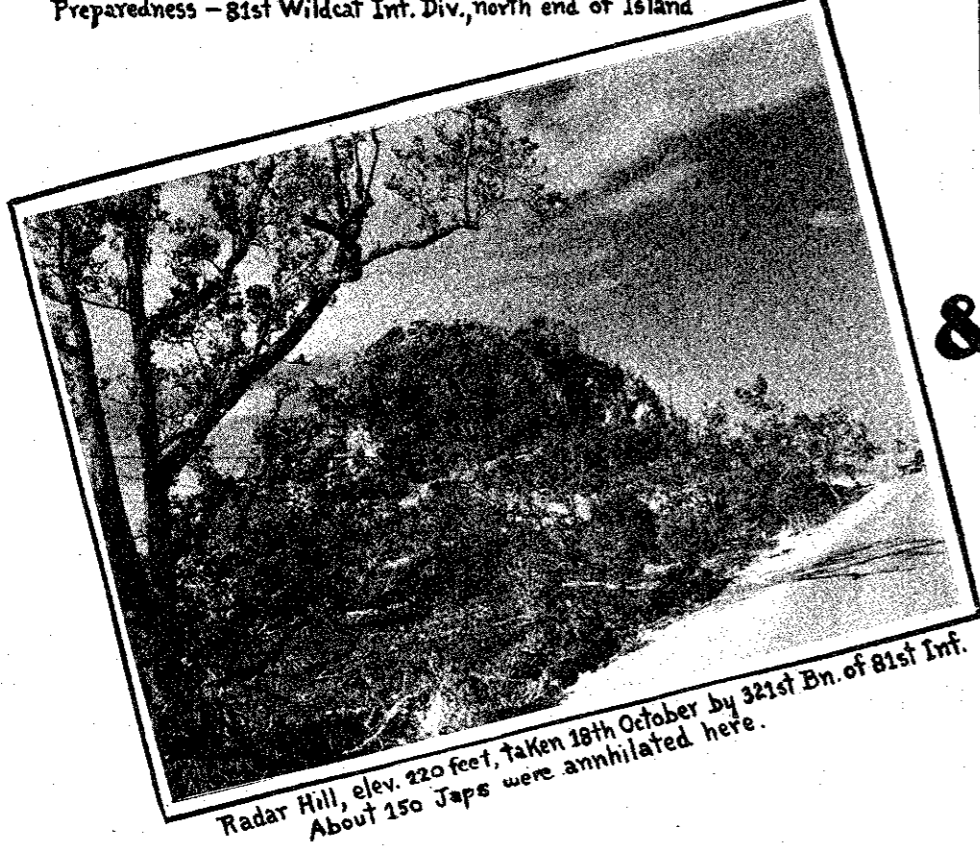


BANYAN TREE near Purple Beach, one of the few large trees on Peleliu which survived the invasion blitz



Jap shelter at Purple Beach

& SCENERY



Radar Hill, elev. 220 feet, taken 18th October by 321st Bn. of 81st Inf. About 150 Japs were annihilated here.



Summit of Radar Hill, the cross in memory of 81st Wildcats. The Japs had excellent radar equipment.

COMDR. EDDIE PEABODY

and his

"TUNE TOPPERS"

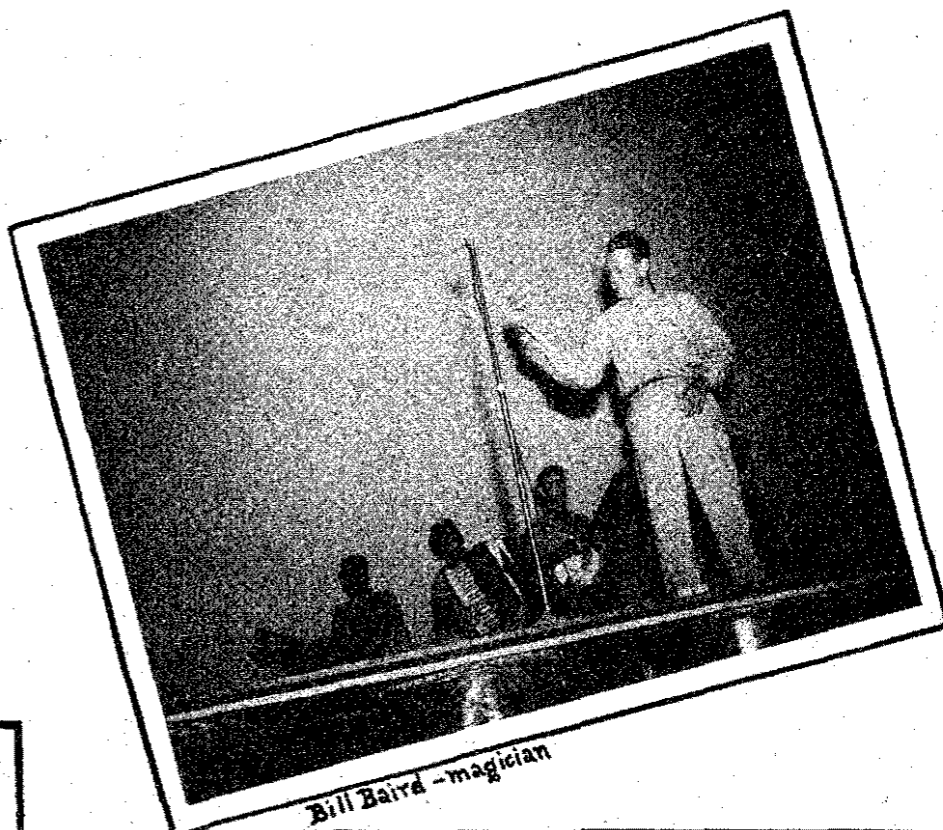
TOUR PELELIU

NOV. 18 — 24

while the chatter of guns
is still in the air.



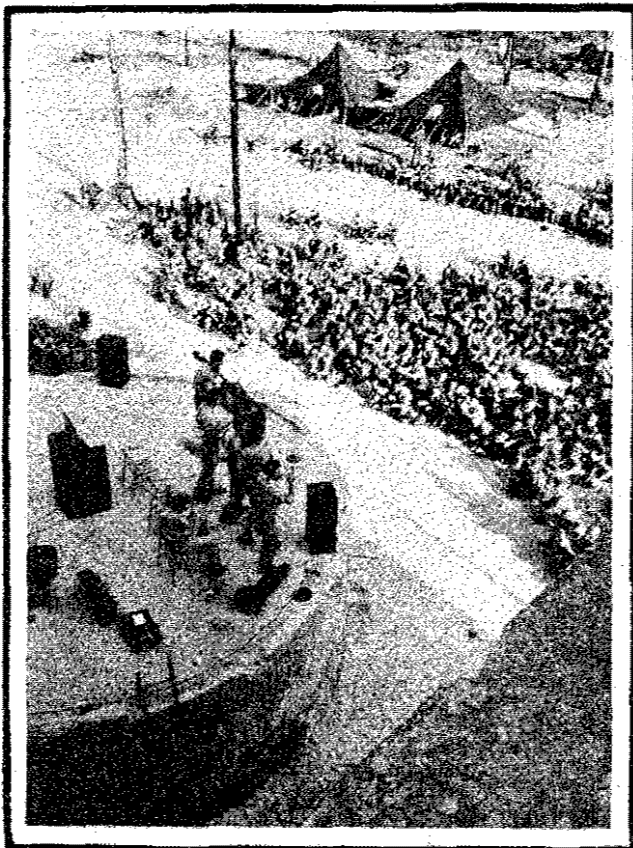
An evening performance at Island Command



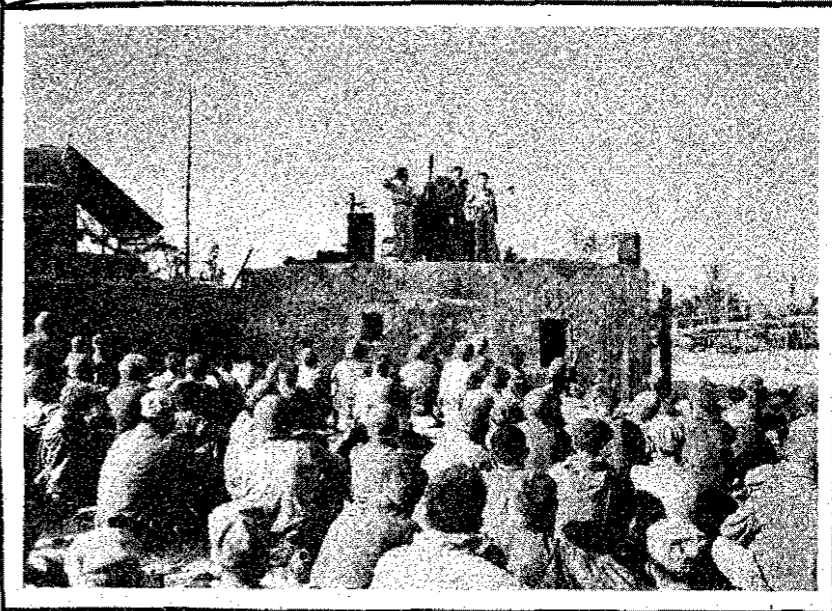
Bill Baird - magician



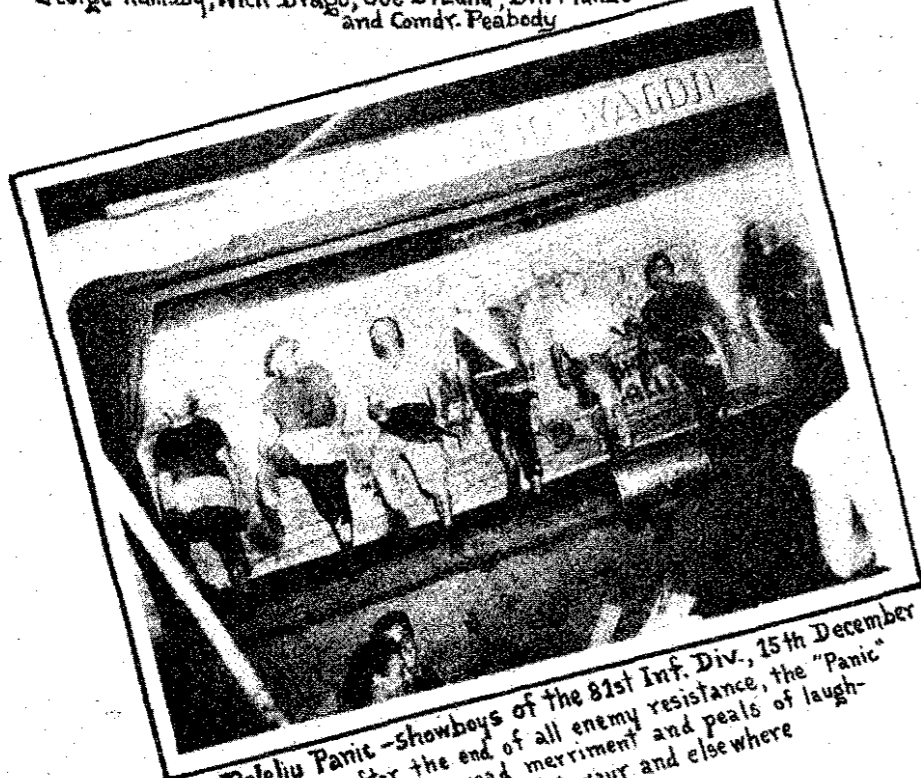
George Ramsby, Nick Drago, Joe DiLalla, Bill Manzo
and Comdr. Peabody



At the Jap radio station —
the "King of the Banjo" and his troupe



A wrapt audience of Army, Navy and Marines

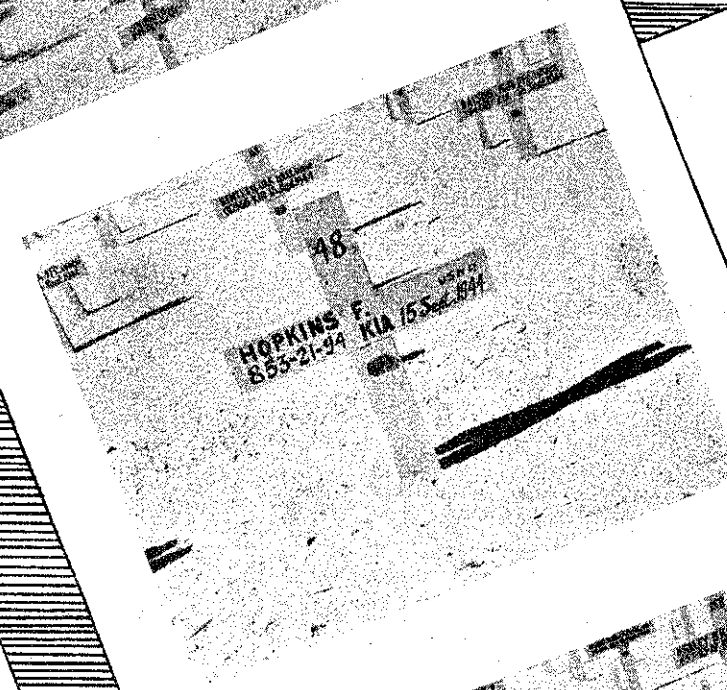
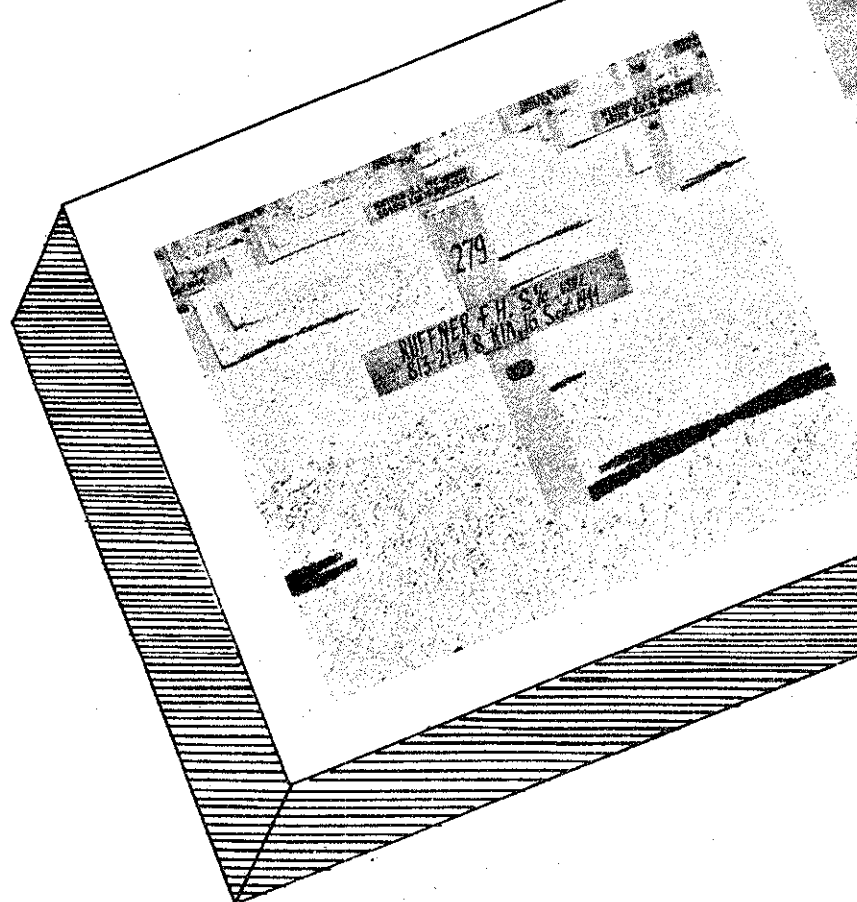
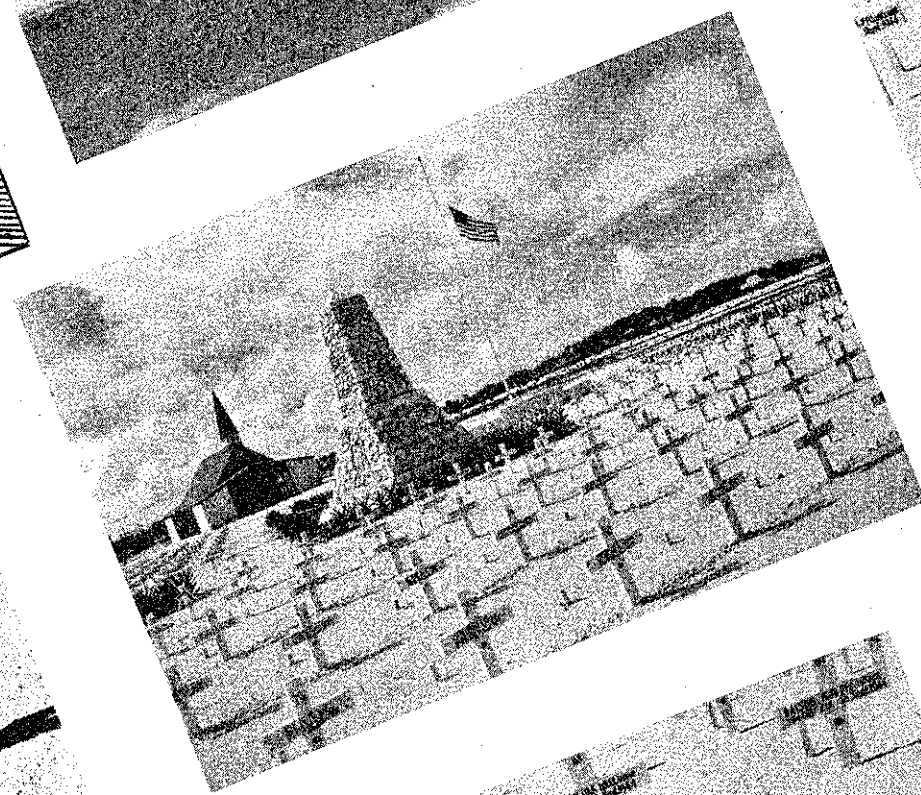
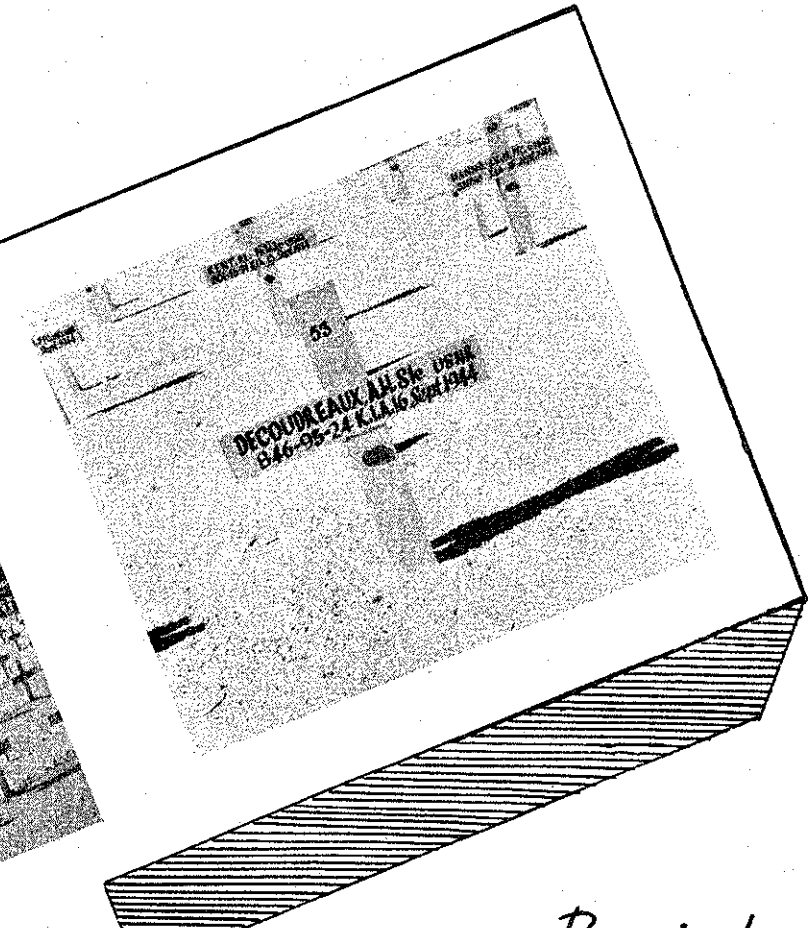
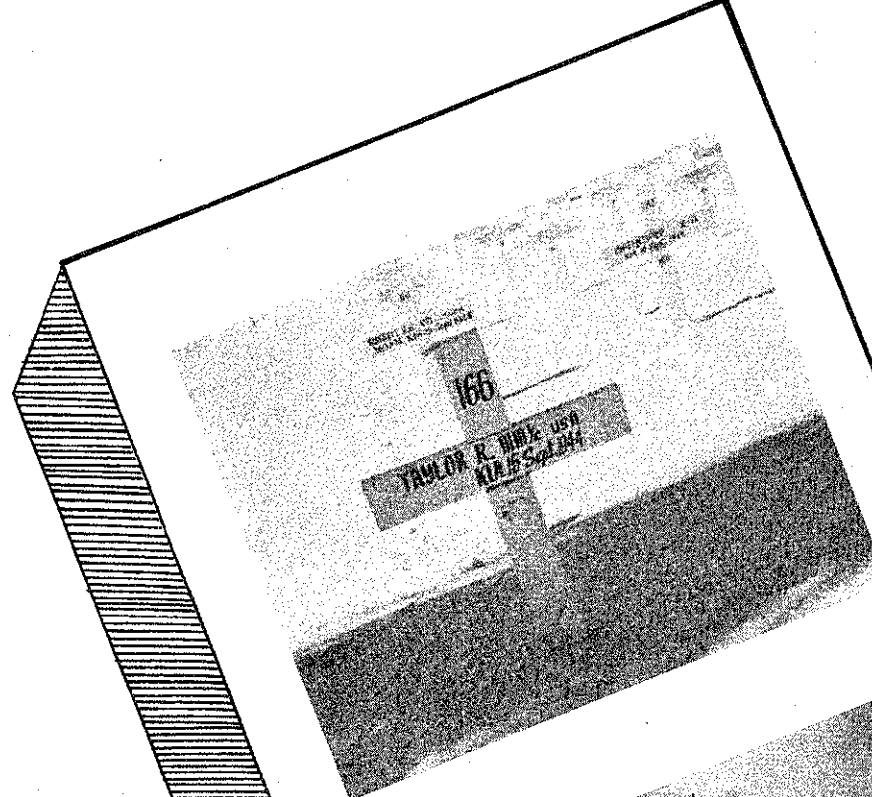


Peleliu Panic — showboys of the 81st Inf. Div., 15th December
Shortly after the end of all enemy resistance, the "Panic"
appeared to spread merriment and peals of laugh-
ter round Peleliu, Angaur and elsewhere



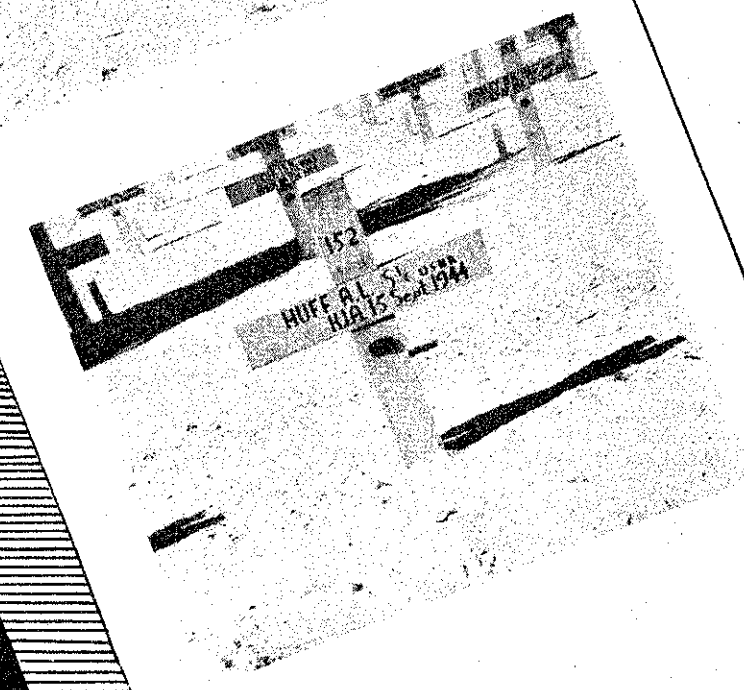
Lt. A. C. Hall and his highly popular "FOUR BOYS AND A GUITAR"
Russell Williams, Henry E. Robinson, Cleo Roberts, Thomas C.
Zimerman and C. C. Moore — they gave 116 performan-
ces from late June, 1944, to 13th February, 1945

LOCAL
ENTERTAINMENT

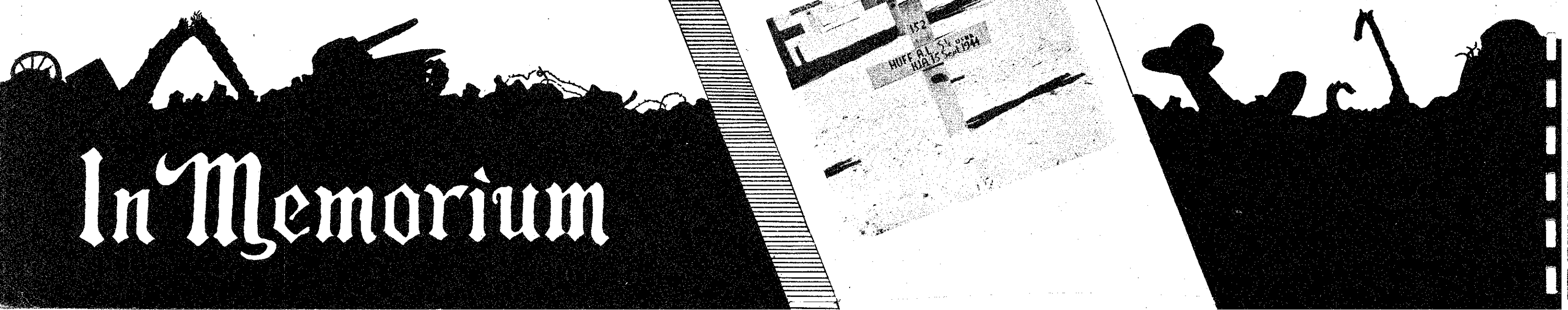


Buried at Sea
FITZGERALD, L.N., S/1c
ELLINGTON, JOHN, S/1c

Missing
CHATMAN, JOSEPH, S/1c

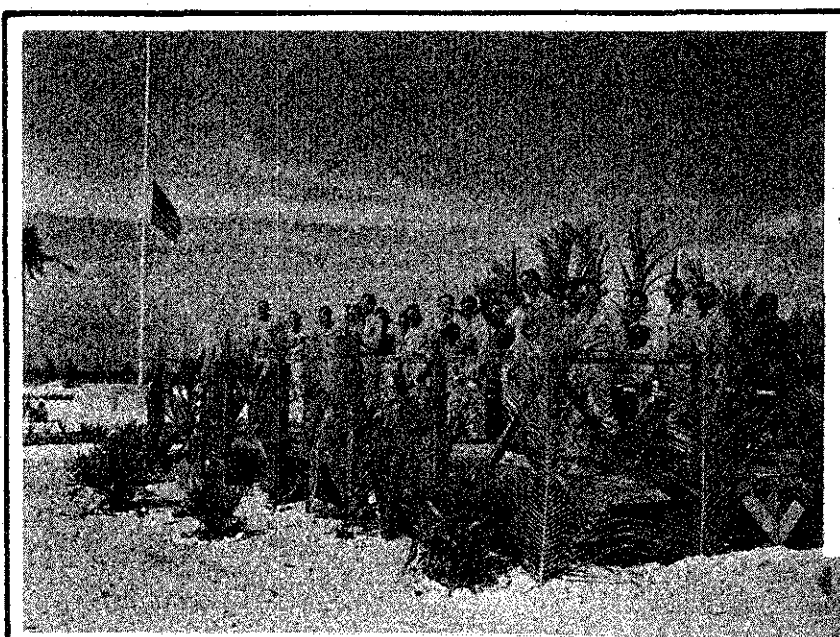


In Memorium

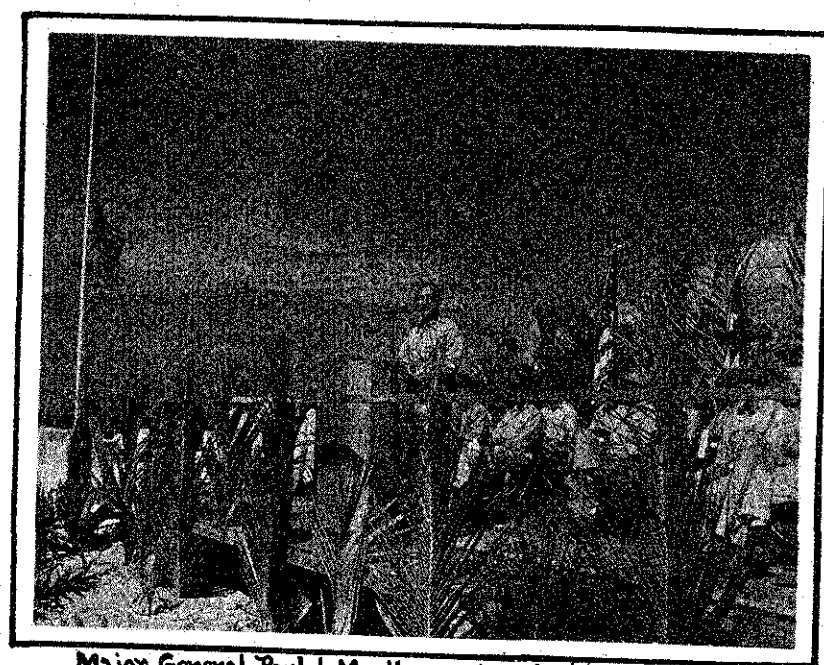


Dedication of Monument and Cemetery

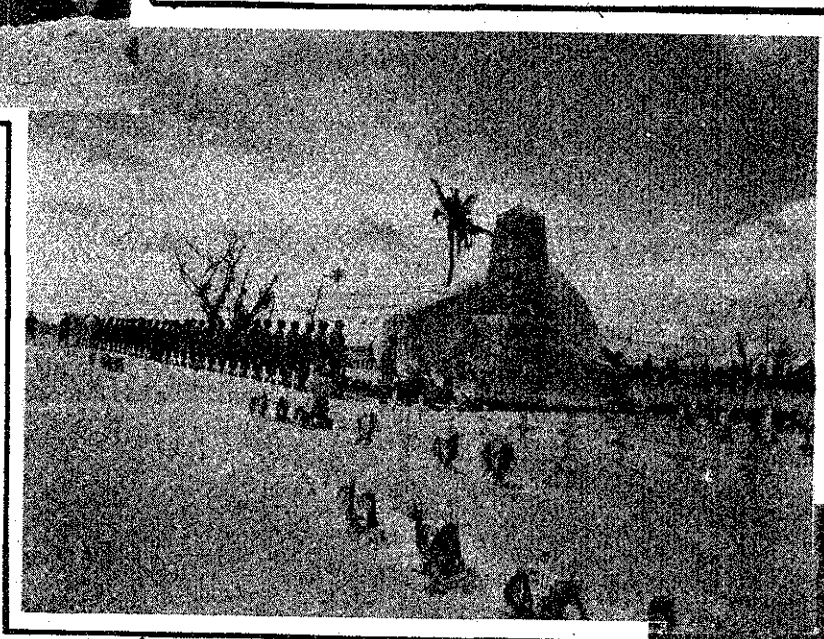
27th December 1944



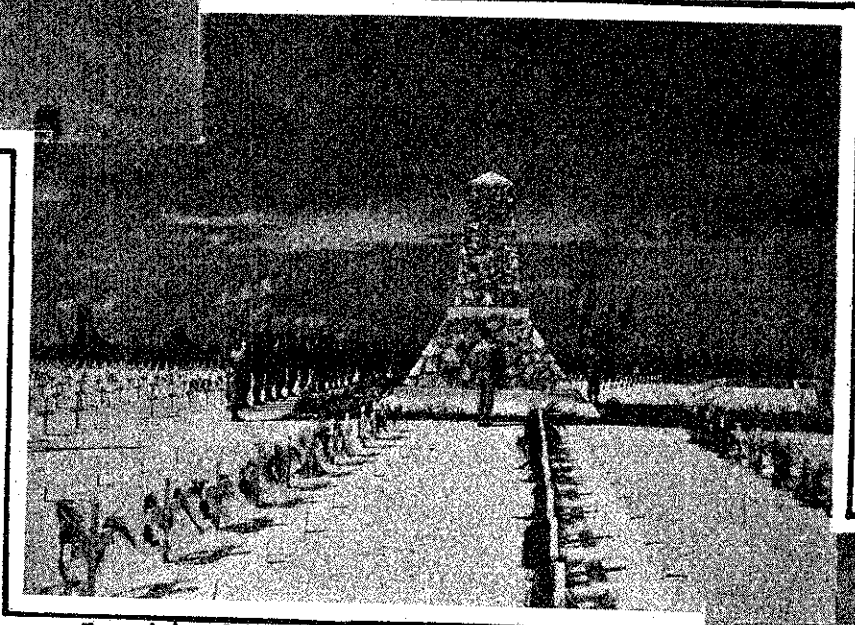
Chaplain Anthony J. O'Driscoll, 321st Infantry, performing ritual of dedication



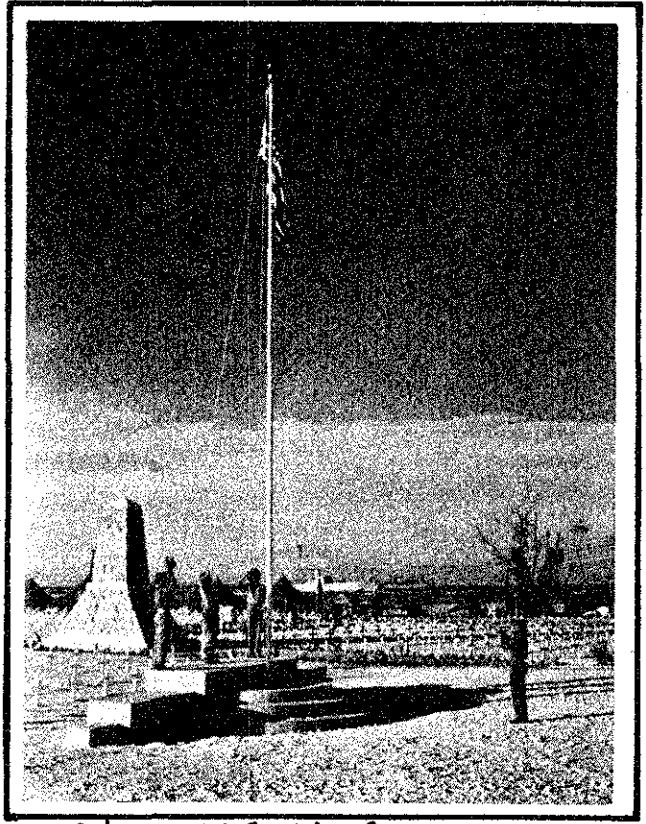
Major General Paul J. Mueller, 81st Infantry Division



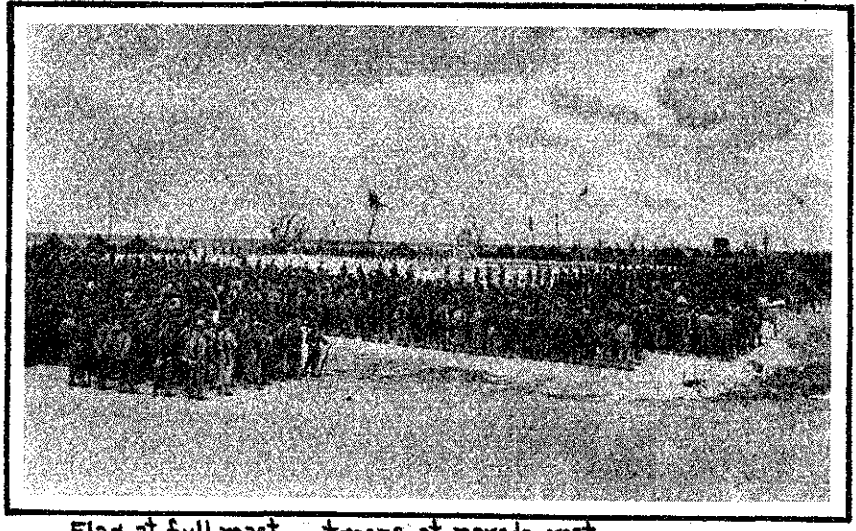
Unveiling of Monument



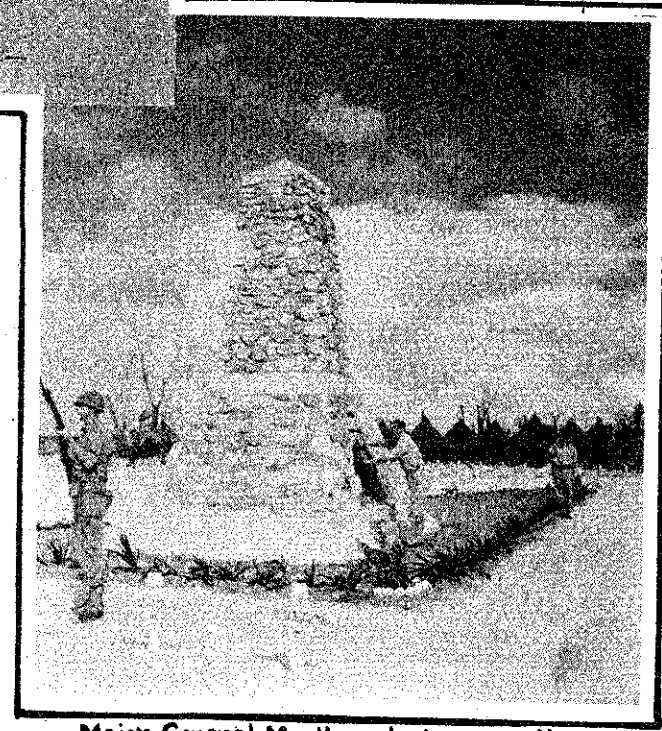
In salute of the dead



Colors - a 17th Special performance Jan. 1



Flag at full mast - troops at parade rest



Major General Mueller placing wreath



Vice Admiral J.A. Hoover

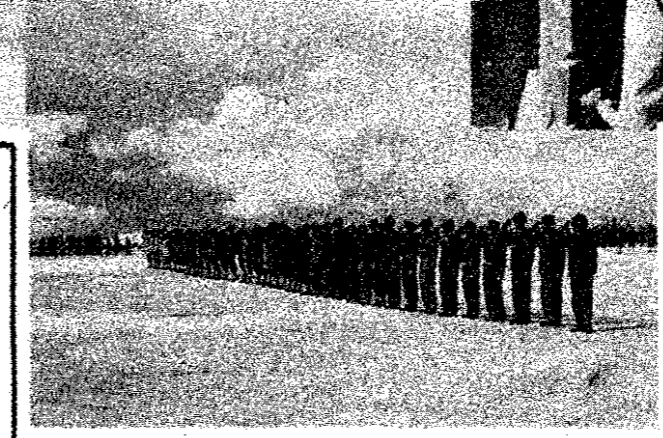


December 16 The CARGO COMBAT

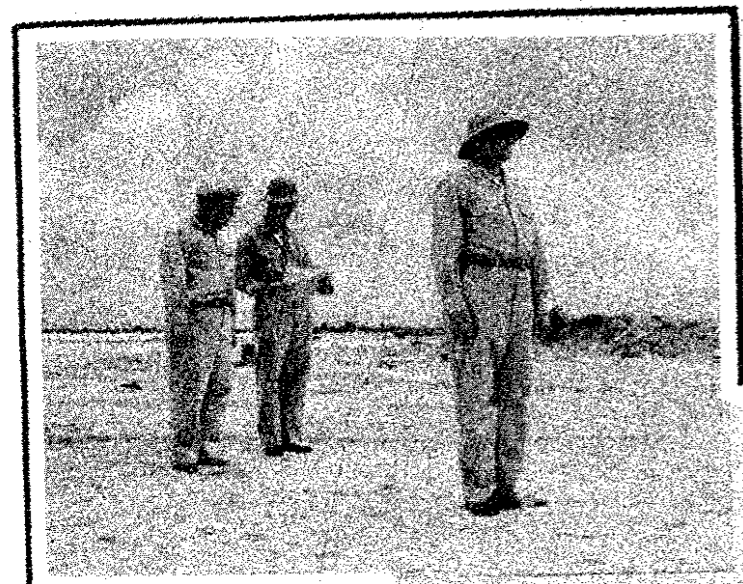
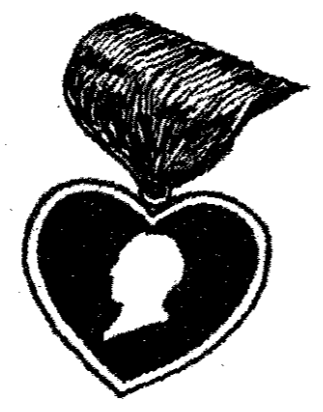
**PURPLE HEART AWARDED
17TH SPECIAL MEMBERS**

Four members of the 17th Special were awarded the Purple Heart last week by Vice-Admiral J. R. Hoover in impressive ceremonies at the airstrip

The four were Chief E.B. Norman of Bunkie, La; Jerome Ginsberg, SK1c, of Brooklyn; Max M. Biglow, SK2c, of Buffalo, N. Y. and E. L. Davis, S1c, of Mooresville, N. C.



Forty two enlisted men from the Army, Navy and Marines received Purple Heart award



**PURPLE HEARTS TO ACQUILANO,
ROGERS; GENERAL CAMPBELL
COMMENDS SEVENTEENTH!**

Two more members of the 17th Special were presented the Purple Heart Dec. 27 in ceremonies at the battalion parade grounds.

James Aquilano, SF2c, of White Plains, N.Y. and Fred W. (Buck) Rogers, MM2c, of Trenton N. J. were the two men to be honored. Brig. Gen. H. W. Campbell, Commanding General of the Island, made the presentations in the name of the President of the U.S. and Secretary of the Navy. Platoons of Headquarters and Company A. formed an honor guard for the ceremonies.

General Campbell also had high praise for the 17th Special as a battalion.

"I want to express my appreciation to this battalion for the splendid work it has done on this island," the general declared.





Lt. Comdr. Moses E. Berry "at home"



mess hall bar

A YEAR PASSES

This is probably the queerest anniversary any of us have ever celebrated, and the paramount hope in the heart of all of us is that a year from now we won't be observing our second year overseas.

Yet! there is a two-fold cause for satisfaction on our part today. The first is that the days and weeks and months have stacked up in amazingly swift fashion. We've come a long ways since this day a year ago when we edged slowly away from the dock at Port Hueneeme and pointed for San Francisco before commencing the long trek across the Pacific. This battalion plunged into its business of helping win the war and now a year has fled by.

The second reason for satisfaction lies in the fact that at the close of our first year in the Pacific, we are able to look back and see jobs well done at three successive bases. This is the most important cause by far for a feeling of pride today.

At our first base, we learned the ropes of this vital business of stevedoring during wartime. At our second base, the teachings of the first island showed outstanding results. We toppled unloading records right and left and earned the reputation of being one of the most capable battalions in the Pacific. I personally think you are the best outfit out here, but of course there are other special battalions who won't agree.

Then here at third base, we ran into a hornet's nest, and the hot reception dished out by the Japs gave us a rough time for a couple of months. But our colors were flying higher than ever because of the way you carried on under fire. That added to our prestige and credit, and here we are riding high as the second overseas year opens.

I want to say this to you--keep on riding high, no matter how rough or tough it gets. I'd like to be able to tell you when we're going home. I cannot even venture a prediction, but like all of you, I want it to be soon. The new year 1945 will be a thankful one, for it most certainly will see us back in the states, but the question as to whether it will be early or late or the middle of the year does not have an answer now.

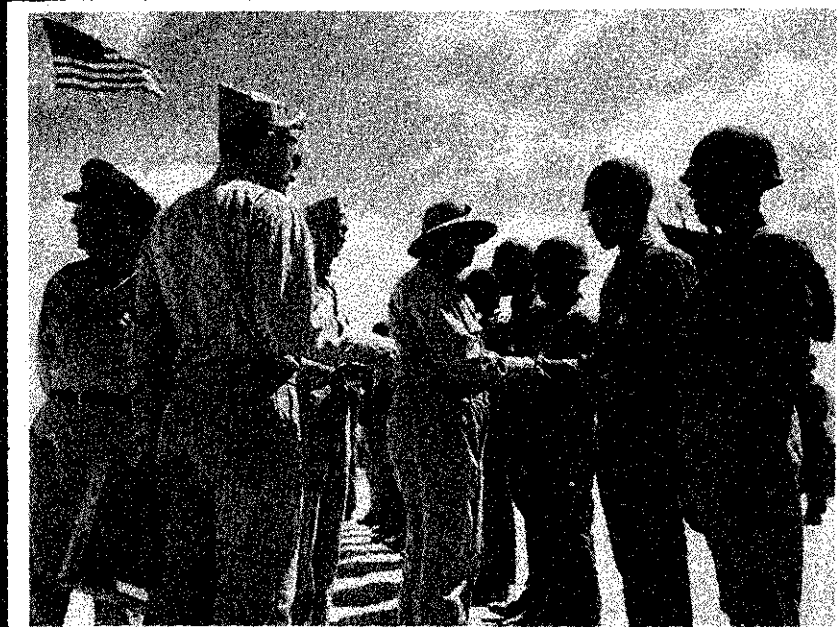
I extend congratulations to every one of you for successfully completing a year of foreign service for your country, and for making the name of the 17th Special a respected one.

Also, my best wishes to all of you for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Victorious New Year.

Lt. Comdr. Moses E. Berry,
Commanding Officer



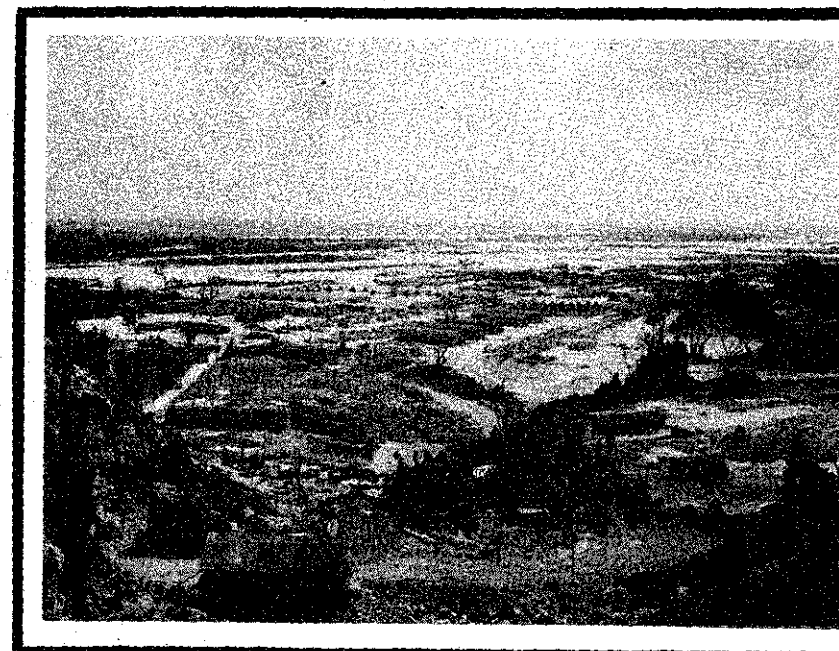
1944



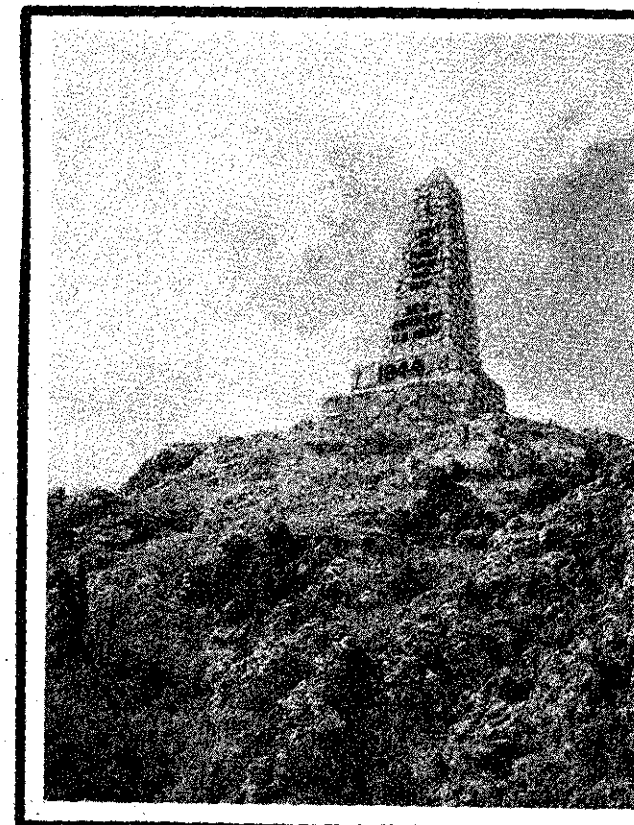
FEB. 13- PURPLE HEART AWARDED TO 24 IN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

Twenty-four additional members of the 17th Special were awarded the Purple Heart recently for wounds received in the campaign for this Island.

The group includes R.L. Gilliam, CM; C.C. Dawson, CM2c; L.R. Lett, SK2c; J.C. Maffei, SF2c; Pierce Somers, SF2c; Joe Allen, MM3c; M.C. Beckwith, Cox.; W.S. Demines, Cox.; William Bowie, Slc; W.W. Clements, Slc; T.H. Gray, Slc; Eugene Fearn, Slc; Joseph Lacour, Slc; Homer Jackson, Slc; Clarence Jowers, Slc; Lacy Mack, Slc; James L. Snipes, Slc; Olen Toney, Slc; F.A. Wiggins, Slc; L.W. Williams, Slc, Hosea Lawhorn, Slc.



Island food dump and Administration area, from Sisters' Ridge



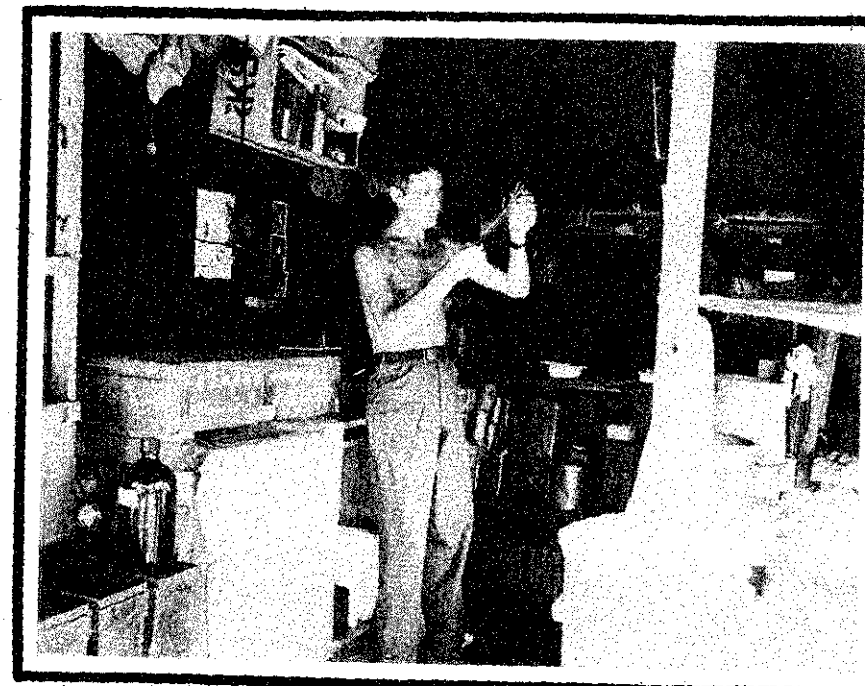
At summit of Sisters' Ridge - - - mid-Feb.



J.C. Maffei, R.C. Hughes, R. Bergbreiter and D.E. Bean - 26th March
BERGBREITER'S GOLF COURSE



Twilight on Peleliu's only golf course



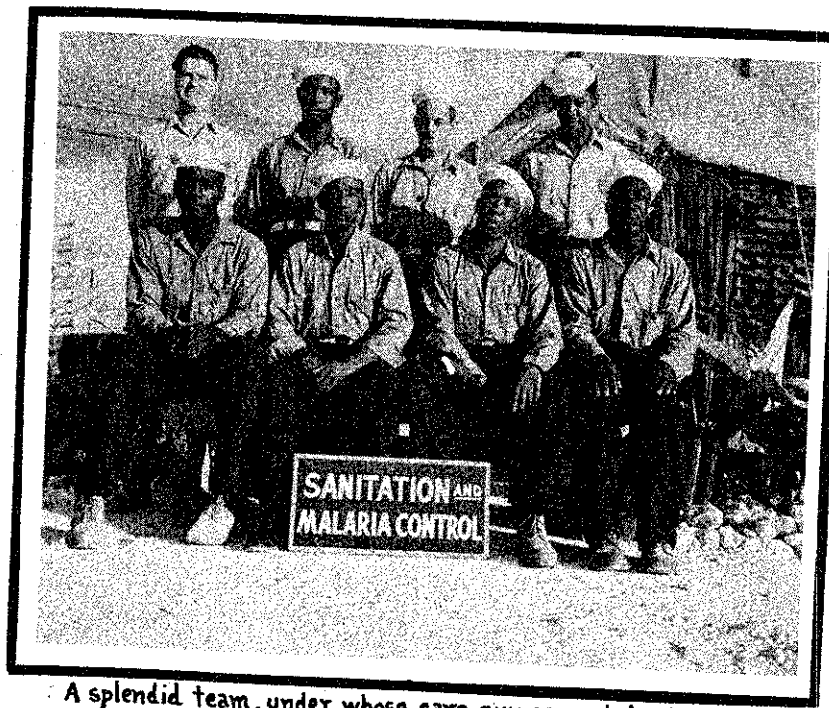
Yours truly in his rugged photo-lab, 25 of 20th February



The Medical Department as of mid-February: seated, Lieut. H. J. Curran, Lieut. E. L. Aaberg, Lieut. W. T. Corbett; standing, R. J. Michaud, CPhm, A. A. Terry, W. H. Wiseman, A. M. Lowe, D. F. Robb, E. Jones, L. D. Hudson, E. Nelson, B. R. Brendle.



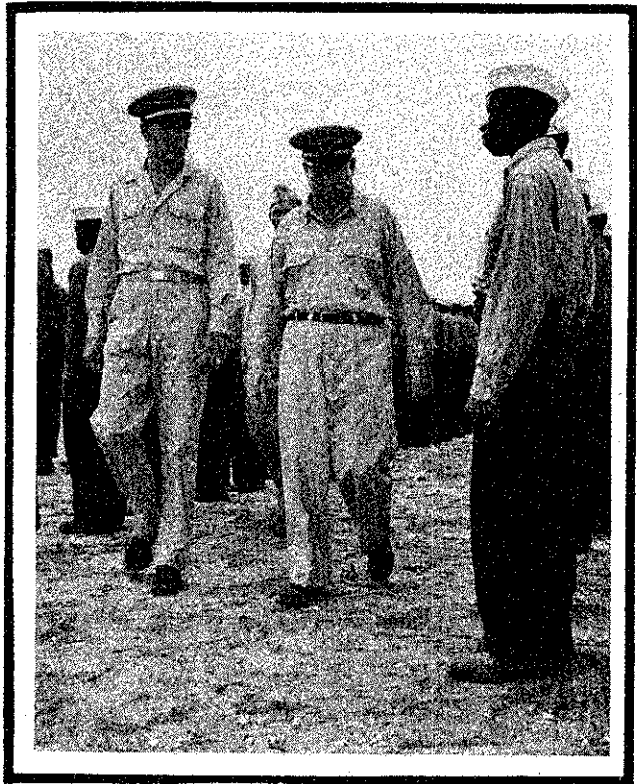
Veterans of World War I: front row, J. E. Jackson, C. Mantor, (Pop) CCM, W. R. Hartman, CCM, E. A. Dolan, CCM, back row, E. B. Norman Jr., C.BM, L. Fontaine, CEM, A. F. Tranfa, CBM, L. M. Newton



A splendid team, under whose care our camp did gleam! Seated: C. Williams, J. Curry, J. Thornton, J. Brown; Standing: J. E. Tully, CSF, E. Boscus, O. J. Danberg, C. Wight



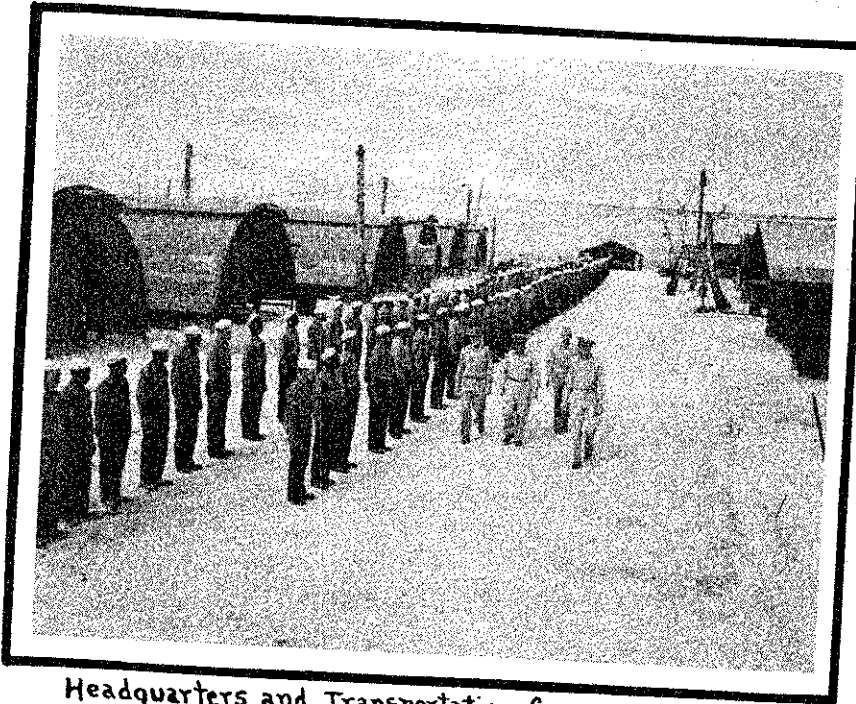
The last round-up; our officers foregather before the Battalion splits.... 13th Feb.



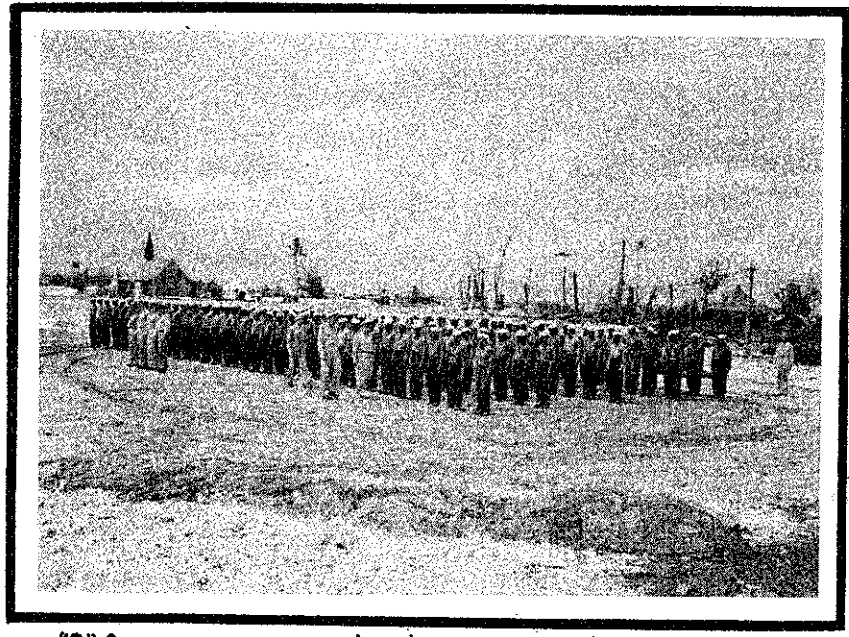
Our one and only overseas inspection - 24th March, Lt. Comdr. Berry (with Lt. A. C. Hill on right) inspects "C" Company



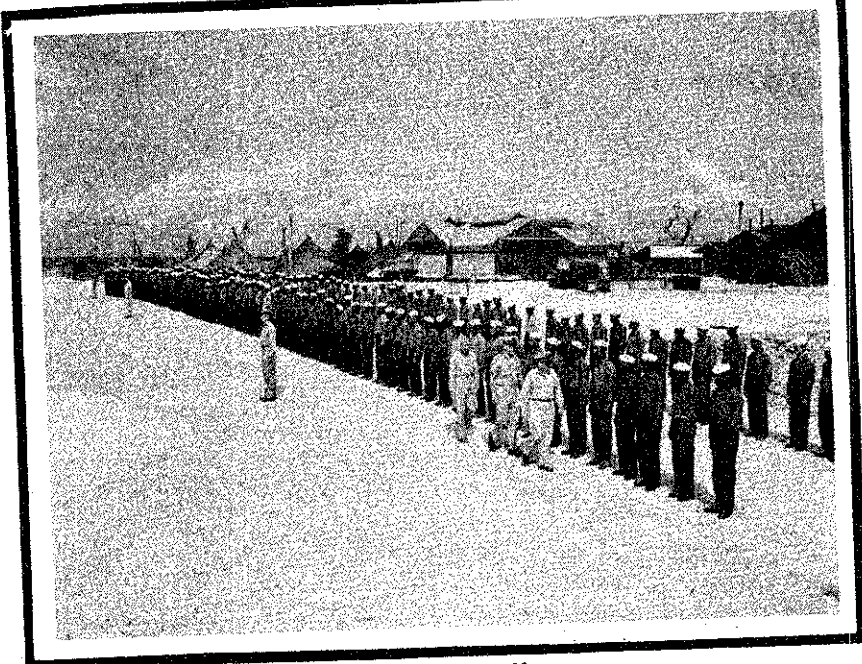
Champs of Peleliu - winners of 50 out of 54 Island games! Front: L. Golay, Bud Taylor, Jim Hilliard, Joe Smith, "Midge" Wesley; Centre: Lt. G. O. C. Johnston, T. Cheers, "Red" Maryette, B. Barcella, "Buck" Foreman, W. Harris; Rear: "Doug" Bean, Mgr., Ed Chestnutt, W. East, "Lefty" Hudson, I. Mauldin.



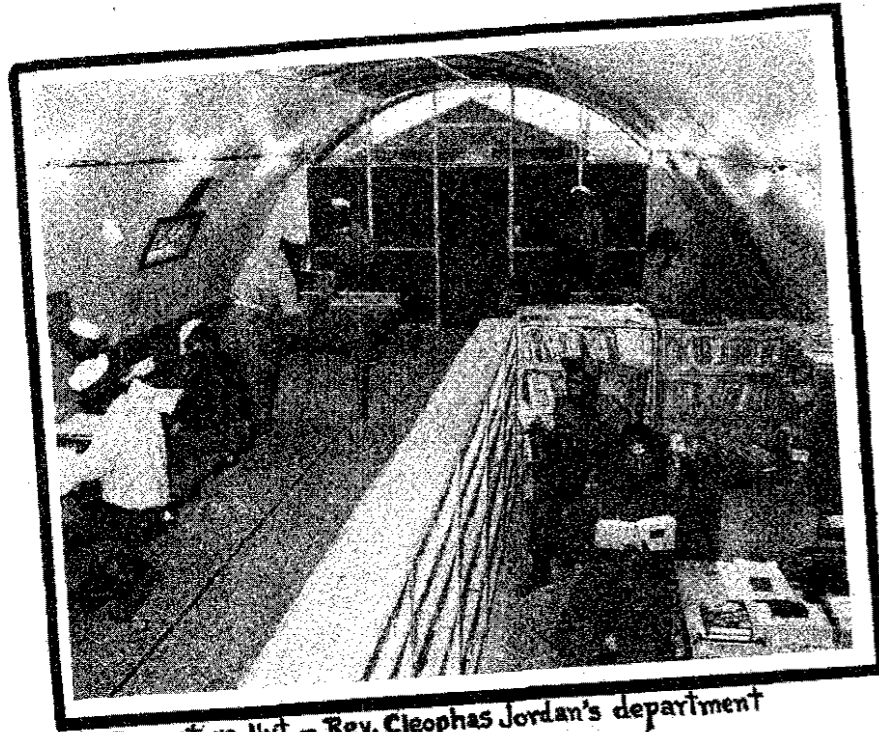
Headquarters and Transportation Companies



"C" Company on grounds adjoining cemetery



"D" Company lines up by the galley



Recreation Hut - Rev. Cleophas Jordan's department



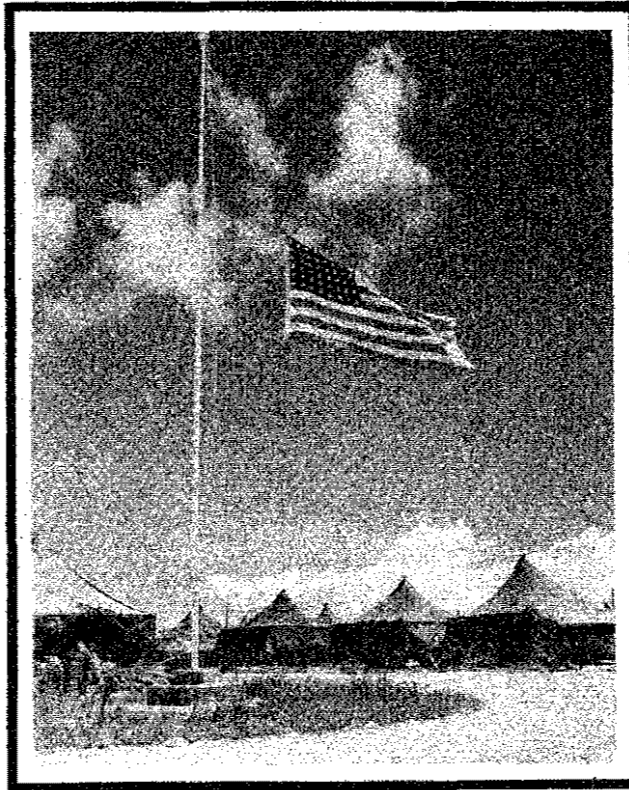
Our Peleliu public laundry—a one-day service



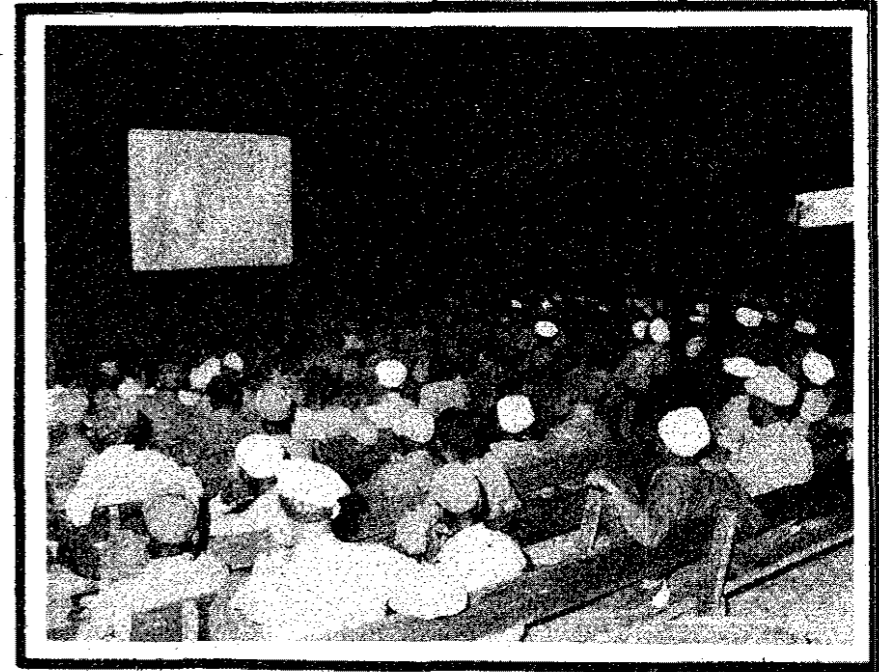
Christmas packages that arrived in late March!



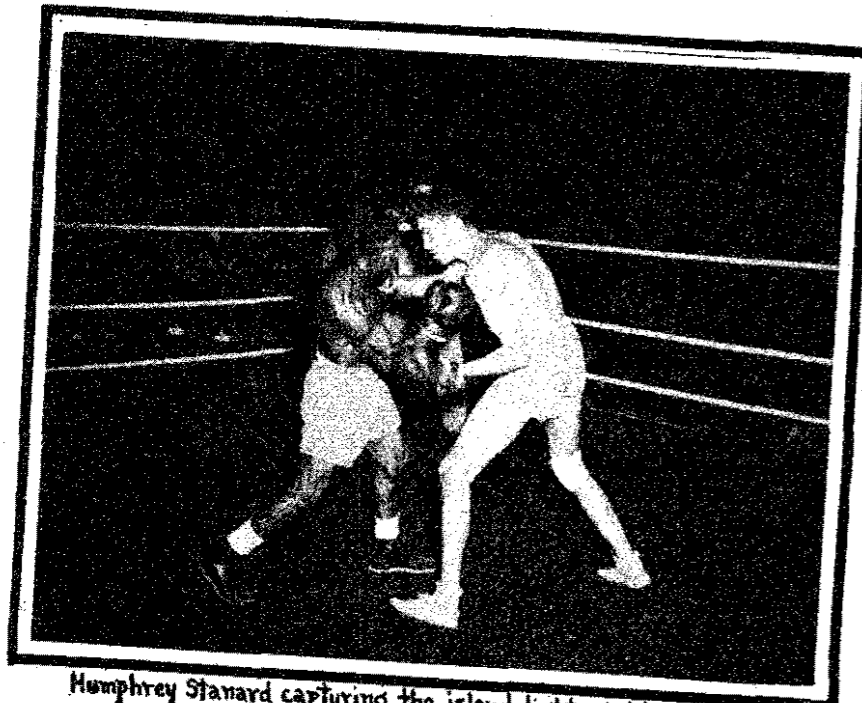
Our fresh-air theatre, with BOQ and O-in-C's quarters



In memory of F.D.R., Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, 18th April



"Circumstantial Evidence" at our Hollywood Bowl



Humphrey Stanard capturing the island lightweight championship 11th April



Farewell to Peleliu, our rock-bound island home for nine months

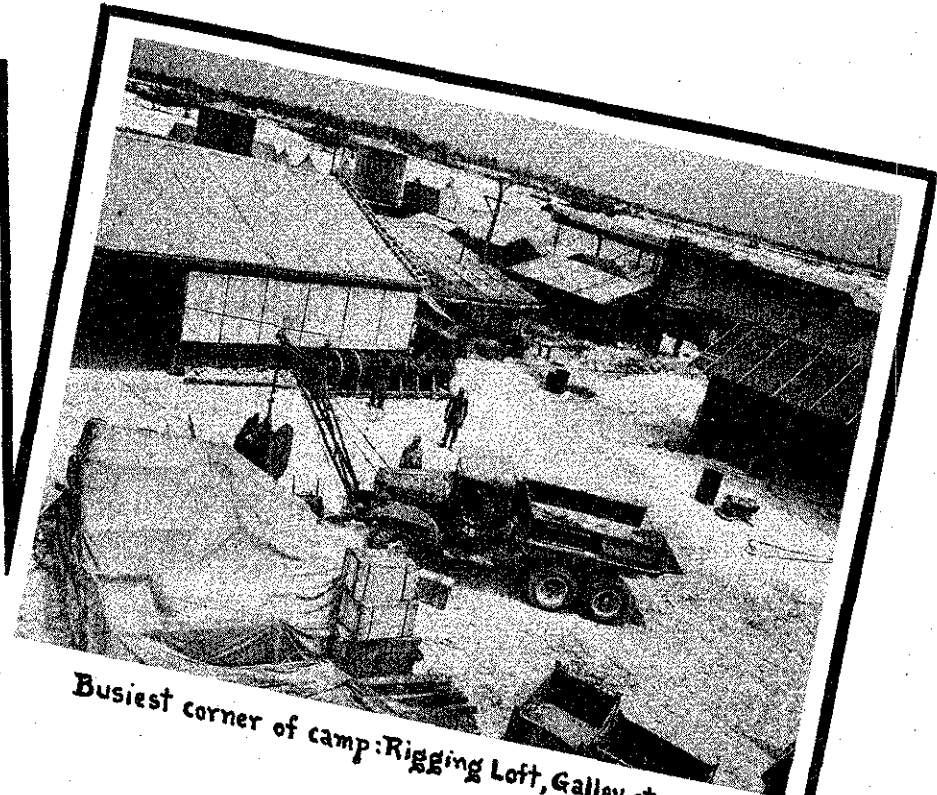


A Sunday afternoon at our ballfield, early May

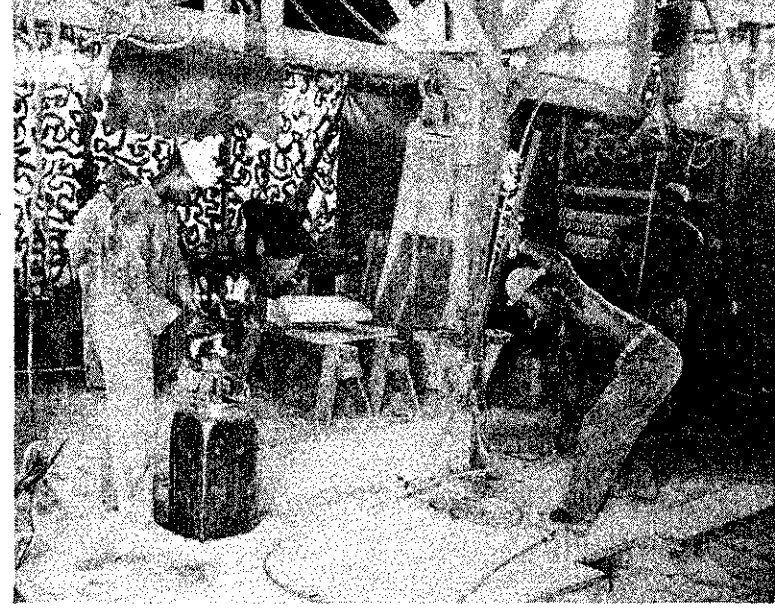
ASPECTS AND ANGLES FROM ATOP AND AROUND DOLAN'S DRYING MAST



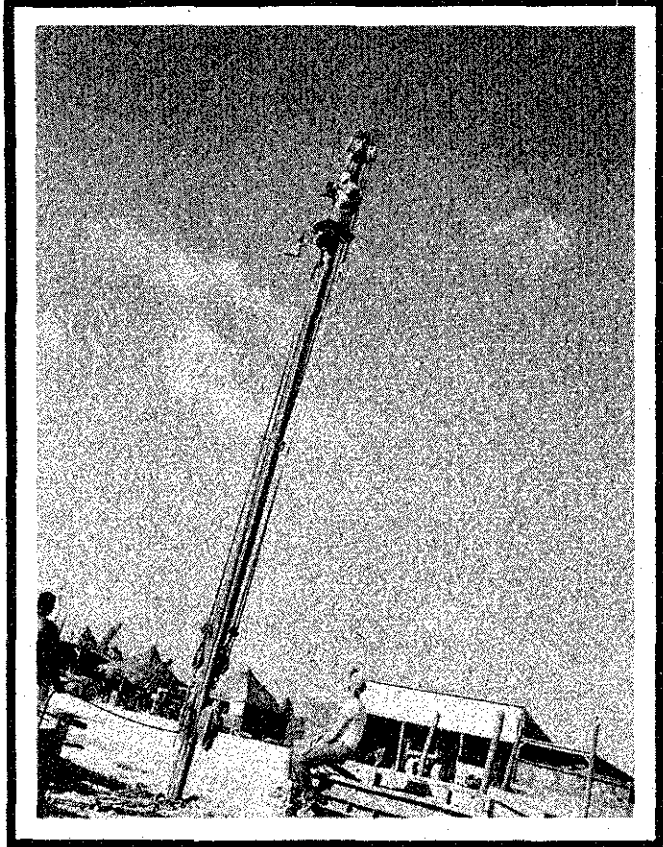
Transportation area as seen from top of mast



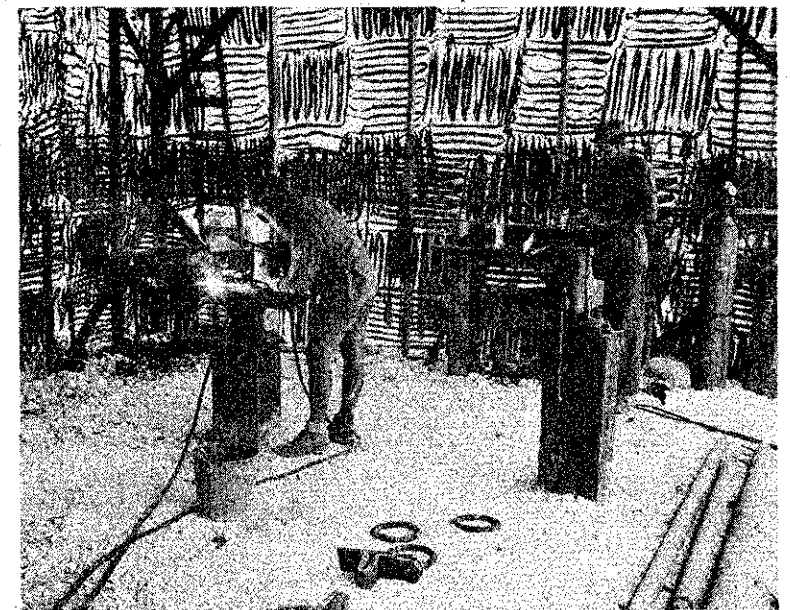
Busiest corner of camp: Rigging Loft, Galley, etc.



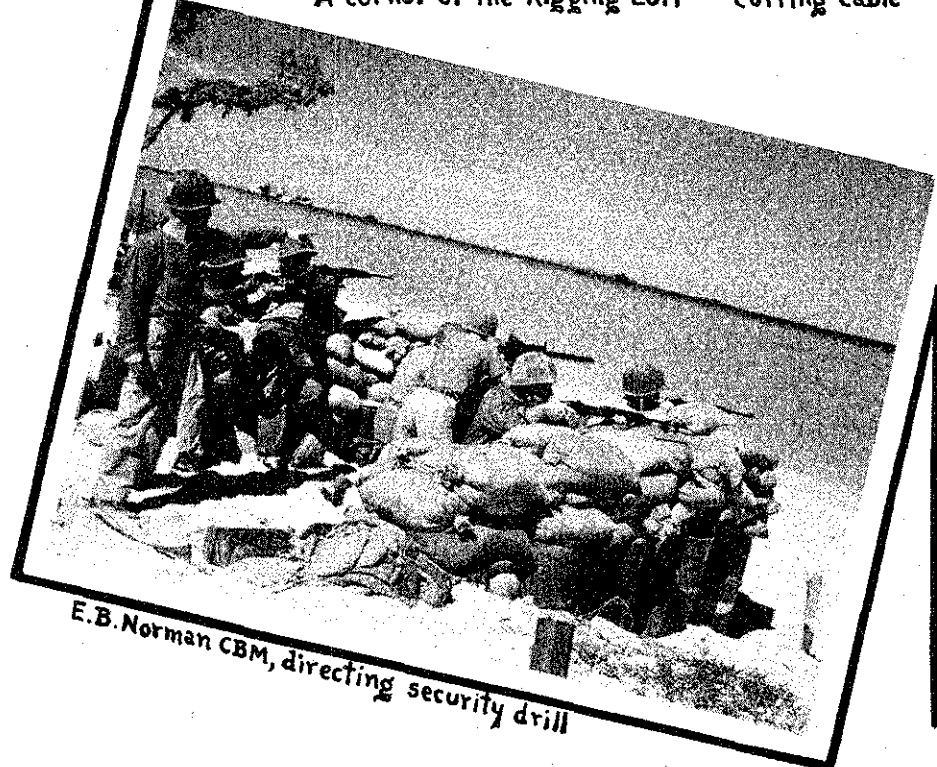
A corner of the Rigging Loft - cutting cable



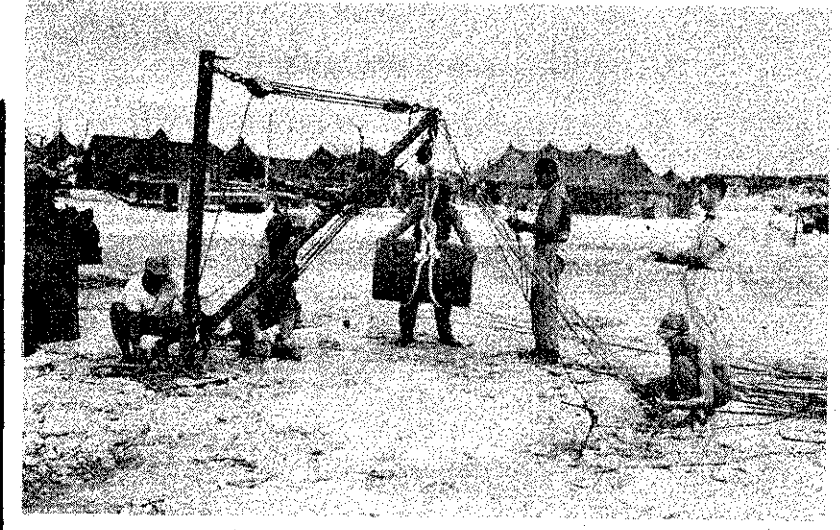
The Photo Mate getting a bird's-eye view of camp



Blacksmiths - J.D. Petrocelli and A.D. Tunnell



E.B. Norman CBM, directing security drill



Lt. P.A. Gusmai giving Battalion examinations for ratings-2d Jan.



Jim Wright CSF, and his henchmen

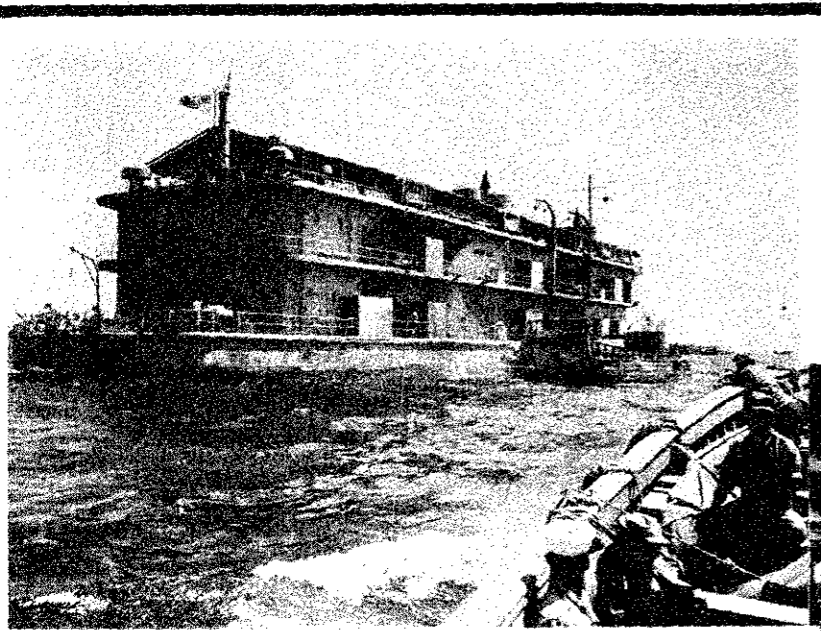
4th Jan.

Second

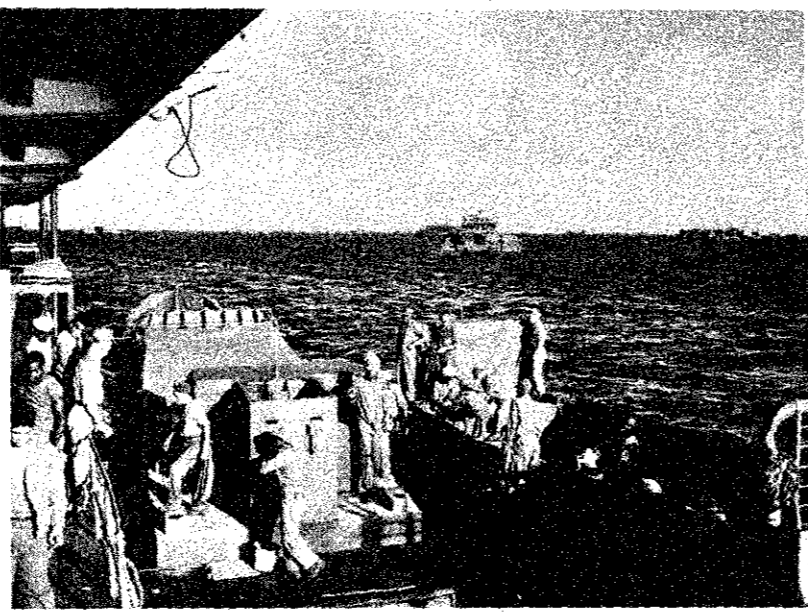
ANCHORS AWEIGH

19th FEB

AT HOME



The HAFASTOR - 260 feet long with a beam of 50 feet



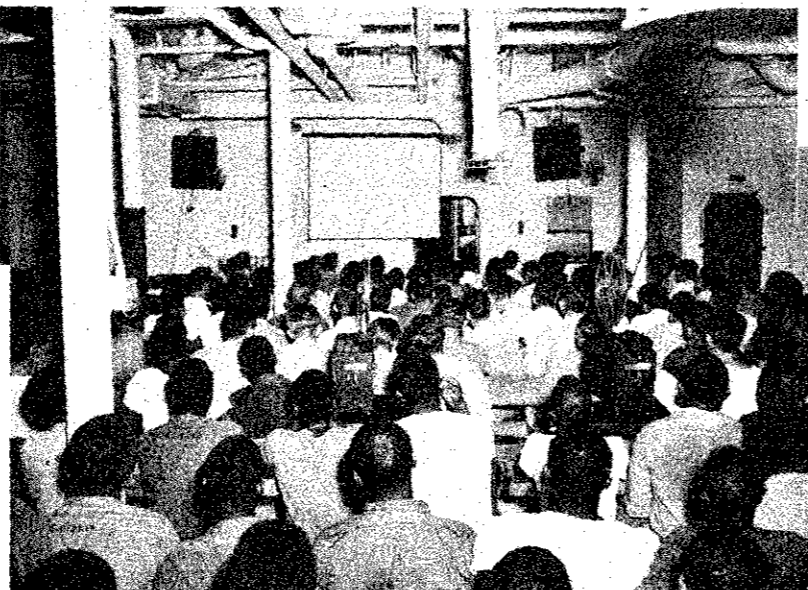
Work parties come and go by LCMs



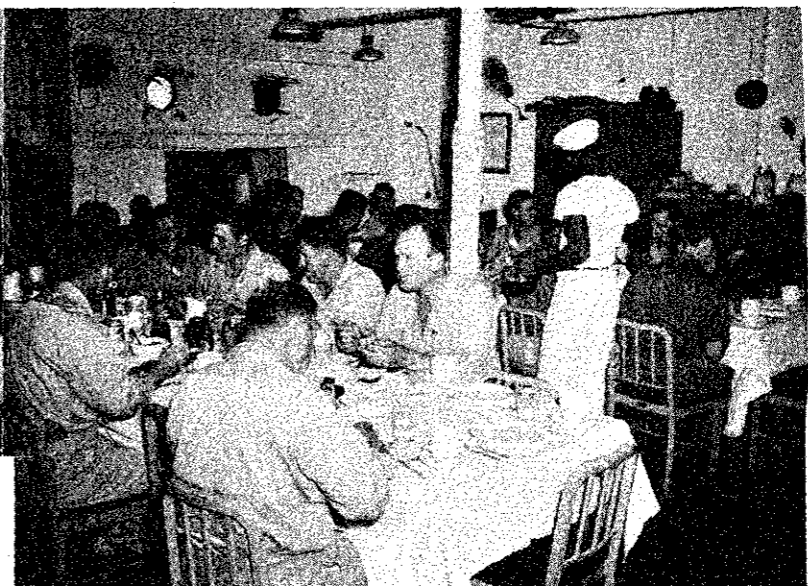
Headquarters berthing



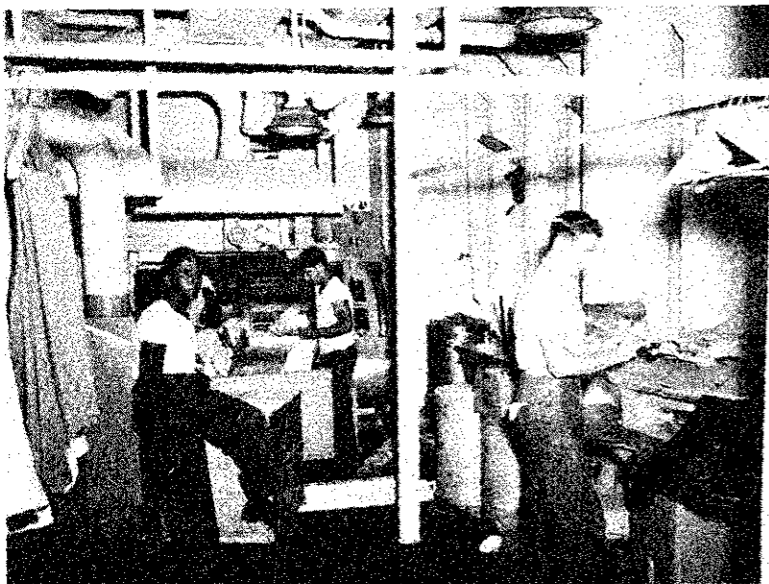
Crews' mess



Movies every evening in the mess hall



Officers' and CPOs' mess



One day laundry service



Sick Bay

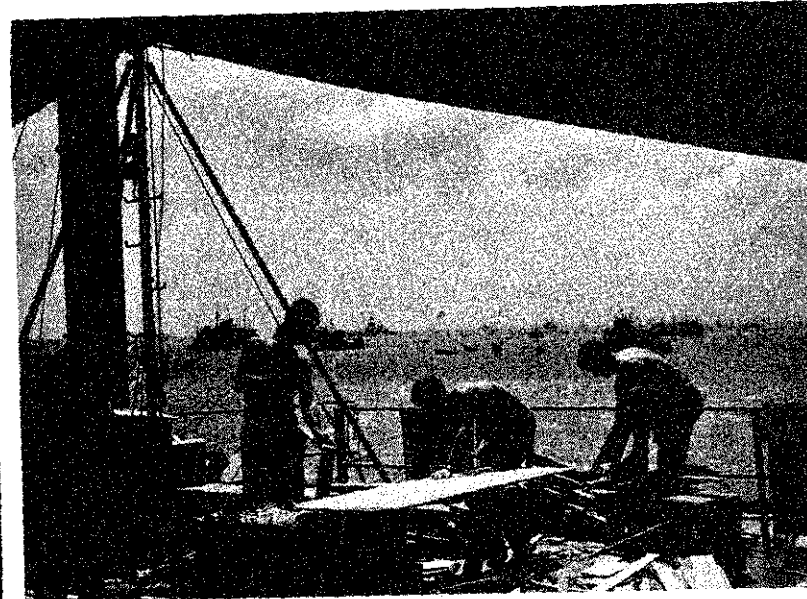
Half the battalion takes to sea aboard the HafAstor,

Section

OFF ULITHI ISLAND ~

• 24th MAY

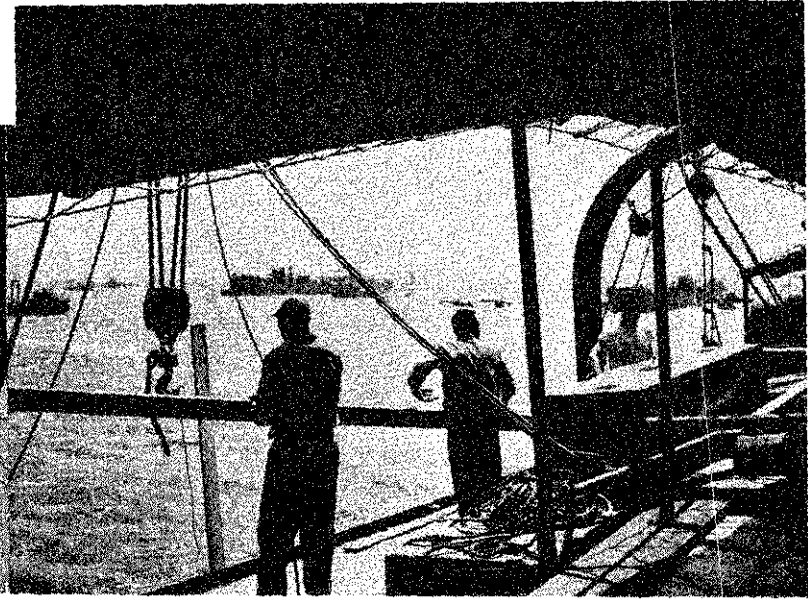
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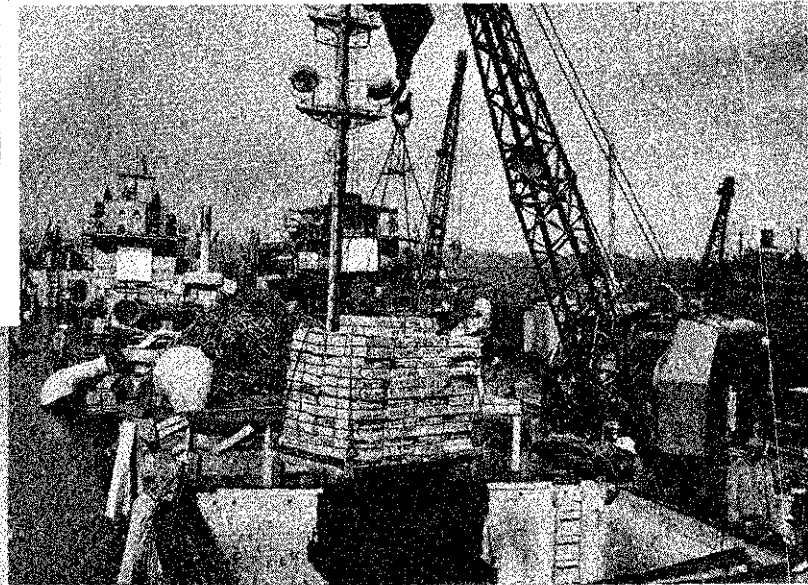
Topside construction



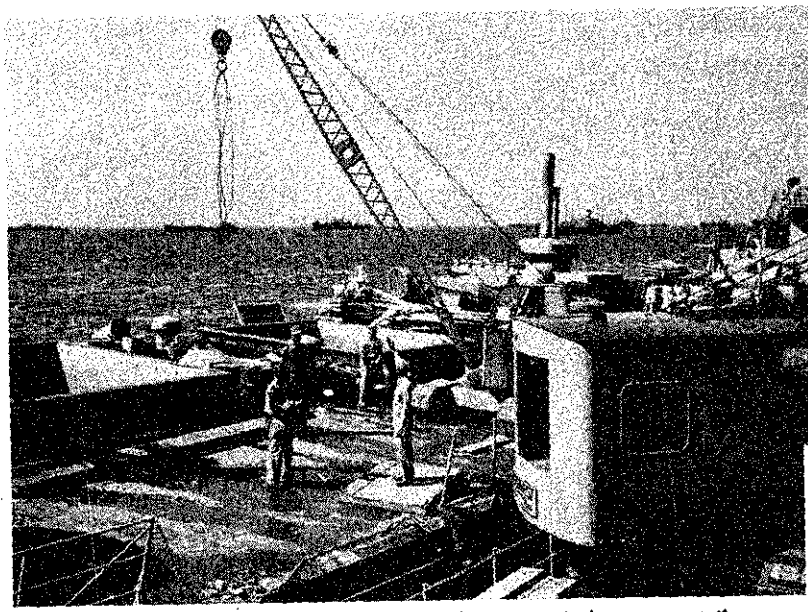
Signal tower - a 17th Special addition to the APL



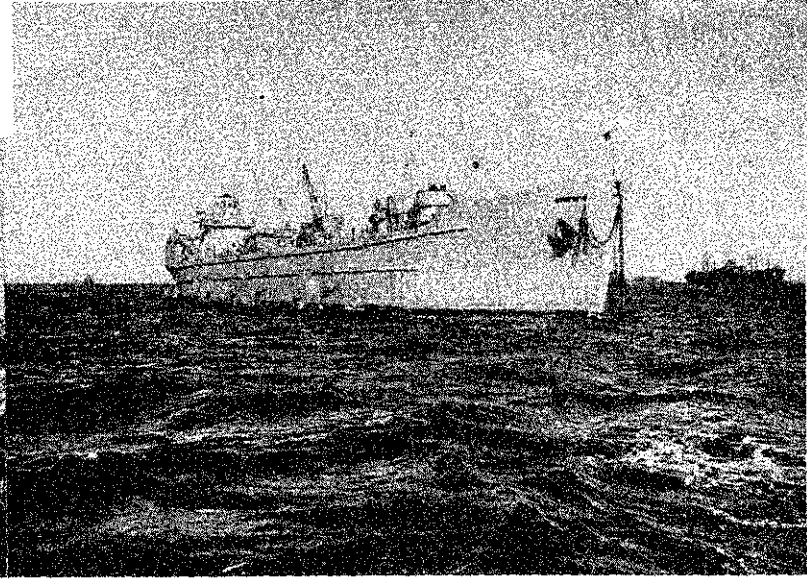
View from Topsides - a part of Ulithi's 112-sq. mi. anchorage



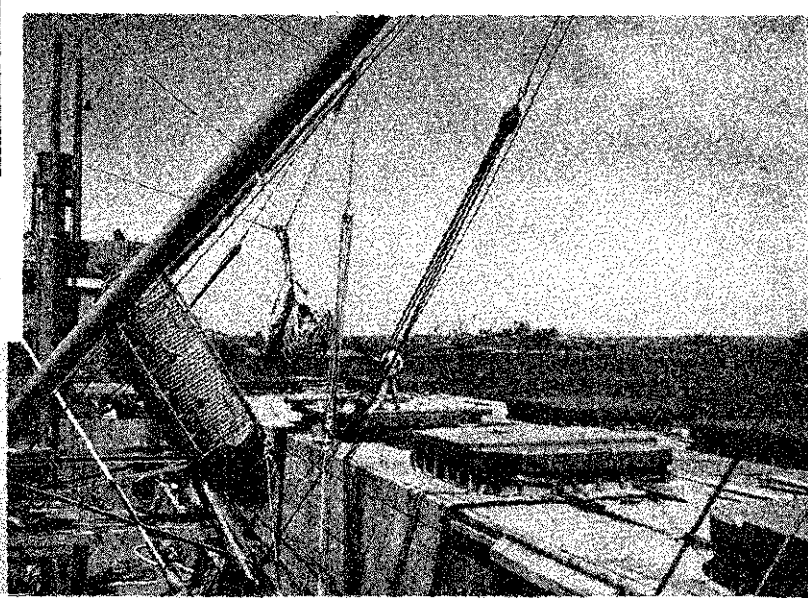
Operations aboard the Quartz, another "stone creak"



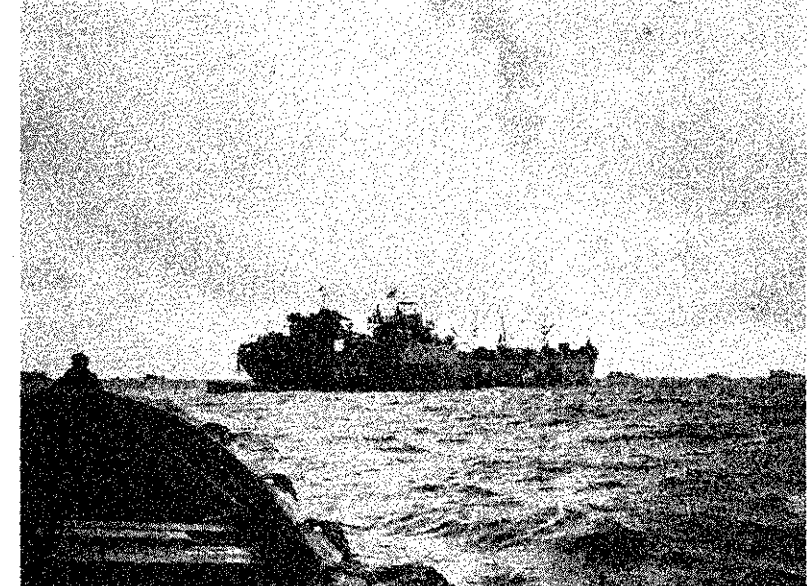
Stevedoring aboard the Corundum - a "stone creak"



One of the Navy's concrete warehouses

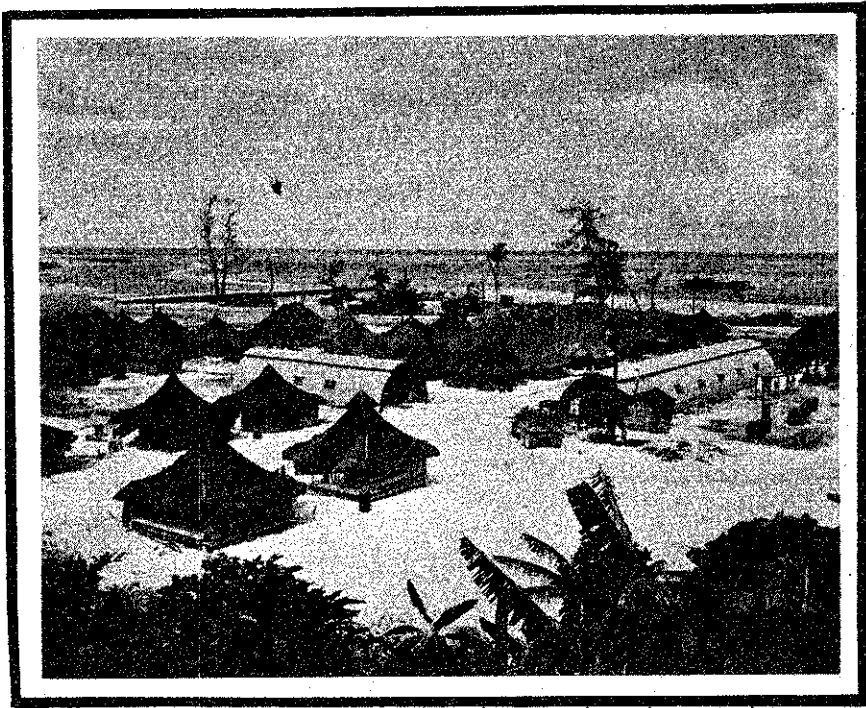


Cargo transfer from ship to YF - Yard Freight warehouse



Two "stone creaks" as seen from our motor launch

*one of the Navy's floating hotels,
a modern weapon of long-range war.*



Camp area of "C" Company and part of Headquarters, during assignment from 27th April - 22d June

ANGAUR

SIX MILES SOUTH OF PELELIU



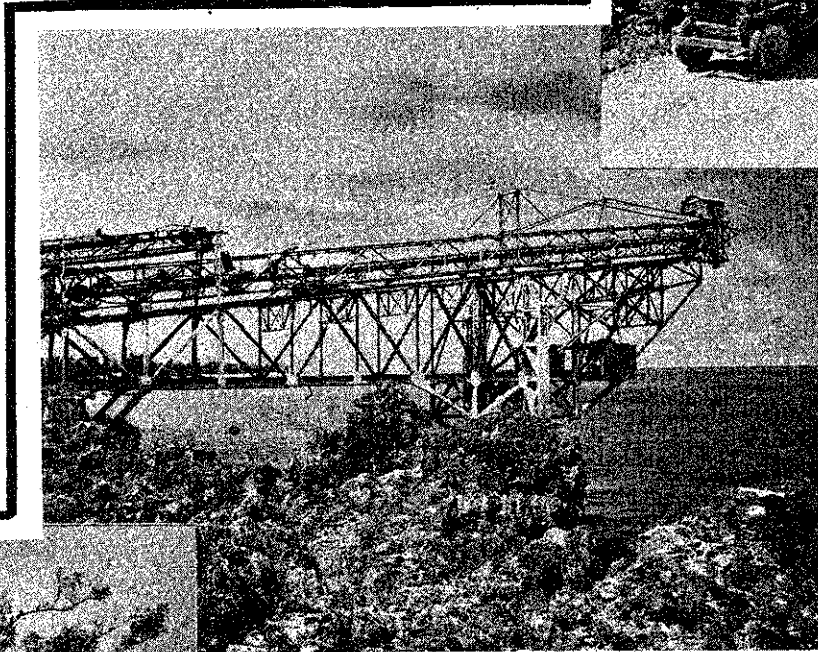
... another Seabee achievement



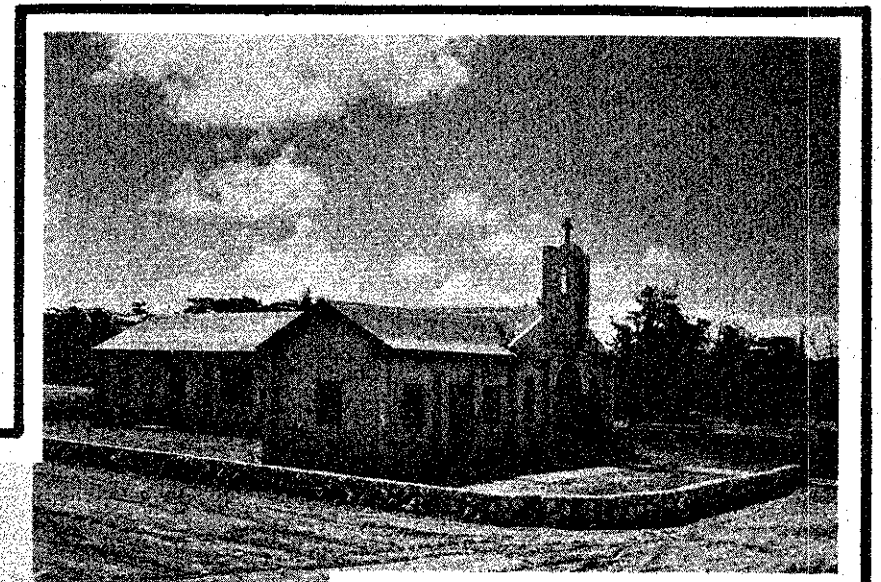
Jap memorial near phosphate plant



Formerly an impassable wilderness of jagged coral limestone...



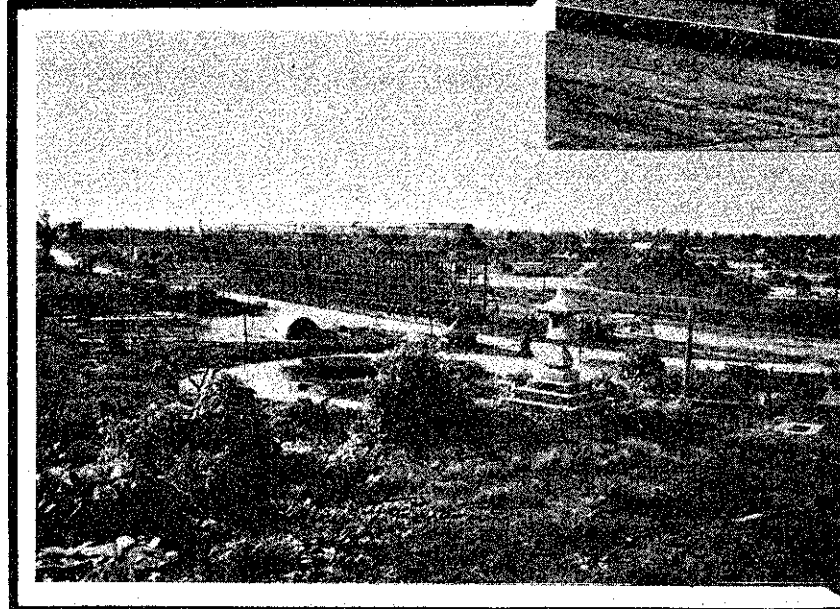
The CONVEYOR used by Japs to load ships with phosphate



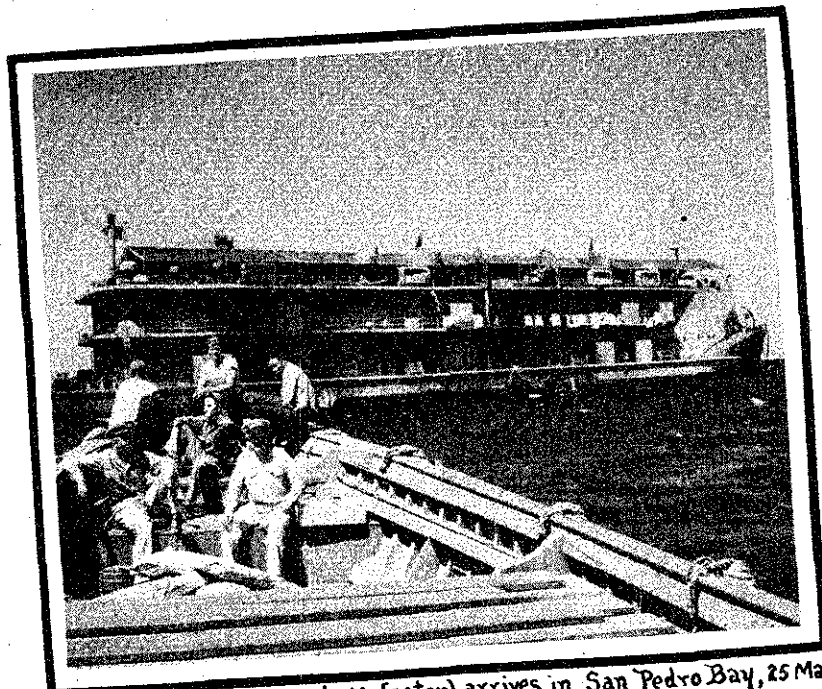
Catholic Chapel for the natives, built by CBMU 532



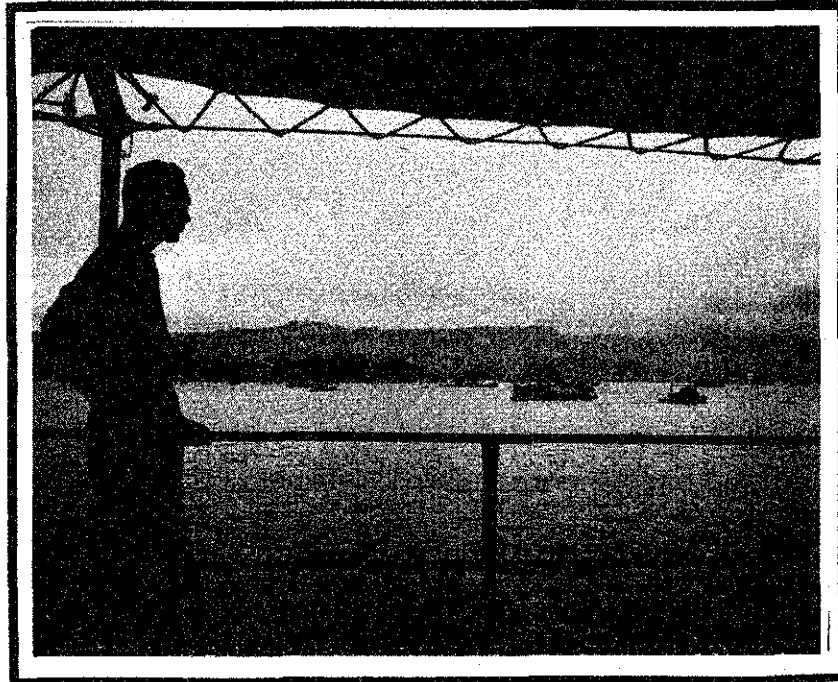
Jap lighthouse, a pushover of our Naval bombardment



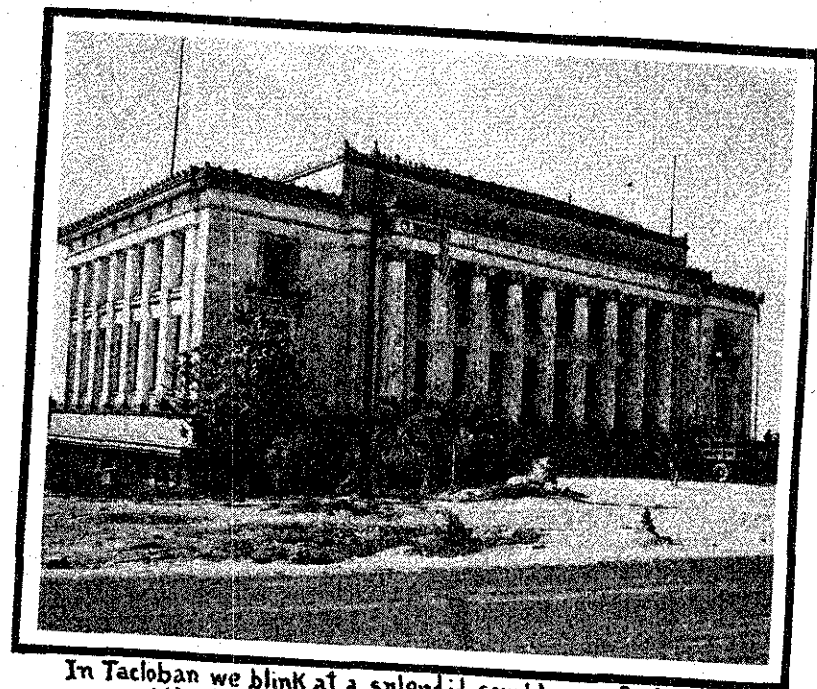
Jap shrine and blitzed phosphate-processing plant



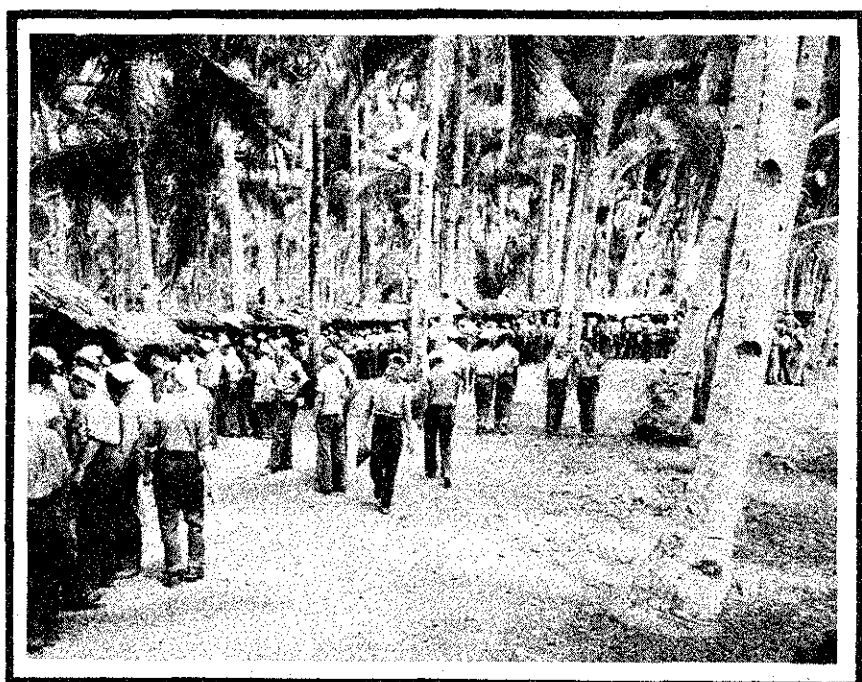
The ASTOR (formerly Hafastor) arrives in San Pedro Bay, 25 May



..from Topsides, the beautiful hills of Samar



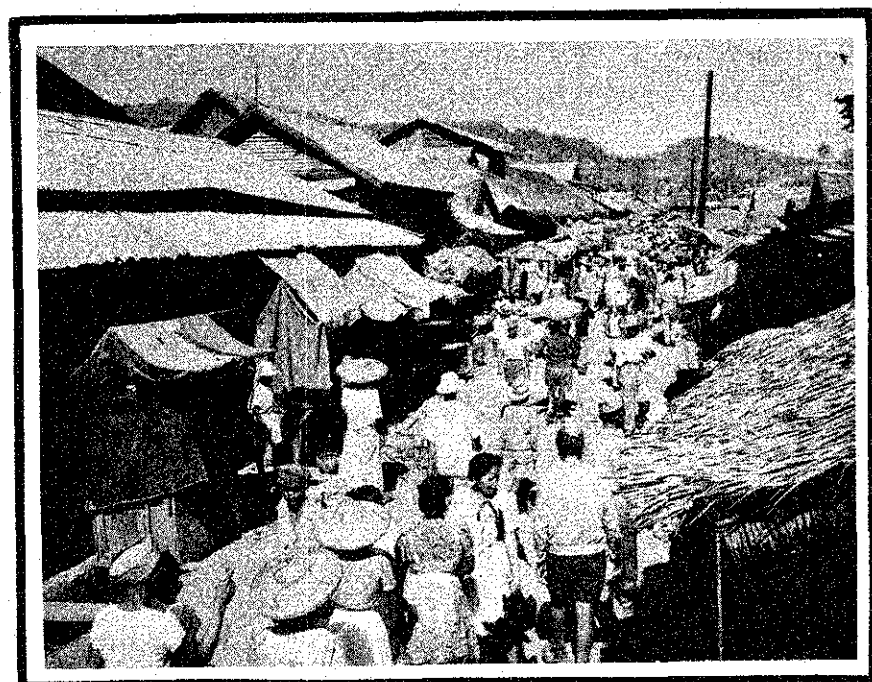
In Tacloban we blink at a splendid semblance of stateside architecture



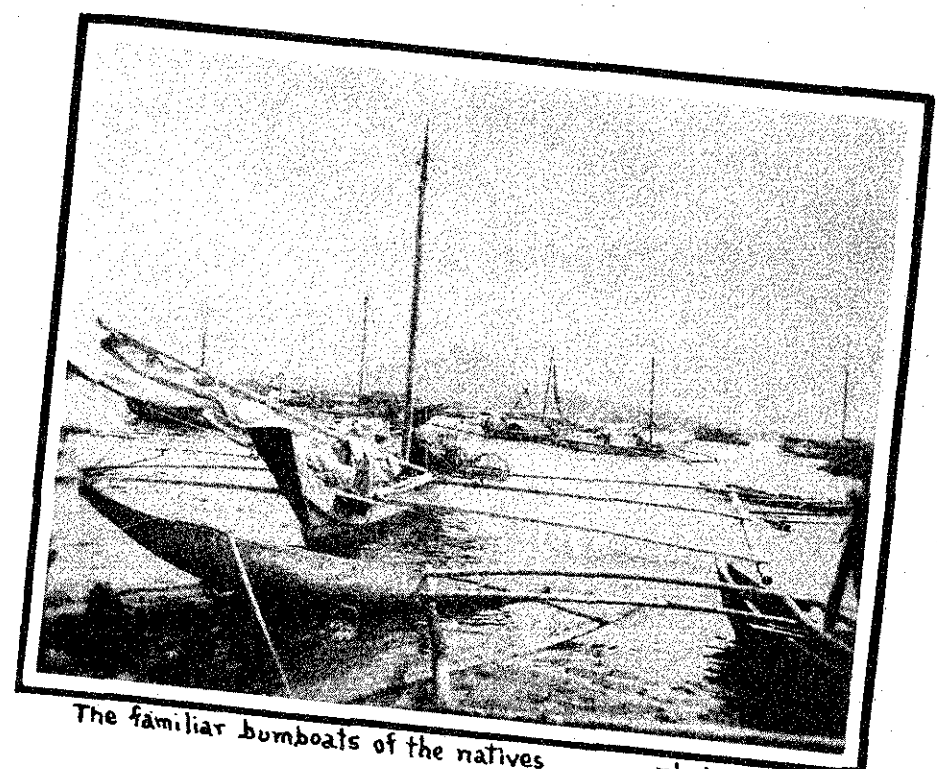
Souvenir-hunting at the Osmeña Recreation Area, Samar

THE BATTALION (SECOND SECTION) ENCOUNTERS CIVILIZATION FOR THE FIRST TIME...

San Pedro Bay
LEYTE — SAMAR
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
25th May through August



Tacloban's teeming, torrid market-place



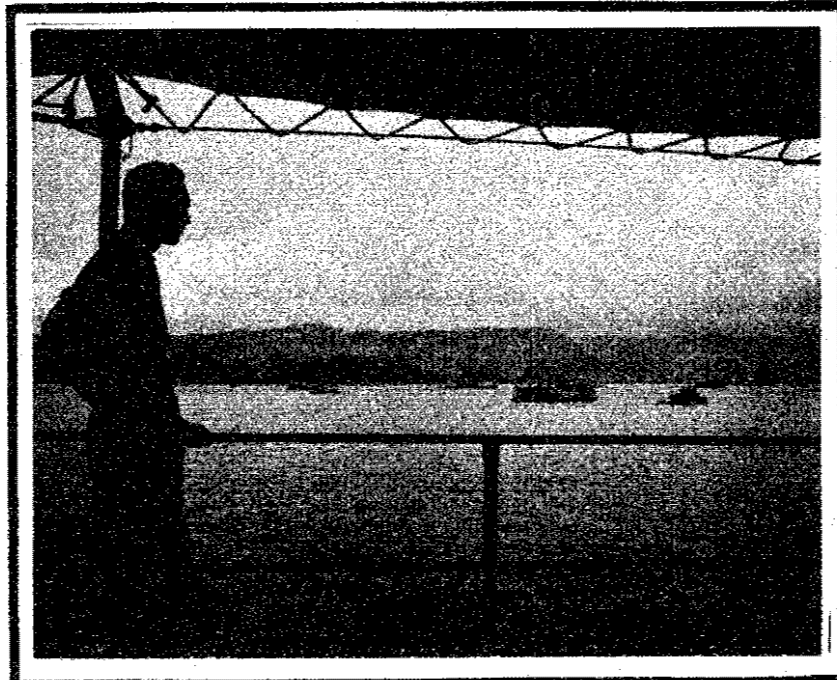
The familiar bumboats of the natives
photo by R.W. Smith



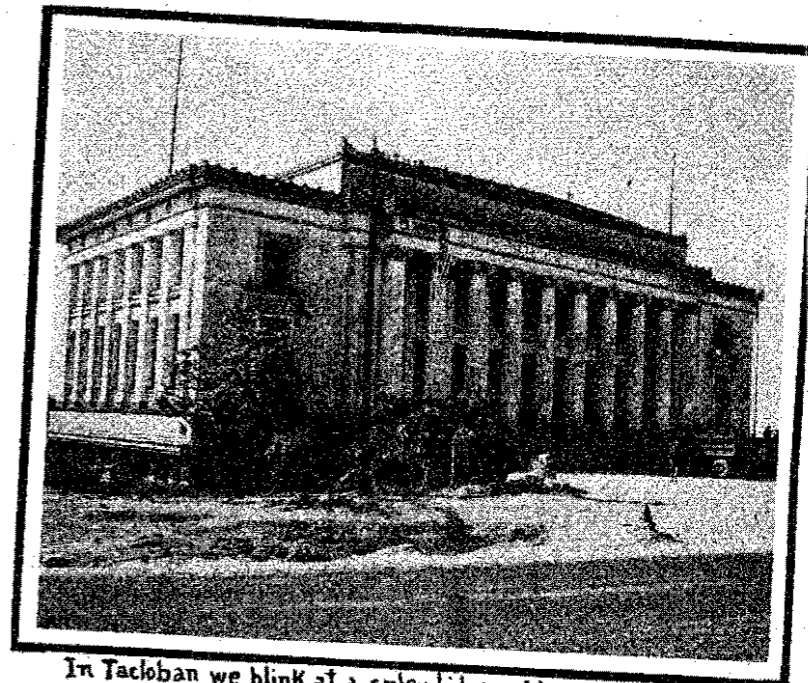
Look, lads! there's lassies in Leyte
photo by R.W. Smith



The ASTOR (formerly Mafastor) arrives in San Pedro Bay, 25 May



..from Toppers, the beautiful hills of Samar



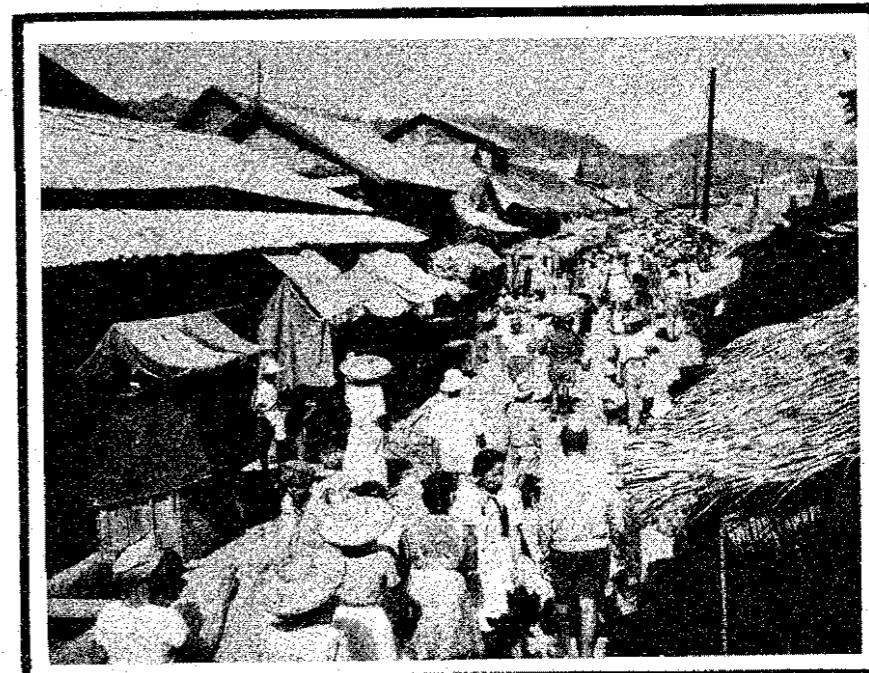
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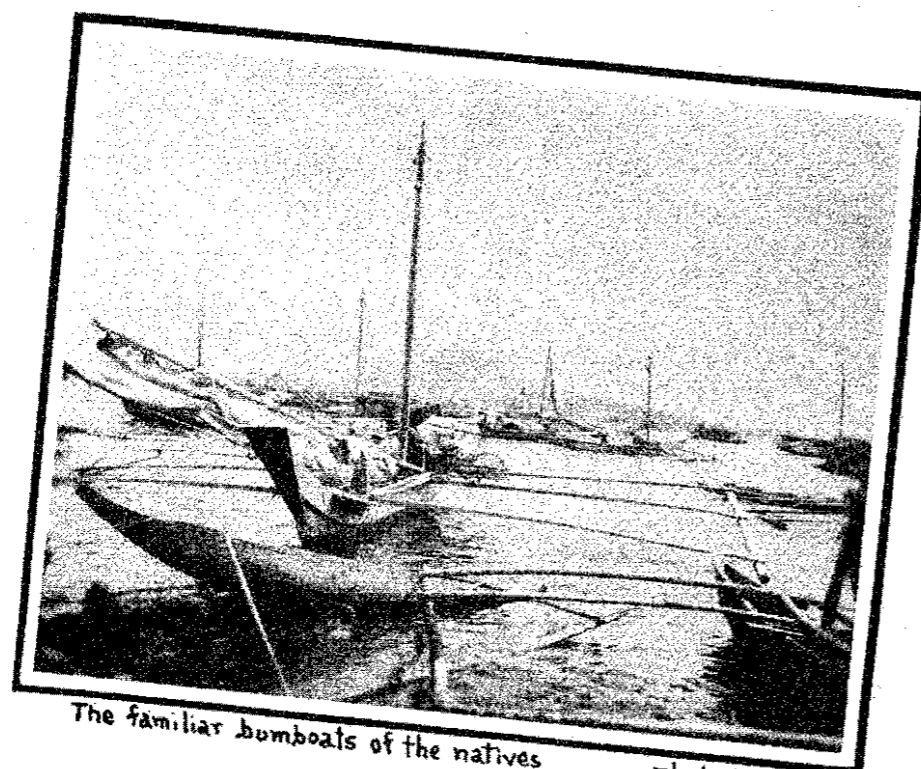
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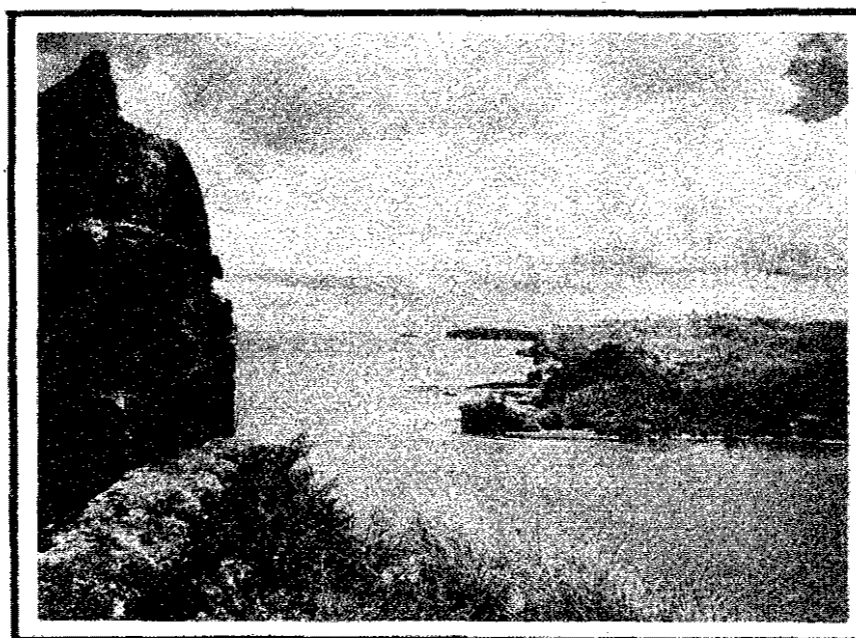


Look, lads! there's lassies in Leyte

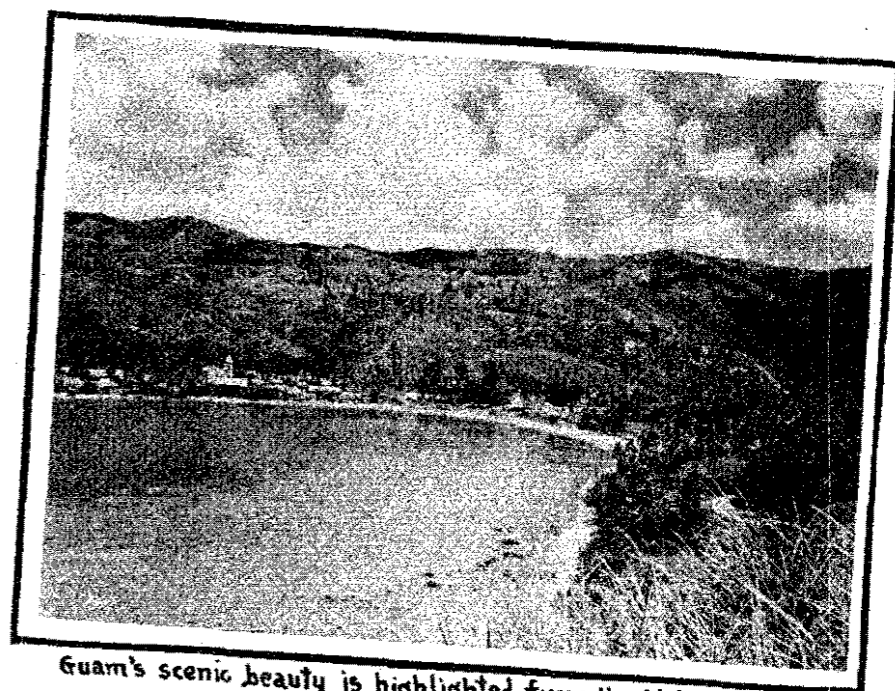
photo by R.W. Smith



Primitive transportation at ruins of Spanish fort, near Umatac



Site of Magellan's landing, in March, 1521



Guam's scenic beauty is highlighted from the hills above Umatac



Saint Dionisio's Church, in Umatac



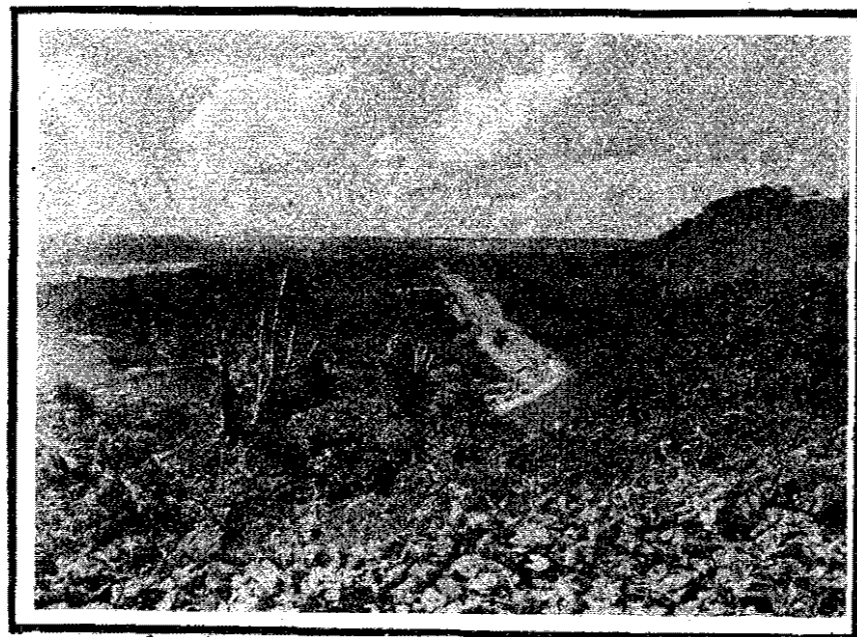
Monument in memory to Ferdinand Magellan



A typical Chamorro village



Guam gals pose cheerfully.



Magnificent hard-surface roads circle most of the Island



Agaña, one year and one month after it was bombed out.