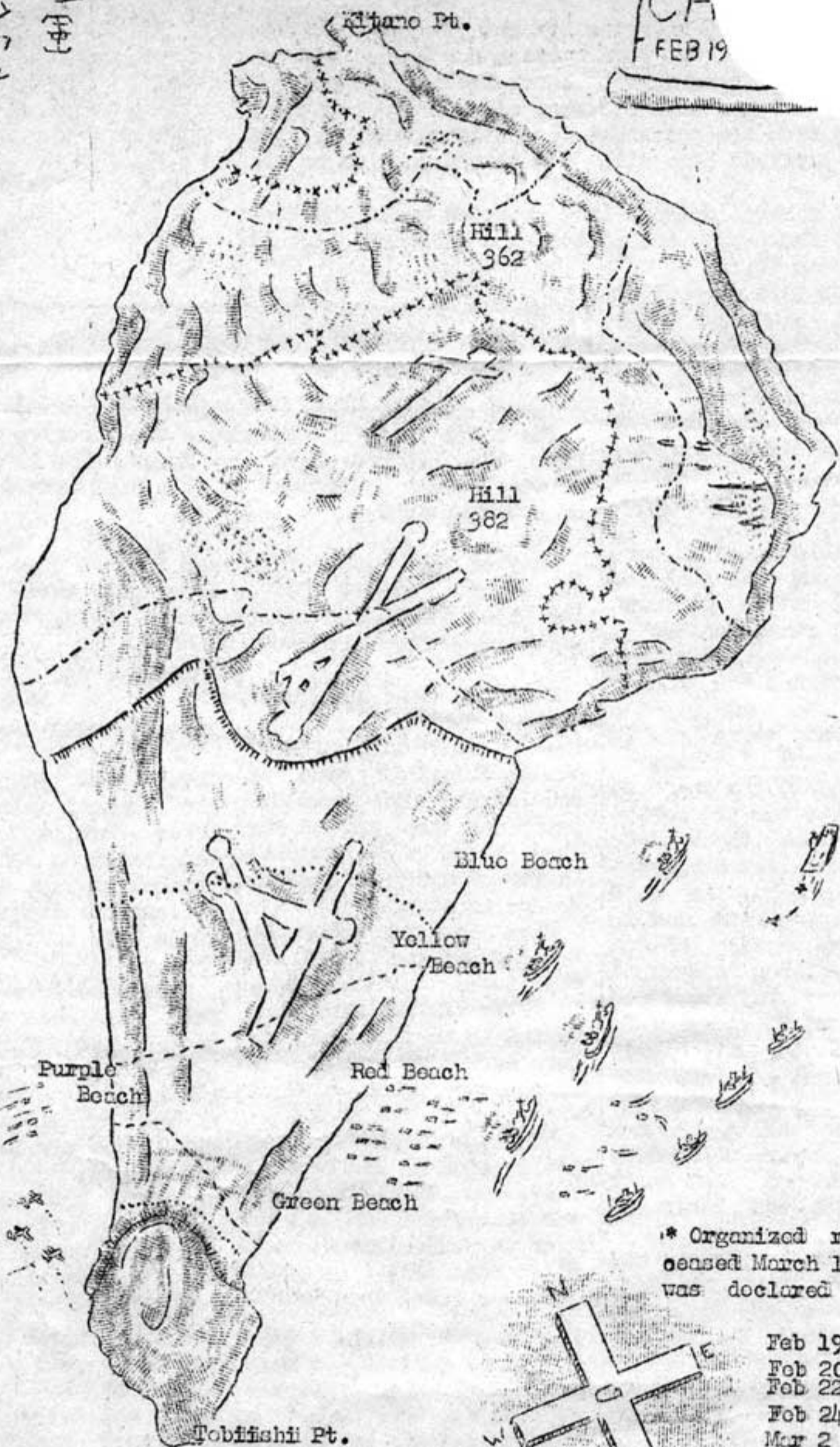


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I
 CH
 FEB 19



Tachiiwa Pt.

Blue Beach

Yellow Beach

Red Beach

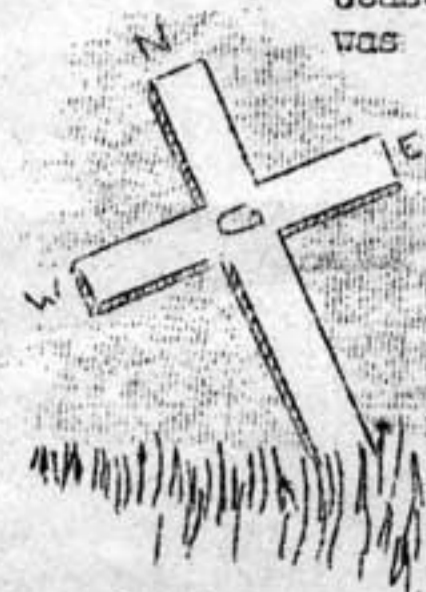
Green Beach

Purple Beach

Tobifishii Pt.

* Organized resistance ceased March 16 and Iwo was declared secure..

Feb 19	-----
Feb 20
Feb 22	
Feb 24	-----
Mar 2	XXXXXX
Mar 10
Mar 16	XXXXXX



Cpl John V. Wythe

0 1 2 3
 Scale: 1 3/4" equals 1 mile

Campaign

1, when the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, Japs were waiting for them. Strong defenses covered the south landing beaches; a line of resistance had been established extending generally from the northwest to southeast through the central airfield area with its flanks secured on the coast.

A final reserve defense line was set up on the high ground to the north and east of the northern airfield and covering it.

Defenses were elaborate and well planned. They consisted of caves, pill-boxes, emplacements, and anti-tank ditches. Fire support was provided by artillery, anti-tank guns, rockets, and 320mm mortars.

The tough Jap resistance is history now -- every beach within range of carefully placed Jap guns on Suribachi and the plateaus fanatical counter-attacks; bitter hand-to-hand combat in the ravines and gorges on the north end of the island; and struggles in the blackness of caves.

So hard did the Japanese fight, that the 3rd Marine Division was thrown into the battle a few days after the landings. The Japs used every trick not in the books, wearing Marine clothes, yelling "corpsman".

The enemy was stiffened by the exhortations of Lt General Kuribayashi, a wily professional, previously unknown. He issued a proclamation telling the men that the Empire was watching them and that death would not end their defense.

The Marines pushed on. At 1035 on February 23rd, a patrol of the 28th Marines reached the highest lip of Suribachi's crater and planted our flag there.

The Leathernecks drove northward, dealing and taking heavy losses as they took the airfields.

Nip resistance was lessening. Their water supply was giving out. Japs were observed trying to distill water from steam in the sulphur pits. Desperately

The Mopping Up

The 147th Infantry took over the cleaning up of Iwo from the Marines late in March. For the next few months, hardly a day went by when Japs were not killed or captured on Iwo.

Many of the Japs so disposed of, had been caught on forays after water. Driven from their caves by thirst the Nips raided our water supply tanks, many of them carrying GI 5-gallon cans and canteens.

Other of the enemy were taken from caves or sealed in. One cave on Suribachi was so dangerous that it was flooded with smoke and water and then guarded for three weeks with searchlights playing on the entrance at night.

When no Japs were seen to emerge, the cave was considered neutralized. An "OFF LIMITS" sign was posted so no GI would venture down its mined passages.

The last sign of Japs still alive on Iwo came in July. On the 17th, a Jap was discovered in a hole near an anti-aircraft outfit's messhall.

He was fired upon, wounded

they sought water, disguised as Marines. A Marine burial party approached five men wearing Marine helmets and was hand-grenaded by the five Japs.

A stretcher party of the 21st Marines noticed it had two more men than it had started out with as it proceeded along a trail. The two Japs were promptly shot down.



ed twice, and taken prisoner. In the hole with him were 30 enemy dead.

On July 22nd, six Japs were found in a cave on the eastern side of Iwo. Three committed suicide and the three who yielded themselves were all in excellent physical shape and armed with hand grenades.

The books were closed on July 24th when three emaciated Japs were taken out of a cave near the Central Air-field. After three months underground, they had to be carried out on stretchers.

Nearly 2000 enemy dead and 1000 prisoners were accounted for in the period after organized resistance had officially ended.

The fanatical opposition was smothered in a wild flurry of fighting on the north end and on March 16, organized resistance was officially declared ended.

Casualties sum up the campaign. We lost about 4000 dead with 10,000 wounded. Japan suffered 21,345 killed and 216 taken prisoner.

21-Year Old Youth Makes Revealing Statements

A Jap prisoner of War, aged 21, who stated he lived at Motoyama Buraka, Iwo Jima, was interviewed several months ago here by G-2, Island Command.

Interrogation of the Japanese youth who was taken into the Jap army after his family and 1,000 civilians here were evacuated to Japan in mid-1944, revealed many interesting things. The military, in large numbers, arrived just before the evacuation.

It was disclosed that he attended Taisho Higher Elementary School here, near Motoyama Hamlet, the most important of five villages. He didn't go to church regularly, but did attend New Year's services at the Buddhist temple near where the present CASU 52 area is now located.

Five hundred persons worked in the Sulfur mills while the others worked in twelve small sugar mills on the island, until July, 1944, when work was discontinued.

Turnips, carrots, burdocks, tomatoes, white cabbages, pumpkins, squash and string beans were some of the vegetables grown here along with Beehiba, a plant from which perfume is made.

Bananas, mangoes, coconuts, papaya, watermelons, tangerines, lemons and peaches were some of the fruits. There were three goats and a few cows, chickens and pigs on the island.

Civilians lived in small simple houses made of wooden frames covered with paper or woven leaves. Roofs were made of tin and galvanized iron. There was a fairly adequate supply of water, dependent on rain. Large trees flourished here until they were partially destroyed by Naval gunfire.

The Jap stated that July and August were the hottest months, January and

February the coldest with the heaviest rainfall in April, May and June.

The most severe windstorms, according to the POW, came around the first of September, blowing from North to South. Many earthquakes occurred several years ago.

He disclosed that he had never seen or heard of Suribachi's erupting. This conflicted with many reports received.



The first airfield took almost the entire year of 1933, to build and the first plane arrived that same year. The second field was built in two months when the military arrived in 1944.

The system of caves was started in July 1944, when air raids became frequent and each respective unit built its own. The largest was the Army Group Headquarters (General Kuribayashi's) and Brigade Headquarters, the second largest was located near Motoyama, approximately in the center of the island.

By this time, the youth was answering more freely, and revealed that the roads were poor, the west



beach the best for bathing, and that the average Jap didn't realize till the actual arrival of our fleet, that there would be an invasion; and even then, they were confident of holding the island.

The island was under direct jurisdiction of Tokyo. There was a police station and a postoffice.

There were about 300 women on the island, but none were white. Some of them worked in cafes where liquor was served, but none were classified as prostitutes.

The Jap garrison had motion pictures quite frequently, Japanese wrestling, and "Inonden" (stage shows) which came once a year and performed for about three days.

The youth made known that there were mosquitos, fleas and flies on the island during the rainy season, and especially when the soldiers began to arrive.

At the time of the interrogation the war wasn't over. He was asked for his opinion on the outcome of the war.

After a brief meditation, the Jap replied, "The United States will win because of its material strength and superior weapons."

AMONG CHIEF EXHIBITS

Along with Mt Suribachi and Marine Cemeteries, the General's cave ranks as a leading Iwo tourist exhibit.

The headquarters cave of General Kurbayashi, known to Iwo Jimites as the General's Cave, was not stumbled upon by accident. It was discovered partially by detective work of Major P. R. Cibotti, AGF G-2 Officer.

Although the Marines had found the cave, and had closed it, not until an elaborate map, evidently drawn by a Jap soldier, did it become known that a General's cave was on the island.

The map was taken to Island G-2 where it was redrawn, and had all explanatory notes and notations translated by an interpreter into English.

From the landmarks, several hills and roads, Major Cibotti was able to plot it as being located in one of two places which had such landmarks. By a coincidence, a Jap POW was found who had been an orderly of the General, and he pointed out the location of the cave.

The cave had numerous entrances, but only three were open at the time. A squad, led by Major Cibotti, went into one only to come out shortly, chased by a group of grenade-throwing Nips. POW's were then sent into the cave to persuade the hostile band to surrender, but they had no success.

Smoke grenades were placed in the entrance to smoke the group out and into an ambush formed by 147th Infantrymen, but this idea was also unsuccessful.

Three days later, another squad entered the cave and ran into two Japs who immediately surrendered. Other stubborn buddies had committed hara-kari. Forty-four others were captured later in another section of the cave.

Cleaned of debris and roughly twenty-two corpses by 147th Inf, the cave was then opened by the same organization to visitors. The 138th AAA Group took over the cave (and still keep it open) when the 147th departed.

Lt. J R Covington, 138 AAA Group, showed this FIGHTER POST reporter through the cave, explaining its history.

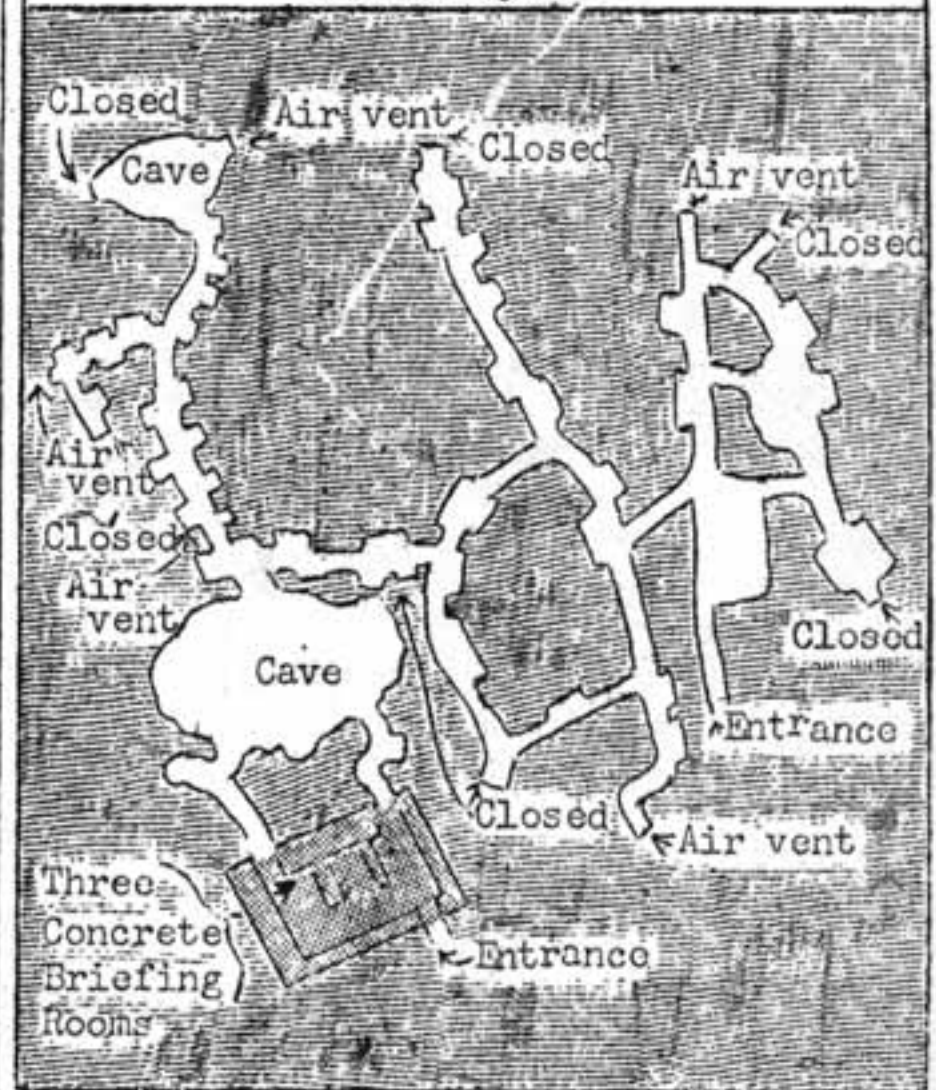
Designed and built for small statured Japanese, it was hard to believe that Japs were not so tall as the height of tunnels which made no stoop by five-foot, nine-inch frame a good three-quarters of the cave's length.

Small wall niches formed guard posts, while slightly larger ones (still small by our standards) served as sleeping quarters.

The air is fairly fresh upon entering, but as you go further into the tunnels—in spite of four overhead air vents—it becomes stifling. Of the two natural caves incorporated into the cavern, the one most westerly smells strongly of the dead. Strewn about on the floor of both natural caves were numerous empty sak bottles and several rusty, smashed, unidentified-of-make rifle barrels.

It's a wonder how even a Jap private could stay in such hot, stuffy depths, about a 150 feet from top soil; more a wonder how a General could.

Illustration of Caves' intricate tunnel system



The general used three concrete briefing rooms that are well ventilated by an overhead air - vent and air flowing in from a cave opening about thirty-feet distant to the right. They, too, are very small; the holes connecting them and leading outside are about three feet square. There is a good reason, however, for the minute size of these holes. They were to make it all the harder for grenade-throwing Marines to toss in lethal loads.

Open to visitors on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, an officer relates the history of the cavern aided by a large board with the intricate network of tunnels illustrated, while enlisted men act as guides through the stifling, smelly labyrinths which are lighted by a portable generator.

VII FIGHTER COMMAND COMPILES REMARKABLE RECORD IN PAST WAR

Navy Stated To Run Iwo' -General Hopkins

On December 7, 1941, the direct predecessor of the VII Fighter Command suffered seriously under the Japanese attack; but it also inflicted the first damage and casualties on the enemy in World War II, shooting down over 40% of the Japanese planes destroyed that day. For the VII Fighter Command had come into existence one month and seven days previously as the 14th Pursuit wing of the Hawaiian Air Force.

During the dark days of '42, the command carried the defense of American possessions, and in '43, aided in operations against Tarawa, Kwajalein, and Eniwetok.

But in March 1944, the units of the VII Ftr Command were recalled to Oahu for reorganization and training. It was at this time, in May, that General "Mickoy" Moore assumed command and directed the VII through the Marianas operations and up until V-J.

During these months, the Pacific picture was already brightening. With no fighter support, Liberator Bombers attacked enemy targets in October 1944 for the first time. Other "firsts" were recorded: P47s took off from Saipan to fly 1500 miles from and to Iwo Jima, carrying about 735 gallons of fuel and 1800 rounds of ammunition. P38s did the same thing on 22 of November flying 1400 miles to Truk while escorting B-24s.

It was then that P51s on Iwo were to harass the very heart of Japan.

Iwo Jima was declared secured on March 16th. The first escort mission was flown from Iwo on Apr. 7, when fighters escorted bombers to the Nakajima Aircraft Engine Plant, Tokyo. The most effective mission was flown from Iwo on April 19th against Atsugi Airfield, on Honshu. Twenty-seven enemy fighters were destroyed and forty-three damaged on the ground.

Fighter escort reduced bomber losses as time went on, and the number of Jap Fighters rising to inter-

Thus the missions tended toward fighter strikes; of the 51 VLR missions, 39 were fighter strikes; from the 7th of April to the 14th of August 1945, 51 VLR (very long range) missions were flown, of which 39 were effective, (the planes reached their targets). All together, the Command had 4172 effective sorties over the empire, destroyed or damaged 1062 Jap Aircraft, and lost only 214 P51s due to combat action---a record of which the VII Fighter Command, and the Nation can justly be proud.

"The Navy will take over Iwo the first of January or sooner," announced Island commander, Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Hopkins in an informal interview with a FIGHTER POST reporter.

"As far as the army is concerned," declared the trim, crisp-voiced 50 year old General, "a very small number of men will be left to provide support for the Air Forces."

"My prime duty is to get everyone back to the States as soon as possible and meanwhile to maintain the island," stated the career soldier.

His record to date: Nine thousand men have left the island since he became Island Commander. Red Cross, recreational, athletic facilities have blossomed with sunflower speed all over the island.

Grey hair belying an
(Turn To Page 7, Col 1)

Over 3000 VII F.C. Men Gone

"All VII Ftr Command EM in the second echelon have departed from Iwo!" so states Hq. A-1 Section.

Stat. Control Officer, Major Arthur Cassell reveals that as of Thursday 2729 EM and 291 Officers in all categories had been sent on their way since September 18th.

Two weeks ago 98 EM and 3 officers were transferred to the 2nd ARU, for transportation aboard that organization's repair ship.

Recently, orders from higher headquarters brought further screening of low point men assigned to the repair unit in order to utilize space for additional high point men in the command. When that is accomplished it is estimated that one-third of the 3rd echelon can be transferred

Approximately 20 Officers and 223 enlisted men will make up that one-third. 168 officers remain in the third echelon while EM in that category totals 1163.

Arrangements are also being made to utilize shipping space aboard the 9th ARU repair ship, estimated to be able to make room for 61 men.

Major Cassell was of the opinion that all men in the 3rd echelon -- EM with 70 points or more and officers with 75 points--will have departed before the month is out. If that develops, whether men in the 4th echelon -- 60 to 70-- would leave before they are actually eligible as of November 1, was not ascertained. There is a remote possibility, dependent of course on authorization from higher headquarters

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF IWO JIMA

By Captain P E Schulz
As Told To A W Loomis

Perhaps a million years ago, there was a violent, boiling spot in the great expanse of the Western Pacific. The air was heavy with sulphur fumes, and rising above was a tremendous grey-white cloud of steam and gas—a spectacular scene of prehistoric, submarine volcanic eruption.

Later, the picture changed. The air and the horizon was like that of any other normal Pacific day. But the sea did not now boil, nor did it roll calmly and endlessly, it broke; broke where it never had before, on a small barren piece of grey - brown and black rock, without a sign of life or vegetation on it.

A rock which a thousand of years later was just slightly changed, a little larger, but hardly more civilized, and has since been labeled Iwo Jima on the chart.

But the beginning of Iwo goes back even further in time. Although Iwo was then a new island, for years previous it had been a mountain hundreds of feet off the floor of the ocean.

Because of lines of weakness of the earth's surface, and because of the intense heat and internal pressure to which this area of the world is subjected from below, volcanic matter has been exploding or slowly pushing its way up onto the sea-floor for millions of years.

Where the pressure has been the greatest and the submarine cracks the weakest, the islands on the long split line of Fig. 1 have appeared.

Nor has this process ended; particularly here on

the Volcanic islands, parts of which are among the newest islands in the world. This fact is pointed to by the "new" appearance of Iwo. In all probability, if a seismograph were installed to record earthquakes, a considerable number would be registered each month.

In fact, since the island has been occupied by U S Forces, at least two earthquakes have been definitely felt and recognized as such. The disturbances were of a sustained nature about similar in size to that of a large bulldozer passing by except that the motion was definitely a rocking one.

Besides earthquakes, there are other indications that the island is still active. Japanese prisoners of war have revealed that in the years the Japs have occupied the island, a number of minor volcanic explosions occurred.

In the last ten years, at least two explosions of some size took place in the large trash burning pit on the north-west side of the island. Although no glow or molten material accompanied these explosions, they were of sufficient force to scatter large rocks high in the air.

ABOUT CAPTAIN SCHULZ.....

Captain P E Schulz, although now working with G-1 at Island Hqs is a University of California graduate geologist of some experience. He gained particular knowledge of volcanoes from his work with the US Natl. Park Service on the volcanoes of the Hawaiian Islands. On Iwo since D plus 26 Day, he has spent a good deal of time in what he calls "a brief observation of Iwo."

In numerous spots around the island, there are small areas and crevices from which steam with a low percentage of sulphur gas is escaping.

The northern part of Iwo is comparatively low and wide, which seems to indicate the formation of this part of the island occurred for a long time under water. As each new explosion built the island, the water had time to spread the volcanic debris into a fairly level formation. The island then looked as in Figure 2a.

Later, but still thousands of years ago, another eruption disturbed the sea again. What we know is Suribachi was thrust out of the sea, not forming slowly, but suddenly as geological time goes. Thus, there were two separate islands close together. (Figure 2b)

Then began the third stage of Iwo's development. Suribachi began to erupt within itself, forming the "cinder cone" still evident at the top.

From this cone, volcanic ash and rock exploded and rolled over the sides to fall into the sea and build up an underwater strip between the two is-

(Turn to Page 6)

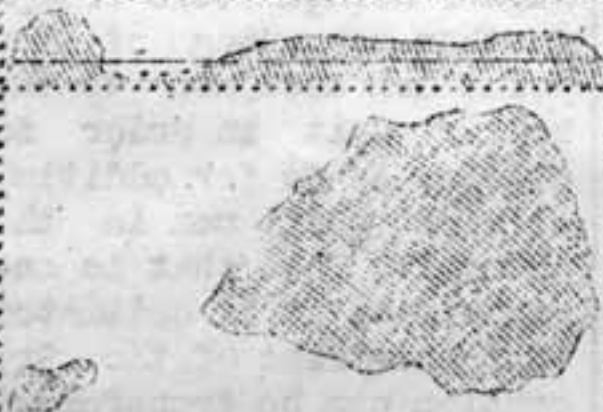


Fig. 2a: Prehistoric

Fig. 2b: Iwo forming.

The Formation Of Iwo-Jima

(Continued From Preceding Page)

lands. The island's appearance began to change visibly.

Until the Sea Bees set to work, the broad shallow crater of the northern section was still evident about where the central air strip now stands, and at its center and outer edges evidences of the lava or molten rock were to be seen.

The coarser volcanic sand which Suribachi threw out, was worked around the northern island by the sea to form the black beaches evident today. Also to be seen in large numbers only on the land near Suribachi where they originated, are the big boulders that wash in the surf.

When the final stage in Iwo's formation took place. Both islands were slowly pushed up farther out of the sea, and the previously submerged land between the two was now above water. Coral formations on

through the rock until it meets salt water at sea level.

In the fine pores of the rock, the fresh water does not mix appreciably with



FIG I: LONG LINES OF WEAKNESS...

enough so as not to suck up the salt water, water fresh except for mineral salts in the rock may be obtained.

"But," said Captain Shultz, in conclusion, "some of the details cannot yet be really classed as fact. It is the probable story we have formulated from brief observation."

"The time for a careful study of the geology of Iwo has not been available - I've been too busy pushing a pencil."

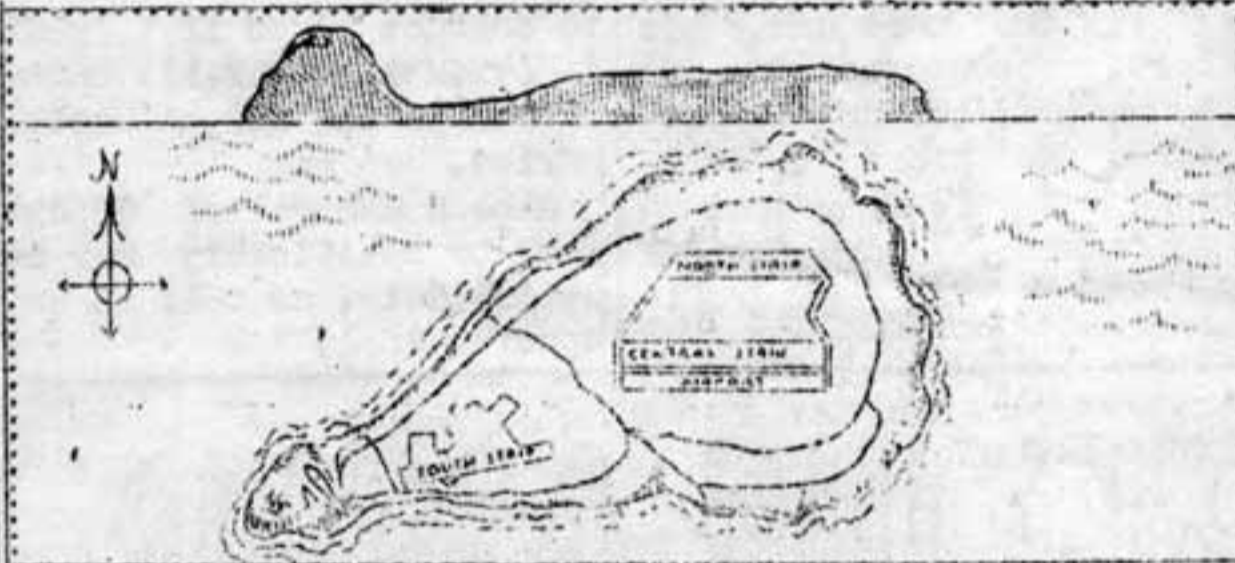


FIG II: HISTORIC IWO - STILL FORMING.

the rocks near Suribachi indicate that this portion of the island was underwater for a period of time, and the coral probably aided in building this connecting strip.

But the two islands were now one. And this rising process is probably still going on. The portions of the island shore line not modified by combat bombardment and construction, show sea-cut terraces indicating the work of the sea at changing water levels.

An interesting sidelight on Iwo's formation is the manner in which we are able to pump water from the wells. The porous "tuff", or volcanic glass, of the northern part of the island is an ideal place for natural subsurface water storage. As rain is absorbed on the surface, it drains down

the salt, and being lighter, it rests on top, pushing down to form a convex lens of fresh water on the salt water. The water draining off at the sides of the island accounts for the lens shape.

Therefore, if a well is dug, preferably near the center of the island, to just the right depth, and water is removed slowly

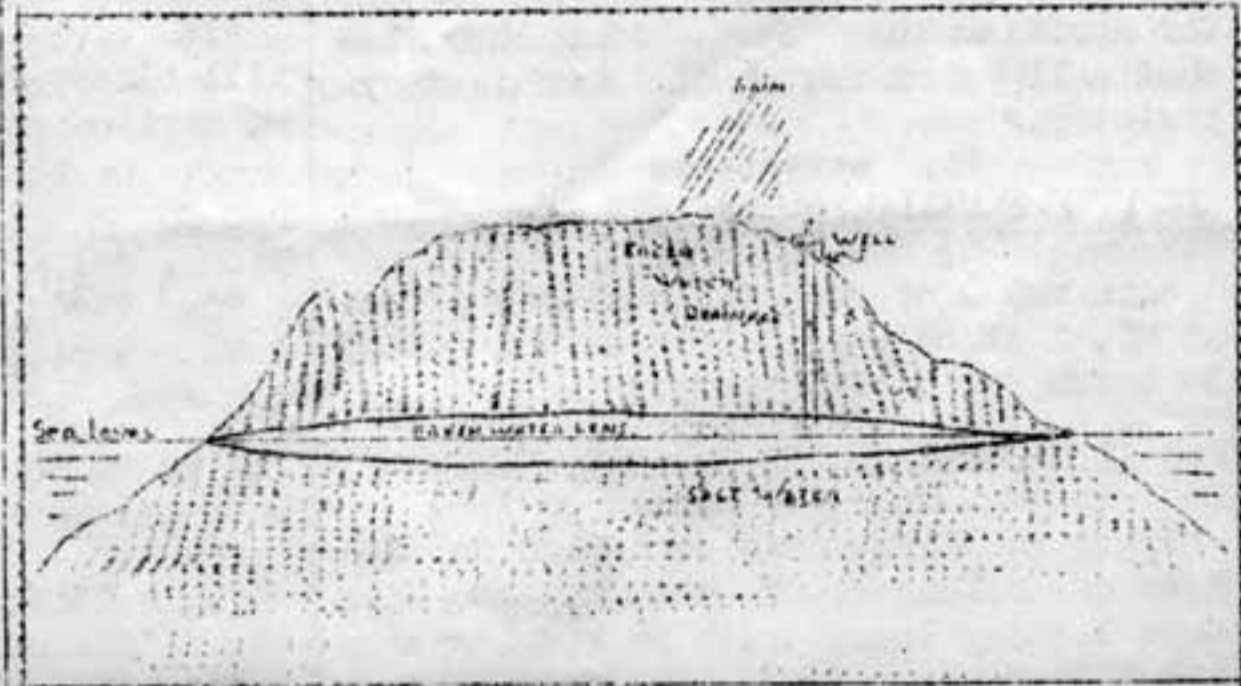


FIG III: WATER - FRESH EXCEPT...

TAKE OVER IWO

(Continued From Page 4)

otherwise youthful appearance, General Hopkins enlisted the first day of the last war, was commissioned as a pilot, and finished his twentieth year of service, mostly with the Air Forces, this July.

Serving with the Army of occupation in Germany until 1922, General Hopkins learned the necessity for expediting the discharge of civilian soldiers and increasing entertainment programs in the interim.

A former member of General Arnold's staff, the command pilot General believes in the ability of the Air Forces to stand independently, or under a unified Department of National Defense. Commenting on his present job as Ground Force Commander, he declared that it is the regular army's job to return civilians on loan

Are You Properly Informed On Personal Affairs?

Your Personal Affairs Officer must necessarily be notified in any of the following cases:

A change of address of dependent receiving Class E Allotment, or Class F Allowance.

Change of status of any dependent, i. e; death, good fortune, etc.

The reason for immediate notification is that if the change of address is not reported to higher offices, the check will not be sent to the proper place and quite a possibility of loss of the checks will exist.

from the home front as quickly as possible.

To dispel rumors, the General is broadcasting on a regular Wednesday afternoon Radio Iwo program at 12:30 called "Report from the Command" to inform Iwoites of latest local demobilization developments.

With two wars under his belt, the General intends to retire, but not to pasture. He plans to go to work at his army trained profession, aeronautical engineer and aircraft-plant supervisor.

As far as a change of status of dependents are concerned, if he is no longer dependent, and it is discovered, he will be liable to repay the government what he received.

There is a Personal Affairs Officer in each Squadron as a rule. Be certain to contact yours if your individual case falls under either of the above categories.

Also a change of dependent or beneficiary may be attended to, as well as any special case.



NOSEYING AROUND

By Larry Schlesinger

QUESTION: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE ON IWO?

PVT CECIL GERMAN, 555TH FTR GP, SALINA, Oklahoma - 3 months on Iwo.

"My first look at the island; I was surprised to see that there was nothing Japanese left but caves."

CPL FRANK TRAVERS, 363RD SERV GP, BROOKLYN, N Y - 6½ months on Iwo.

"While guarding supplies one night we blundered into fox-holed Marines waiting for anything that moved. When they flashed a light on us, we did some fast explaining."

PFC HUGH E MILLS, 363RD SERV GP, ASHLAND Virginia - 4½ months on Iwo.

"Air raid scared the hell out of me. As MP, I stood unprotected on the runway to watch for paratroopers."

PFC AL NAPOLITANA, CO A, 568TH-SAW BN, East Boston, Mass - 7 months on Iwo.

"When the first ammo dump blew up and tear gas released. We thought the Japs were letting loose with everything they had left."

CPL LAWRENCE MARQUEZ, 21ST FTR GP, LOS Angeles, Cal - 5½ months on Iwo.

"Our own artillery scared me the most, all going off at once during a raid."

S SGT ARMAND WELCH, 414 FTR GP, AUGUSTA, Maine - 3 months on Iwo.

"The biggest kick I got was going thru a cave, but I'll never forget the dust, sulphur and smell of death."

SGT ARNOLD COX, 363RD SERV GP, MT VERNON Indiana - 6½ months on Iwo.

"The night after the banzai attack will always stay with me. That's when we arrived on this ash heap."

PFC ORVEN WELLS, 395TH STA COMB SQ, SAN Diego, Cal - 7 months on Iwo.

"Our first night we slept in a Jap cave and didn't know whether we'd ever see daylight again."

PFC FRANK ROMANSKI 506TH FTR GP, BAYSIDE Long Island - 5½ months on Iwo.

"My first night here I slept within smelling distance of a Jap corpse and in the middle of the night the ammo dump went up."

No White Christmas For Iwo-ites Temperature Of 50 Likely

A few weeks ago, an order appeared which proclaimed that shorts were legal garb on Iwo until November 15. Heaven forbid that we be here until then, but since shorts had been previously banned after September 15th we thought it would be a good idea to check the weather you can expect to encounter here.

"Iwo," says Captain John R. Hermanson of Houghton, Michigan, Assistant Station Weather Officer, "will very likely not have a white Christmas." This makes the outlook very tough on low pointers. "We are in about the same latitude as the Hawaiian Islands and we should be getting a low temperature of 50 by the first of the year," the captain predicts.

It seems, however, that there is a big body of cold air over Asia in midwinter, that may scramble things here. For instance, for some reason, the polar front, a main cause of varying bad weather, often chooses the sky right above Iwo as a mooring place.

"How about typhoons?" you ask. The danger is not over yet. The peak of the typhoon season was in August but Iwo was not hit. "We've had two of the big storms though, on May 15th and June 21st.

So far there has been no sign of the heat abating. The average temperature for the first half of September was 83 which could not be called an omen of autumn. Fortunately, humidity on the rock is low mainly due to the lack of vegetation which would give off water to the atmosphere. But as long as the place is so warm we will continue to be deluged by sudden showers.

It doesn't look like Iwo's weather will be unpleasant with the advent of 1946 but our Christmas wish is that none of us are here to witness it.

This Souvenir Issue of the FIGHTER POST has several columns and regular features omitted.

Those omitted will appear next week in their usual spaces.

—The ED.

NO HUMPS, NO 2 TO 1'S

Across the counters of island PXs, clerks continued to shake their heads in the negative to requests for a package of "Humps" or "Two-to-Ones".

Scarcity of popular brands, PX officials stated, is due to subnormal delivery and the high percentage of less popular brands shipped with the more popular cigarettes.

To insure an adequate amount of the better-known brands, the PXs are increasing their orders of all brands of cigarettes.



Maybe your new address isn't the good old USA yet, but a lot of you have practically taken up residence at what's second best -- the American Red Cross Clubs. Yep, there are three of them going full swing now, and you can bet they are even more popular than the proverbial corner drug store back home.

Did you know that Club One, located in the 147th area, finally received an official name? It's the Three-Four-Five Memorial Club now, so called in memory of the respective Marine divisions. Names were submitted by club frequenters, and the winner was chosen by popular applause. He is Pvt Joe Taverna, "B" Btry, 483rd AAA.

A highlight of the 3-4-5 Club is its "Cavalcade of Talent" featured every Saturday night.

By the way, are you interested in having a book review on current fiction or an open forum on world-affairs each Wednesday eve in the library? If so, please contact Avenia Crosthwaite, and she will try to arrange it.

The contests to name Clubs Two and Three will end tonight, and names of the winners will be published in next week's column.

Club Three is sponsoring an October birthday party tonight, which should be a bang-up affair. Everyone is invited to attend, al-

though the honor guests will be those celebrating birthdays this month. There'll be a cake with candles and all the trimmings to make you feel six years young again.

Incidentally, each club will have these parties monthly; so your turn will come around if you are patient - and an unfortunate low pointer.

Club Two had its grand opening Tuesday night, and it's really a honey. I think you music fans will be particularly delighted to know that there is a classical music room and a jam session room spaced sufficiently far apart to prevent boogie-woogie from interfering with Chopin.

Also, you don't have to worry about ping - pong balls descending upon your card table. There are separate quonsets for those



HISTORICAL IWO

Something made the water boil;
Rock arose, was changed to soil;

All this happened through the years -
Time in which I knew no fears.

Iwo Jima had been born;
Call it then, the early morn.

Japs were settled here at noon,
Met Marines in afternoon;

Rifles blazed and cannon roared,
Men were killed and airplanes soared.

Twilight came, and with it, me
Ready for eternity.

Japs remained -- we won't forget.
Time went on -- the sun had set;

Cath'lic, Protestant, and Jew -
Each one equal under dew.

Searching caves for souvenirs,
Air Corps men were pioneers.

"Hitler fell!" brought rousing cheers,
Drinking up the precious beers.

Sirens howling late at night;
"Sixty-ones" in cautious flight.

"Mustangs" jumping in the fray,
Strafing things in Chichi Bay.

Empire targets soon became
Naught but burning sheets of flame;

"Twenty-nine" with atom bomb
Robbing Japs of their aplomb.

War is over, we have won;
Setting now, - the Rising Sun.

Keep us busy, build morale;
Peace-time army, this locale.

Soldiers leaving, more and more
Farewell hand-shakes on the shore.

Basic drill can add to woo.
Lowered points - I still can't go.

Spared from death - I still must roam;
Now I'm calling Iwo "home".

-- Larry Magee

SHORT STORY

ON THE AIR

R S Marks



"WE HAVE HERE IN THE STUDIO tonight, two men taken from court as is this program's policy in order to (MUSIC) --- TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!

"They are two discharged soldiers and one, - for the sake of the radio audience - is six foot nine and weighs 308 pounds. A big boy, aren't you? Ha Ha."

"I am, I was even a big baby - nineteen pounds."

"Yes. And now, this other fellow is very stocky and powerfully built, but of no size at all compared to - here! Stop that fighting! Stop it now, you hear!

"There, that's more like it. Now tell the radio audience why we found you in court for fighting in public. Go on - (MUSIC) - TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!"

"F'years I been in d'army seein' USO shows; I always comes t'ree hours before the show starts, but I find d'crowd dere ahead of me. I sits on da side so far I can only see da accordian player. Gails flits all over da stage and trow kisses at da audience. Dis I don't see. I see two hunnert an' one USO shows, yet I

don't, if you see what I ---."

"You see the shows from the side?"

"From da side. For four years of overseas, I goes to USO shows and see only da back of my friend's heads and maybe da accordionist.

"Now I gets outa da army. Da foisting I do is go ta a stage show. I come in t'ree hours early and finds no crowd. I sits on da second row in da center. Don ---."

"Yes, but what has all this to do with you and the big fellow here found fighting by the police. Ha Ha. You are a big fellow, aren't you?"

"I am. Even as a baby, I was ---."

"Yes, yes. Now will you go on wit'--- I mean, with your 'story?'"

"Well, as I'm saying, there I am in da second row. Finally after t'ree hours of waitin', da coiten goes up. On da stage is sixteen gails wearin' only long hair, sittin' on a big white horse. A blare uh music, and don -- THIS BIG SONOFA#*X##! sits in front of me!"

"Here, here! Stop that fighting! Stop that fighting!"

FIGHTER POST

The FIGHTER POST is published weekly by Enlisted Personnel of the VII Fighter Command, APO 86, under supervision of the Command Information - Education Office, and receives Army Newspaper Service.

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OFFICER IN CHARGE: Captain Walton Manning

FIGHTER POST - October 13, 1945

EDITORIAL THE CURTAIN IS DOWN..

This issue of the FIGHTER POST is devoted to Iwo Jima. The three by five island that once held the headlines of every paper and the entire nation in suspense, now basks forgotten in the shadow of Suribachi.

A job was done here; a job made easier by focused attention of the world, but no more pleasant. The world stood in awe as Marines and soldiers ferreted Japs out of labyrinth - like fortifications and burned them out of pillboxes. Iwo Jima was the most heavily fortified island in the whole world, and during the first wild act of the drama, the audience sat spell-bound.

The pace of the second act was slower; a man could still feel his part just as well, and speak any lines given him, even if they were not in character, as the audience still sat quietly, cheering almost as loudly.

We were sending P - 51's against the very Empire of Japan. B29's roared over by night and droned over by day in almost constant flight. Pilots dropped by chute from sputtering ships and Iwo saved their lives. Bombers could leave here with heavier loads of bombs than they could from the Marianas.

During the second act, Jap planes came over in the weird dark green of night, and sent sleep-filled soldiers scurrying to Bomb Shelters, planes, and gun-emplacements. By this time, some of the audience had lost interest in the plot as other shows were just starting down the street, and a few left; but the actor was just as interested in his part as ever, and acting it just as well.

It wasn't his natural self; no matter how much greasepaint he slapped on, and how many costumes, he was merely playing his role of soldier.

At the start of the third act, most of the audience failed to come in from their smoke in the lobby. They had caught the plot, could foresee the end, and had returned to their own problems at home.

The end of the War was depicted in the middle scene of the third act, and the audience didn't stay for the anti-climax. As a body, they filed out, and left the actors to finish the drama of Iwo Jima.

Gone is the crowd; the spotlight. As this issue goes to press, the soldier is sitting in the darkened theatre at the end of the season. Is he going to get home soon? His job is done, and the audience doesn't think about him as much, but he shouldn't be left in the dark of a theatre that once changed the course of history.

RSM

Chaplain's Corner



By Chaplain R J Mulligan
21st Fighter Group

Some day if you visit Mt Vernon, Washington's home, you will see there his sword. Look at the blade. On one side is engraved "Recte facies"; on the other, "Neminem timeas".

There you have Washington's philosophy: "Do right. Fear no one." Washington engraved on his sword that glorious motto, that which was written deep in his heart, deep in his soul.

Because he lived those words, because he couldn't consciously betray ideals in presence of friend or foe, because he was never a "yes" man to anything cheap or scurvy, because when he was right he never feared enemy bullets or bullying friends, he was captain of his soul and never did he have to hand over his proud sword in disgrace to any conqueror, not even to human respect.

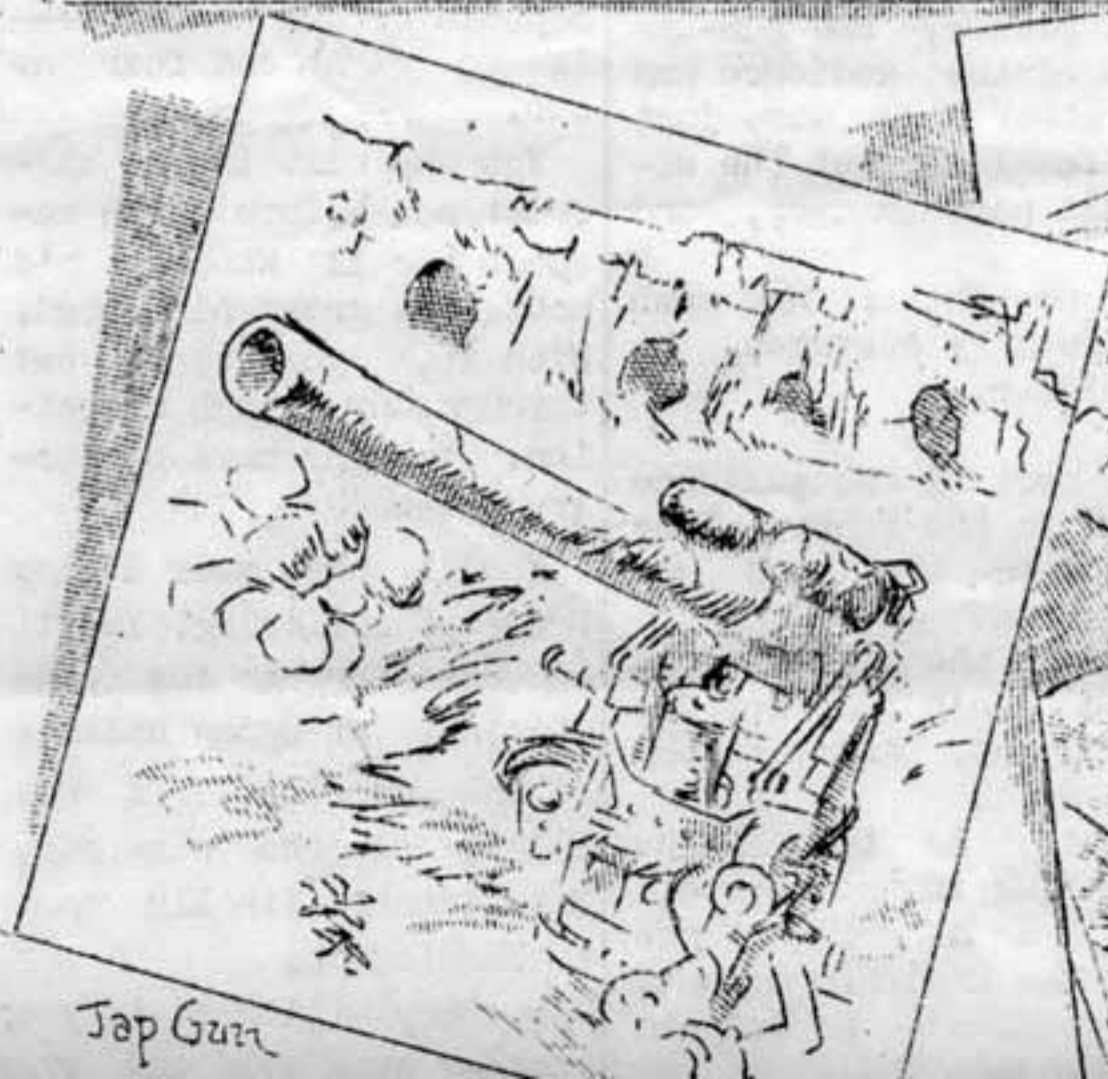
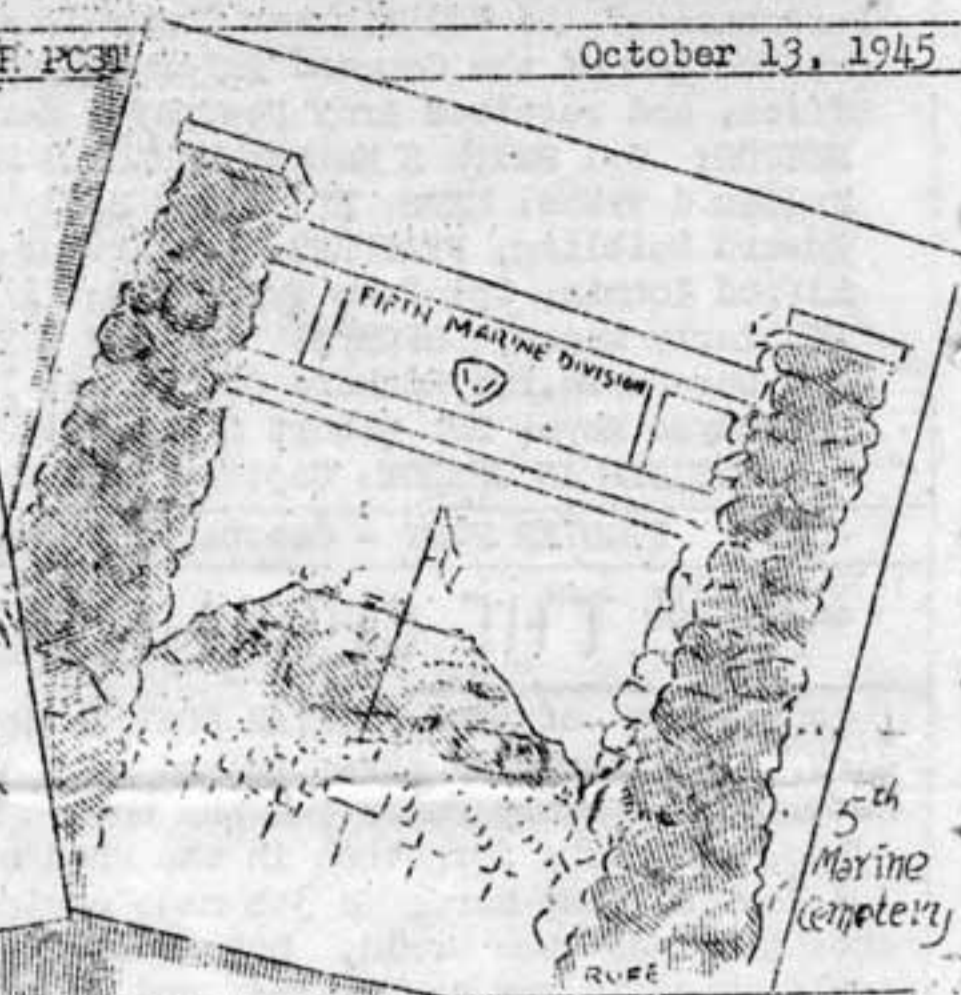
Today that sword rests in his home. For use it is more than a mere memory. It is a lesson, and inspiration, a challenge to be captain of our own soul--- to do right and fear no one.

You who wilt in any circumstance before human respect recall Washington's motto and grasp his sword. With it, you can cut through any tough situation. You may have temporary set-backs.

You'll have your Valley Forge of suffering. You'll be the target for the whining, stinging bullets of the scoffer, of the bully, of the wise guy. But victory finally came to Washington.

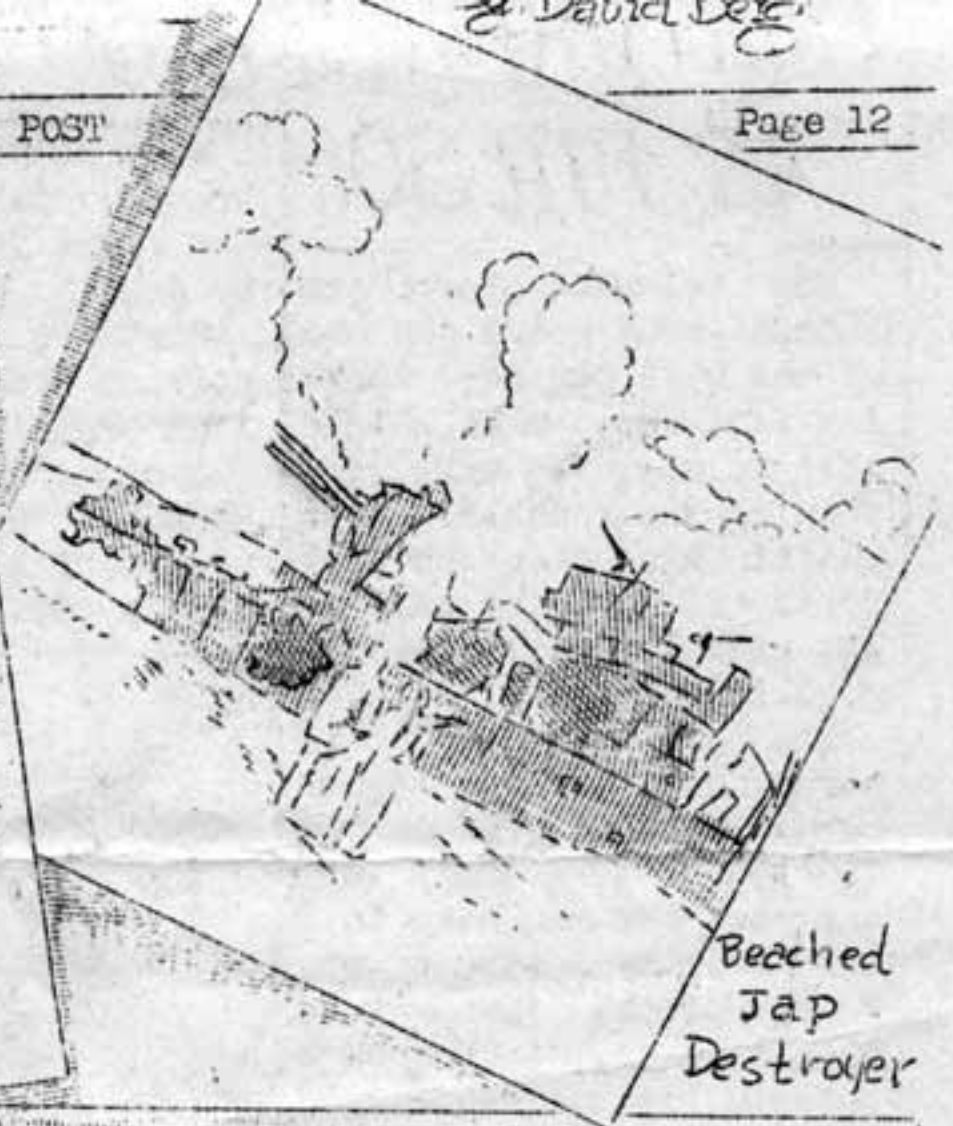
Victory will come to you, victory over self and over human respect.

Iwo Sketch

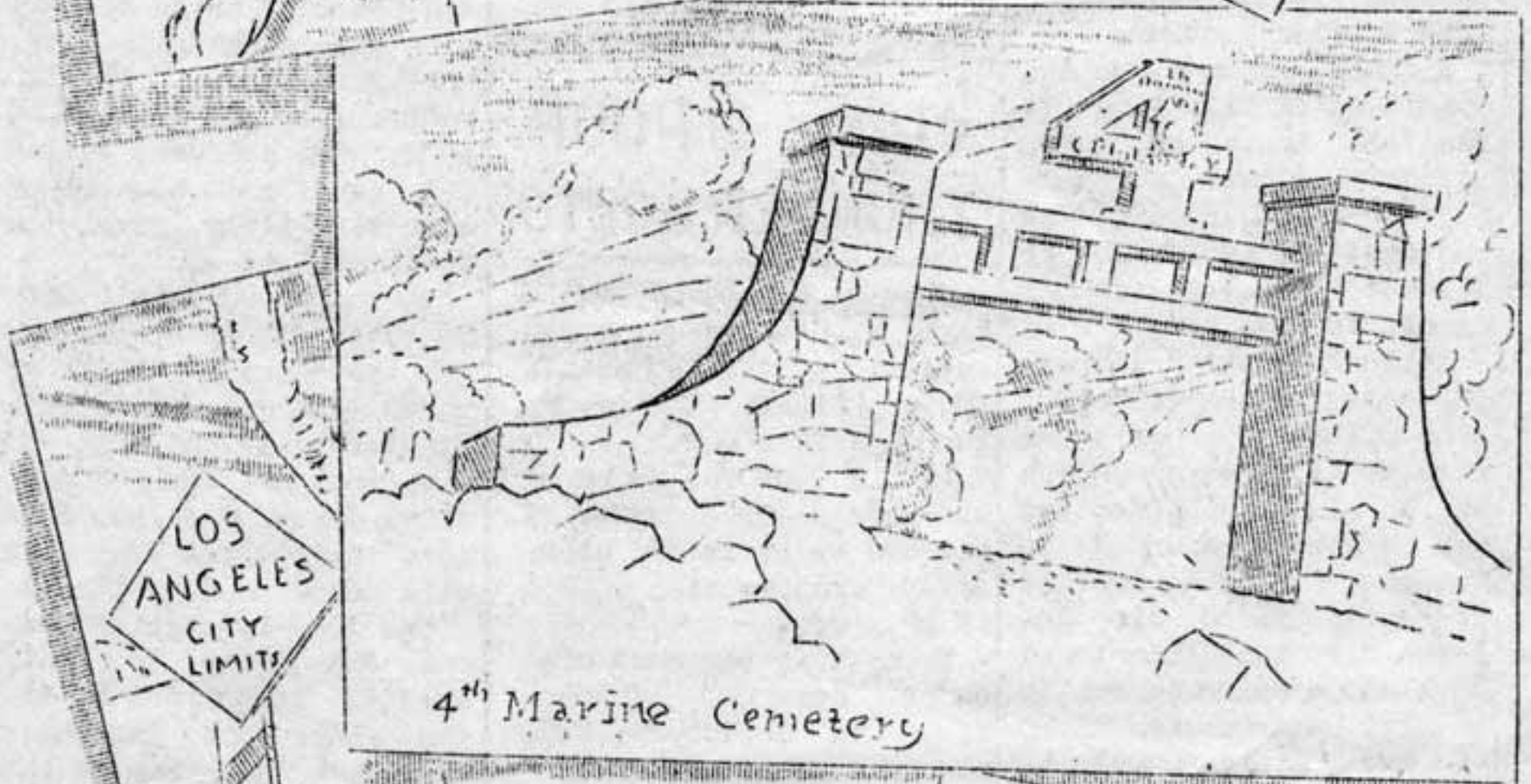




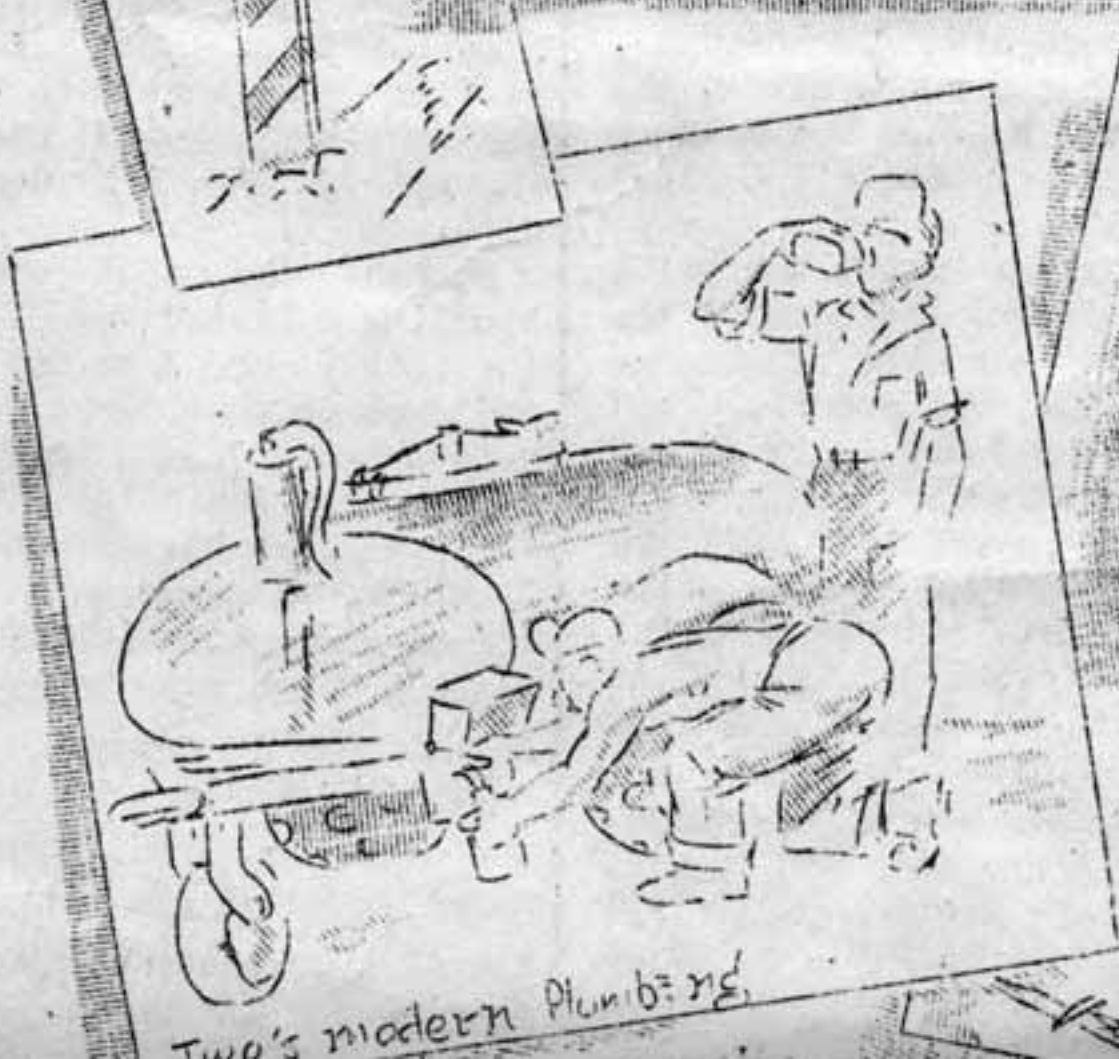
Insect spray



Beached Jap Destroyer



4th Marine Cemetery



Two's modern Plumbing



Bitter Honey-combed Caves

45th FTR. SQ.

Few islands there are indeed about which the men of the 45th Ftr Sq, looking at a map, will not be able to say, "We were here when it was rough." This outfit has been on all sorts and kinds of islands. All kinds, that is, except good islands.

The 45th got into this scrap when the Japs invaded our bivouac area on Dec 7, 1941. You can't tell any of the men here that the primary target was Pearl Harbor. 'Twasn't so. From then on, to borrow a phrase, it was one damned island after another.

Apanama, Nanomea, Makin, Baker and finally Iwo. It was the trots on Baker, unlovely natives on Apanama, coral on Nanomea, dirt and dust on Iwo. And it was detail, detail, detail on all of 'em.

Aside from the frustrating satisfaction of having sent pilots to other theatres while we were on Oahu we carried on effective sub searches; escorted the bombers in the forward areas; provided air defense for the Gilbert and Marshall campaigns; ran up a not unimpressive score of enemy kills. But it was not until we hit this dear isle, that we piled up our most impressive record.

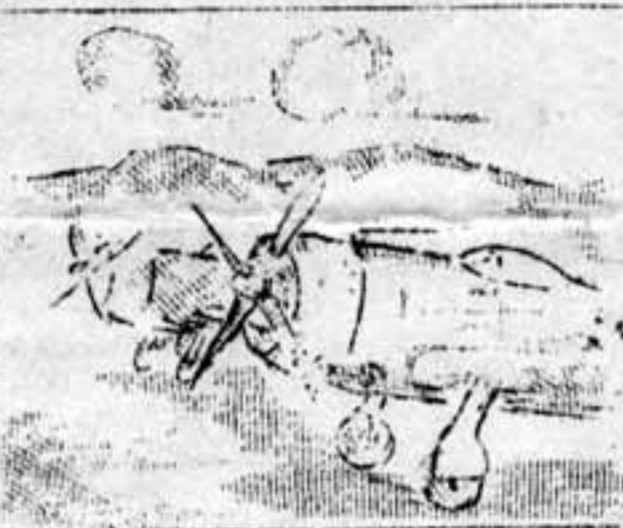
Think on these figures: 44 short range missions, mostly to Chichi and Haha Jima; 40 long range missions to the Japanese Empire on such varied targets as Kancya Airfield on Kyushu and Hyakurigahara Field northeast of Tokyo.

We escorted B-29s, strafed airfields, and knocked 32 Jap aircraft out of the sky. At the same time, we battled the dust and dirt aground; as anyone will testify, for so small an island, there is one helluva lot of dust and dirt.

549th Night Fighters Sg

What started out as a dream became a reality at Fresno, California on May 1st, 1944 -- the birth of a new night fighter squadron, the 549th, now commanded by Captain William R Charlesworth.

Hand-picked men of the 424th NFS and the 481st Operational Training Group formed the nucleus of this infant organization. Under Col. Joe Payne, then major, the squadron made three lightning like moves, if from Fresno to Bakersfield, California, to Oahu T. H. Its record of 1700 training hours at Bakersfield without a mishap still remains unmatched.



414th GROUP THUNDER BOLTS

This is the story of the 414th Fighter Group, a P47 outfit, who'll celebrate their first anniversary two days from now.

It is not the story of one person nor a number of persons -- it is the story of an organization welded of many men.

Everything began at wind-swept Soymour Johnson field in Goldsboro, N.C. almost a year ago.

Processing completed, job assignments given, the 414th boarded the troop train for Selfridge Field, Michigan.

During winter, the pilot discovered the ways of the P-47, garnered knowledge of low-level strafing and developed the knack of using rockets.

The mechanics on the line learned to work efficiently. Clerks compiled their reports, often waiting until after midnight for complete information.

Spring came; the training for combat was completed at Blumenthal Field Wilmington, N.C. Once more, troop trains moved to railroad sidings.

(Continued Page 17, Col 3)

On the 18th of February the 549th left Oahu for Iwo Jima to join its sister squadron, the 548th. The guardian of the blue, began flying on alternate nights until the 548th left for Ie Shima.

In addition to CAP, intruder missions to Haha and Chichi Jima in the Bonins were flown with noteworthy success. On the return from one of these, Lt Merrian and crew bailed out over Iwo because of zero visibility over the three strips.

The most memorable date in the outfit's history was the "banzai" night of March 26th when the night-fighters living area was the first hit by the suicidal Japs. The men that gave their lives that nite will never be forgotten.

The "fly by nights" have one Jap Betty to their credit, symbolized by the Nip flag that decorates the large insignia at the area entrance. The Iwo visitor was shot down by the Squadron's lowest ranking pilot, F/O D D Gendreau.

Perhaps the most outstanding enlisted men in the outfit are John Getty and Jack Brown. John received the Bronze Star for keeping the P-61s in tip-top flying shape. Jack Brown has received a letter of recommendation from General Moore for his research work in radar.

Statistics show that 18 men received the Purple Heart and nearly all of the flying personnel were awarded the Air Medal.



386th Air Service Group

Santa Maria AAB, California was the birthplace of the 386th Air Service Group on March 16, 1943. However, the group had its military birth as the 13th Service Group, one of the old style Air Corps groups.

After tours of duty at Pendleton, Oregon; Thermal California; and San Bernardino, the group was shipped via Seattle POE to Oahu.

After establishing a beach-head at Waikiki, we moved inland and finally made a home out of Kahuku. On July 22, 1944, the 386 was established as an Air Service Group and the 13th was now a matter of history to us. Our training went into high, and on January 23, 1945, we got aboard ships of the assault wave that were to take us to Iwo Jima.

Dawn, D-day, found us a few miles off shore, watching the terrific naval and air pounding of the rock.

Because of the tough opposition, the original landing schedule could not be met, and it wasn't until D plus 5 that our first party went ashore.

The majority of the troops of the 386th went ashore the next day and dug in just south of the airfield. Our first details went to work on the field under mortar and small arms fire, but it was ready in record time.

For the first few weeks we were the only service group on Iwo and every plane that needed repairs or fuel was serviced by the 386th. Everything from L-5s to PBYS and B-29s.

The group received a letter of commendation from General Moore, and was also awarded the meritorious service plaque.

With the numerous high pointers in the group, the 386th has gone far below strength in the past few weeks, and the only thing we all look forward to now is that grey pin-striped suit and that lovely blond who has been haunting us.

81st AIR SER. GROUP

The 81st Air Service Gp was formally activated at Fresno, California on 31st of May, 1944.

The Group had a ten month period of training at various airbases in the States and on the 25th of February, 1945, it was assigned to the 20th Air Force, Headquarters, Mitchell Field, New York and placed on DS with the VII FC at APO 86.

After spending a little over one month on board ship, the Group landed on Iwo, April 17th, 1945.

It was assigned to a temporary bivouac area because the permanent living area was still ungraded and alive with duds and caves occupied by Japs.

The overseas mission of the Group was to service a combat fighter group on North Airfield. The strip was still under construction at arrival but was rapidly completed and P-51s began combat missions by the middle of May.

Despite adverse conditions, only two planes were out of commission for parts and these for a period of less than 24 hours.

The Group lost one man due to a Japanese air attack on the 21st of May. Three other men were wounded rather seriously but have been able to return to work. All four men were awarded the Purple Heart.

Three members of the group were awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious services.

On the 28th of August, the Group received the Award of Meritorious Service Unit Plaques for "Superior performance of duty of exceptionally difficult tasks during the period of April 16 to August 16."

555th SERVICE GROUP

The 555th Air Sv Gp had its origin at Fresno, Cal at the end of October 1944. As part of the "miracle" project, its personnel came from just about every airfield in the country.

After basic training in Fresno, the 555th moved to its best-loved station, Selfridge Field, Mich. The on the job training with our Fighter Group, the 414th, was interrupted by wonderful week-ends in Detroit. Instead of leaving for overseas on March 15, 1945 as scheduled, the group moved to Wilmington, N.C. Our port call in early May took us to Ft Lawton.

A week was spent in Seattle and then we moved to Vancouver Barracks, Wash to spend three weeks waiting and carousing in Portland, Oregon.

On June 15th, we marched up the gangplank of APA 177 and were told by the crew that Iwo was our destination. It was! We remained on board ship all the way, seeing Eniwetok and Saipan from the railing.

Disembarking on July 8th, we promptly pitched into the work of transforming a torn-up beach into home.

While the job was being done, our Engineering and Materiel Squadrons worked on the Central Airfield, getting the Fighter Group ready for its first mission.

This event and the end of the war were not far apart and now the 555th labors on its beach and on the central Airfield, dreaming of home.



"How many points you have?"

568th Signal A W Bn

Two scientific top - secret discoveries have emerged from this war, the atomic bomb and radar. Peace has driven the atomic bomb into military seclusion and forced radar secrets out into the open for civilian use.

Well-versed in radar operation, the 568th Signal Air Warning Battalion now operates the latest and most effective unit, a Micro Electric Wave Radar, located on top of Suribachi. This one set eliminates the necessity for any others on the island.

A sight almost as familiar as the infantrymen's rifle on a beachhead, light weight, portable radars were the first army installations on Iwo, arriving shortly after D-day.

Responsible for guiding in lost and crippled B-29s, directing fighter pilots in pursuit of Jap raiders, warning island defenders against Jap fighter plane strikes, radar operators and technicians have ample proof of success in their work.

Screaming sirens gave sufficient warning in advance of each raid. With radar help, Night Fighters located, shot down, and drove away Jap fighters.

Reactivated in Oahu after coming overseas from Drew Field, Florida, Pacific veterans were substituted for many trained but untried technicians. Months of practice operation in Oahu effected smooth-working crews ready for the Iwo operation.

Beginning with the assault wave, members of the battalion arrived throughout the campaign until the complete organization, with the exception of Company B on Okinawa, was present.

Now radar is fulfilling a peace-time purpose, guiding gas-shy and lost planes to tiny Iwo, directing air traffic to eliminate sky crashes.

335th Sta Comp Sq

The 335th Sta Comp Sq was activated in New Caledonia in the latter part of December 1944. Composed primarily of men of the 361st Hq & AB Sq, the men of the 335 had an average overseas servicetime of over two years. The squadron personnel are specialists in airfield operations, and capable of running a strip with the aid of an Aviation Squadron.

Men from 32 states (before readjustment), including Texas, are in the outfit, Men of all walks of life--lawyers, farmers, students, businessmen; all nationalities -- Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Mexican, Irish; men of all faiths.

They came from almost every branch of the army - Engineers, Medics, Infantry, Artillery, Quartermaster.

The outfit landed on Iwo Jima in March of this year and immediately set up a Base Operations office for South Airfield. Attached to the 386th Sv Gp, they furnished men for various departments on the airfield, as well as details for the Group and VII FC.

Although equipped only to keep house for itself, the squadron mess fed more AACCS men than Squadron personnel, with very limited equipment, and no extra mess personnel.

Attached to the sq are men of the AAFPOA Training Aids Center, who are still operating Link Trainer classes for fighter pilots. At present the majority of the men of the 335th are sweating out readjustment, rotation, furloughs, or anything else to get HOME.

1914th ORD A M COMPANY

The 1914th Ordnance Company Ammunition (Aviation) was born on the desert at Murco Army Air Base, California on June 5th, 1942 at the 864th Ordnance Company.

Training began at Murco, and continued at Santa Maria Army Air Base, Merced Fairgrounds, and Mississippi Ordnance plant, Flora, Mississippi. We left for overseas in January, 1944.

The most spectacular event in the entire training was a twelve day conditioning hike in April, 1943 from Merced, California to Yosemite Park and back, a distance of 220 miles. The majority of the men in the unit can still recall the sore feet and the beautiful scenery.

(Turn to Page 16, Col 13)

(Continued from Page 15)

The year of 1944 and part of 1945 was spent at Wheeler Field, Oahu, storing and shipping various types of air force ammunition.

For the outstanding work accomplished there, the unit was presented the first Meritorious Service Plaque bestowed in the Central Pacific.

We landed on Iwo Jima in March 1945 and immediately started working for the island ammunition dumps.

Our combat record -- six Japs killed and two captured.

Complement Squadron

As was the case with most other Station Complement Squadrons, the 334th is a conglomeration of personnel from old "Base Sq and Air Base" Squadrons. Our parent organizations were the 375th and the 361st Air Base Squadrons, of Fiji and New Caledonia respectively.

A handful of men from the 3119th Signal Service Bn also were mixed in with the squadron, but we'll skip them as they have not yet renounced allegiance to the Signal Corps.

Both Air Base sqdns were formed overseas in the early days of the war, when Guadalcanal was just the name of a Jap held island and the invasion of Australia seemed imminent.

The break-up began the latter part of 1944. What was to become the 334th Sta Comp Sq flew up to Oahu the end of November for reorganization and to be re-equipped.

From then on, our history

is tied up with the rest of Iwo's activities. D Day found us off Saipan nervously sailing northward and preparing to land. So we cruised off the island for seven days, waiting till the beaches were secured.

The organization finally did land D 12, only to bivouac mere feet from a battery of 155 howitzers. Our first days on Iwo were noisy ones.

Being the first Sta Comp Sq on Iwo, we set up Operations on both No 1 and 2 strips. We had the dubious honor of pitching the first tents on both these fields tho the tent on No 1 came down soon after a Marine Colonel learned we had pitched a "circus tent" as he called it, right in the middle of the 3rd Marine Division CP.

As the island grew, the organization was tossed from one service group to the other, like unwanted orphans. Since landing we have been charges of the 386th, the 363rd, and the 555th Sv Gps. Somehow the 61st Gp has managed to stay clear of us.

zero, ran into cables of some sort and just about ruined both wings.

With V-J day came the relief and praise of us all. It is now our duty to see to it that those who died, have not done so in vain.

302nd Short Timers

The history of the 302nd on Iwo starts on Feb 23rd when the first of our detachments came ashore. Others followed shortly.

At 1900 on March 7th, our CO came ashore and the 302 was officially on Iwo Jima. The early days of Fighter Control were a little rough and our men not only maintained the radio sites but also did general duty in an effort to establish a squadron area.

We didn't have long to wait for action. March 25th 6 enemy aircraft tried to give us their calling cards. Our controller directed interception and the score for the night was one enemy aircraft destroyed and one probable.

The remaining aircraft were driven off before reaching the island. From time to time, we had the job of directing the Fighters to the path of an approaching bogey.

Our greatest worry came on the days of the Fighter Strikes over Japan. Our D/F Homer Stations had to sweat out every last plane.

By a system of homing each squadron on a different frequency, we managed to clear up some of the confusion.

With three separate stations we could handle B-29s and other aircraft in the area. Also, by a new and still secret method, we could "home" any number of planes at one time.

We are proud of our part in the defense of the island, and happy that we could help in the air effort against Japan.

363rd Air Service Group

The 363rd Air Sv Gp, originally the 2nd Assron, is one of the oldest service groups in the Pacific. Veterans of the Gilberts and the Marshalls, they've done much to warrant commendation.

However, the group has done nothing in the way of outstanding events; grandstanding plays are not our specialty. We cooperated wholeheartedly with our fighter groups, and maintained their planes to the best of our ability.

They did the actual bombing and strafing, but we made it possible. One of the planes, "Pountang", was put back into flying condition within four days after the unfortunate, yet lucky pilot, while chasing

The 506th Fighter Group, last of the P-51 outfits to arrive on Iwo, aspired to fight in the skies and wound up strafing the deck. Activated at Lakeland, Fla. The primary mission was to be VLR escort.

Sailing from Seattle in March, the ground echelon came ashore on Iwo 25 April. Meanwhile, the planes, put in flying condition at Guam, were flown to Tinian, where the boys flew CAP until May when the over-water hop was made to Iwo to join the rest of the group.

VLR combat operations were begun on 26 May with a ground strike against Kasumi, a A/F northeast of Tokyo. It was the deepest penetration of the Empire by Army fighters up to that time.

It soon became apparent that we were not going to be called upon for the VLR escort for which we had been trained. The B-29s of the XXI Bom Command had switched the weight of their offensive to night fire bombing of Jap cities and on other occasions had shown themselves more than a match for the light sporadic Nip fighter opposition. We strafed airfields, shipping, power lines, transformer stations, transportation and particularly locomotives then began to feel the effects of the cal. 50 slugs.

In August, the 20th AF resumed pin-point bombing of selected industrial targets which was to complete the phase. So it was at the end of the War the Group was called upon to play the role of VLR escort for which it had rehearsed.

On 10 August, 5 Nips were shot down and 6 damaged by the 457th Fighter Squadron two of the kills going to Capt. Abner Aust to bring his total confirmed to 5, and become the Group ACE.

When the last plane landed 14 August, the war was over for the 506th. It had destroyed 50 Japs in the air and 33 on the ground.

Fourteen pilots had made successful parachute jumps of whom 8 were returned. The others are believed to have been taken prisoners of War.

And no record is complete without acknowledgment of the outstanding contribution of the line crews. Eighteen Very Long Range Missions in 45 days averaging 60 A/C airborne with 5 Bonins strikes thrown in for good measure is a fair indication of the quality of engineering performed. It is a remarkable testimonial to the skill, thoroughness, and determination of the ground men to keep them flying.

21st FIGHTER GROUP

On March 23rd, the air echelon flew to Iwo, landing on Airstrip #2. The ground echelon arrived off Iwo on the 25th, but did not disembark until the next day.

The air echelon went into action immediately, flying CAP assignments the day after its arrival on the hot rock, and bivouacking close to Jap-held caves.

At 0400, March 26th, Japs infiltrated the bivouac area and launched a banzai attack. The assault, concentrated on the north area, which housed the officers, caused many casualties. Ninety-three of the enemy were killed in the area.

On April 6, the group came out of their foxholes and moved to tents.

On April 7, forty-one Mustangs met the B-29s over Koju Shima and flew escort to the Tokyo area. This was an historic mission, for it marked the first appearance of Army fighters over the Jap home land, the first mission on which the Superforts were escorted by fighters, and the longest over-water mission attempted.

On April 19, forty-four planes participated in the first Army strafing mission over Japan.

Poor weather throughout May and June limited the group to four VLR missions each month. These effectively kept enemy aircraft off the fields and consequently, inoperative.

With improved flying weather in July, VLRs were run with greater regularity. With enemy airfields bare of operational craft,

One of two advance echelons, led by Col. Henry G. Thorne, Jr., group commander, went to Guam, where missions were flown against by-passed Truk.

The rest of the outfit boarded the USS Kingsbury and sailed for Iwo Jima. First weeks on Iwo were spent in preparing for combat missions to come.

Time for action was short, although no one knew. Missions were flown against the Japanese homeland -- the first by Thunderbolts based on Iwo. This on CAP. 414th pilots found a Jap reconnaissance plane. Soon the war ended. Capable men performing in the manner expected, that was the combat story - not unusual - not uncommon.

hangars and other installations were strafed and rocketed. Sweeps across country from target to rally point netted considerable damage to transportation and communication facilities.

In its Iwo campaign, the Group flew 33 effective missions, destroying 78 in the air with 12 probables and forty damaged. On the ground, the scores read: 95 destroyed, 249 damaged, a total of 414 enemy craft all told.

Throughout the entire period, regular missions to the Bonins kept Suzuka Field and Chichi inoperative, neutralized shipping and harassed communications. Regular daylight CAP was maintained.



Amusements



5 Pips Glamorous,
Drip Humorous

"Five Pips and a Drip," a lively, laugh-provoking USO variety revue will play four more Iwo dates this week.

Background for comic MC A K Hall, veteran vaudevillian of 55 years in show business, are five teasing-but-pleasing comedy lasses.

Singing "You'd Be Surprised", Lee Sullivan does a bustle tussle with a sad sack stooge from the audience whose arm is around her waist.

Exquisite as Hedy and built better than Grable, tap-dancer Marianne Rockwell puts a delightful shimmy into her act.

Acrobatic dancer Ginger Wallace, ballad singer Virginia Craig, and accordionist Mary Lighthall comprise the rest of the cast of this unusually good show.

"SKYLINERS" STREAMLINED, RACY ALL G.I. VARIETY

As streamlined in sophisticated, groovy, entertainment as its name implies, "The Skyliners", another all GI variety show, produced and directed by the USASPAF Special Services Division, opened with rounds of enthusiastic applause this week. The show is booked for an 18 day tour of the island.

Highlighted by a topnotch musical combination composed of three former members of the Bobby Byrnes band, "The Skyliners" is a well-paced entertainment treat featuring Emcee Dick Broderick and his clever song-improvisations routine.

MUSICAL COMEDY FORTHCOMING

"Yours Sincerely", a miniature musical-comedy with original music and specially designed dances, is slated to arrive on Iwo today.

A top-flight cast of five men and six women will present their wares at island theatres.

Vocals are beautifully rendered by Joe Prince, known to many GIs as the "Louisiana Lark". Prior to army entertaining, Joe vocalized with the "Idol of the Air - Waves", Jan Garber.

Audiences here are amazed with breath-taking acrobatic and balancing feats performed by John Schack in the same manner which won him acclaim in vaudeville and night clubs throughout the mid-west.

The sweet, velvety sax tones given out by Leonard Sorns, formerly with the Byrnes band, are "sending" many a GI suffering from Iwo Jimmies.

Bud Levinson and Johnny Dugan give Bergen and McCarthy keen competition in a clever ventriloquism routine.

Bill Schneider's drums, Mortimer Cobb's bass, Clint Bellow's clarinet, Lee Goldman's accordion and Claude Watson's guitar offer a solid jam combo.

The "Skyliners" will be on the island for another twelve days. A swell show put on by a great bunch.

35 Live Shows In 4 Months Iwo Entertainment Record

As ram-shackle make-shift theatres are replaced by comfortable, modern play-houses, Iwoites recall the days when tramping was tough.

Averaging two live shows a week, Iwo's wind, dust, and rain vaudeville circuit has presented 35 stage reviews to entertainment-hungry island audiences in the past four months.

Dick Jurgens and his all-Marine band led off the show parade on June 15th. Old-timers agree that his success has been unmatched even by such "big-name" personalities as Joe E Brown, Kay Kysor, Charlie Ruggles, and Gene Autry.

The best-known productions to play Iwo theatres were "This Is the Army", famous all-soldier musical-comedy, and the Broadway and screen hit, "Junior Miss".

Army Special Services have made their contribution with soldier talent shows, "Winged Pigeons", "Grounded Gadgets", and, now playing Iwo, "The Skyliners".

Ponchos, cushions, and camp stools still remain personal Table of Equipment items as USO Camp Shows promises to keep the shows coming until the GIs are gone.



PIGSKIN PARADE

With the football season in full swing, WVTX plans a full schedule of grid rebroadcasts.

Saturday afternoons from 1:15 to 1:45, a 30 minute preview program will be presented. On Sundays, at 12:30 WVTX will air a top-eastern or mid-western intercollegiate game while at 5:05 a complete play-by-play rebroadcast of a west coast contest will be heard.

A 45 minute rebroadcast of a professional or service team encounter will be presented Mondays at 3:15.

Sunsetters Oppose I.C.s

This time it's decisive -- VII FC Sunsetters oppose the Island Command basketball team in the final tilt of a three game series at Suribachi gym this evening at 1900. The teams split the two opening encounters.

Led by Beverdige, who tallied 10 points, the Sunsetters eked out a 28 - 25 victory over the 147th AACs, Thursday evening. Prominent in the 147th lineup were four members of the Hickam Field cage champions.

HUSTLERS WIN 3-1

All good things must come to an end -- the Hustlers topped the 462nd All Stars, 3 - 1 to hand the latter team its first loss in 22 softball games. Managed by "Pop" Cullen, the 462nd has taken the measure of most of the top island teams.

VII F.C. LEAGUES OPEN PLAY WEDNESDAY

Softball and basketball competition at the group level will begin next week as two leagues wing into play it was announced today by Lt Chuck Tuzeeo, VII Fighter Command Athletic Officer.

Conducted in true Major League fashion, the softball circuit, which begins Wednesday, has 16 entries divided equally between the American and National Leagues. Games are scheduled on a round robin basis with the league winners meeting in the Iwo Jima World Series.

Basketball will be conducted in the same fashion with the games scheduled at the VII FC Suribachi gymnasium every evening except Wednesday and Sunday at 1830.

Colonel T S Olds, VII FC Commanding Officer, will toss up the first ball at the opening basketball encounters Thursday evening. The complete playing schedule will be posted at all Special Services Offices.

Comm's Lead 555th Circuit

Communications is the team to beat in the 555th Softball League but no one seems able to stop the first place claimants. Winner of seven contests, while losing none, Communications triumphed twice this week.

They topped the Medics, 5 - 4, and then defeated Transportation, 3 - 2 in a pair of close setts.

Second place Transportation, although losing to the league-leaders, triumphed over the Medics, 5-1 to keep in the race.

In a non-league contest, the 555th All Stars wall-pod the Navy Medics, 7-2.

414th Hq. EM Face 456th Arm. In Softball Tourney Final

Crucial game coming up -- that's the feature of the 414th Ptr Gp Double Elimination Softball tourney which may have a champion this afternoon. Undeclared 414th Hq EM meets once beaten 456th Sq Armament in their second tournament meeting. However, if the Armament win the final game will be played tomorrow at 1400.

Hubert Williams, fast ball tesser, took all three wins for Hq EM as they triumphed over the 413th Officers, 15-0, topped 437th Engineering, 3-1, and defeated 456th Armament, 6-4.

Armament, which lost only to Hq EM, defeated 456th Officers twice, 4-0 and 3-2 with Joe "The Beard" Makarewicz hurling both wins.

Other scores: 456th Officers, 3, 437th Comm., 0; 437th Eng., 5, 414th Comm., 4; 437th Comm., 6, 413th Officers, 3; 413th Officers, 1, 414th Comm., 0; 456th Officers, 7, 437th Eng., 1.