

# Those TERRIFIC SEABEES



ONE of the staunchest allies the Marine and his rifle have in World War II is the Seabee and his ingenuity. Wherever there is one you are certain to find the other and heaven has not helped those luckless Japs who've met the combination.

As the war has grown older the Seabee has received more and better equipment so that he has been able to turn his cleverness a little toward making things comfortable in the forward areas. But at the outset, when a big industrial nation was struggling to turn its enterprise from peacetime to wartime manufacture, the Navy's construction battalions and detachments had little more than their bare hands with which to work.

The 53rd Construction Battalion, stationed on Guadalcanal, found itself faced with the job of conditioning a quarter of a million dollars' worth of cats, cranes and power shovels in preparation for the invasion of the Marianas. There was a shortage of the necessary bushings, bearings, and pulleys but the 53rd was not stopped. It obtained the bronze and brass that it needed from a Japanese ship hulk lying off a Guadalcanal beach and went to work. They needed a foundry so they built it. For foundry sand they used beach sand.

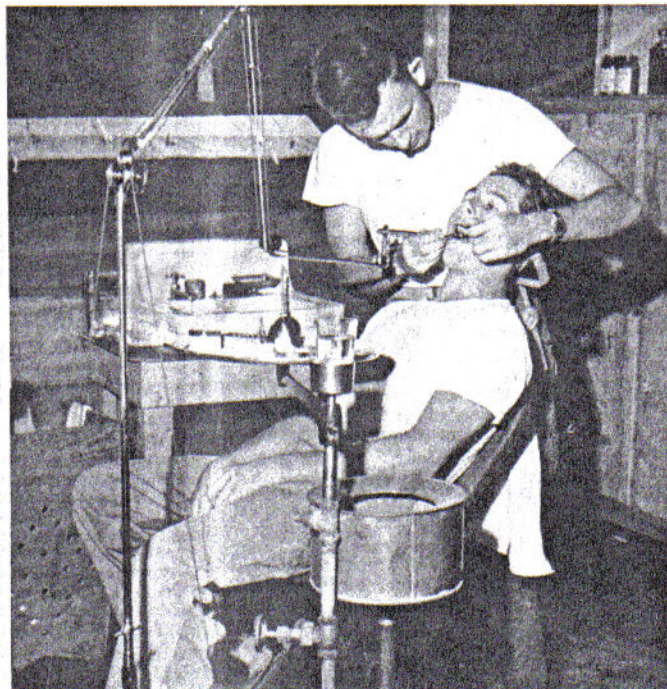
A lot of their gadgetry goes for better living, too, when the more important things have been tended to.

SGT. JOHN CONNER

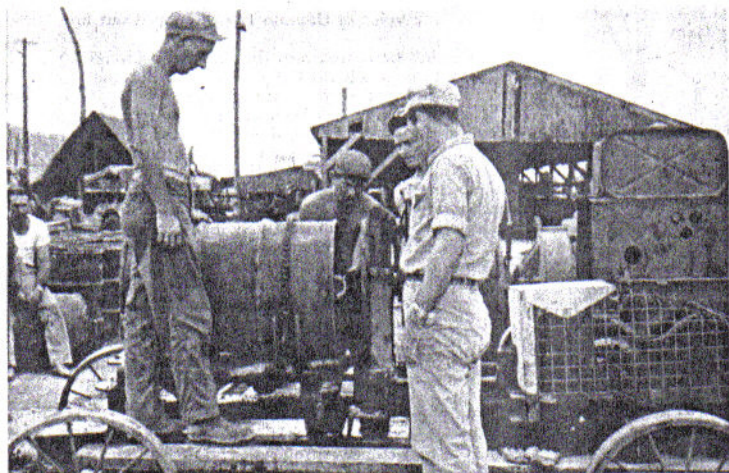
Photos by Sgt. R. Wilton



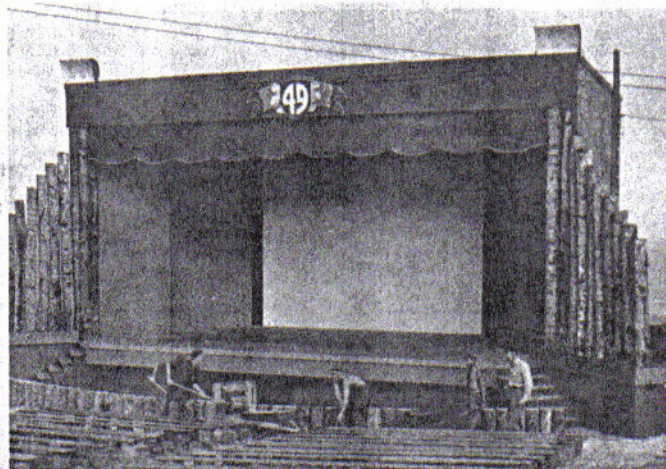
Built of salvaged Jap material, this washing machine boasts an unusual feature. Heater and core boiler keep water at constant temperature



The drill, instrument table and stand are GI, but the rest of equipment, including chair and cuspidor with running water, is Seabee-constructed



When need arises for oil drums with ends cut out, this machine is put into use. It drives sharp-edged wheel against drum ends, doing the job



This theater, built by and for Seabees, is typical of the manner in which the men make overseas duty a little brighter for themselves

## more comfortable in forward areas



The radio room and lounge of a Seabee recreation building. It is only one of several rooms furnished almost entirely by Seabee-made furniture



Wind power works this washing machine. Blades were made from oil drum top, plunger from howitzer shell. Wind drives plunger, agitating clothes



An amphibious tank seat was salvaged, turned into this practical, adjustable barber's chair

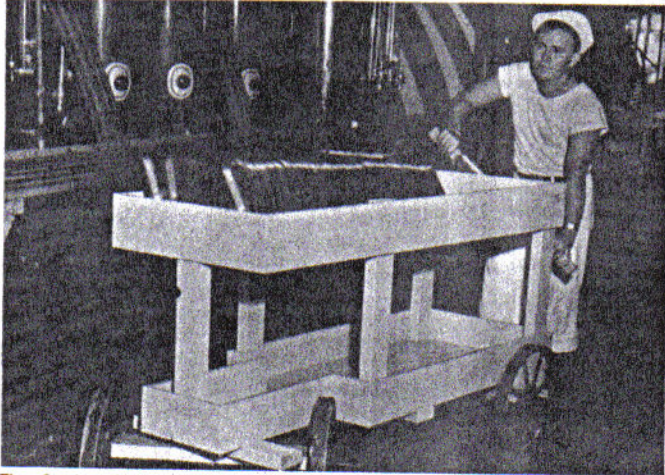


A drinking fountain made out of an oil drum. The water flows through pipes in packed ice

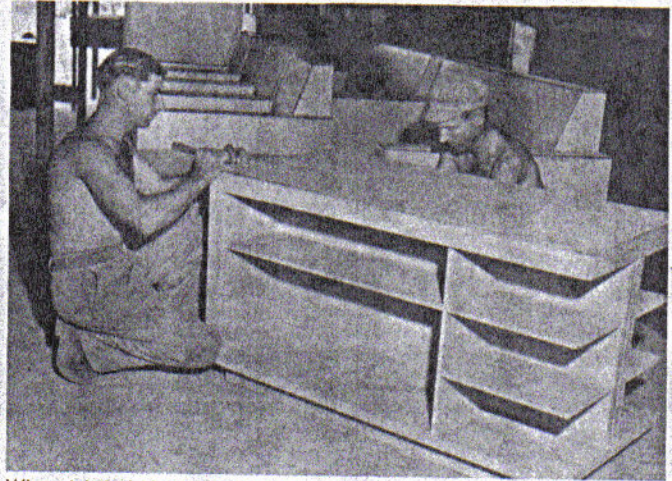


An elaborate ash tray fashioned entirely of Jap shell casings, cartridge and detonators

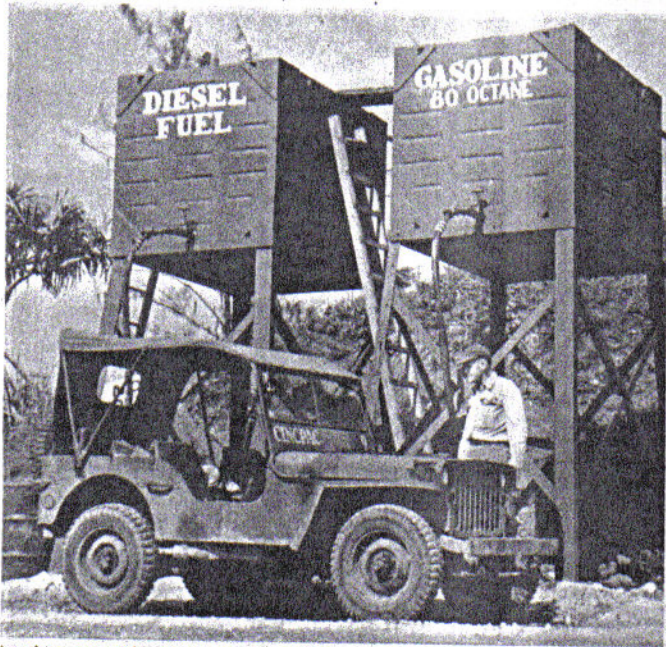
**TERRIFIC SEABEES (continued)**



The Seabees' ability to improvise extends even to the mess hall. Here's a pushcart, loaded with trays, which can be steered from the rear

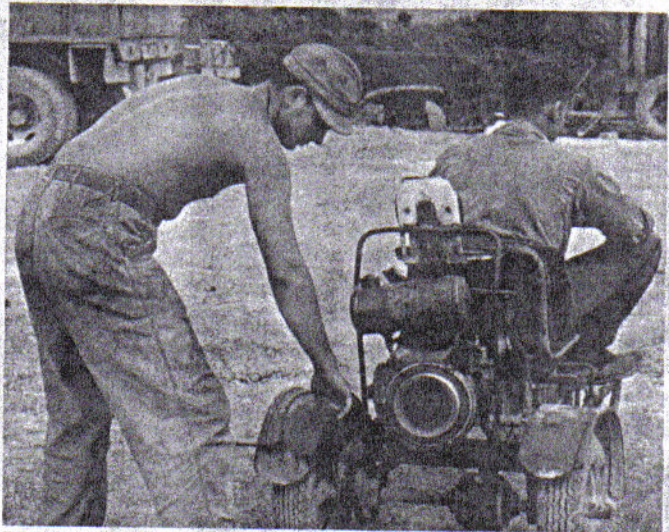


When Admiral Nimitz moved his headquarters to Guam from Pearl Harbor, some of the furniture for his new residence was made by the Seabees



Another example of "know-how." This gravity fuel dump was built below a roadbed. Trucks fill the tanks from road above, gravity does rest

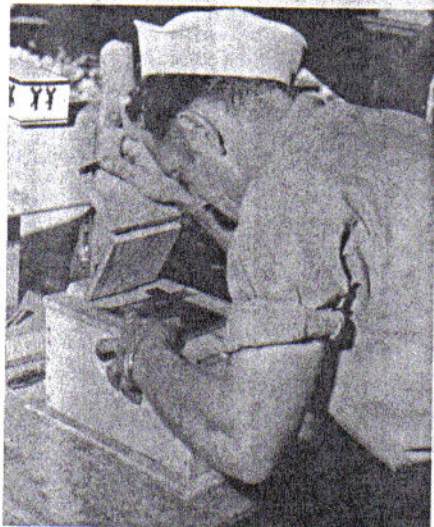
**Seabee ingenuity has made existence**



The scooter was built from scrap. Wheels are from wheelbarrows, seats from tractors, steering gear from Jap plane. It'll do 40 miles per hour



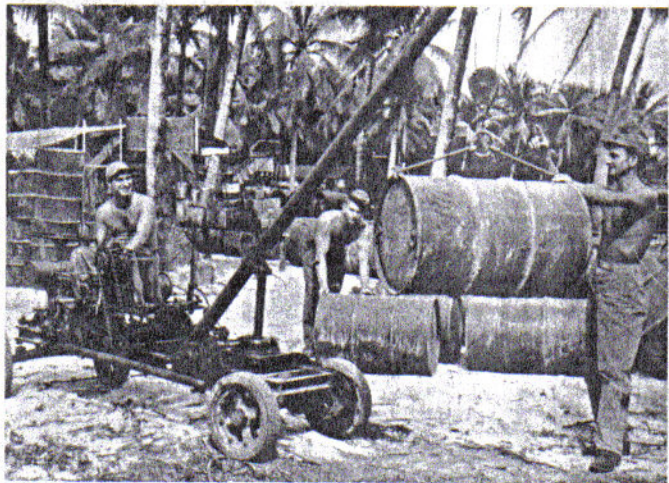
Two-year-old boy is fitted for a pair of shoes fashioned by a Seabee from surveyed GI gear



A contact printer unobtainable in the Pacific was constructed for a battalion photographer



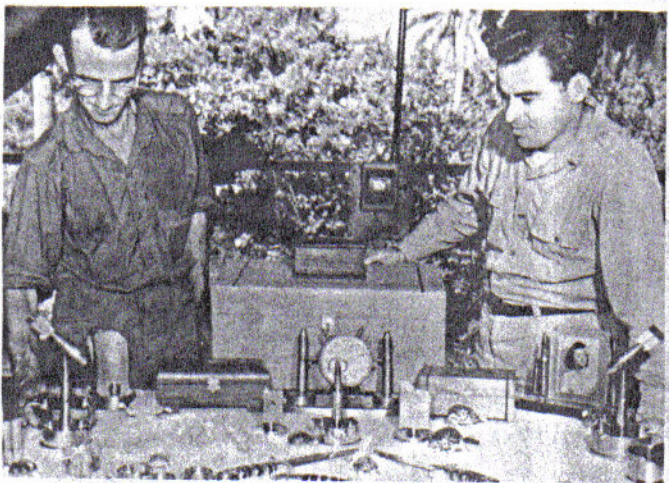
One outfit has a barber shop complete even to peppermint-stick pole driven by the wind



This midget crane being used at a battalion fuel dump is made of parts from Jap torpedo carrier, has landing barge winch and gas-pipe boom



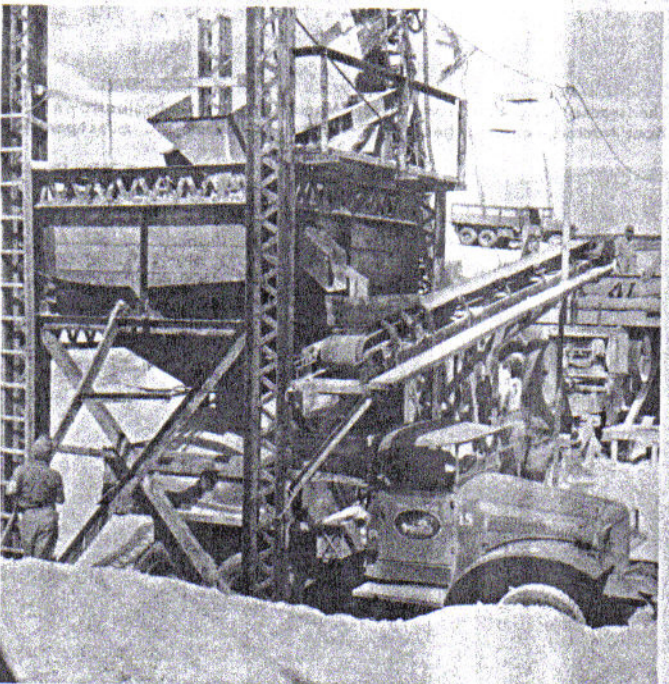
Empty oil drums serve a multitude of purposes at our Pacific bases, such as being welded together for culverts as this Seabee is doing



Seabees possess artistic talent, too, with this display including knives made from truck springs, ash trays, clocks, necklaces and match boxes



A little ingenuity produces a few comforts of home. Woven strips of inner tube and canvas make beds and chairs. In the rear is a water cooler



This rock crusher was built from a Japanese radio tower and salvaged Nip lumber. It is part of a plant that manufactures road surfacing



No, this isn't Stateside. It's the interior of a Seabee tent on Guam. The wash stand and shower bath were made out of Jap cement and piping