

Footnotes for Introduction

- ¹ Construction Battalions, nicknamed SeaBees, were established by the Navy in WWII to build roads, runways, hospitals, and other facilities for military use. A formal account of the 93rd is in Seabee album.
- ² During a lull in official projects, the 93rd constructed a replica of this famous intersection. At the time, Bob wasn't so thrilled by "the latest absurdity," but he, like other (residents and visitors)military and entertainment personalities observed "photo ops" at the landmark.
- ³ Portions of the movie were, indeed, filmed on Green Island.
- ⁴ Melvin Clark flew in the Marine VMSB 341 Dive Bombing Squadron as a gunner. He was stationed on Green Island from April 6 to May 11, 1944. He remembers Charles Lindbergh flying in with F-4U fighter pilots during his stay. Behind Hanger Doors by Albert Black recounts the experiences of his unit. (see footnote for Diary, 5/2/44)
- ⁵ Diaries were illegal during wartime. They could be captured and used by the enemy or (perhaps worse) by one's comrades.

Footnotes for Diary

1943

- 3/22: John **Fulbright** (5/1, 6/21, 11/2/44, 11/4, 11/8)
- 3/24: Camp Peary, now a CIA training facility: map, <http://www.fas.org/irp/overhead/peary.htm>
"You'll be sorry" alludes to impending haircut
- MA (or MAA): Master At Arms: The master-at-arms rating is by no means a modern innovation. Naval records show that these "sheriffs of the sea" were keeping order as early as the reign of Charles I of England. At that time they were charged with keeping the swords, pistols, carbines and muskets in good working order as well as ensuring that the bandoliers were filled with fresh powder before combat. Besides being chiefs of police at sea, the sea corporals, as they were called in the British Navy, had to be qualified in close order fighting under arms and able to train seamen in hand-to-hand combat. In the days of sail, the MAAs were truly "masters at arms." The master-at-arms in the U.S. Navy can trace the beginning of his rate to the Union Navy of the Civil War. (<http://nsrp.navspace.navy.mil/public/navytrad.asp#R-TRAD>)
- 3/25: Graveyard: overnight shift
Fire watch: "A number of small barracks were heated with pot-bellied stoves in the middle of the floor. There were several shifts a night watching out for fire and to keep it going. I caught duty in an officers' quarters one night. I kept a roaring fire going, making the officers miserable. That was the only time I caught that duty."
PPG Co.: Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Bob's employer
- 3/30: D.O.(or O.D.): Duty Officer
- 3/31: Naval officers are addressed as Mr. rather than by rank
- 4/1: Eleven general orders: Basic responsibilities of vigilance, duty, and decorum. Common to all services and enumerated at <http://nrotc.cmu.edu/knowledge/drillknowledge.asp>.
- 4/7: Marion Conner, Bob's younger sister was studying in Ann Arbor, MI
- 4/9: Rope Yarn Sunday: On the day the tailor boarded a sailing ship in port, the crew knocked off early, broke out rope yarn and mended clothes and hammocks. One afternoon per week at sea, usually a Wednesday, was reserved for mending. Since it was an afternoon for rest from the usual chores, much like Sunday, it was dubbed "rope yarn Sunday." The Navy adhered to the custom up to the years immediately after World War II; men used Wednesday afternoon for personal errands like picking up their laundry and getting haircuts. Of course they paid back the time by working a half-day on Saturdays. Today, uniforms require less attention so rope yarn Sunday has been turned to other purposes; mainly early liberty or a time

for catching up on sleep. Some, however, still adhere to tradition and break out the ditty bag for an afternoon of uniform PMS. (<http://nsrp.navspace.navy.mil/public/navytrad.asp#R-TRAD>)

4/10: Semaphore: Code for sending messages with colored flags

4/14: extended order: close order drill is marching on the heels of the row ahead. Extended order leaves space for another row between rows.

4/16: Joseph G. **Morgan, Jr.** (4/17, 5/27)

5/1: Ship's Company: ship crew

5/9: **Ezra D. Cooper**

5/10: Short arm inspection: hygienic survey of intimate portion of male anatomy for overt manifestations of disease.

5/17: Davisville, RI: <http://www.nuwc.navy.mil/hq/history/davisville.html>
Davisville is also home to the Navy Seabees Veterans of America Museum at Seabee Memorial Park, P.O. Box 646, North Kingston, RI, 02852
www.NSVA.org (click Davisville Museum)

5/22: Robert E. **Minor** (5/23, 7/31, 8/1, 3/1/44)

5/29: Sun Valley chow line (ilus.)

5/30: Palmer B. **Beck**
Liberty passes (ilus.)

6/4: Americus **Esposito**

6/7: Warren R. **Watson** (6/8, 6/9, 8/19, 11/24, 3/19/44, 3/26, 5/20/45)

6/14: Depth charges: bombs that go off underwater

6/19: Alvin D. **Hoestine**

7/14: train wreck story (see Letters)

7/15: California map (ilus.)
Camp Parks was a Construction Battalion Replacement Depot (CBRD): the rest camp and training facility for Seabee units that had returned from the Pacific.

7/19: Frank E. **Bradshaw** (7/23, 3/26/44, 4/2, 4/9, 1/2/45)

7/31: 93rd Construction Battalion Commander Harold F. **Lynn**
International Settlement photos (ilus.)

8/4: Thomas E. **Hale, Jr.** (11/25, 3/19/44)

8/7: Henry C. **Siggelkow** (8/8, 8/19, 8/23, 8/28, 8/29, 9/1, 9/5, 9/27, 11/24, 12/5, 12/12, 1/2/44, 4/9, 7/2, 9/19)

8/19: Norman B. **Nestlerode** (11/16, 1/16/44)

8/21: James C. **Fay** (9/7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 24, 25; 11/17, 24, 27; 12/22; **1944** 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/26; 2/1, 2, 17, 25, 28; 3/2, 18, 20; 4/8; 5/10, 18, 21, 28; 6/2, 3, 9; 7/9, 16, 17, 23; 8/8, 9, 13, 20, 21; 9/3, 19, 10/6, 11, 19, 20; 12/4, 5, 12, 19, 26, 27, 31; **1945** 1/5; 3/18, 25; 4/1, 10, 22; 5/17, 24; 6/1, 10, 19; 9/11)

8/23: In Oxnard, Bob bought a map (ilus.) on which he based a code to let Lib know where he was located in the Pacific (Letter: 8/23)

8/28: Orson Welles' Tent Show program (ilus.)

8/29: Anna Hatcher is Lib's younger sister

8/31: The beginning of the supply department

9/6: Albert F. **Benedict**

9/8: An Acorn was a small World War II naval air station in a war zone, together with the military personnel necessary to build and operate it.

9/18: Carl H. **Brueninger** (9/24, 9/29-10/3, 12/21, 9/19/44)

9/19: Bernard C. **Baker** (2/13/45)

10/14: Perida was also known as Caldera

10/22: Shellback (ilus.)

11/6: Joseph E. **Duffy** (11/28, 10/15/44, 2/8, 12/28, 2/21/45, 6/6, 9/21)

11/10: Banika map: <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/books/wwii/GuadC/p353.GIF>;
Battle for Russells: <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/books/wwii/GuadC/GC-EPL.htm>

11/11: Jack M. **Stevens**

11/17: Henry R. **Roberti** (11/29)

11/25: Dump: Supplies were unloaded from ships and held until needed

11/26: Thanksgiving Dinner (ilus.)

12/14: Henry J. **Bergeron** (3/29/44, 9/22/45)
12/23: Chaplain William L. **Ball**, Jr. (12/23, 12/24, 12/25, 3/18/45, 4/1/4)

1944

1/14: "Washing Machine Charlie" was a well-known character, however with two manifestations. Bob describes one. The other was also a lone Japanese bomber, whose distinctive unsynchronized engine (resminiscent of an old Maytag) and random bombing were more disruptive and unnerving than destructive. (Google search: 153 results)

1/25: Gordon L. **Myers** (6/10/44, 7/14, 7/31, 8/8, 9/6, 10/17, 12/5, 1/27/45, 5/25, 5/28, 6/1)

2/1: The Seabees called themselves "Confused Bastards" owing to their conglomeration of Army, Navy and Marine clothing.

2/13: Hans Albert **Nemoede** (2/17, 5/2, 5/23, 6/4, 6/11, 7/9, 7/19, 8/8, 8/9, 8/20, 8/23, 9/3, 9/5-9, 9/21, 4/19/45)

2/25: Solomon Islands map: http://mcghiegen.orcon.net.nz/mis_solmap.htm
Battle for Nissan Island: wysiwyg://40/http://au.geocities.com/third_div/herald3_44.html
George A. **Lecoq** (12/8, 12/17, 6/30/45, 7/10)

3/1: Dr. Hulda Magalhaes was a colleague of Lib's at Duke. Bob was collecting and sending her shells for research she was doing on snails.

3/2: Mr. Russell D. **Warren**

3/6: SCAT: Service Command Air transportation/South Pacific Combat Air Transit (USMC)

3/23: Perry F. **Karsten** (5/28/45, 6/1, 7/24)

4/26: Refer: a refrigeration unit containing ice and perishable goods.

4/30: The 22nd Construction Regiment was made up of the 33rd, 37th, 93rd, and portions of the 215th Battalions

5/1: Howard O. **Holtan** (9/6, 7/2/45)
GSK: general stores
(A fine source for Navy abbreviations is www.history.navy.mil/books/OPNAV20-P1000/A.htm)]

5/2: Marine Sgt. Melvin **Clark** experienced a hair-raising landing in an SBD on the strip May 2. He was rear seat gunner in an SBD which had a blind spot in the cockpit when the plane was taxiing. It was customary for the gunner to hoist himself out onto the wing by the cockpit and guide the pilot to a safe stop. Gunners had begun "jumping the gun" by crawling out before the landing. As Mel's plane hit the runway, the right brake failed, throwing the plane off to the left and into a mound of dirt. Mel flew through the arc of the propeller and into the dirt beside the plane. Luckily, the dirt had squelched the propellor, and Mel's experience squelched the practice of inflight wingseating.

5/10: "Protoplasm Joe" (ilus, Letter)

6/22: Mr. John L. **Eyre** (9/5, 9/6, 9/8, 1/15/45, 1/26, 1/27)

6/28: Lt. Israel **Slutzky** (7/1)

7/2: Supply Department picture (ilus.)

7/21: Michael **Duggan**

7/29: Bert **Howard**

8/21: Gavel (Letters)

9/3: Albert P. **Cobb**, Jr.

9/5: Mr. Stanley C. **Orr**, Mr. Hilliard H. **Huggins** (1/5/44, 1/23)

9/24: Charles A. **Dinlocker**: A versatile artist, noted especially for his work on "Hollywood and Vine" and the mural in the Chapel by the Sea (3/18/45)

10/14: Duffy's Tavern was a popular radio program

10/22: officers' liquor (see Letters)

10/25: USS Cape Johnson: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/22172.htm>
Cape Johnson/Commander L.C. **Farley**: <http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/auxil/ap172.htm>.
CBMU: CB Maintenance Unit

10/28: Serenus C. **Pegors**: (From Rick Thomas) "One of the Seabees I've met at the reunions is John Pegors. His father Sam Pegors felt cheated at not being able to serve overseas in WWI, so when WWII came along he enlisted in the Seabees and was assigned to the 93rd Battalion. He was in his late 40s. His son John, 18, also joined the Seabees and was assigned to another

Battalion. While the 93rd was sailing from Nissan to Samar, they stopped in New and were allowed to go ashore. Sam and John ran into each other and the meeting emotional that many men in the 93rd remember it." (note difference in venue)

Hollandia
was so

11/13: Attack story (Letters)

11/14: Samar map: <http://home.online.no/~erfalch/samareasterne.htm>

The Battle of Leyte Gulf October 23-25, 1944

Ack ack: anti-aircraft gun or fire

11/17: Maggot Issue: as opposed to Government Issue

12/17: Joseph **Stitcheson**

12/28: James E. **Cullen** (9/11/45, 9/19)

1945

1/26: Gator: Dan B. **Glass**

2/16: Andrew L. **O'Neal** (6/16, 8/9)

2/24: William J. **Nelson** (2/27, 3/2, 3/8, 3/9)

3/8: Mr. Harold J. **Benriter**

NSD: Naval Supply Depot

3/25: Chapel dedication program (ilus)

3/26: Alfred C. **Widdowson**

4/15: Donald E. **Shackelford** (4/11)

4/23: The Enola Gay also may have stopped here en route to Tinian Island from which it departed with the first atomic bomb.

5/1: ABCD: An Advance Base Construction Depot was a construction equipment and supply base overseas in a war zone.

5/26: Mr. Warner B. **McCarthy** (7/2)

6/8: AROU: Aviation Repair and Overhaul Unit

6/20: Still (Letters)

6/30: Joe **Witke**

7/2: For some reason, the Seabees weren't anxious to rehash their Island Daze. In 1949, 7 couples met for a picnic in Kansas City, MO. They organized the first reunion which 35 members attended in 1950. By the time Bob learned about them through Rick Thomas, the 51st reunion in San Antonio was imminent. It featured a trip to the Nimitz Museum of the War in the Pacific, where Bob and others gave oral histories to museum volunteers. (Sea Bee Club News, Curt Larson, editor, 2380 Aquila Ave., North, Minneapolis, MN 55427)

7/3: Pat Fowler, Lib's first cousin, was an officer in the 64th NCB.

7/19: low boy: long low trailer for hauling heavy equipment such as bulldozers

7/27: Gerald G. **Dextrateur**

9/1: Harry **Rees**

9/11: George F. **Kane**

10/4: Some fellows ran out of the barbershop with partial haircuts

[Arthur Middleton ysiwyg://5/http://www.multied.com/Navy/Transport/ArthurMiddleton.html](http://www.multied.com/Navy/Transport/ArthurMiddleton.html)

Footnotes for Letters

3/23/43: Duke University

5/30/43: mess hall (ilus.)

6/43: Ed Steele was Lib's uncle. Bob and Lib lived with him in High Point

7/6/43: S.P.: Shore Patrol

7/15/43: Map of CA (ilus.)

Danny **Elliott**

Gator: Dan B. **Glass**

8/2/43: Robert E. **Minor**

pictures taken in "International Settlement" (ilus.)

8/23/43: Code map (ilus.)

The 24th was their 3rd wedding anniversary

8/29/43: Henry C. **Siggelkow** (6/30/44, 7/2/44)
Orson Welles' program (ilus.)

10/2/43: Carl H. **Brueninger** (2/16/44, 5/6/44)

10/23/43: Ceremony for crossing the equator (ilus.)

11/7/43: Eddie Hatcher, Lib's brother, then a student at N.C. State

12/25/43: Lib's parents and sister, Anna

1/10/44: Dr. Hulda Magalhaes, a colleague of Lib's at Duke. Bob was collecting and sending shells for her research.

2/7/44: Valentine (ilus.)

2/16/44: Code reference indicates the 93rd is preparing to move

2/29/44: In an obscure and unusual reference to their courtship (deleted), Bob wonders if Lib suspected what she was getting into. Ed. can not resist noting her birth the following Leap Year.

3/4/44: Dump: Supplies were unloaded from ships and stored until requisitioned

3/22/44: Perry F. **Karsten** (5/13/44)

5/6/44: Coral reef (ilus.)

5/10/44: Refer: "refrigerated" storage
"Protoplasm Joe" (ilus.)
Bob variously refers to one of his best friends, Albert Hans **Nemoede**, as "Nemo," "Modie," and finally settles on "Moede." They kept in touch until Moede's death in 1990. (5/12/44, 6/4/44, 7/13/44, 7/24/44, 8/20/44, 2/28/45, 3/25/45)

James C. **Fay** was another close friend and tentmate (5/20/44, 6/4/44, 7/2/44, 7/16/44, 7/22/44, 7/24/44, 7/26/44, 8/29/44, 12/27/44, 3/25/45)

5/13/44: Lee **Fitts** (7/13/44)

7/20/44: Times were hard and Bob gave Lib a "crafted" horseshoe nail as an engagement ring; they referred to it as a "Pittsburgh diamond."

10/15/44: Joseph E. **Duffy**
Bernard C. **Baker**

10/27/44: Box: see Diary 10/22, 10/25, 11/13

12/13/44: Christmas card (ilus.)

3/25/44: Program for dedication of Chapel built by Seabees and Filipinos (ilus.)

6/24/45: Box: Letter from Rick Thomas: son of Richard H. **Thomas**. The elder Thomas had lied about his age (15) to enlist in the Navy. He was in training for ship duty until tests showed he was color blind. He was transferred to the 93rd and joined them on Banika. Chaplain Ball was his hometown pastor. However he attended Catholic services to avoid being recognized by the Chaplain who might have reported him for being underage.
Harold B. **Collins**