
THE
ABBOT
DABBLER

MONDAY

30 JULY 1945

"OUR EXEC BOWS OUT"

LIEUTENANT WALTER R. BARANGER, who has been Executive Officer of the ABBOT since March 1944, will be leaving us tomorrow. The Bureau of Naval Personnel has acted as the football coach who jerks his star halfback a few minutes before the final whistle of the final game so that the crowd has a chance to give the star a real ovation. We'd like to have Lieutenant Baranger return to the States with us and he would if he could, but - his orders read "by air", so fly he must.

LIEUTENANT BARANGER was assigned to the ABBOT in March 1943 about 2 months after he was snatched from the icy waters of the North Pacific where his first destroyer plowed into a fog bound islet in the Aleutians. He served as a communicator until ordered to the position he has just vacated.

Joke loving, nose scratching Baranger, who, despite his easy going, care-free manner, carried out the duties of his responsible position in a true executive style. Without the use of spurs he spurred those under him to do their best and without a "know it all" attitude he had an answer for any question, a solution for any problem.

Tomorrow as Mr. Baranger climbs in the coaling bag to be passed to the tanker, there will be a common thought among some 300 men: Good luck - may you get the assignment you want and the advancement in rank you've earned.

A PARTING MESSAGE TO LIEUTENANT BARANGER - During the longest and toughest part of our Pacific duty we realize that you, in the capacity of Executive Officer, have played a highly important role in the successful performance of the ABBOT throughout her various operations. For this reason, we wish to pay you tribute with words of praise and gratitude. Needless to say, we shall miss you, both in a professional capacity and as true friend and loyal "ABBOTEER". So, as you are about to shove off for the blissful shores of sunny California, all of us join in with a "Well Done", wishing you a safe and pleasant journey, good luck and success in your future endeavors.

Lieutenant Baranger says: "If you know any pretty girls that you want lined up just give me their names and phone numbers."

GUAM - Carrier planes of the 3rd Fleet attacked the Tokyo area at dawn today. Both British and American planes of Admiral Halsey's Fleet participated in the assault. U.S. and British Battleships, Cruisers and Destroyers bombarded HAMAMATSU on the south coast of Honshu with more than 1,000 tons of shells early this morning. U.S. ships in this bombardment group included the Battleship MASSACHUSETTS, the Heavy Cruiser QUINCY and the Destroyers ABBOT and HALE. The British ships included the mighty Battleship KING GEORGE V and the Light Cruiser NEWFOUNDLAND.

In view of the press release of the ABBOT's participation in the HAMAMATSU Bombardment, censorship regulations are relaxed sufficiently to enable you to write about this bombardment. This does not, however, permit you to describe any other action in current operations. You may also write that you have good reason to believe that you (not "we") will be home in time to celebrate Junior's birthday, Aunt Jane's wedding anniversary, etc. Do not say the ship is going back for overhaul or mention any dates except in the manner noted above.

GUAM - Rear Admiral D.C. Ramsey, U.S. 5th Fleet Chief of Staff said today in a broadcast to the U.S. that the invasion of Japan will be made by the most overwhelming forces ever concentrated in military history". Ramsey said that since July 10th the Fast Carrier Task Force in conjunction with carriers of the British Pacific Fleet "has been putting the finishing touches on the job of rendering inoperational practically every major Japanese combat ship".

GUAM: American and British carrier planes of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet all but finished off the Japanese Navy Saturday in the 3rd Inland Sea raid of the week returning fliers reported. They listed the nearly 30,000 ton battleship Hyuga among major craft sunk in the series of attacks. Other warships were seen battered and blazing around the Kure Naval Base where the Air Group Commander declared "we did a beautiful job". The Japanese Navy, once one of the world's largest, was reduced to scattered light units. All of the Japanese's heavy ships have been sunk or put out of action the reports of the fliers and Admiral Nimitz's Saturday communique disclosed. Three of the first four planes roaring in through heavy anti-aircraft fire in the earliest smash at Kure dropped half ton bombs squarely on the warships. The carrier's raiders also swept over Shikoku and southwestern Honshu Islands to blast airfields, railroads, factories and other targets.

WASHINGTON: Brigadier General William F. Heavey, Commanding General of the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade, who has just completed 23 months of combat in the southwest Pacific said today that he does not anticipate great difficulty in establishing beachheads on the Japanese coast. General Heavey, whose brigade has made 82 combat landings in the Pacific told a press conference that Japanese suicide planes "will not seriously interfere with Allied landings on the Japanese home islands". He said that the weather prediction service of General MacArthur's Command is so efficient that typhoon season need not prove an insurmountable obstacle in the projected landings. The Leyte beachhead was secured between typhoons which struck the Philippine Islands 14 days apart. Heavey said adding "in that operation complete tactical surprise was effected. The Japanese were caught off balance believing as they did that Americans were not so crazy as to land in the middle of a typhoon season". The 2nd Engineer Special Brigade is a self-contained Amphibious unit composed of technical troops equipped with 400 LCM's. The 2 components of the brigade are made up of ship and shore specialists: one functions to get the landing forces on the beaches and the other makes good beach positions and holds them after removing all shore and off shore obstacles. One reason the Japanese are immobilized in the air is because they are badly off for fuel, Heavey declared. His forces landed Australian troops on Borneo where Allied victory has caused the Japanese to lose oil resources which he said amounted to "disaster for the Japanese".

The Aussie landing forces on Borneo were transported by 120 U.S. 2nd Brigade LCMs and supporting craft. Although warned of mine hazards and other Japanese defenses in the Balikpapan area the LCMs pushed ashore well ahead of the amphibious troop force, and got through unscratched and the main operation was executed with relatively light losses, Heavey said. Explaining how the Engineer's Special Brigade has been developed to operate independently of Navy support, General Heavey said, that rocket fire power installations and other armaments have made the LCM fleets formidable light forces. In addition to the tremendous rocket fire power of 15,000 projectiles fired in a few minutes LCMs also carry a 75mm gun in the bow, 15 50-cal. weapons, 2 automatic 37's and 2 20mm anti-aircraft guns. As to the range of the light craft consisting the brigade fleet General Heavey said one movement from Manila to Zamboanga (a distance of 900 miles) was made with only one halt for refueling. The extent of the vessels seaworthiness is indicated by the fact that only 7 out of at least 800 have been lost in storms, Heavey said.

WASHINGTON: Statistics put the new B-32 plane between the U.S. Army's B-24 and the B-29 Superfort bombers in size. The statistical picture:

	<u>B-32</u>	<u>B-24</u>	<u>B-29</u>
Wing Span	135'	110'	141'3"
Length	83'11"	66'4"	99'
Height	32'	17'11"	27' 9"
Weight	120,000 lbs.	66,000 lbs.	135,000 lbs.
Speed	over 390.	over 300	over 350
Bomb load	secret	6,000	20,000
Power	8800 h.p.	4800 h.p.	8800 h.p.
Crew	8	9-11	11
Range	secret	1500 mi.	3600 mi.
Armament	secret	10 machine guns	10-12 machine guns.

PETROLEUM COUNCIL ON THE PACIFIC WAR: The increased mileage between the U.S. and the Pacific battle areas was cited by the Petroleum Industry War Council report today as one of the factors in the struggle that is now "largely a fuel oil war". It is 6900 miles from San Francisco to Okinawa and 11,000 miles between the Gulf Coast Refinery area and the Philippines, the council said, compared with 3000 miles between New York and the United Kingdom when the war against Germany was being fought. "Because of these distances" the council said, "it requires about 21,000 barrels of Gasoline from the U.S. Gulf Coast to the Pacific theater including the return trip of a tanker compared with 8000 barrels in the case of the European theater. This does not take into account the fuel necessary to return dry cargo vessels. From now on this is largely a fuel oil war" the report stated. "The moderate decrease in gasoline requirements is more than offset by the increased requirements for diesel and residual fuel oil and hence the demand for crude oil and its products is greater than ever before." American civilians have been warned that they will increasingly feel the pinch of the war against Japan in their heating fuel tanks, as well as in other commodities of which they are being deprived to enable the nation meet its general war commitments and its newly assumed obligations to heat, feed and rehabilitate liberated peoples.

WASHINGTON: Major General John M. Franklin, Acting Chief of Transportation of Army Service Forces today told the Senate Committee investigating transportation problems of redeployment that "our military timetable for the defeat of Japan has been moved forward as result of our recent air, sea and ground successes and top priority must be given to the movement of forces and supplies needed by General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz. The fact that a larger portion of our shipping must be used from now on for direct shipments from Europe to the Pacific and from our own west coast to the Pacific", will reduce the rate of troop returns to the U.S. in August and the following months, Franklin explained. Noting the accelerated speed of redeployment Franklin said that the original plan called for the return of about 435,000 men by now but that actually 675,000 men were brought back from Europe during the first 81 days after V-E Day. Speeding up of "the military time table for the defeat of Japan" is the type of change "in the calendar of military operations which make it impossible to forecast with exactness any phase of military transportation on a long range basis", Franklin said.

WASHINGTON: The State Department announced today that all countries in Europe, except Germany, Austria and Italy have been removed from the list of areas of active military operations into or through which civilians may not travel without approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The State Department said as a result of the action which was made by the Joint Chiefs of Staff the State Department would receive applications for passports to European countries "more freely". Because of the transportation difficulties and shortages in Europe, however, the State Department said applicants must show "appropriate evidence that their presence in any such country would serve directly or indirectly the national interest of the U.S. or of a particular European country concerned.

WASHINGTON: An Army finance officer today told how residents of Saipan have been "persistent in their efforts to buy U.S. War Bonds". He said they "sincerely believe our war bonds to be the world's soundest securities". The Army finance officer said people of Saipan hoped to recoup losses suffered buying Japanese war bonds and appeared "deeply disappointed" when told that aliens could not buy American War Bonds.

WASHINGTON: Approximately 40,000 tons of sugar have been cut from military allotments and will be distributed to areas of acute civilian shortages in the U.S., Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced today. Anderson said that civilian supplies will not be increased by the cut in military sugar allotments but that better distribution to shortage areas is expected. Anderson also announced a 200 ton increase in lendlease sugar allotments for the 3rd quarter making the total for the period 56,118 tons. At same time the Department of Agriculture issued an order effective August 1 banning the use of corn and limiting the use of grains in the manufacture of beverage alcohol. The order was issued to conserve grain supplies needed for food and feed.

WASHINGTON: Losses to the Army through death, discharge and other causes total 1,883,000 for the period beginning 12-7-41 through last April 30th; The War Dept. said today the total 1,336,000 represent honorable discharges, 238,000 battle and non-battle deaths, 106,000 POW's and missing and 203,000 miscellaneous separations.

WASHINGTON:- More than 200 American technical experts, drawn from almost as many different firms as well as from universities and government agencies, are now in Europe, or have recently returned from investigating Germany's technical industrial war secrets under the direction of Joint Chiefs of Staff and in conjunction with the Foreign Economic Administration and other agencies, FEA Head, Leo Crowley, has announced. Important information already has been obtained and some investigators have completed their work and returned but the greater number still are overseas and others are going over. The technicians were directed to search out German industrial processes, inventions, engineering and "know how" to aid the U.S. war production. Information gathered by experts becomes government property but arrangements are in effect to make available at once to war industry such intelligence as may be useful against Japan.....Among the new developments uncovered so far are: A plane with a ceiling several thousand feet higher than any U.S. plane, a process for welding side seams on tin cans by machine instead of by hand, a new applications of radiation devices in fields not heretofore explored in the U.S., new and improved X-Ray tubes for cancer therapy and industrial purposes. Flexible high tension cables that withstand double voltage of American made cables of the same size, tungsten substitutes for use in the manufacture of armor piercing shells and cutting tools for machinery metals, power circuit breakers with construction details unfamiliar in the U.S., new uses of waste cellulose materials for manufacture of fats for animal feed, improvised techniques in fermentation of yeast from wood and sugar in the production of both human and cattle food, improved techniques for production of synthetic petroleum product in hydrogenation plants operating at extremely high pressures, new catalysts permitting Germans to convert oil to high octane gasoline more quickly than was known here, details on German refinements in gas synthetic method of producing liquid fuels and lubricants from coal. New processing methods in the field of synthetic rubber, new data on continuous polymerization processes in plastics manufacture, new data on acetylene and electro chemical processes, information on high temperature alloys unknown in the U.S., production of high grade nitrocellulose from lower grade wood pulp with stability superior to the same product made from high grade pulp in the U.S.....Saleable overseas surplus left by the U.S. forces in Europe may be worth less than 1 billion dollars, Thomas J. McCabe, Army-Navy Liquidation Commissioner, said yesterday. Prior to his departure for London to inspect U.S. equipment in Europe. The rough evaluation concerns only 30% or that portion of the material which will not be used by the Army of Occupation or be redeployed to the Pacific or the U.S., the Commissioner said. It does not include fixed installations. No weapons will be offered for sale without the consent of the State Department and military officials, McCabe said, emphasizing that it was the policy of his organization to make no sales which might endanger world peace. In making his estimate, McCabe said he had deducted non-salable military weapons, physical depreciation and the limited civilian utility of many items.....Nearly 97 out of every 100 soldiers who reach the hospital are saved in this war, the Army Medical Department said today on its 170th anniversary. The department - a world girdling organization with personnel strength of over 600,000 - said that 70 out of every 100 wounded overseas have been returned to duty. Nearly 27% have been evacuated to the U.S. during the past 3 years. The department has maintained a record of less than 1 death from disease per 1080 men.

CHICAGO:- The largest number of soldiers - 54,814 - ever carried by rail in the U.S. in a single day were transported July 11th, Colonel I. Sewell Morris, Chairman of the Western Railroad Urgency Committee, announced today. Morris said by the end of July, 1 million soldiers will have traveled by rail during the month. This, he said, would represent a 15% increase over the number carried in June. He added, in August the transportation problem would increase and would become more taxing each month thereafter until the redeployment of American forces for the war against Japan have been completed.