

This Is Your NAVY

A Monthly Information Letter Exclusively for Members of The

NAVY LEAGUE

Published by the Regional Office of the Navy League of the United States, 400 West Madison Street, Chicago 6, Illinois

Volume I

April 1945

Number 3

AMPHIBIOUS MEDICINE:

Modern warfare brought it into being. Eight corpsmen hit the beach with each infantry company (one corpsman to every 25 men). They are experts in control of hemorrhage, splinting, and use of plasma. Two medical officers and eight corpsmen, with stretcher bearers and jeep ambulances, set up battalion aid stations as soon as the beachhead is expanded. This unit is followed by the field hospital of five medical officers and 70 corpsmen with life-saving surgical equipment. It goes into operation before the area is out of range of enemy guns. All this is linked to an evacuation program involving landing craft and planes. Result: 98 out of every 100 wounded recover. In the Normandy invasion all but 3/10 of 1% of the wounded reaching England survived.

SEA GOING CRADLES:

The ARD (Auxiliary Repair Dock) is an aesthetic monstrosity, but the ponderous mobile hull can belly down under a crippled destroyer, pump itself dry and cradle its ailing occupant until repairs are completed. The ARD, born of the war in the Pacific, has saved countless ships damaged in battle which otherwise might have been out of action for months and might not have even stood the strain of a return trip to the states.

MOPPING UP:

This operation is one of the forgotten but tough jobs of the war. Look at Guam. Invaded 21 July 1944, declared "secure", (Navy term for completely in our possession) in early August 1944. But it wasn't until 17 February 1945 that a day went by without an armed Jap being killed on the island. The score to date: 18,002 dead Japs, 4,242 of these killed after the island was "secure".

QUOTES OF THE MONTH:

Navy Pilot over the Bonins: "I've got four already -- and 30 more cornered."

Admiral Halsey: "If we let the Japs negotiate a peace now and we do not demand absolute and unconditional surrender, we will be committing the greatest crime in the history of our country. They will merely use the peace, as Germany did before them, to build up for another war."

British pilot to CO of USS SARATOGA after landing on her huge flight deck: "Sir, I feel as if I had landed in your state of Texas."