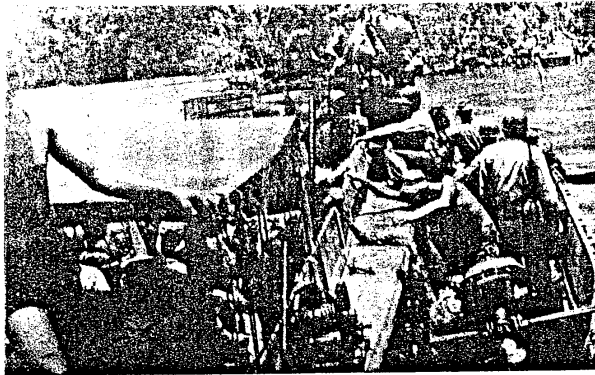


When the 1 Btn., Wolfhounds, landed at Ringi Cove, on southern



"Wolfhounds" clamber aboard Higgins boats at North Arundel before the trip to Kolombangara.

Kolombangara, the morning of 6 Oct., they found only forty-nine pieces of abandoned arty, smashed aircraft, and some scattered enemy personnel who had been left behind.

New Georgia had been lengthy and costly. Originally planned as a single division operation (43 Div.), it had used up elements of four divisions. It would be months before both the 43 Div. and the Tropic



Wolfhound views smashed aircraft on Vila Field

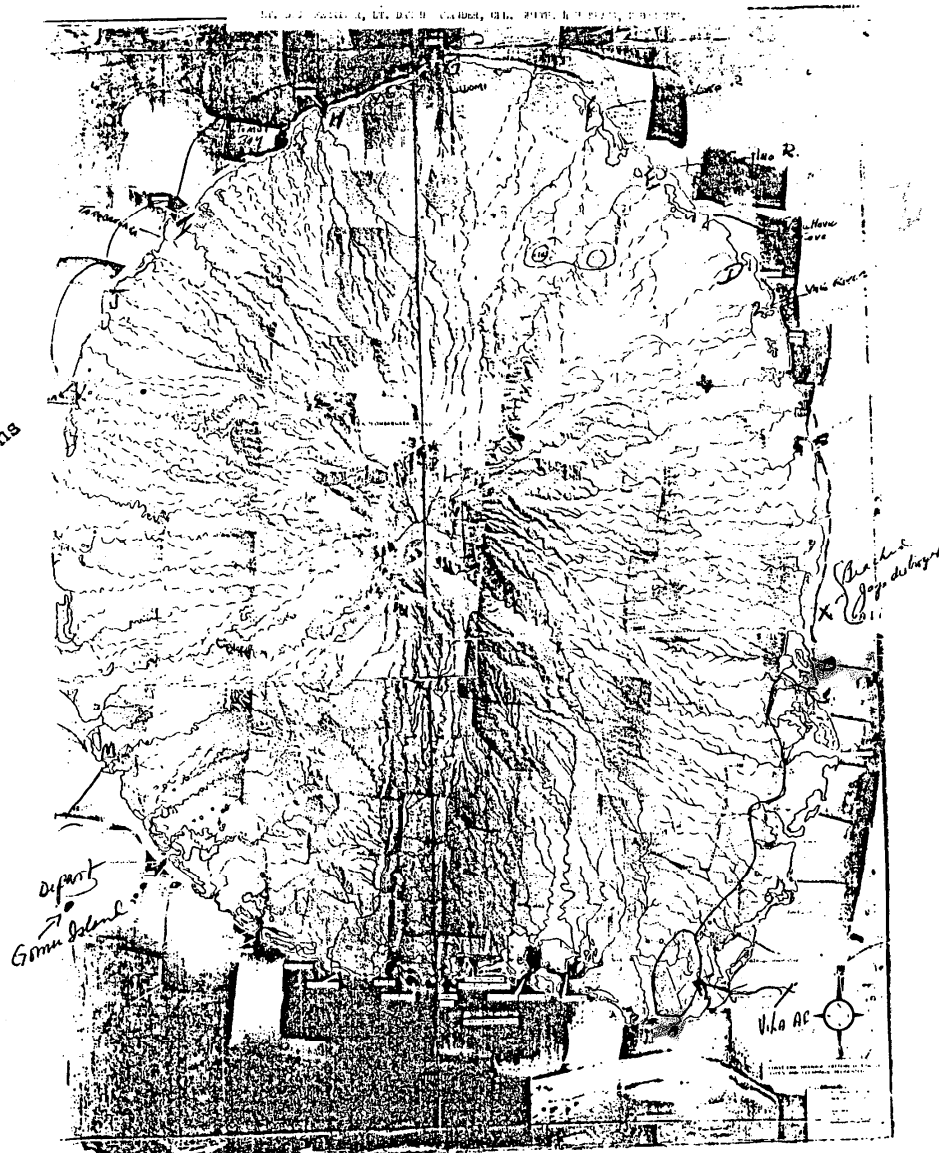
JAPANESE ANTI-AIRCRAFT AND COASTAL DEFENSE



Lightning would be ready for action again. The figures for the 25 Inf. Div. were 141 dead, 550 wounded, 1 MIA, 2 accidental deaths; this did not include the majority of casualties due to disease, combat fatigue, or war neuroses. Enemy casualties are not known, but XIV Corps reported a count of 2483 dead on Vella Lavella alone. The total picture had to be considered a success, for the bypassing of

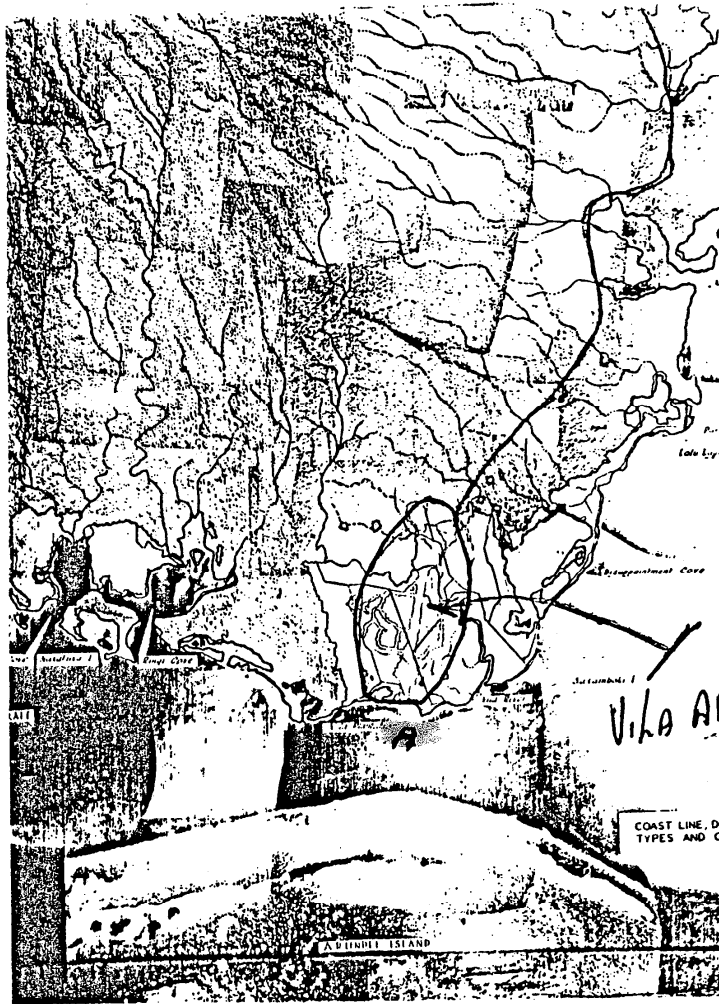
The Battle for Arundel lasted until 21 Sept., and ended then with the Americans in control, but only because Sasaki ordered all his Arundel troops to withdraw to Kolombangara. He had done this since the Imperial Jap Hqs. had decided to abandon the entire New Georgia Group. Sasaki ordered his troops off Gizo and Arundel and the move was completed 21 Sept.

ev-
Canal.
ing craft
en killed.
the Americans



Aerial composite of Kolombangara Island. Initial action was a recon,

3 Oct. 1943, by Lt.s Dick Ferriter, Dan Noorlander, Cpl. Smith and four natives, in two dugout canoes, which the Japs paid no attention to, from Gomu ("Little Fly") Island, which was a 30 by 30 yard coastwatcher station. The mission was to report on Jap evacuation activities and debarking points. Landing point "A" was made at dawn the first day and



Detail of aerial composite

a recon of the airstri and trails to "B" was made. Location of evack point "I" was made and recon to "C" and bivouac. The second day the main evack point "2" was located and the third and fourth days, point "D" thru "M" were made. Rations consisted of rice, raisins, tea and boullion.

The Jap evacuation of Kolombangara was completed the nights o 28 Sept.. thru 3 Oct.

and they managed to ge some 9400 men off the island, or some 3600 less than they had ev- acuated from the Canal

Most of them were sent to southern Bougainville. Twenty nine landing craft and torpedo boats were sunk, one destroyer was damaged and 66 men killed. Southeast Area Naval Ops. II, Jap Monograph #49 (OCMH) stated the Americans

Dear Bob:

6 May 88

I can see that your book is coming along in fine shape and I enjoyed reading the pages you sent me. Do you wish me to return this so that someone else can enjoy and possibly contribute?

Regarding Joe Koontz. Joe, Bob Lendeman and I were members of O.C. class # 10 at St. Benning, among the first "Today's Wonders" of WUST and Joe and I became very, very close friends right from the start since we were in the same platoon. We corresponded three or four times a year and I'm quite familiar with his Central America interests. Like Lendeman, he is another hard headed and tough DeWitt with absolute integrity. As Bob would have it Joe went to the 27th and I went to the 35th when we arrived in Okinawa in early June 1942. We ended up together in the 27th when he was the Sgt 1 S-2 and I was spec. in 1st Bn under Eben Smith and Joe Payne. When I was wounded in May 45 Joe took my place in the 1st Bn. Our personalities are different in that he is terribly intense, and extremely technically a detail man - in none of the above!

The Salinas postmark is not unusual since Salinas is the principal distrib-

P 126
P 154

"depends in which box the outgoing mail
is ^{dropped} received. I may have mailed the last
from that town - just 16 miles from Carmel.

My across the street neighbor is an Episcopal
minister also so I'll ask if he knows
Jeff Koh's. Our neighbor is first rate and
his name is Jim Brock, a Colorado native.

Did you ever contact Lee Cagwin for info
on his time with the 27th? He commanded
in Korea at one time. Lee began with
3rd Bn 35th and was S-3 when I first
met him in 1942. Retired as a major general
and lives in Carmel - Stewart Place
Carmel, Ca 93921
He was West Point grad - 1940.

With best wishes - Jack Terrill

Kolombangara proved to be a satisfactory demonstration technique. Certainly proof for future employment of this type of operation.

R & R

In late November, 1943, the Div. moved via the Canal to New Zealand arriving in Auckland around the 23d.



Abandoned enemy positions
on Kolombangara

(Phil File) "In Nov., 1943 I was in the isolation ward of the 52d Field Hospital, on the Canal, recovering from neck and shoulder surgery and being treated for infectious hepatitis which had almost killed me before I could convince the surgeon I was sick. The saw bones treating my injuries was certain that I was malingering. He threatened to courts-martial me if I persisted in playing sick. One morning I found that I was passing yellow puss instead of urine. When the surgeon came around and asked me if I was ready to return to duty I told him I was sick with yellow jaundice. He lifted one of my eyelids and left abruptly - five minutes later I was in isolation where I had nothing but lukewarm tomato juice for three weeks. The outfit went back to the Canal and Capt. Pickett paid me a visit and said the Div. was being sent to New Zealand for R & R. He was able to convince the medics that he would have me admitted to a hospital in New Zealand if the 52 would release me. Capt. Pickett was a tender hearted man. I got back to the Co. just in time to say goodbye to Willie Wolfhound, a young native boy who had attached himself to our outfit and had served as an unpaid volunteer through all our campaigning. We wanted to take Willie with us but the authorities forbade it. So Willie spent the last day with us seated on a stump, crying, with his helmet on the ground in front of him. Each man passing by would shake

Willie's hand and drop some money in the helmet. There were several hundred American dollars in there - no script.

"We left the Canal unescorted, in a fairly fast ship and, going past the New Hebrides, the skipper ran us close to shore to evade a sub that had picked us up. When the sailors tried to get the troops below, we dared them to try to put us below decks. We lined the rail and watched the torpedo run past the ship and explode when it hit the coral between us and the shoreline.

"We landed in Auckland, New Zealand on the 23 Nov.(?). Shortly after tying up to the pier we were taken for a walk around a few city blocks. We were a pretty scroungy looking bunch and didn't make a very impressive picture alongside the Marines strutting around town in their bellhop uniforms.

"The 1 Btn. was camped near the town of Warkworth, about 40 mi. north of Auckland. It was beautiful countryside and after the stifling heat of the islands, felt very cool to us although it was their summer. The primary concern of the command was to get us healed and returned to top operational capability. For many of the young men in the 27th and 35th Rgt.s it would be the first time in their lives they were able to date a girl and have the money to treat her to a movie and dinner. All the eligible young men of New Zealand had been gone to service for two years, so, the results were predictable. Within weeks applications for permission to marry were pouring into the varied headquarters sections in a deluge of paper. Although it seemed unfair to the GI's involved we did have a war to fight and a war is best fought by men without wives to be concerned with. A number of men did go ahead and get married. There was no law against it - it was just that obedience was so strongly drilled into the troops that very few dared to violate the official word. Even I was to meet the girl who would become my wife and an American Citizen.

"In Jan. 1944, we received replacements from the States. They were

outstanding young men, many of them college graduates, and they learned very quickly. Land was leased from New Zealand farmers and a training program was initiated. It was remarkable what the fresh meat and dairy did for us scarecrows. My own case was extreme but from the 125 lbs. I weighed, after my bout with hepatitis, I went up to 175 lbs. - and it was all muscle. I was an instructor at the Div. Recon. school where I ran a map course, over rugged countryside, of about ten mi.s daily. The only vehicle in camp was the kitchen truck and it did not leave camp after dark. After hiking up and down hills all day, several nights a week I would bathe (cold water), put on what Class A uniform I had, and dogtrot over the hills to Warkworth where I would catch the bus into Devonport. I would spend about three hours visiting my fiancée and her family before catching the last bus back to Warkworth and then trotting back across the hills to camp. It was roughly 6 - 7 mi.s across terrain



Joe Cohn, Salinski, File -
Queen St., Auckland, N.Z. '43

I never saw in daylight and I guided myself by the Southern Cross.

"Toward the end of Feb., we were alerted to move out. Our Idyll was over. Gen. Collins had been returned to the ZI and his replacement (Mullins?) was concerned with the ability of the Div. to live up to the reputation created by Lightning Joe. We moved down to Auckland where the 1 Btn. boarded the ATS Georgia Clymer. While we were standing at dock waiting to board, two of my buddies showed up carrying a duffle bag between them. This particular bag being full of beer - almost fifty quart bottles. They were debating how they could smuggle it aboard ship since the gangplank was too narrow for two

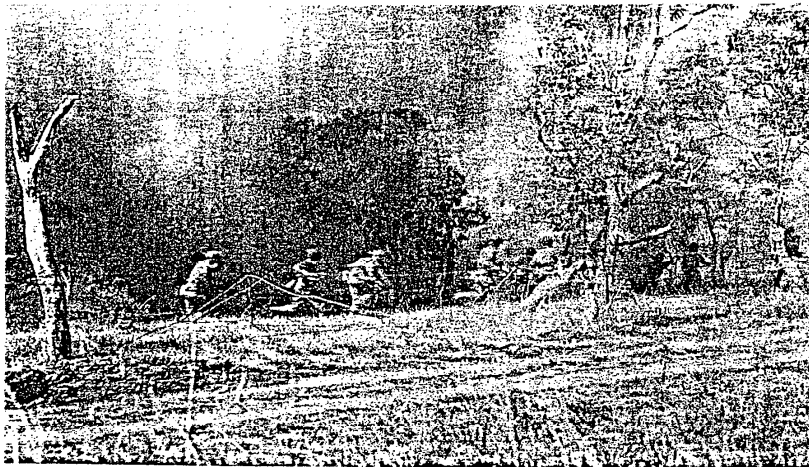
watch. They asked me for help and we tied my duffle bag to theirs and, hanging them over my shoulder, I carried the load aboard. Once clear of the watch they reclaimed their beer. By the time I got my platoon quartered and duty assignments handed out - it was too late. The beer was all gone.

"A large group of young ladies chartered one of the local ferries to carry them back and forth as close to the transport as authority would allow. They rode back and forth all night long, calling out to their boy friends each time they passed the transport. It developed that Skinner's girl-friend had an extremely piercing voice and each time the ferry would approach she would cut loose, "Skinner! Clarence Skinner!" over and over till the boat passed out of earshot. My fiancée was not in the group; but, the next morning I saw her at the railing of the ferry boat on her way to work in Auckland. With my field glasses I could see her forlornly waving her handkerchief, but unable to distinguish me at that distance."

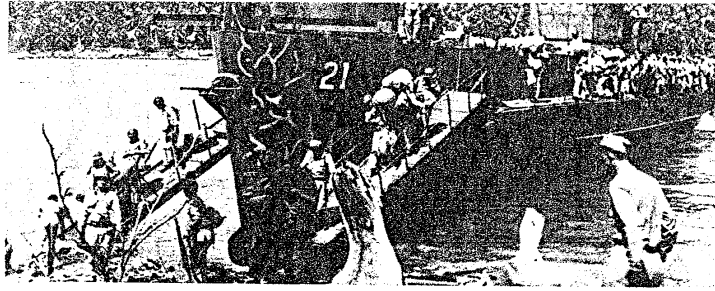
Chapter 11
Recommended for Further Military Training
New Cal

(File)"When we unloaded in Noumea, New Caledonia it was beginning to rain. We were trucked miles down the coast from Noumea to a campsite on a red clay plateau covered with guava bushes and a smallish tree that had a soft white bark.. By that time it was pouring (I don't know - and I never got an answer - why in hell it seemed it always had to rain when we were moving. I guess the Army had planned it that way.) and the clay was a sea ankle deep of red mud everywhere except where vehicles had plowed thru - there it was knee deep. We struggled thru the mud to get our pyramidal tents to their assigned spaces, then erected them and began digging drainage ditches in case it rained. Fortunately, altho the rain felt as cold as sleet, the temperature was actually warm and the exercise kept us steamed up.

"Altho my platoon was carried on the TO as an Infantry Anti-tank Platoon, Hq. Co., 1 Btn., it had been decided that because of the paucity of Jap armor, we would relegate the AT assignment to secondary status. We would keep the guns and train with them, but our primary duty would be recon, answering to Btn. S-2. This suited me just fine because the S-2, Lt. Williams, was a sensible man that I got along with well. I split the platoon into three patrol teams and began training them in foot and beach recon. In this training I was working closely with Reese, "Pinky" Clift and others in the S-2 Section. We made a game out of it and worked hard. We spent weeks on the beach, practicing night landings from rubber rafts and engineer boats. I taught them how to draw panoramic sketches of terrain and analyze soil samples to determine suitability for vehicle movement. I really enjoyed the training and tried to impart my feelings to the men under me. I had a short break from training when I spent a few days in the hospital for surgery on my legs. The day I returned to duty I was asked if I would fight for the Regiment. While I was in the hospital there had been a smoker between the 27th and 161. The Wolfhounds had been shellacked



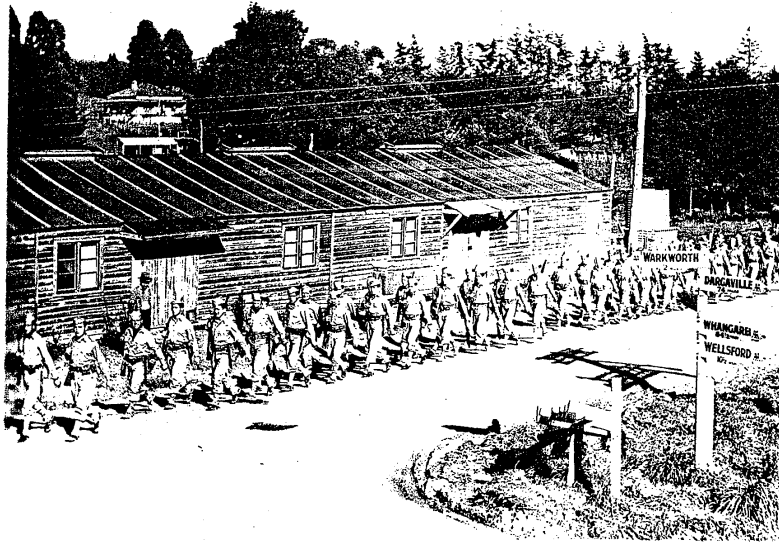
Members of the "Tropic Lightning" Division charge across a barbed wire entanglement during training maneuvers on New Caledonia.



Troops disembark LCI to occupy another island.



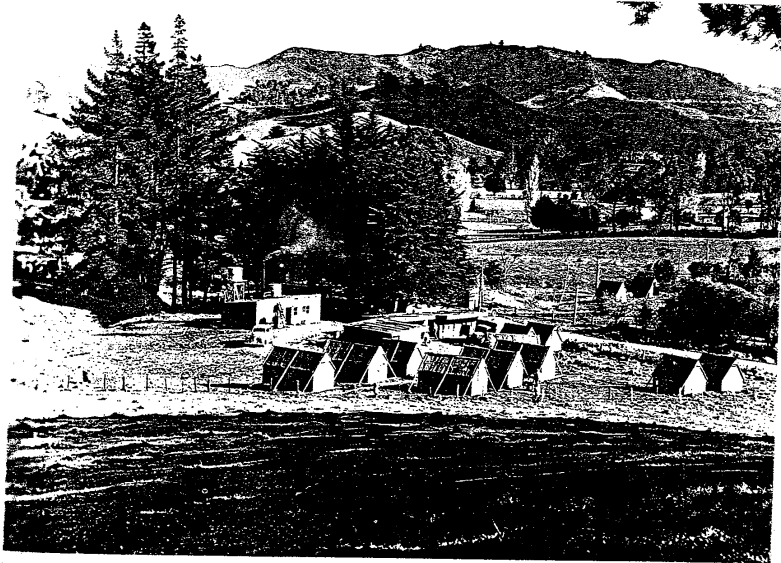
'Riverina', Warkworth headquarters of the 43rd division US Army units and also the 25th Division units in the district. 'Riverina' was built for Nathaniel Wilson founder of Wilson Cement NZ Ltd. Its owner today is Mrs Beverley Simmons.
Tudor Collins



The gravel crunchers. Men of the infantry of the US Army on a route march in the Warkworth district, 1943. *Tudor Collins*



Men of the US Forces march down Queen Street Auckland. St James Theatre is on the left. 25 November 1942. *NZ Herald*



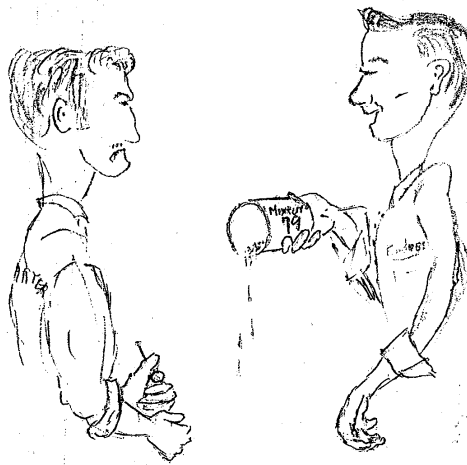
A typical US Army outpost with two- and four-men huts. State Highway 1 winds away to Wellsford and the North. *Tudor Collins*



US Army men try out New Zealand beer with their 'chow', 1943. *Tudor Collins*

"and were arranging another smoker, but this time they were assembling what was left of the peace time Regimental boxing team. The award was going to be a case of Stateside beer for each winner. I agreed to fight, saying that I thought I should be able to get back into shape in two, or three weeks. No one argued with that - the next day I learned the smoker was for the following night and I still had the stitches in my legs. But I couldn't let the Rgt. down and the next night found me in faded trunks and moldy tennis shoes, waiting ringside while the lightweight went thru their rounds. The Wolfhounds won every fight that night to re-establish their supremacy in the field of fisticuffs. And then we couldn't find the beer! I still don't know who got it. (Coincidentally enough, author had a work companion who was a First Sgt. in the 161, we had four 25 Div. men in our office, and he still laughs knowingly when I inquired about that missing beer.) The day I went back to the hospital for check up one of the officers in the Btn. asked me to go to the Navy small stores in Noumea and buy him a pair of Navy low quarter shoes. I agreed to get him the shoes without giving thought to the consequences. The Gen. Hospital was several miles out of Noumea and my pass only covered transportation between the Rgtl. area and the hospital. It didn't cover going to Noumea. When I left the hospital I was riding a ration truck into Noumea, and making arrangements with the driver to pick me up on the way back. Having time to kill I dropped into a local Gin Mill and got nailed by the S.P. I ended up in front of the First Sgt. the next day who listened gleefully as the M.P. related the details. The Bulldog, Bernier, and I didn't see eye to eye and he encouraged the C.O., Capt. Pickett, to take action. The following morning I was informed there was a phone call for me in the orderly tent and the caller said, "This is Bledsoe. (Col. Bledsoe, Div. CS) File, what in hell have you been up to now!?" I gave him the details and he said, "Now listen to this young man!" All I could hear was paper tearing. "That was your delinquency report I just tore up. Now go and sin no more." I thanked the Col. and went
to sin no more."

I couldn't find an apple,
so I used applesauce.



back to my tent. A week later I was still under arrest - which was 144
against ARs. I had been under arrest over a week and 24 hours was
prescribed for charges, or release to be made. I requested of the
CO to be released and the Bulldog said, "We're waiting for that report
to come back down so courts martial proceedings can take place." I
then told them there will never be a MP report come down on me since
the Div. CS tore up that report. I again requested release so I could
get back to training my platoon. With that I excused myself and left
the orderly room tent. The next day Capt. Pickett went to the hospital
and the Top never bothered me again.

"We continued hard training, however morale formed a problem in
the Army's rotation system. At the time a percentage of each command
was to be rotated to the ZI monthly, based on length of overseas
service, and every non-com in the 25th had at least 3 yrs. overseas.
Div. Hqs. could not allow the non-com ranks to be decimated and a
policy was set up whereby a percentage of each rank would be rotated.
This plan heavily favored the lower ranks and NCO's started turning in
their stripes en masse. The next edict decreed that any non-com reduced
for any reason, with or without prejudice, would not be eligible for
rotation for another six months. Morale became so bad in the Div.
that the 25th was scratched from a scheduled operation. To top it all
off, M/Sgt. Webb, Rgtl. S/Mjr., of the Wolfhounds had to go to the
hospital. (Webb left the ZI in 1918 and had not been back to the States
for the 25 intervening years and the beneficiary listed on his service
record was the U.S. Govt.). Webb carried with him to the hospital
many personnel records and data pertinent to the rotation situation.
(I found Webb, after the War, living in an apartment by himself in Frisco,
a lonely old man. If it hadn't been for the rotation kick I'm sure
Webb would have stayed with the Rgt. until he died.)"

~~(Tony Crnko) "I landed 4 Mar. 1944 on Noumea, New Caledonia, and the
next day went to the 5th Repl. Depo. I was assigned to Mike Co., 27th
Rgt., and for a number of months went thru a lot of intensive training:
3 day patrol, div. maneuvers + a lot of firing."~~

"Anyone with problems were told to go to them and they would help us out. And that was the way it was. As time went by, we became closer than brothers. We worked hard

and they rewarded us with special privileges, such as hikes across the Colonial Hwy. to the beach with plenty of ammo to shoot at will. We picked up shells, cats eyes, and generally had a good time. Also, we searched the



river banks for deep holes of water for good swimming. At one part of the river there was a large tree and we tied a rope to a high branch and swung out for high diving. We played a lot of sports and, at night, we'd sit on the hill and study the stars and occasionally see a shooting meteor. We had a great view of the Southern Cross which was very beautiful. In our free time we would walk to the highway and catch a ride to Div. Area to have film developed and tank up on soft ice cream which they made in a small building beside the road. We found some lemon trees and orange groves which we raided once in a while. They were delicious and we would carry back barracks bags crammed to the top.

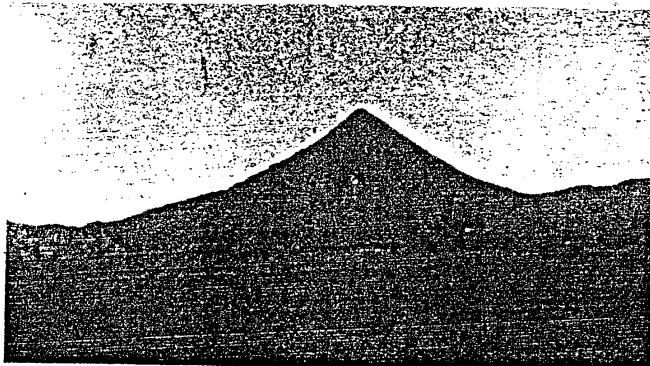
I Co. digging drainage ditches. L-R: Timmo? McAllister, Mooch, Dishner? Lucas?



Ernie Lucas and friend

Sgt. Swadiski and I were lucky enough to go to the Rest Camp in Noumea for two weeks. He had a buddy, from the Canal, who was a M.P. and really showed us a good time. No, I didn't go to the "Pink House", but Swadiski did (he was single).

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 "talked for a while and finally he said he would volunteer if I would. That's how we became members of the Assault Platoon. He name was Donald Lambert, from Mo. (my youngest son bears his name) - he was later killed by a Jap sniper.



The infamous "Tillies Tit", New Cal.
 a 30-06 and scope, two BAR men, and four riflemen. Later, in combat, we had available a 37mm rifle with base plate and M3 sub-machine guns."

In Nov. 1944, the Regimental C.O. was informed that the Wolfhounds would be engaged in the Luzon operation of the Philippine Liberation Campaign, Code name Mike I of Musketeer III. The Division was scheduled to land over the beaches adjacent to Lingayen Gulf with the mission of 6 Army Reserve. Originally the Target Date was 20 Dec. 1944; however, this was changed to 9 Jan 1945. Prior to this the Div. was scheduled for operations on Bougainville, but this was cancelled.

After study of info supplied by SoWePac Area of terrain studies and intel reports, study of I Corps F.O.s XIV Corps & 25 Div F.O.s public -

"Lt. Kaza got us organized with special help from weapons specialists the platoon consisting of two flame thrower teams, two bazooka teams, one demolition team with a team man back up, two sub Thompsons, one sniper with



Flamethrower Team. Top: Gainous, Ierne

and Rear Echelon.

(Les Thomas, 2/Lt, 27 Rgt.) "This was a sure sign - we had shoe inspection (Gen. Brown, our unsung hero). Shoes in combat were just as important as amphibious training. A soldier marches on his feet and not his stomach. Oh yes, Were we the only ones to have our own overseas library."

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. b. (3) (c) 1. To seize by an airborne operation, in conjunction with ground forces, any of the following objectives:
 - a. SAN JOSE
 - b. CABANATUAN
 - c. TARIAC
 - d. CLARK FIELD
 - e. MALCLOS
 - f. DINALUPIHAN - KULIS
 2. To move by air transportation or, if necessary, by water transportation to the LINGAYEN GULF area.
 - (d) 158 RCT, reinforced:
 1. Will, on S/2 at a time to be announced, land north of MABILAO (MABILAG) within the zone of action of I Corps, will pass through the north flank of the I Corps beachhead, attack north and capture RABON.
 2. Will block the advance of hostile forces from the direction of SAN FERNANDO, and will protect the north flank of the Sixth Army.
 3. Will establish and maintain contact with I Corps.
 - (e) 13th Armored Group will land in the DAGUPAN-DAMORTIS area commencing on S/2 and move to an assembly area in the vicinity of POZORRUBIO prepared to launch an armored attack in the zone of advance of either Corps.
 - (f) 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion will, on S/1, land in the DAGUPAN area and assemble in Sixth Army Reserve.
 - (g) 1. 25th Infantry Division, reinforced, will, initially afloat in Sixth Army Reserve, be prepared:
 - a. To reinforce either the I or XIV Corps in the LINGAYEN GULF area with one RCT on S/2 and the remainder of the division by S/4. (Plan B)
 - b. To reinforce the 158 RCT in its initial objective area with one RCT. (Plan C)
 - c. To land in the DAGUPAN-DAMORTIS area commencing on S/2 and move to an assembly area in the vicinity of BINALONAN. (Plan A)
 2. Tentative allocation of RCT's to reinforce assault troops on S/2 per plans B and C:

XIV Corps - 27 RCT
I Corps - 161 RCT
158 RCT - 35 RCT
2. a. The 27 RCT will, initially afloat as part of the 25th Division in Sixth Army Reserve, be prepared:
 - (1) To land in reinforcement of XIV Corps on S/2. (Plan B)
 - (2) To land in I Corps zone of action when ordered by CG, 25 Div at any time between S/2 and S/4. (Plan B)
 - (3) To land in the I Corps zone of action when ordered by CG, 25 Div prepared to move to division assembly area vicinity BINALONAN. (Plan A)
 - (4) To execute the mission tentatively assigned all other RCT's in the event of unforeseen change in plans.
 - b. S-Day: To be announced.
 - H-Hour: To be announced.
 - c. Troops: Annex 2, Troop List

~~TOP SECRET~~