



## Marines Prepare to Land

It isn't often that a sea going Marine is afforded the opportunity to take part in an amphibious landing on enemy shores. However, in the case of our Marine detachment such a cherished dream came true when it participated in the initial landings and occupation of the Japanese mainland.

Our Leathernecks were organized into a Rifle Platoon (1stLt. Stan SCHLUTER) and two machine gun sections (1stLt. Jim EMBEY). As such they were incorporated into "Charlie" Company, First Battalion of the THIRD FLEET Marine Landing Force. This company was composed of the Marines from the carriers of Task Group 38.1, and commanded by Captain Philip H. MC AKULE, of the "Busy B".

The Gyrenes embarked aboard the transport Garrard on 29 August. From then until D-Day (30 August) all effort was concentrated on a rigorous training program. Long hours were spent briefing officers and men on the job ahead. Their objective was the air-strip at Yokosuka, Japan.

Our boys hit the beach on D-Day at 11 plus one hour and lost no time setting up a perimeter defense about the airfield.

And thus another item is entered in the already colorful annals of the Lemningtons history. Our Marine Detachment was numbered among the first allied troops to set foot on the Japanese mainland. Further, the Battalion Medical Officer (Lt. Col. JOHNSON), the Battalion Chaplain (Lt. WEBB), and the Landing Force beach disposal officer (Lt. WEEMS) with his bluejacket Gunners Mate hailed from the CV-20.

Our fighting ship not only contributed to the defeat of the Japanese from the air, but also sent troops ashore to aid in the enforcement of the terms of the peace treaty. By golly, the "Busy B" really gets around.

## The Disbursing Office

Perhaps many of you have seen a small community bank where all the neighboring families come and go, transacting their businesses of depositing or drawing money as was the occasion. Perhaps, at the time, it may have seemed as though the bank was doing a rushing business, and for a small community it probably was.

The disbursing office of the BENNINGTON is very similar to a community banking concern, only on a much larger scale. Many small banks would prosper endlessly if they had the monthly turnover of the ship's "pay office". For instance, an average of the monthly payrolls shows that the officers and men draw close to \$150,000 in cash and checks each month. If the entire crew drew all the money it had accrued up to 31 August, I assure you the amount would have been nothing to sneeze at, unless you consider \$664,000 a meager amount.

The ship left the United States with \$1,000,000 on hand. The amount on hand, to date, is \$730,000. It may seem funny that the disbursing officer has not run out of cash long before now, but if you remember rightly there have been five places where money could be taken ashore and spent in any great amounts. Most of the money drawn on payday is exchanged for money orders at the post office, which is in turn turned over to the disbursing officer each night. A check is drawn, payable to the Postmaster back in the states, and thus, the disbursing officer retains some of the cash paid to the officers and men in the pay line.

In a like manner the amounts of cash which are received by our two ship's stores, the soda fountain, and clothing and small stores, which amounts to approximately

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**Nobody Misses This One  
It's a Pay Line**