

MARINES WANDER AMONG JAPANESE AT NAHA FIELD

Reconnaissance Patrols Paddle Over Water to Stroll Among Japanese

By Edward Thomas (United Press Correspondent)
Naha, Okinawa, June 2.—(Delayed). (U.P.) (via Navy radio)—16 marine volunteers paddled across Naha harbor to the Oroku peninsula last night and wandered for three hours among the Japanese defenders of Naha air field. They returned unharmed to headquarters here today.

These men were the first to cross Naha harbor, and it was the kind of job they have been doing since the marines landed on Okinawa. They are members of the sixth reconnaissance company commanded by Major Anthony Walker, Washington, D. C. Probing ahead of the front lines is its specialty.

Four Patrols
The 16 marines were divided into four patrols, led by Corporals Gardner O'Brien, Beverly Mass.; John Watson, Wilkesburg, Penn.; Harold H. Zaw, Detroit, Mich., and Walter Curtis, Boston, Mass.

They paddled through treacherous currents and over razor sharp coral reefs to reach the Oroku peninsula, which juts into the China Sea below Naha. O'Brien said his patrol landed at 10 p. m. on the northernmost coral spit of the peninsula. After walking for a while to get his bearings, "I paraded right up the middle of the road." He entered the outskirts of Kagamisul, a village only 200 yards north of Naha air field—the best on Okinawa.

No Japs Seen
"We heard somebody firing a few rounds of mortars nearby," O'Brien said, "and there was some rifle fire further down the beach. But I didn't see a single Jap soldier. Just as we were entering Kagamisul, we ducked into a ditch and watched two Okinawans walk by, only ten yards away."

"I think we could have gone right through town and onto the air field, but that wasn't our mission. The road wasn't mined, and apparently there weren't many Japanese soldiers around. We took our time and went back to the beach the same way we had come—right down the middle of the road."

Members of O'Brien's patrol were Pvt. Edward Grossman, Hudson, N. Y.; Elbert Woodhams, Sonora, Cal., and James K. Burkart, Charleston, N. C.

Currents Strong
Watson's patrol spotted five Japanese on a pint-sized lighthouse on the southern shore of Naha harbor, but they didn't fire on them. This patrol also reconnoitered for three hours before returning to its boat.

"The Japanese threw four or five rifle bullets at us when we left, but that was all. We had more trouble with strong currents. They carried us eight or nine hundred yards from the spot we had picked out for a landing, Watson said.

"It wasn't so nice floating around that harbor in the darkness, particularly after we spotted a horned mine bobbing near us."

Watson's patrol included Pvt. R. M. Wilson, Houston, Texas; Lyle Phillips, Oklahoma City; and Elsworth G. Waters, Rochester, N. Y.

Hayes' patrol included Pvt. Robert L. Phillips, Wheeling, W. Va.; Charles R. Morely, Gloversville, N. Y., and Gardner Rivers, Winter Haven, Fla. Curtis' patrol included Pvt. Raymond L. Keel, Windsor, N. Y.; San Knase, St. Paul, Minn.; and Paul Rawlis, Old Orchard, Me.

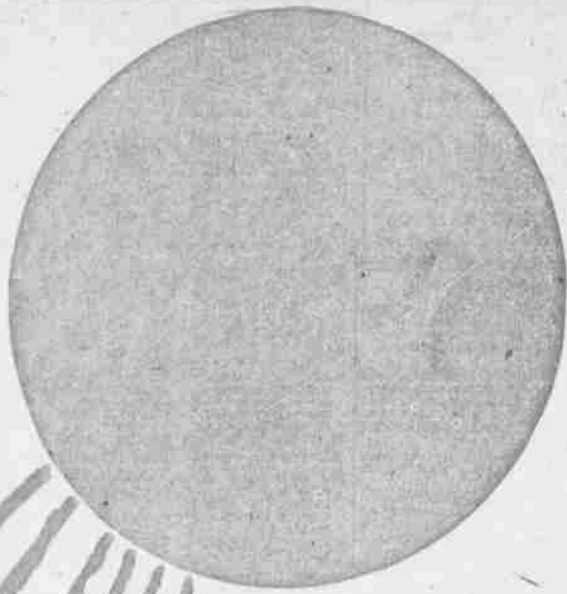
STRIKE SETTLED
Burbank, Calif., June 6.—(U.P.) Lockheed Aircraft corporation workers who two weeks ago voted more than two to one for a strike today settled their differences with the management by signing a new contract and renewing a no strike pledge.

TO END BRIDGE TOLLS
Sacramento, June 6.—(U.P.)—The State Toll Bridge authority today unanimously voted to end toll collections on the Carquinez and Antioch bridges on Aug. 1.

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