

Bethlehemite On Leave from "Seabee" Duties

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Leonard R. Repash, BM2c. Navy Seabee of 618 South Lynn Street, Bethlehem, member of the "Lucky Thirteenth" construction battalion, is back for a well-earned leave after a year of hard work at Dutch Harbor and vicinity, West Coast Navy officials announced today.

"The thirteenth was a hard-working battalion, and its achievements in terms of completed jobs in the Aleutians justify the pride we take in our boys," declared Lieutenant E. C. Singletary, (CEC), USNR, commanding officer.

From the time the Thirteenth left its training station at Norfolk, Va., with three black cats as mascots, good fortune followed the fighting Seabees. They arrived at their West Coast embarkation port August 13, 1942. They left Dutch Harbor on a Friday the thirteenth—in the thirteenth month of active duty. Furthermore, the battalion returned without a casualty from accident, illness, or enemy action.

During their stay at Dutch Harbor, the Seabees extended airport facilities, built a hospital, constructed a theater, completed breakwater, dock, and warehouse projects, and built their own quarters known as "Sheep Ranch Village."

This camp consisted of pre-fabricated cabanas in place of the Quonset huts usually associated with the Seabees at advance base. In addition small detachments from the battalion performed many special assignments.

Recent American successes in the Aleutians, Navy officers said, testify to the value of the Seabees' projects.

After completing their rest leave, some of the men will return to the reorganized thirteenth, while others will form the nucleus for new battalions in this rapidly expanding Navy activity.