

Stivale, Joseph J.

## So Near, Yet So Far: Local Gob 100-Yards Off Beach Since D-Day

NOV 30 1944

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### Aboard Sea-Going Filling Station In South Pacific

By SGT. BILL ALLEN

(Marine Corps Combat Correspondent)

**SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC**  
(Delayed)—Since D-Day, four Navy men have been 100 yards from the beachhead here.

Through the din of battle and whistling shells of the naval bombardment, a strange looking craft, resembling a floating wharf, chugged into the harbor and dropped anchor as Japanese rifle and machine gun bullets cut patterns in the water around it, and there it has stayed.

The "River Boys," as the four sailors call themselves, were—and still are—a vital link in the invasion chain. They operated their odd looking craft as a sea-going filling station. Small boats, Higgins boats, dredges and even outboard motor-boats were serviced and kept moving between ship and shore.

The sharp coral reef that fringed this island was well known to the Navy and Marines and the "Godd

Ship Phooie" was one of the answers in combating it. ("Phooie" as a Bronx cheer to the reefs and Japs.)

Manning the "Phooie" are S. 1-c. Joseph J. Stivale, of 3081 East 33rd Street, New York City; MM. 3-c. George A. Enstrom, of 1167 Dover Lane, Bethlehem, Pa.; Shipfitter 3-c. Elmer L. Ballinger, of 1330 First Avenue, Terre Haute, Ind., and Storekeeper 2-c. Harold Falkof, of 8 Ransom Road, Brighton, Mass.

Nov. 30, 1944