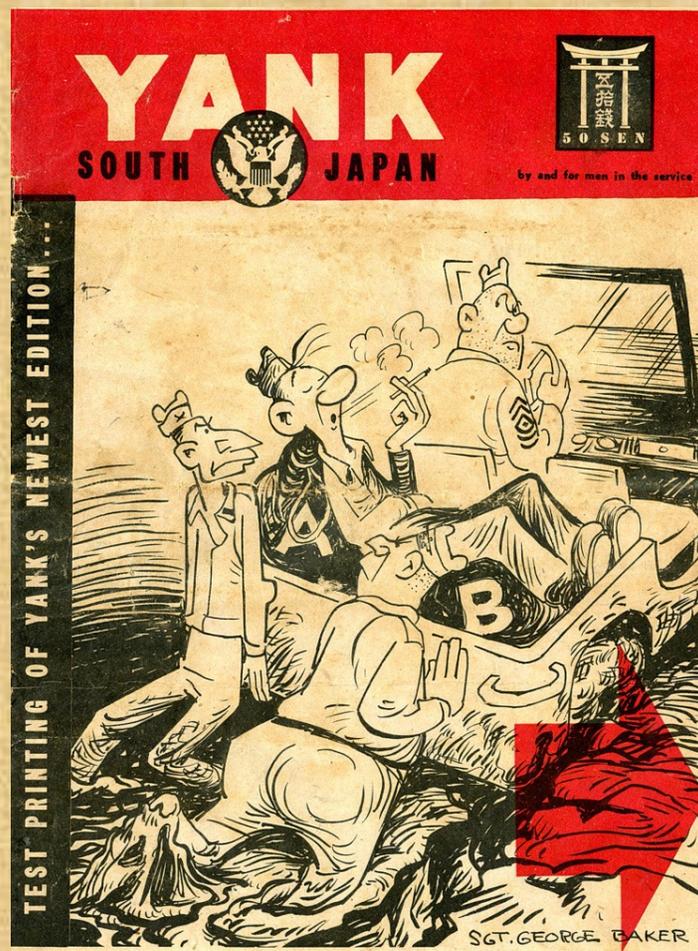


YANK MAGAZINE ON OKINAWA 1945

Yank, the Army Weekly was a weekly magazine published by the United States military during World War II. The first issue was published with the cover date of June 17, 1942. The magazine was written by enlisted rank soldiers only and was made available to the soldiers, sailors, and airmen serving overseas. It was published at facilities around the world—British, Mediterranean, Continental, and Western Pacific—for a total of 21 editions in 17 countries. Yank was the most widely read magazine in the history of the U.S. military, achieving a worldwide circulation of more than 2.6 million. Each issue was priced from five cents to 10 cents because it was felt that if soldiers paid, they would have a higher regard for the publication. Each issue was edited in New York City and then shipped for printing around the world where staff editors added local stories. The last issue was published 28 December 1945.

This is the story of the publication of Yank magazine on Okinawa,
known as the South Japan edition.



AUGUST TEST ISSUE

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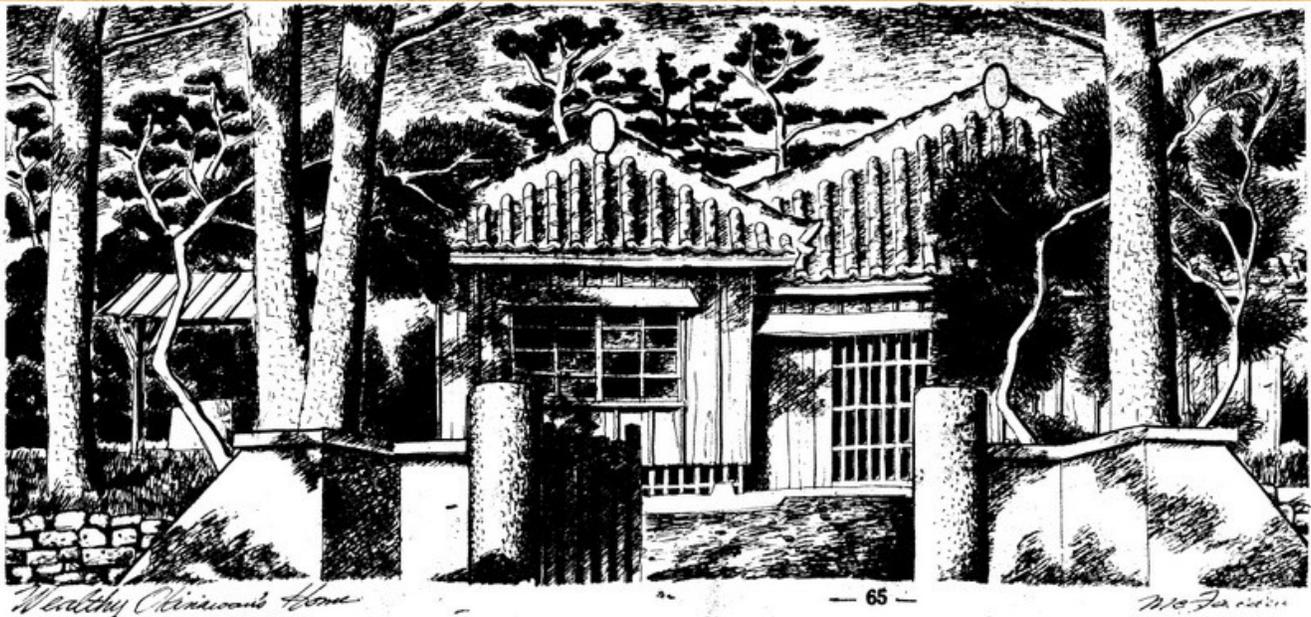
FIRST EDITION SOUTH JAPAN (OKINAWA)

YANK MAGAZINE

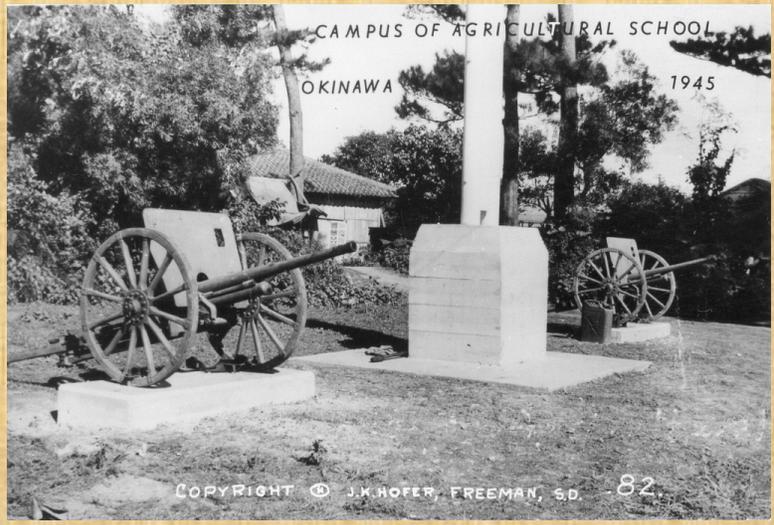
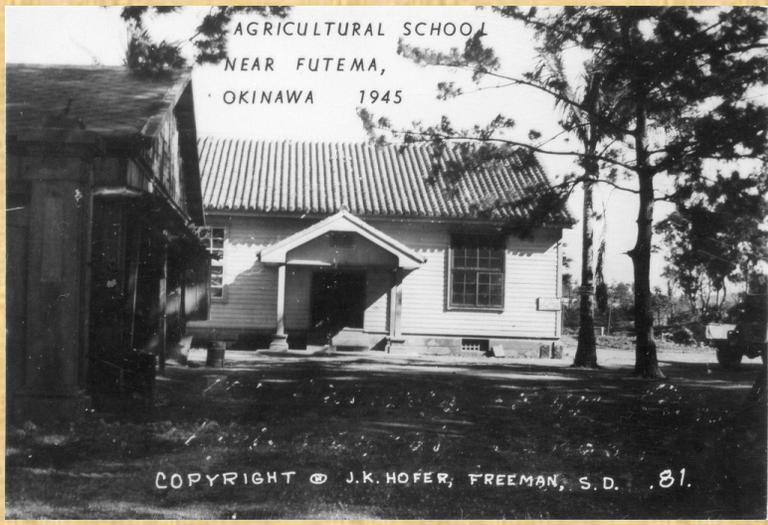
14 SEPT. 1945



1945 PHOTO OF THE YANK MAGAZINE BUILDINGS AT FUTENMA



SKETCH OF WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE YANK MAGAZINE/DAILY OKINAWAN NEWSPAPER BUILDINGS AT FUTENMA BY IRWIN MCFADDEN, SKETCH ARTIST FOR THE DAILY OKINAWAN NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY OKINAWAN NEWSPAPER IN 1946



1945 PHOTOS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AT FUTENMA WHICH WAS THE HOME OF YANK MAGAZINE

DISTRIBUTION POINTS FOR DAILY OKINAWAN

Daily Okinawan Headquarters, formerly "YANK" magazine headquarters at the junction of highways No. 30 and No. 5; the Naval Supply Depot, at entrance of main gate in native Okinawan building on right hand side of road past the MP booth; Kuba-Saki Receiving Station at the large Butler building, located on the east side of highway No. 13 opposite the football field; the Yonabaru Naval Air Base, in a bin located on the east side of the post office; at the O.O.D. shack at Buckner Bay.

Approximately 9,000 copies of this paper are allotted daily to the Navy and Marines. Make sure you receive your copy.

DAILY OKINAWAN MILITARY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH INDICATES THAT THEY WERE USING THE SAME BUILDINGS AS YANK MAGAZINE HAD USED.



1945 MILITARY ROAD MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF YANK MAGAZINE IN THE GREEN CIRCLE.

YANK



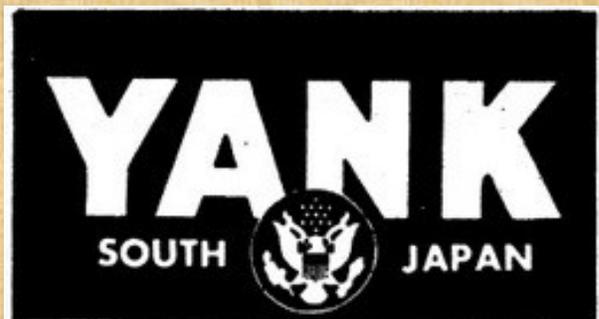
SOUTH JAPAN EDITION

PUBLISHED IN THE RYUKYUS

Editor: Sgt. Paul Showers. **Business Manager:** Sgt. Ben Kaufman. **Editorial:** Sgt. Norbert Hildebrand, Pfc. Herb Roan. **Reproduction:** Cpl. Albert Butterworth, Cpl. Robert Gwynne, Cpl. Herman Predosa, Cpl. Lester Sommers. **Circulation-Production:** Sgt. Earl Craig, Pfc. Tim Henry, Pfc. Mel Manheimer, Pfc. Eddie Rubensohn, Pfc. Joseph Rubin, Pfc. J. B. Wood, Sgt. William Craner, Sgt. Al Junkin, Pvt. Tom Labrizzi, Pfc. William Shanks. **Officer in charge:** Capt. M. P. Millham. **Executive officer:** WO Earl Erickson.

**YANK STAFF ON OKINAWA
FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE
LAST EDITION**

**YANK STAFF ON OKINAWA
FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE
FIRST EDITION**



PUBLISHED IN THE RYUKYUS

REPRODUCTION: Sgt. Albert Butterworth, Sgt. Robert Gwynne, Sgt. Herman Predosa.

CIRCULATION-PRODUCTION: Sgt. Dick Christian, Cpl. Paul Harmon, Cpl. Tim Henry, Pvt. Charles Law, Pfc. Fred Leers, Cpl. Mel Manheimer,

OFFICER IN CHARGE: Capt. M. P. Millham.

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**MAIN EDITORIAL OFFICE
205 EAST 42d STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.**

HISTORY OF YANK'S SOUTH JAPAN BUREAU
(AS WRITTEN BY S/SGT PAUL SHOWERS FIRST EDITOR OF YANK ON OKINAWA)

The story of Yank's South Japan Edition begins with the arrival on Okinawa of Bob Gwynne, our plate-room man Duke Predosa and Red Sommers, our pressmen, who flew up from Oahu and landed on June 13, 1945. They were first directed to Island Command, but being uncertain about which outfit they were to report to, they went to X Army Headquarters on the second day to consult Gen. Schick, Gen. Buckner's deputy chief of staff, whom they had met during their stay on Saipan. At Headquarters they learned that they were to be attached to Island Command, They also were generally introduced around as "Mr. Gwynne, Mr. Predosa and Mr. Sommers, of YANK" and were most cordially received by Gen. Buckner himself, who happened to pass through the room during their visit. Thus from the outset the South Japan Bureau established friendly contact with the highest command.

Gwynne, Predosa and Sommers then settled down in a tent in the mud of Island Command's ridges and gullies. At this time the fight for the island was still going on, and since Island Command was directly between two important airfields Yontan and Kadena - air raids occurred every night both singly and in bunches, like bananas. The most memorable raid of this period is reported to have been one pre-dawn attack, with ack-ack, 500 pounders and fighter duels overhead, when some object came screaming down and plunged into the earth not more than 25 yards from the foxhole which Gwynne, Predosa and Sommers were sharing. By the peculiar whistling of its descent the men decided that the object was a bomb, and when it failed to go off, they assumed it must be a delayed-action model. With the raid continuing they could only remain in their foxhole and wonder when the explosion would take place. At dawn they peered out and discovered that their bomb was only the engine of a Jap fighter that had been knocked out in one of the dogfights overhead.

A few days after landing, the three met up with Jack Ruge and Verne Roberts, who were covering the campaign and who invited the bureau man down to visit the correspondents' hovel adjoining the 96th Division's CP, where Mason Pawlak was also staying.

The CP occupied the buildings and grounds of a former agricultural school at Futema, about six miles south of Yontan and half way between the two coasts. Starting at the corner of two main highways, the property extended a couple of city blocks down one of the roads, fronted the entire length by a fine double row of pine trees and part of the way by a six-foot concrete wall with a couple of imposing granite gateways. A row of houses, most of them wrecked, was strung along the highway from the corner, ending in a group of four buildings arranged about a large open yard in the form of an L. The other two sides of the yard were enclosed by heavy six-foot earth embankments thickly planted on top with shrubs and trees.

During the two-day visit of the YANK bureau men and the YANK correspondents, the idea of obtaining this site for the bureau was developed. Ruge and Roberts had information that the 96th was preparing to move out and suggested that the location would be ideal for YANK operations centrally located for distribution, comfortably removed from primary air targets and with two large buildings in good repair. This last was the most important factor, for the fighting left practically no buildings intact any place on Okinawa. With the shipping of building materials slow and a tremendous backlog of construction orders, YANK definitely had a Housing Problem.

About June 27 Al Butterworth, our dark-room man, and Ben Kaufman, our business manager arrived by plane from Oahu. They joined the other three in a tent on the top of a ridge at Island Command where there was no foxhole and where one took shelter during raids by leaning earnestly against an earth embankment and hoping. Kaufman and Butterworth had traveled with a Capt. Sener, who was coming to join Island Command's PRO staff and who subsequently became aide to the island commander. Capt. Sener proved to be a very helpful friend of YANK from the start. By the end of written authorization to occupy property at Futema had been obtained from the land allocation board ahead of the Red Cross and several dozen other various organizations, and on or about July 1 the five bureau men packed up in a jeep and trailer borrowed from, Island Command and moved down to Futema.

The first few nights were not entirely peaceful. There were at still many armed stragglers from the Jap army wandering about the neighborhood, the nearest sizable body of troops was an MP outfit down at the corner and the possibilities for hiding places which the surrounding deserted buildings offered were not reassuring, especially after dark. At night there was a considerable amount of gunfire outside and it was not always easy to convince oneself that this was coming from the MP's trigger-happy guards. The staff moved in with one hatchet and one Carbine. By the second night there were two carbines and enough shooting nearby to warrant the posting of guards. On the third day some wire screening had been scrounged, along with a hammer, saw and some nails. After screening the outside entrances of the two rooms in the main building, which had become living quarters, the men felt sufficiently secure to abandon night guard duty,

The four buildings grouped around the large yard eventually housed the bureau. Most important was the large L-shaped building that fronted on the road. This had white plaster walls, wood floors, a tile roof which leaked under typhoons in no more than half a dozen places, and a central corridor floored in cement. Opening off either side of this corridor or in the long wing were large rooms suitable for housing the press, the stitchee, the dark room, the business and editorial offices. The wide entrance corridor in the center of the wing was set aside for the Oil's office, with the steps and portico outside screened off for a private porch. In the small wing were two little rooms for living quarters and beyond them two other rooms which eventually became a

kitchen and dining nook. At the end of the wing was a room full of benjos, the Japanese bazaar equivalent of a toilet. Eventually the benjos were tore out, the floor cemented over and showers and a sink installed.

The first work to be done was refurbishing this building. Corridors were piled with mud; glass was missing from most of the sliding window frames that made up most of the outer walls of the building. It took several days to find enough panes of glass in the neighboring buildings to fit out the frames in the main building. Several rooms were thus repaired; the living quarters were established a Coleman stove was obtained, and a supply of C and K rations moved in. Light at this time came from gasoline or kerosene lanterns.

The second most important building had been the school auditorium. At one end of the large hall, which was reserved for paper storage, were two large rooms, one of which became the officers' quarters, the other the correspondents'. The auditorium was reserved for paper storage. There was enough glass to fit out the living rooms and most of one side of the building. The openings on the other side eventually were boarded up against the weather.

To the rear of the auditorium was a smaller house of which nothing remained but the tile roof, the ceiling posts and the framework on which the floor had rested. Otherwise it had been picked bare by wandering scrounging parties. This became the dormitory for the 12 men assigned from the theater. In the end it housed kitchen facilities and a shower and washroom. The fourth building, beside the main gate, became the garage, and a shed next to it was the generator house.

Considerable work beyond the capacity of the staff was needed to convert the main building for our purposes. Work orders with various engineering outfits were arranged through Island Command for constructing partitions, laying the concrete foundation for the press, installing electric wiring, boarding up the dark room, the plate room and the press room, etc. In all this YANK enjoyed the fullest and most friendly cooperation from the local command. Many officers took the time to visit us and offer helpful advice and suggest means of accomplishing our objectives. At first the work proceeded slowly, owing to priority demands on the various work crews, but from July 23, when the concrete slab for the press was laid until the end of August, progress was continuous.

Some time about July 10 Mr. Erickson arrived, and on July 17, Norbert Hildebrand and Tim Henry, two theater men who had been assigned to the bureau in Oahu, moved in with us. Paul Showers arrived on July 20. The shipload of equipment was expected about the end of the month, but unloading was delayed for a week by a typhoon. As soon as word was received that the ship was offshore, a tentative publishing date of "on or about Sept. 1" was agreed on as a tentative goal.

All this necessitated a change in editorial plans. Back at Oahu it had looked

as if production could not possibly get under way before Dec, 1 at the earliest, since it WAS assumed that on a war-ravaged island we would have to wait our turn in obtaining a Quonset hut and getting it erected. On this assumption it had been planned to introduce the South Japan Edition with a test press run of 16 pages. The book was to consist of a special cover by George Baker and a running publicity text that would bind together Pacific combat pictures taken by YANK men, with special emphasis on the Okinawa campaign. The dummy was roughed out, the type was set and proofs were struck off. Pictures were selected from the Honolulu Bureau files, and the material was packed for shipment on a convoy scheduled to leave Oahu about July 31.

With the new deadline of Sept 1 and the material for the test run presumably somewhere in a packing case at sea, a new plan for a test run was drafted. Proposed was a souvenir book of 16 to 24 pages, depending on the amount of material available, which would tell the story of Okinawa from L Day forward. It was to consist of photographs and artists' sketches of combat and non-combat phases of GI life in the Ryukyus. The running publicity text and all captions were to be handset in phototype. Oahu was requested to send more combat pictures and GI artists and local PPOs were to be invited to submit material.

However, these plans had to be delayed for a rush assignment rounding up three combat men for interview on a projected NBC broadcast in the States on Aug. 25. Word of this was first received on July 25, with July 31 as the announced deadline for getting the script into New York. By this time combat outfits were widely scattered over the island, and the roads, especially in the less traveled areas were quagmire. The PRO of the 27th Division came to our rescue by providing transportation by Piper Cub. At this time also the island's censorship was a confusing tangle. With impending decisions at Manila about the Jurisdictions of the Army and Navy, the island's chain of censorship authority was not clear, and communications systems were changed almost from day to day. In fact, throughout the summer and early fall, the bureau operated in an atmosphere of continual change which made it necessary to alter or discard editorial plans before they could be effectively carried out.

About July 23 the additional men from the theater moved into the auditorium and under the supervision of Hildebrand set about renovating the dormitory building. This work continued for several weeks, with interruptions.

On the week-end of Sunday, July 29, Col. Forsberg and Lt. Col. Eppinger visited the bureau for a few days. The following week-end, the unloading of the ship began.

This was a busy period. One man was stationed on the ship at all times, one or two more had to be at the beach, the rest were on 24-hour duty at the bureau unloading* trucks. Everybody pitched in. We slept and ate when we

could. By day we unloaded crates and boxes. At night we had to take care of truck convoys of paper which came thundering into the yard at any hour. This night work was interrupted several times by blackouts. The engineers loaned us a crane to unload and place the heavy press sections. Everything also was done by hand. Sad Sack Baker proved to be one of the best 500-pound-paper-roll rollers on the staff. By the middle of the week we were moved in and everybody was dog tired.

Capt. Millham arrived about Aug. 7, as the moving-in was being completed, and to climax the week the false peace rumor swept the island the night of Aug. 10 - Friday. That was the night when many members of the staff were under the impression for the space of about 15 terrible minutes that we were surrounded by a Jap raiding party.

From that date forward the bureau operated under constant pressure and incredible confusion. On Sunday morning, Aug. 12, we received a good tip that the peace was to be signed on the island at 2 that afternoon. Fantastic as this seemed the rumor had to be checked. The bureau had no camera and no photographer and only one reporter, Hildebrand, who until that time had been serving on the construction gang. A photographer was borrowed from I Army; the rumor was checked and found to be false.

It is impossible to give a day-to-day account of the next three weeks. Construction work in the main building was not yet completed we were uncrating and setting up equipment in the midst of carpenters and electricians, correspondents began to move in to await the take-off for Japan. The island was alive with rumors. Officially announced plans for the occupation and transmission of copy from Japan changed frequently, making it impossible to plan coverage of the event with any degree of certainty. At first we were short of correspondents, having only Hildebrand as a writer. Tom Kane and Dale Kramer were the first correspondents to arrive as a team from Manila. Hopping up with the 11th Airborne Division, destined to be the first outfit to enter Japan, they expected to take off from Okinawa within the week. With the shifting plans for the occupation, they remained here nearly two and one half weeks, constantly on the alert. During this time more correspondents began to arrive, and eventually even our spacious living quarters were strained.

With the war obviously drawing to a close and Japan becoming the center of interest, many editorial plans for local coverage were abandoned. Until the peace began to descend, there was a wealth of material on the island. Had there been a photographer assigned to the bureau from the beginning it might have been possible to detach Hildebrand from his building chores and to supply New York with more stories. However, it is as well that this was not the case, for overnight Okinawa ceased to be a front-line story and became only one of a dozen similar rear areas in the Pacific.

It also became evident by the middle of August that our production plant

would be ready for operations before the Sept. 1 deadline. With this shortening of the time element and the editorial problem of keeping abreast of official plans for occupation of Japan, preparation of an elaborate test run, involving pages of original layouts, quantities of handset phototype and much work for a dark room that was not as yet completely equipped, was out of the question. With some difficulty the transfer of Herbert Roan from X Army to the theater T/O was accomplished. Roan moved in on Aug. 23, having worked with us in his spare time for a week previously. Had he not been available at this critical time, the test run would not have come off the press when it did nor could it possibly have had the finished touch that his professional knowledge of layout and design gave it.

The week beginning Sunday, Aug. 25, represented the climax of three weeks' intensive activity. On Monday and Tuesday 35,000 copies of the test run came off the press. By Thursday the correspondents had taken off for Japan, and by the end of the week, the first regular 24-page issue of the South Japan Edition was ready for the press. This first issue, made up largely of positives from New York's book of Aug. 31, was given a timely note on the cover, which Roan originated and executed. It showed a soldier of the 11th Airborne standing astride the map of Japan. This issue was cover-dated Sept. 14, and 70,000 copies were run off the presses beginning the following Monday, Sept. 3.

The bureau was now in successful operation. The physical plant was completed. A system of water mains which had been laid in the yard furnished water from a 5000 gallon tank, equipped with pressure pump, to two buildings. Each morning a truck came to refill the tank. There was electricity in three buildings. The crew of Okinawan girls were mastering the stitching machine sufficiently to warrant stepping up production on the second regular issue to 100,000. Hildebrand covered the arrival on Okinawa of the first five American PWs to be liberated in Japan. This story was set in type in Manila, slick proofs were returned to Okinawa, and a three-page layout, with photographs made by a borrowed photographer, appeared in the fourth regular issue, cover-dated Oct, 5.

From this time on, the bureau produced regular weekly editions until ordered to cease. - S/Sgt. PAUL SHOWERS



1945 PHOTOS OF THE YANK MAGAZINE BUILDINGS AT FUTENMA



**1946 PHOTO OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE YANK MAGAZINE BUILDINGS
AT FUTENMA, THEN IN USE BY THE DAILY OKINAWAN NEWSPAPER**