



OPEN AIR GARDEN, just one of many swank services at the fabulous Enlisted Men's Club, is enjoyed by servicemen.

## World's Most Colorful Whitehat Club

ASK ANY ONE of a hundred thousand servicemen for a description of their most popular club in the Orient and you'll receive a Jambalaya of resounding accolades.

Navymen say it has more gaiety than Paree, more variety than Ziegfeld! To some it's the Casbah transplanted to Japan, to others the boardwalk at Atlantic City or the Great White Way, yet it has plenty of pomp too.

This is the fabulous Enlisted Men's Club at Yokosuka, Japan—the largest, most colorful whitehat's club in the world!

A full meal will cost you less than a bowl of Bowery beans and for less than five bucks you can take your pick of a variety of entertainment.

As one old salt of 21 exclaimed, "Boy! This is one place where a guy with a small sized pocketbook can handle any size appetite."

A casual first visitor to the club might easily be misled into believing he had stumbled into a junior session of the United Nations for the languages he hears are a blend of French and Spanish, Japanese and Danish—and English. This is the popular gathering place not only of

our Navymen, but the servicemen of all the United Nations.

Managing the club and its 306 American and Japanese employees is Chief Petty Officer James L. Southard, USN, a veteran of 15 years' naval service and a man widely experienced in club management. Southard has stewarded, among others, the Commissioned Officer's Mess at San

Diego, Calif., the Non-Commissioned Officer's Club at Recife, Brazil, and the big general mess at the Yokosuka Navy Base from 1945 to 1948.

The club, which does an annual gross business of almost two million dollars a year, has catered to as many as 25,000 servicemen in a single day; a third as many as could be seated in Yankee Stadium or the



FROM BIG AND SMALL ships in the Orient, Navy crews look forward to liberty at Yokosuka, Japan, where famed whitehat club offers fun, food and frolic.



**MODERN EXTERIOR** of large Enlisted Men's Club houses everything from night clubs to steam baths and caters to as many as 25,000 servicemen in a day.

equivalent of a full Marine Division.

When one assesses the almost unbelievable variety of entertainment housed in this rambling labyrinth, it is not difficult to understand the exuberance of its uniformed customers, or why they have dubbed this club "Waldorf of the Orient."

Southard is eager to conduct visitors on tours of the club "to show them what Commander Fleet Activities and others have done to provide the boys with every imaginable form of wholesome, inexpensive entertainment."

**TURKEY PASSES INSPECTION** by J. L. Southard, CSC, USN, the club's manager. *Right: Judo lessons are given free.*



One highly-placed VIP from Dixie on a tour of Japan was duly impressed after such a tour and said, "Man, this place is more fun than a Fish Fry, Southern Style!"

Everything in one section is free. Here, an interested serviceman can learn judo from one of Japan's leading instructors or, if he's not inclined toward the watch-out-boy-I'll-flip-you-on-your-back sport, he can wrestle if he chooses, or box, but in any case he can finish up with a steam bath and a massage.

In the same section there are free



haircuts, shoe shines and a well stocked library, plus a reading room and music bay.

Also "presento," or free, are the offerings of the Enlisted Men's Club Theater. The thousand-seat theater features not only three daily showings of the latest Hollywood flickers but the tops in light and serious stage artistry.

The world-renowned Fujiwara Opera Company has presented its full-dress version of Madame Butterfly on several occasions while the lilting strains of Yehudi Menuhin's violin filled the auditorium on another.

At other times a man could have closed his eyes and seen Old Glory wave in Madison Square as he listened in person to the Star Spangled voice of Lucy Monroe; or he could have enjoyed vicariously white tie and tails as contralto Helen Traubel took him to the Met.

These are just a few of the many famous stars who have donated time and talent to the men away from home.

Following the shows, after curtain time entertainment is just as convenient as New York's Broadway, the Loop in Chicago or Market Street in Frisco.

Just a hop, skip, and a jump away the Navyman can dine or dance in one of several rooms, laid out in motifs so discriminating that cafe society could only nod approval.

There's the Skol Room, which is reserved for couples only, while the old-timers enjoy a bit of exclusiveness in their own lounge, the Top Three, for the first three graders. In addition, there are two other party rooms, the Hibachi and Panther Rooms.

Here again, top shows are fea-

tured. The best American and Japanese night club acts are engaged for a full hour floor show in each room. Three dance bands alternate between the lounges and for intermission variety, one Texas seaman summed it up neatly:

"That Japanese Hilly Billy Band ain't so bad at that."

From a Texan, this was top pat for the Japanese lads who don ten gallons and boots, take out their git fiddles and violins and give out with "Home on the Range" or "Turkey in the Straw."

A modern new dining room on the second floor, complete with air conditioning, picture gallery, and piped-in Viennese music, serves filet mignon steak dinners with crisp French fries, salad and dessert for a price that would probably titillate an economist—a buck twenty-five. Whole lobster, shrimp and roast prime ribs of beef are other popular items on the menu.

To give a back-home touch, the club management provides a place where sailors can feel as though they were right back there—the snack bar.

If a man's taste runs to moonlight, there's a roof garden or, if he doesn't take to altitude, he'll settle down in the garden patio on the ground floor.

There's even a section in this club where creative talent gets a boost—art classes taught by an artist who has done in bronze the busts of members of the Royal Family.

The club also has a Navy Exchange, a branch of a New York bank for yen exchanges, uniform shop and magazine shop.

The Enlisted Men's Club already has a lengthy history. It had its beginning 75 years ago when the Jap-



DOORWAY TO GOODTIMES where bluejackets of United Nations as well as U.S. gather. Below: Dance is performed during floor show in one of the lounges.

anese built it to entertain visiting royalty, then altered it to house and entertain Nipponese sailors.

At the end of the World War II, when ships of the U. S. Navy were stationed at the former Japanese naval base at Yokosuka, the club was leased for our own service personnel.

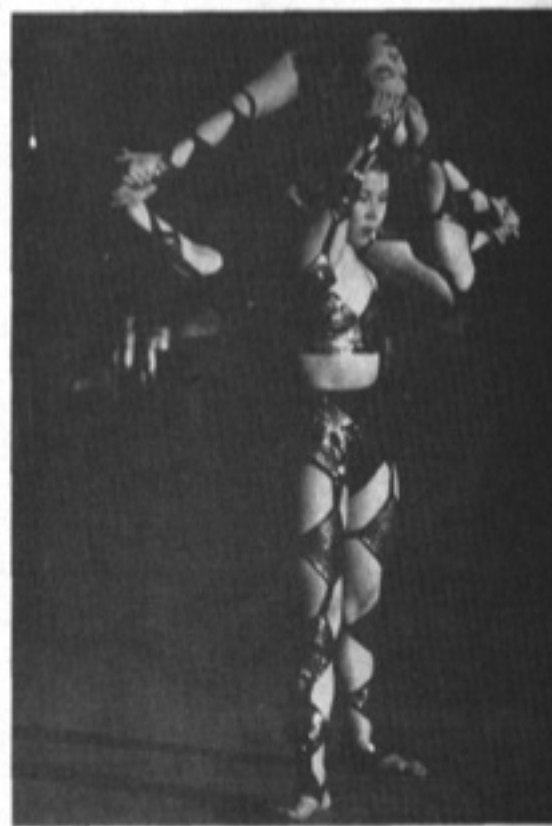
Under construction now is the United Nations Room, which when completed will be an artist's inspiration in design.

The club has a permanent force of military policemen. They are seldom called upon to quell disturbances.

Some of the happiest servicemen in these waters are those who have experienced the friendly "I am wanted" feeling which greets them at the Enlisted Men's Club.

Whatever the nationality or language, it means to these United Nations fighting men that here they are truly welcome.

—James K. Cooper, JOC, USN



IN BEST OF SURROUNDINGS a sailor can afford to eat all he wants and (rt.) watch it cook through picture window.

