

# JAPAN





## LAND OF LITTLE PEOPLE

As we pulled into Tokyo Bay, for many of us it was seeing for the first time a country with customs and habits so very different from our own. After we had pulled our first liberty we found out just how different it really was.

Yes, here we were in the land of the Rising Sun in the midst of a nation we now occupied, but whose people we found to be very cordial and gracious. We also found that the average sized or taller "swabbie" had to soon learn to duck in passing through their doorways, or he lost his head. The Japanese people are small and build their structures accordingly and we have the knots to prove it.

Yokosuka just happened to be placed in a very convenient spot for the sailor who had strict orders not to leave Japan without a little something for the wife, mother-in-law, kid brother, papa-san, and his second cousin three times removed. If you couldn't find it in Yokosuka you could make a short train trip to Yokohama, and if in no luck there, you could travel a few miles farther to Tokyo, and if you had no luck there, you might as well give up because it wasn't to be found in Japan in the first place.

Probably the only ones happier to see us than the local merchants were the "bluepackets" of DesDiv 122. They were the lucky boys we were to relieve. So, equipped with the knowledge that this wasn't altogether a pleasure trip as yet, we got down to business with the "top brass" and advised him that we were there to see what was to be done about this trouble in Korea.

After spending some time in the forward area we were met in Sasebo by the usual mass of Rickshaw Boys, eager merchants, entertainment spots and so on. However, we did find that the surroundings seemed to be somewhat newer than those in Yokosuka. In all respects this city seemed to have been born at a later date.

During our stay here we managed to squeeze in enough time to throw a ships party. This gala event (walk-in-pass-out) was held in the "strictly Japanese" hotel Ichi-Fugi. There was plenty of beer for the indulgers, soft-drinks for the non-indulgers, and a choice of either a steak dinner or sukiaki, which despite the looks was found to be very delectable. The evening was enlivened by the presence of a Japanese orchestra for dancing and the background to a floorshow.

The party had to be held two different nights to give everyone a chance to be there. It seems that they have some sort of a rule that there must be at least one-half of the crew on board to keep the little "bucket of bolts" company.

As a whole both nights went off very smoothly and everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves.

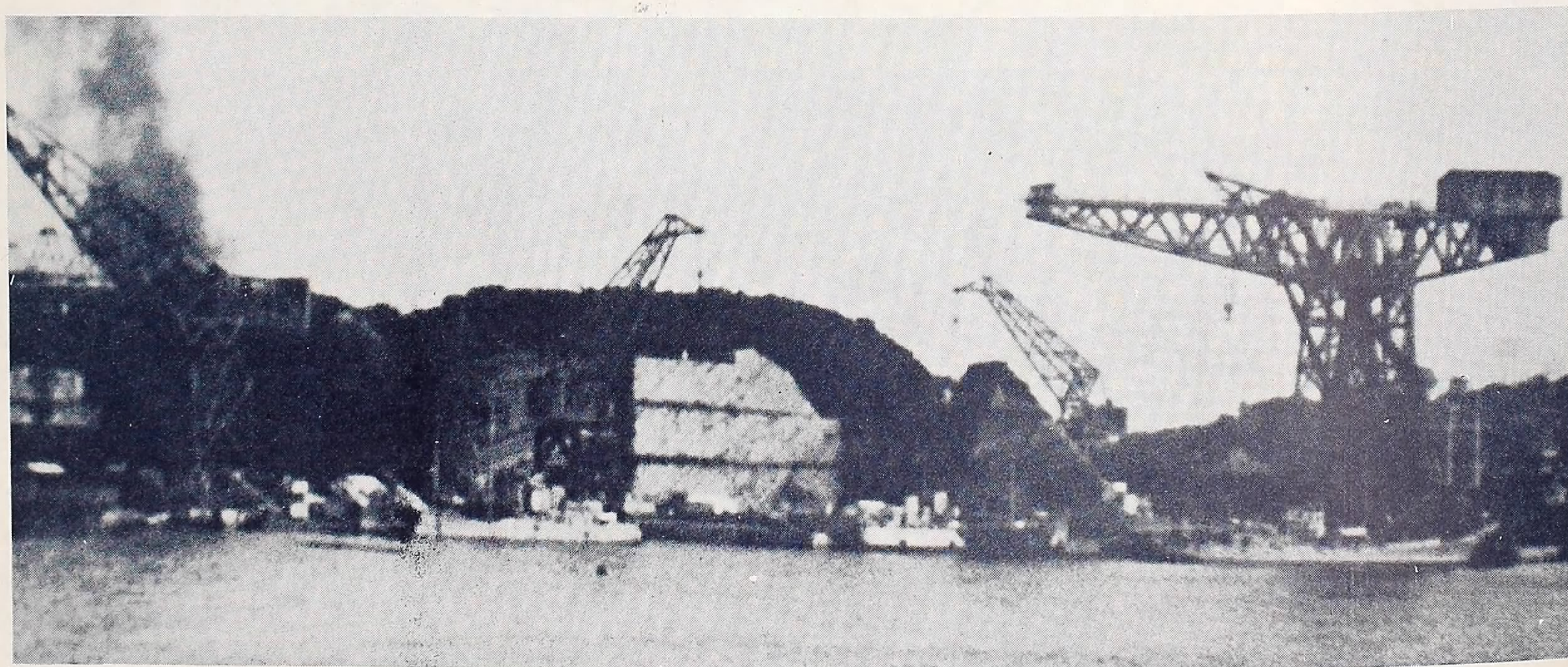
All in all, we had a good time in Japan no matter where we happened to be. There was always a very wide variety of things to do.





Street Shops  
Yokosuka

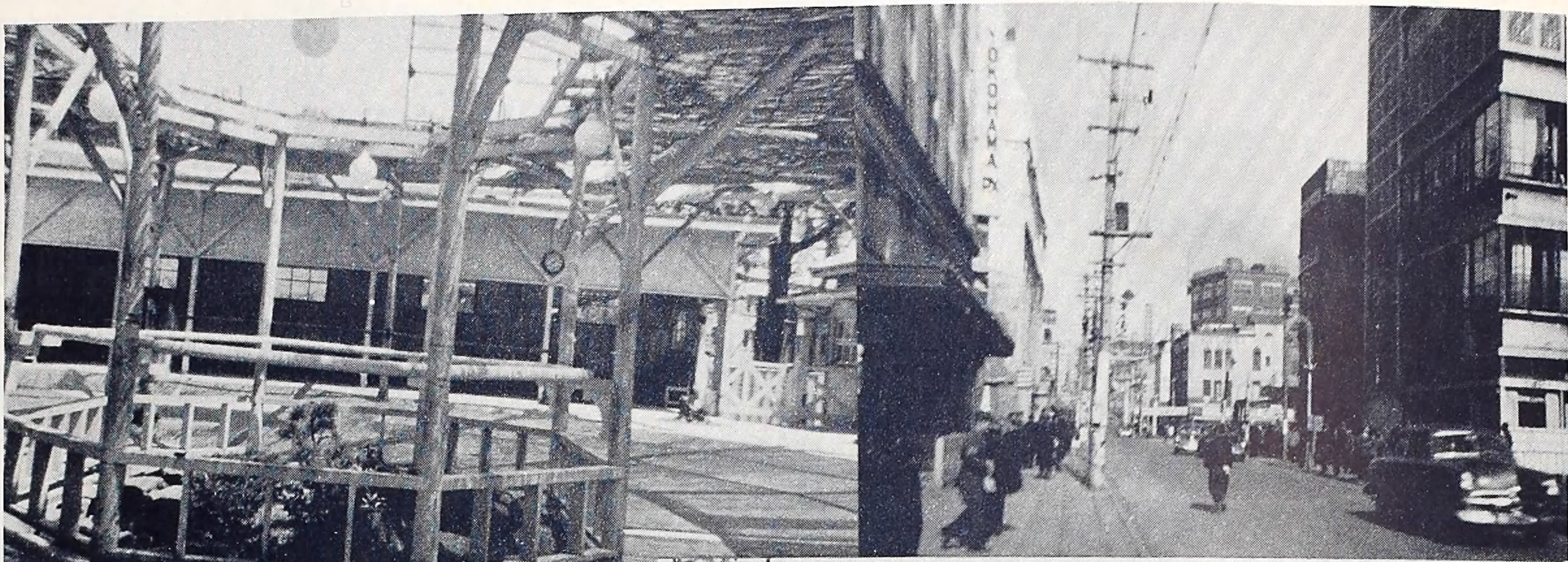
Shipyards





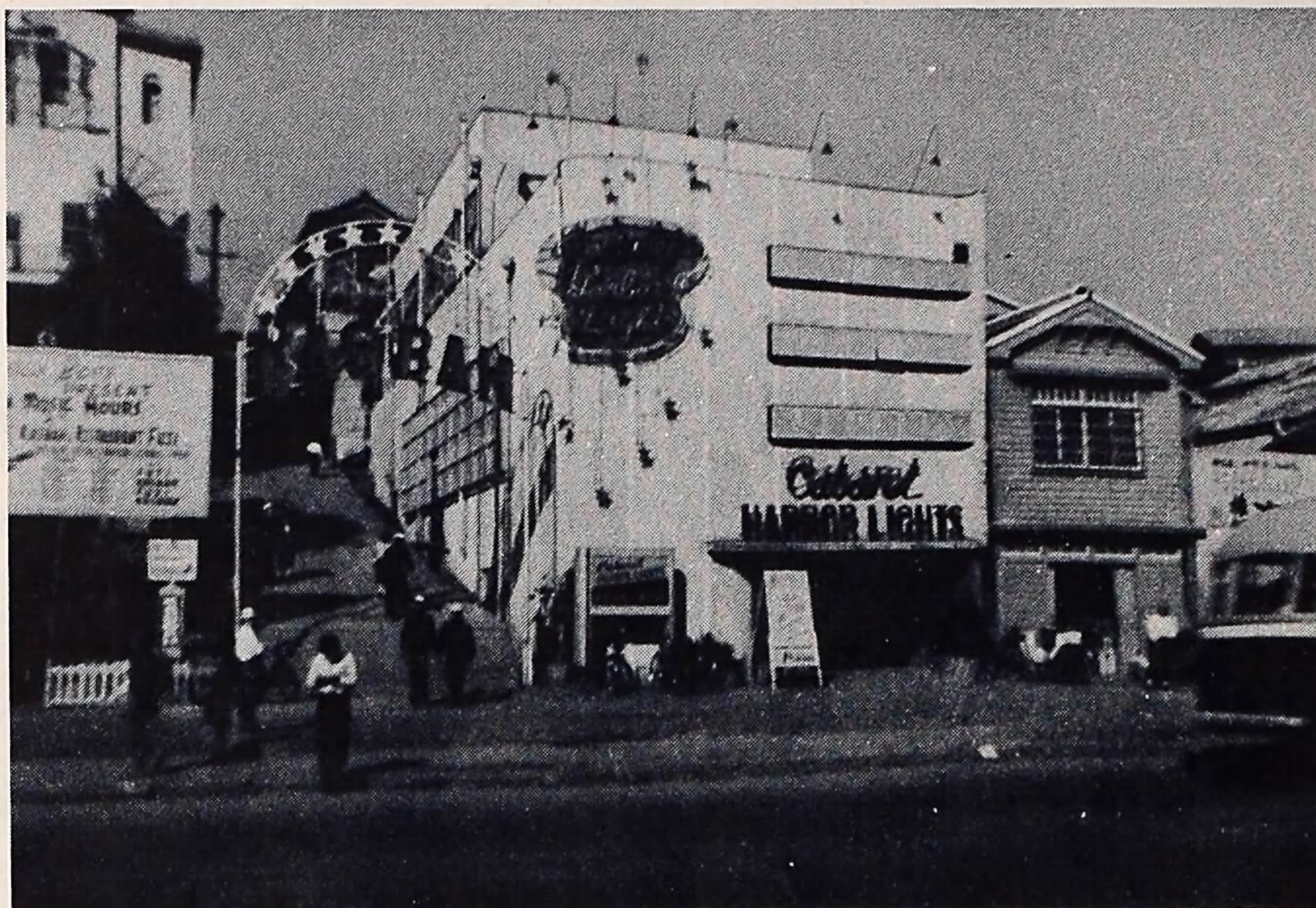








Night Clubs  
in Sasebo



Sasebo Street Scene

Japanese Sailor

