



Of the 23 transports and destroyer transports that landed on Aug 7-8, 1942, 19 belonged to the Coast Guard.

SLEEP OFF the damp ground. "Our only sleeping facilities

Four times they made a fierce charge, and four times they were repelled. Marine paratroopers were sent as reinforcements. The heavy fighting continued until the next day. When the ordeal finally ended, only 30 enemy defenders had eluded capture. A few swam to a nearby island, Nggela, and survived by eating roots and fruits. What was so important about Tulagi? Tulagi was another island, and it had no airfield. It was much tinier than Guadalcanal, but surrounding it were the encircling islets of Florida, all kinds of islets connecting jungle-sheltered narrow waterways, with numerous air reconnaissance bases supporting float planes. They had to be crushed and removed. America lost 115 Marines and seven Navy medical corpsmen in Tulagi.

On August 8, the Marines reached the plains on which the airfield was being constructed. It was partially completed. When the first squads did reach the surrounding camp area, the sight was unbelievable; it was