



# REPUBLIC AVIATION CORPORATION

FARMINGDALE, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Telephone Farmingdale 1100

## BULLETIN No. 3

March 9, 1945

### TO OUR DISTRIBUTORS:

#### THE "SEABEE" TAKES A BOW

The name "Thunderbolt Amphibian" is to be packed away in moth balls as soon as present circulars become exhausted. Instead, a great trade name is now officially adopted -- the REPUBLIC AMPHIBIAN "SEABEE".

All last year when the Amphibian was under development it had no name except the "Duck", or the "Jeep", or the "Amphib". When we came to announce it late in November, we had to find a name and though no one was quite satisfied, we called it the "Thunderbolt Amphibian" for lack of a better name. Later after the news release was out and circulars were printed the name "Seabee" was proposed -- a natural if there ever was one.

It grew on us and everytime we used it, it made us seem very close to that grand organization from whom we took the name. As the hours of flying time piled up on our experimental ship and every day proved that we had a plane worthy of the Seabee name, we wrote to Lames Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, saying in part as follows:

"In tribute to the magnificent record of the Navy Construction Battalion whose operations are so closely associated with the sea yet so much a part of the land, Republic Aviation Corporation asks the honor of naming its new amphibian, the 'Seabee'.

"Officers of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard have flown Republic's new Amphibian and now have it under consideration for possible use in sea rescue operations or for liaison purposes. Whether or not it sees war service, we believe that the naming of this plane, the 'Seabee', will be a gesture favorably received by both Navy and Army personnel because both hold the Seabees in equally high regard."

Under date of February 19<sup>th</sup>, we received the following letter from Artemus L. Gates, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air:

"The Secretary of the Navy has referred your letter of February 3<sup>rd</sup> to me for reply. The U.S. Navy is proud that the Seabee organization is to be recognized by having its name used in designating your new amphibian the "Seabee". Therefore, it is with pleasure that I advise you that the U.S. Navy has no objection to such use of the name."

This then is the story of how Republic's four-place Amphibian developed perhaps for Army and Navy sea rescue work but primarily for the American family when it takes to the air in the days of peace, came official approval of the United States Navy.

When the time comes that the first production model comes off the line, we shall ask our friends in the Navy and particularly in the Navy Construction Battalions to attend its christening.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon C. Sleeper". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gordon C. Sleeper, Sales Manager  
Personal Plane Division