

# How Fantastic Are Our Fantastic Weapons?

By Darrel Peeler

**ED. NOTE:** This article is a summary of the published data on our experimental weapons, taken from various sources. The conclusions drawn are necessarily those of the author, and are based on the known physical possibilities and limitations of the weapons involved. No consideration is given to such possibilities as an alliance with the men from Mars or the direct intervention of God. The author concedes the possibility, but considers either occurrence outside the realm of mathematical probability.

The term "fantastic" is primarily a politician's word, and, like many words used by politicians, it has little real meaning.

Few scientists would call our new developments in military arms "fantastic." Most would use the word "new" or, possibly, "unorthodox." Or, is the effects of the new weapon were far reaching enough, they might be called "revolutionary."

What, then, are our new weapons that some call "fantastic"?

Actually, we have no really new weapons, but rather improved versions of older weapons, refined to the point where we can use them under new conditions.

Outstanding among these is one which can truly be called "revolutionary"—the tactical, or battlefield, A-bomb. Now A-bombs come in three sizes—small, medium, and Lord-I'm-Coming-Home. The tactical bomb is suitable for use at close quarters, as atomic artillery or small bombs exploded over the heads of infantry.

The medium bomb is useful against marshalling yards, bridges, amphibious crossing, or any massed concentration of men or materiel. The large, or strategic, bomb is used against cities. We have seen it used in the past.

The greatest danger of this talk about "fantastic" weapons is this—we are apt to get too cocky for our own good. That kind of pride goeth before a mighty fall.

When and if we go to war, we are going to get hurt, and hurt bad. This time the ruined cities won't be in the newsreels—we'll be under them.

### THE HAVES

Let's see what we really have got—and haven't got. We have:

1. The standard, strategic A-bomb, with planes capable of delivering it. (See how quickly a "fantastic" bomb becomes "standard"?)

2. The tactical, baby, or battlefield A-bomb. Its searing air-blast leaves no lingering radiation, but it has had no combat test. (Do we hesitate out of fear of Russia's intervention?)

### Gilioli and Micallef Discuss Italy

The International Relations Club has had two meetings this semester. During the first meeting, officers were elected. In addition, plans were made for an active program. There was an encouraging turnout of students, including several freshmen.

At the second meeting, conditions in Italy were discussed. The discussion was enlivened by the presence of Enrico Gilioli and Rita Micallef, who recently came from Italy. The next meeting will be devoted to the discussion of the Korean situation by Dr. John Wilson, who was reared and educated there.

3. A workable form of atomic artillery?

4. Guided missiles (the Matador, a pilotless bomber, and the Corporal E, a German-type rocket) capable of carrying, accurately, an atomic warhead several hundreds of miles at speeds ranging up to 3,000 miles per hour. However, only one squadron has been activated to handle the former, and both are crude experimental models.

5. A wide variety of potential defensive weapons like radar, sonar, (underwater radar) and ground-to-air missiles, but in nothing like the necessary quantities to stop an attack.

6. A great deal of experimental data on both defensive and offensive biological (germ) warfare.

7. An enormous industrial potential for atomic and conventional arms. Our expanding atomic plants, for instance, are conservatively estimated to be turning out about 3,000 pounds of bomb material a year.

At fifteen pounds of fissionable material for a standard bomb, and ten or less (since the solution of the critical mass, or minimum size, problem) for the smaller bombs, we can produce with existing facilities, 200 to 300 bombs a year. Properly delivered, they could do a lot of damage.

Question: What is the other fellow doing all this time?

### THE HAVE-NOTS

We do not have:

1. The Hydrogen Bomb.

2. A transoceanic guided missile capable of carrying an atomic warhead. Even if we had a rocket capable of the distance, we have no guidance system capable of hitting, say, a target as big as the state of North Carolina. We aren't ready for a pushbutton war. We don't even have the button.

3. Atomic aircraft, nor will we have any for a decade or more.

4. An atomic submarine, though an experimental model is now under construction.

5. A warning system or defensive air force big enough to stop a determined mosquito.

6. Any effective provision for the few survivors of an atomic attack.

7. Any effective means of radiological warfare, for the battlefield or otherwise. The wind disperses "death sand" quickly, and explosives clear an easy path through it.

8. An army trained to operate on the highly mobile, self-sustained basis that will be necessary once the tactical bomb comes into wide use. When that happens, an amphibious landing, a river crossing, a movement through a mountain pass, would bring sudden and utter disaster.

Tomorrow's soldiers will have to be as highly trained, as self-sufficient, as Rangers, transported and supplied by air, and moving with tremendous speed to hit, destroy, and run. We have begun the very beginnings of that training in Nevada, where a few of our soldiers are training to operate near atomic blasts.

### What Has the Other Fellow Got?

Well, we know he has an atomic bomb, and the facilities for producing more. He has a six-year start in guided missiles, and has done a lot of research in germ warfare. We might all be drinking contaminated water tomorrow.

But, most important of all, is this. We have no basis for believing that the enemy lacks engineering skill equal to ours, or that he cannot in time match our productive capacity. Nor have we any reason to look down on him as a strategist or as a soldier. Brains and intestinal fortitude are not an American monopoly.

Furthermore, the enemy believes in what he is doing. Do we?



"Hello—Fox four? I just called for a couple little 'r'ounds of artillery. I didn't ask for no catastrophes."

BILL MAULDIN

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## Honor Board Composed Of Five Students

The Honor Board is a student organization which exists for the purpose of enforcing the regulations of the honor system of Guilford College as they apply to academic work.

It is composed of five students chosen by the joint Men's and Women's Governments from the junior and senior classes. Ideally, two juniors will be chosen one year and three the next to serve a two-year term so that the board will always have at least two experienced members carrying on from one year to the next. The sixth member is a faculty adviser, who has no vote unless requested and acts in a purely advisory capacity.

The board is concerned with cases involving cheating on examinations, homework, or papers. These cases may be reported either by a faculty member who sees evidence of cheating, or by a student who witnesses or hears of the act. In the case of reports by students, they are turned in by reporting directly to an Honor Board member or to the faculty member concerned, or by dropping a note in the cut-slip box which hangs on the stair rail in King Hall. In either case, it is important that the student reporting the violation make his name known to the board, because the writer of a note rarely includes in it all the details necessary to judge the case adequately. He is assured that his identity will be known to no one but the members of the Honor Board.

Of all the thankless jobs on the Guilford campus, Honor Board membership is probably the most thankless, at least from the point of view of glory. No glory can be gained from the work, and only the satisfaction that comes from feeling that something is being done to aid the cause of integrity compensates for the effort involved.

The honor system is an integral part of Guilford life. Upon it de-

## Annual Sadie Hawkins Square Dance Planned

The annual Sadie Hawkins Day square dance will be staged this year on Saturday night, November 17, sponsored by the SCA.

The committee has engaged the band of Jake Welker of Greensboro, and Jake, himself, will do the calling.

Stag or Drag, the tariff is \$75. Refreshments and first aid will be available to those who knock themselves out.

pends the feeling of trust which exists between faculty and students, which in turn is what gives us the freedom from supervision that we enjoy during our exams. The honor system can work only if the students want it to and are willing to do their part in supporting it. A student's part in supporting it does not consist of saying, "Three cheers for the honor system"; it consists of turning violators in to the Honor Board. There is no getting around this fact. Any student who believes in the system must be willing to do this one fundamental thing. Honor must be placed before every other consideration. Only then can our honor system work.

—H. S.

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## 'Quaker' Sponsors Photo Contest

The Quaker is sponsoring a photograph contest. The three divisions of this contest are as follows: (1) campus life, (2) dormitory life, and (3) faculty. The winner in each of these divisions will receive a five-dollar cash prize. This contest will be closed November 16. Get out your camera and get busy. The harder you work, the better the feature page will be. All pictures should be turned in to Joyce and Glenna Fulk by November 16.

Pictures of students have been taken and also advertisements are being sold. We are moving right along and any suggestions you have will be welcomed.

## Modern Dance Club Begins Year's Work

The Modern Dance Club of the W. A. A. has begun operations this year, and for its first three meetings has had an average attendance of fifteen.

Because of the various other campus organizations and their meetings, the club has been divided into two sections to avoid conflicts. The first section meets at 4:00 p.m. and the second section meets at 5:00 p.m. Every Thursday is the regular meeting time at the gymnasium.

Miss Van Dyke, senior dance student at Woman's College, is the instructor, and she has been stressing technique for the first few lessons.

The W. A. A. gives points for every meeting attended and for participation in May Day, as the Modern Dance Club is directing its activities toward May Day.

All girls are urged to attend the meetings and those interested should contact Jo Cameron, Modern Dance Chairman.

## Your Super Snooper

by ANN EVANS

Have you treated yourself to a tour of inspection of the New Ellis-Stone, located on the corner of South Elm and South Davie? If not, then come in soon.

You will really be amazed at the huge selection that is offered. You will find everything that the well dressed college student needs. Be sure to notice the new matching hats and blouses. The beanie type hats and long sleeved tailored blouses are made of the same plaid cotton material.

Now is the time to replenish your supply of sweaters. You will find a complete assortment of sweaters, including those marvelous Vicara sweaters for the fellows.

The New Ellis-Stone also has the new colored rhinestone jewelry, which does wonders in adding just the right bit of color to a sweater or suit.

If you want to be the envy of all the other girls in the dorm, don't overlook the cozy flannel pajamas and bathrobes, which you will find on the Fashion Floor. You girls that knit will be interested in the yarn department where you can get nylon Argyle Sock Packs for \$1.95.

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