

CLOUDBUSTER

VOL. 1—No. 6

SATURDAY, OCT. 24, 1942

Published weekly at the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School,
Chapel Hill, N. C.
Under supervision of the Public Relations Office.



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OWI Reports on Warplane Performance

Coupling criticism with praise, the Office of War Information on Oct. 19 reported that the performance of United States combat planes on the average has been good and that much more may be expected from new models.

OWI took the middle road in the controversy over which country's planes are best, asserting that the truth lies between two extreme viewpoints: One, that American planes are the best in the world, and the other, that British, German, and Japanese planes are superior. The U. S. aircraft industry and the armed services were said to be "in an orderly ferment of developing specialized aircraft of high, in some cases sensational, promise of battle performance." Some of these actually are flying, and production of the others has begun.

Explaining that it sought to dispel confusion over the warplane situation, OWI offered the following summary in its report:

1. The Navy entered the war with considerable quantities of aircraft not of the latest type, and unquestionably suffered losses that could have been avoided had the latest equipment been available. But secret battle reports show that the latest floating-base aircraft, when compared plane for plane with those of other navies, are superior in all types.

2. In Pacific battle areas Army flying equipment hardly can be said to have had a fair trial in the early days of the war. The disruption caused by the surprise Japanese attack and the necessity of retiring to inadequate bases imposed conditions that no aircraft could meet fully. Yet in the Pacific area, as in China, the overall battle score of Army aircraft has been better than the enemy's.

3. In the European theater, our newest fighters have not been fully tried up to now. Yet appraisal of our older fighter types—the Bell P-39 and the Curtiss P-40—compels the conclusion that they are not right for operation under today's high-altitude tactics in England. Both are outclassed in the high-altitude field by the German Messerschmitt 109 and Focke-Wulf 190. But it is one of the apparent paradoxes of aircraft performance that the P-39 has proved a splendid weapon on the Russian and Aleutian fronts, and the P-40 is a first line fighter in Egypt, and able to slug it out with the Messerschmitt 109 there on substantially even terms. This is due to the peculiarities of the tactical situations in these areas.

4. Two newer fighter types, the Lockheed P-38 and the Republic P-47, are in production and show great promise as high-altitude pursuit planes. Yet it should be understood (a) that neither plane is the complete answer to the fighter problem (probably no plane ever will be), and (b) that neither has been tested adequately in battle. Until they are, a complete judgment on their qualities must be withheld.

5. The Army's four-motored bombers have proven superior in their categories in all theaters.

6. U. S. medium and light bombers, part of the bombardment specialization peculiar to this country as a result of earlier pre-occupation with defense of our shores only, are the best in the world. They have been tested in all theaters. U. S. scout bombers, product of the Navy's long-time development of this destructive art, also are without peers among single-engine dive bombers.

7. The firepower and protection of U. S. fighting aircraft (guns, armor and leakproof fuel tanks) are equal in all cases to the best our Allies and enemy have, and in some cases are decidedly superior. In these necessities, brought forth by the war, U. S. aircraft were deficient when the war began in September, 1939, and continued deficient for months thereafter. Many lessons learned by the British and the elaboration of some of their practices, particularly for airplanes built to their order by the U. S., served largely to remedy the deficiencies by Dec. 7, 1941.

OWI said the Allison, America's liquid-cooled engine now in mass production, after three years of wide service in the Army air forces "still is a substantial jump behind its opposite numbers in the British and German air arms for altitude performance." OWI, however, called the Allison "a vastly better engine than many of its critics have made it out; few if any other liquid-cooled power plants are as rugged or as responsive to field maintenance." Research has increased its horsepower nearly 40% since Pearl Harbor.



By LIEUT. ERIC H. ARENDT
Chaplain Corps, USN

The pontifical military field mass which was celebrated in Kenan Stadium last Sunday by the Most Reverend Eugene McGuinness, Bishop of Raleigh, was a most significant occasion. I was happy to see so many non-catholic cadets, who first attended the General Service, in attendance. Although many of us must have resigned ourselves before attending this Mass to the fact that we could be nothing more than mere *observers*, I believe that most of us found ourselves in the role of a *participant*. The awe-inspiring beauty of the occasion as well as the deep spiritual significance to our Catholic *shipmates*, transferred itself into the thoughts of all in attendance.

But the significance of this occasion goes far deeper. The fact that non-catholics were *invited*—the fact that non-catholics *responded* to this invitation is really significant. It proves that in times like these, when the *spiritual* forces of our Nation are being challenged, we place "first things first" and the spirit of union against the challengers is that which gives us a tremendous power. Certainly, the response shown last Sunday is proof

Thought for Tomorrow

Fate, what on the morrow do you hold,
And what adventures will you let unfold?

Shall tomorrow be just another day,
And will its memories succumb or stay?

Shall we achieve tremendous fame and wealth,
Be blessed with happiness and health?

Or shall we travel the road in deep despair,
Our minds, our bodies, worn with strife and care?

Perhaps one close to our hearts will die,
Unkind circumstance make us cry.

Or yet perhaps the break of dawn may bring
A shining hope to which we'll tightly cling,

And through the rising hope an urge to soar
Beyond the heights we've ne'er attained before.

Or shall ideals be smashed by what we meet,
And perish in the pits of black defeat?

But no matter how dim that light of life,
No matter how heavily burdened with strife,

Let us in our hearts keep that urge to fight—
Let's make that spark a glorious light.

So as we journey on the road of life,
Let's meet alike both happiness and strife,

And pray for strength to make the destined end
A comrade not to fear but to befriend.

—CADET JOSEPH GREENAN

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Sunday Divine Services

Catholic
Masses 0615, 1000*, 1045
Confessions, Friday, 1830-1930
* Location to be determined.
All others Gerrard Hall.

Jewish
1000, Hillel House

General Protestant
1000, Memorial Hall

that the goal so often stated "in things disagreed, tolerance; in things agreed, unity" is nearer attainment. The Navy, and in particular the Chaplain Corps of the Navy, has at all times been working toward the attainment of this goal.

The Protestants who attend the General Service will, I believe, be interested in the altar equipment which they see each Sunday. It has a very real significance because every piece was made for me aboard the USS *Quincy* while it was my privilege to be serving as her chaplain. On Communion Sundays you see the chalice which was also made aboard that vessel. This equipment has always meant a great deal to me as it did to my shipmates who were instrumental in its

Navy War Bond Sales Exceed Goal by 54%

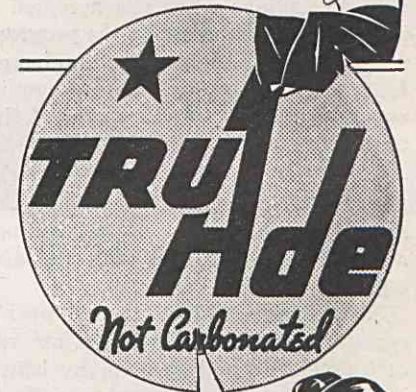
Navy personnel—officers, enlisted men, and civilians—invested a total of \$61,679,544 in War Savings bonds during the first year of the Navy Department's bond campaign which ended Sept. 30. The total was 54% above the \$40,000,000 goal set for the 12-month period.

September bond sales at Naval shore establishments amounted to \$10,506,735, which, with Naval allotments of \$579,245, made the total Navy bond sales for the month \$11,085,780.

making and presentation. Not a Sunday passes when, during the period of meditation, my thoughts and prayers are not with them. This lovely equipment has become increasingly meaningful to me of late. Perhaps it will come to mean more to you, too.

—Buy War Bonds—

"When worry gets me in a stew I always know just what to do!"



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Oct. 10, 1942—One Day Nearer Victory

