

CLOUDBUSTER

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Gilbert Islands

By ENS. W. O. SHANAHAN, USNR
Academic Department

With the stakes far greater than any we have played for in the Pacific, the Navy's opening gambit in the new offensive phase of the war brought the Gilbert Islands under American control. Although the Navy had assembled one of the greatest armadas in modern warfare, the fanatical resistance of the Japanese Imperial Marines warned that the road to Tokyo is long and hard. Our amphibious forces were obliged to pay a heavy price for the occupation of Tarawa, Makin, and Abemama, but the strategic value of these low-lying coral atolls warranted even greater sacrifices.

The Gilberts were an outpost of empire that the Japanese could ill afford to lose. Our naval forces now control more than two-thirds of the Pacific and the road is open for an assault upon the mandated islands lying to the north and west. In the Carolines and Marshalls lies the heart of the Japanese system of naval defenses. At Truk in the Carolines the Japanese have a Pacific stronghold comparable in power to Pearl Harbor.

The conquest of these possessions will not be easy. The enemy's fortifications in the Gilberts had been built in a little more than a year and a half since those islands were seized from the British. If the Japanese garrisons resist as desperately and as resourcefully in the Marshalls, fortified by the Japanese since 1919, we must be prepared to accept very considerable losses.

Moves to the north and west from the Gilberts are almost inevitable now that the die has been cast for a great naval offensive in

See GILBERTS, page 4

Sunday Divine Services

Protestant	1000	Memorial Hall
Roman Catholic	0615	Gerrard Hall
	1000	Hill Music Hall
Jewish	1000	Graham Memorial

Chaplain's Office Hours: Daily, 0830-1700; Monday and Wednesday, 0830-1800.

Father Sullivan will be in Chaplain's Office on Tuesdays, 1845-1930.

Confessions: Saturdays in Gerrard Hall, 1900-2015.

On the Lighter Side

Plenty of Time

In Naples, a daring young American blue-jacket stopped a German officer to ask him the time.

"Twenty minutes to twelve," the German replied, none too politely.

"Okay," said the sailor, "at twelve sharp you can go jump in the lake." After which the bluejacket tore down the street, the Nazi at his heels. Rounding a corner too sharply, they ran into an Italian policeman, who stopped them.

"This American sailor told me that at twelve sharp I could go jump in the lake," panted the German officer. The Italian calmly studied his watch.

"Well, what's the rush?" he asked. "You still have nearly 20 minutes."



Last Hope

The squad of recruits had been out to the rifle range for their first try at marksmanship. They knelt at 250 yards and fired. Not a hit. They moved up to 200 yards. Not a hit. They tried it at 100 yards. Not a hit.

"Tenshun!" the chief barked. "Fix bayonets! Charge! It's your only chance."



Signs of the Time

Mother: "Daughter, didn't I tell you not to let that strange man come over to your apartment last night, you know things like that cause me to worry."

Daughter: "Don't be ridiculous, mother—I went over to his apartment. Now let HIS mother worry."



Bright Idea

The Lieutenant and the Ensign, on board a little sub-chaser, had unfortunately fallen for the same girl and, as a result, missed no opportunity for scoring one another off. Each took a turn at making the day's entries in the log book. One day the Ensign, about to make his entry, was very surprised to find in the Lieutenant's handwriting, the words "August 14th; Ensign drunk."

He stared at the entry ruefully a moment, and then a slow grin broke over his face. Taking up his pen he wrote deliberately, "August 15th; Lieutenant sober."

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

—(CNS)



With deep bows to Col. SANSONE - the ORIGINAL WOLF
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