

CLOUDBUSTER

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On the Lighter Side . . .

We've just discovered that honey and money not only rhyme but are often synonymous.

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Always listen to the opinion of others; it probably won't do you any good, but it will them.

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"Call the mess sergeant! I never saw anything as tough as these steaks!"

"You will if I call the mess sergeant."

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To quote:

"War is no laughing business, yet it is a business we shall all do better, if ever once in a while we take time out to laugh."—Abraham Lincoln.

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Did you know department:

A gigolo believes the world owes him a loving. . . Jealousy is the property of people who suffer from poison envy. . . A swimming pool is a crowd of people with water in it. . . A wolf is a gay young dog out for a howling good time.

The German Ground Forces

By LT. (JG) WILLIAM SHANAHAN, USNR
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As the world prepares for its sixth winter of war it is more apparent than ever that Germany's strength resides in her ground forces. U-Boats are no longer a serious menace and the Luftwaffe has spent itself in a hundred futile campaigns. But on the ground the Germans contest every inch with our troops. The enemy's morale is high and he seems to be supplied with an abundance of weapons.

An army's real strength is always measured in divisions. Each division is a small army, equipped with the several arms of battle as well as staff and special service forces. Divisions are usually referred to according to the arm that predominates. Thus infantry divisions consist mainly of infantry supported by the other arms. Armored divisions are of course built around tanks. Though divisions date from the Seven Year's War (1756-1763) the first general to exploit the power of divisional organization was Napoleon.

About 300 divisions are available to the German High Command. Each of these would normally have 12,000 to 14,000 men but hard fighting has depleted their strength to 7,000-8,000 men on the average. Notwithstanding their losses the Germans still have at least 2,400,000 troops for front line duty. According to the best estimates some 190 divisions face the Russians, 60 are in the west, 25 in Italy, and 25 tied down in Norway, Jugoslavia, and Finland. There are in addition to these military formations at least 500,000 SS, Gestapo, and regular police which act as occupation forces.

The bulk of the German army is made up of infantry divisions. Some of these have considerable fighting ability, especially those which have been formed of parachutists, cadets or non-commissioned officer candidates. Around Aachen our forces met fanatical re-

sistance from German cadets who had been ordered into the lines to fight as infantry. And the "Green Devils"—parachutists who defended Cassino—also fought with extraordinary skill and tenacity. On the other hand there are infantry divisions which consist of conscripted foreigners, old men, and the physically unfit. Generally speaking these divisions are used by the enemy only for delaying actions.

More publicity has been given German armored divisions. There are two kinds: Panzer Grenadiers and Panzer divisions. The former is a crack armored unit made up of SS (Schutzstaffel) or (Elite Guard) men especially picked for their political loyalty. The best equipment including Panther and Tiger tanks are usually encountered in Panzer Grenadier units. The Panzers are the regular army's armored divisions. They are well trained but have insufficient equipment. Many obsolete Czech and French tanks have been used in recent fighting by Panzers. These armored divisions as well as the entire German army suffer from a shortage of high ranking officers. Whether this is due to great casualties or to an attempt to replace regular army officers by more reliable SS officers cannot be said.

In addition to its combat divisions numbering two and a half million men the German army has service and corps forces that are equally as large. It is a safe estimate for any army that it has rear zone, echelon training, corps artillery, engineers, hospital forces, etc. which are as numerous as its actual combatants. It is apparent therefore that the German army consists of at least 5,000,000 men. The skill acquired in five years of warfare and the fanatical defence of Germany's own soil will not lessen the difficulties facing our troops.

Lady Godiva was the biggest gambler who ever lived. She put all she had on one horse.

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A Russian, recently returned from America, was telling his friend, Boris, of his adventures. "In America," he said, "you drive around in a limousine . . . free. You eat dinners in the best hotels . . . free. You get all sorts of beau-

tiful clothes . . . free. You stay in wonderful rooms . . . all for free."

"All this happened to you?" asked the amazed Boris.

"To me, no—but to my sister, yes!"

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"Did Charlie propose to you?"

"Everything but marriage."

Male Call

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



How Vargan One Go With These Things?