

CLOUDBUSTER

Vol. 3—No. 11 Saturday, Nov. 25, 1944

Published weekly under the supervision of the Public Relations Office at the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, N. C., a unit of the Naval Air Primary Training Command. Contributions are welcome from all hands.

The Cloudbuster receives Camp Newspaper Service material. Republication of credited matter prohibited without permission of CNS, War Department, 205 E. 42nd St., N. Y. C.

LIEUT. COMDR. JAMES P. RAUGH, USNR
Commanding Officer

LIEUT. COMDR. HOWARD L. HAMILTON, USNR
Executive Officer

LIEUT. LEONARD EISERER, USNR
Public Relations Officer

LIEUT. (JG) FRANCIS STANN, USNR
Editor

ORVILLE CAMPBELL, Y1C
Associate Editor

Inside The 20

In one of the early-season football upsets a light, underdog eleven, gaining only one-tenth the yardage of the enemy, won the game. Had the same teams played a second time the bigger, more powerful squad might well have won by 30 points. But on this day the powerhouse team learned a lesson—don't bog down inside the enemy's 20-yard line! Yardage gained in midfield doesn't bring victories.

In this respect war is like a football game. The time to drive with redoubled vigor is when deep in enemy territory. On all fronts our fighting men and Allies battle with determination as they near the goal. In five years of war we've never approached a Christmas so full of hope and promise for the future. Into the eyes of the enslaved a new light gleams. Our fighting men have our enemies inside their 20-yard lines. And they won't bog down.

Don't Bog Down at Home

We here at home cannot bog down. The war isn't over anywhere. On the contrary the enemy defends bitterly. We haven't scored—yet.

One way to make certain that score is coming, and to hasten it, is to buy War Bonds. The Navy's third annual Pearl Harbor Day extra cash War Bond sale will run from 1 to 7 December, inclusive. The goal is to top the \$47,843,122 record of last Independence Day in order to keep the salvos of our warships thundering, the bombs falling and the march unchecked on the road to Tokyo.

Don't bog down now.

Honorable Discharge

Under a joint agreement between the War and Navy Departments, a new honorable discharge emblem for wear on the service uniform has been adopted for the services.

It is a cloth device designed the same as is the honorable service lapel button and will be worn by all honorably discharged personnel above the right breast pocket of all outer uniform clothing. The basic design of the emblem will be embroidered in gold, the background material varying to match the uniform.

A woman finally found she could get a divorce from her husband because of his flat feet. His feet were in the wrong flat.

Triumph of Gallantry and Courage

By LT. (JG) WILLIAM SHANAHAN, USNR

The release last week of the official Navy communique on the Second Battle of the Philippines makes possible a more exact appraisal of that great action. Of special interest are those parts of the communique that deal with the preliminary operations and with the uneven fight between Japanese battleships and American escort carriers. The full account of the battle also makes evident the great resourcefulness of the American command, as well as the skill and daring of American crews suddenly called upon to fight a vastly superior enemy force.

With the occupation of Pelelifu and Morotai, southeast of the Philippines, the U. S. Navy began preparations for a show-down battle. To cripple the enemy's air power and to disguise our real objectives, U. S. task forces made three widely-separated strikes in as many days. On October 9 surface units attacked Marcus Island; the next day carrier planes hit the Ryukyu Islands 1,500 miles eastward, and on October 11 other carrier-based planes strafed airdromes on Luzon. These blows left the enemy unprepared for the smashing attack of October 12 on Formosan air fields. For three days the fleet operated around Formosa, sinking 55 enemy ships and working over the air bases and aviation repair depots on the island. In all these operations more than 900 Japanese aircraft were destroyed and enemy ground installations were badly shaken. This very great success enabled General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz to advance the date of the Philippine invasion to October 20.

Leyte Excellent Choice

Leyte was an excellent choice for the initial landings. Its location between the main Japanese troop concentrations on Luzon and Mindanao gave our ground forces the advantage of the interior position. Control of Leyte and the adjacent island of Samar was essential if the navy was to dominate the two main passages through the Philippines: San Bernardino Strait to the north and Surigao Strait to the south. As our naval command anticipated, the Japanese navy made its strongest bid by rushing battleships and

cruisers through these straits to attack U. S. transports and landing craft in the Gulf of Leyte.

Powerful U. S. task forces had been posted at the eastern entrances to these straits and a few submarines had slipped through for reconnaissance on the western side of the islands. Carrier aircraft also ranged far to the west over the Sulu Sea. Both Japanese task forces were detected and though they were brought under heavy air attack only the northern force seemed to falter. To the south the Japanese drove relentlessly on Surigao Strait. They were not checked until they had closed to gun range with units of the Seventh Fleet. Rear Admiral Oldendorf's task force, which included five battleships "sunk" at Pearl Harbor, staggered the Japs with broadsides of 16-inch shells. Not one of the Japanese BB and CA survived this action or the aerial pursuit of the cripples which went on throughout the next day.

Japs Closed For Kill

To the north the Jap units heading for San Bernardino Strait seemed to have been stopped, and when a third enemy task force was reported north of Luzon, most of the ships in the Third Fleet steamed to meet it. Only six CVE, seven DD and a few DE were left to guard the Pacific entrance to the strait. Unknown to our reconnaissance the Japanese had reversed their course and by steaming at full speed all night had passed through the San Bernardino Strait. At dawn four Japanese BB, seven CA, and nine DD closed to within 12,000 yards for the kill.

Our CVE turned east into the wind and sent their planes aloft; the DD and DE gallantly attacked the heavier Japanese ships. Losses were minimized only because of poor Japanese gunnery and excellent American seamanship. Still, one CVE, two DD, and one DE were sunk by the enemy. Before the Japanese admiral could exploit his advantage, however, reinforcements from the Third Fleet had arrived from the north and he was obliged to retreat through the strait. Courage and gallantry had once more triumphed over numbers.

. . . On The Lighter Side . . .

After his death, Hitler was being shown around hell by Beelzebub. In an endless room where damned souls were ceaselessly turning round and round in their coffins, Beelzebub said, "There are the liars. They cannot rest even after death, but for eternity turn around like this."

"Isn't Goebbels here?" asked Hitler.

"Goebbels? Certainly he is here. We use him for our electric fan."

* * * * *

Sandy McPherson had been presented with a flask of rare old Scotch whiskey but as he was walking down the street he failed to sidestep an oncoming car and was side-

swiped. He arose and limped along until he noticed that something warm and wet was trickling down his leg.

"Oh, Lord," he groaned, making a frantic grab at his trouser leg, "I hope that's blood."

* * * * *

Sailor: "How about some old-fashioned loving?"

Cutie: "Okay. Just a minute — I'll call grandma."

* * * * *

"Will your wife hit the ceiling when you come in at this hour?"

"Probably. She's a rotten shot."