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Three solid reasons why the job of U. S. naval aviation will become more difficult as American forces approach closer to the heart of the Japanese Empire were given in a recent Navy Department release. In capsule form, here they are:

1. *We will meet Jap planes in larger numbers than heretofore, particularly army planes.* The network of airfields constructed by the Japs in recent years will greatly assist their flexibility of action and permit large combat forces to be assembled quickly. This greatly complicates our problem, means that a long bitter battle must ensue before the effectiveness and striking power of the Jap air force can be neutralized.

2. *The Japs have been bending every effort to increase aircraft production.* Although very recently we have been destroying their planes faster than they can build them, this has not been true since the beginning of the war. Like ours, the Jap air force is now larger than it ever was, and their production is increasing.

3. *Japanese airplanes are getting better.* Whereas a year ago we had a big technical advantage, now it is very slender. The Japs now have vastly improved types, particularly in their army air force, as compared with the planes encountered in the approaches to the Empire. Very few of these new ones have been met in combat, and there is good reason to believe that they are holding a large stock of them in reserve on the Jap mainland.

The Navy Department release points out that the nearer we get to the Jap homeland the more the enemy can constrict his air defense, as well as his ground and sea defenses. American choices of strategy will be reduced, and the enemy will not have to guess so much as what we will do next. As Knute Rockne once said: "It is harder to score a touchdown from the five-yard line than from the 40-yard line, because the defense is packed more tightly."

Rastus Abraham Lincoln Brown, having been duly registered, was asked by the head of the draft board if he had any questions.

"Yassah," said Rastus, "Which side is ah on?"

Danger In The West

By Lt. (j.g.) W. A. Shanahan
Academic Department

There could be no better means of proving that the German army has great resources than Field Marshal von Rundstedt's counterattack on the western front. If this attack is being made on a 70-mile front as our reports indicate, not less than 15 divisions are involved. To attack troops as battle-hardened as those in General Hodges' First Army the German High Command has been obliged to assemble real attack divisions, not the mixed units of old men and foreigners of *Volkstrum* (People's Army) that have been used liberally in delaying actions.

The use of counterattacks is an accepted German defensive method. Unlike the French the Germans have placed little reliance on elaborate underground fortifications such as those constructed in the Maginot Line.

A German defensive zone consists of prepared artillery, mortar, and machine gun positions, with interconnecting communication trenches and anti-tank ditches. These preparations are intended to ensnare advancing forces and hold them while the Germans prepare a counter blow. This is delivered by divisions normally held out of the front lines and dispersed in rear areas with pull protection from air strafing and bombing. When the counterattack comes it is therefore a swift and powerful assault by fresh troops.

Only Immediate Gains Possible

This use of the counterattack is more of a tactical than a strategic device. German reserves are not extensive enough to permit an offensive of such scope that the course of the war can be reversed. Only immediate gains, such as the winning of time for reorganization, production of more V weapons, or the release of pressure on vital communications, are possible for the German command. And since the Germans are staking their hopes on a negotiated peace, they may feel that any show of strength will discourage the Allies.

It is hard to imagine that our will to victory will be diminished by the latest German effort. German psychological warfare has shown amazing insights, but the Germans never have been able to understand or gauge the determination of the English speaking people to win an absolute victory over their enemies.

Two Stars

High in the heavens, shining clear,
The Star of Bethlehem each year
At Christmastime sheds holy light

To guide us up the path
of right.

Back home another star,
of blue,
Hangs in the place that's
Home, to you;
A symbol of your fam-
ily's pride

For you, who bravely
cast aside
All thought of self, that
principles of Christian
Peace,
Once more restored,
shall never cease.

Two stars, each with a
meaning clear,
Standing for all that we
hold dear;
Let them guide you in
the fight,

Let us pray to both this Christmas Night.

Jack T. Boyd, Y1c.



Season's Greetings

Members of the Cloudbuster Staff extend to all Pre-Flight School personnel sincere wishes for an enjoyable Christmas filled with hope for a victorious and peace-bringing New Year.

The Lighter Side . . .

Sign on a Red Cross Blood Bank: "Please keep your appointments. Let's not get caught with our pints down."

* * *

Two men got off the bus. One had come to town for good. The other was a sailor on leave.

* * *

It's very simple to explain why a woman has never been President of the United States, the sailor said in answer to a question. The President has to be over 35.

* * *

A married couple was peacefully sleeping in the upstairs bedroom. Suddenly his wife shouted in her sleep: "Good Lord! Here comes my husband." The husband woke up, and jumped out of the upstairs window!

Mail Crew Gets It Coming And Going



"We were dreaming of a 'Light Christmas,'" said members of the post office crew, but such was not the case as these photos indicate. The cadets mailed packages galore, but according to Frank Pendergraft, MaM1c, who is in charge, they received al-

most two parcels for every one sent. "The number of pieces of mail handled during the month of December probably will be the highest in the history of the station," Pendergraft predicted.