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The Lighter Side...

A sailor met his shipmate as he entered the main gate. Friend shipmate was sporting a variety of bandages and walking on a pair of crutches.

"What in the world happened to you?" asked the sailor.

"Well, it was this way," explained the walking hospital. "I had a date with my gal last night and we were jitterbugging when her father walked in."

"But how does that explain . . .?"

"He's deaf and couldn't hear the music."

* * *

An American resident in China remonstrated with her houseboy for taking her linen into her bedroom without knocking. "That's all right, Missy," said the native, "everytime come, lookee through keyhole. Nothing on, no come in."

* * *

"Mummy," asked the small son, "Daddy wouldn't murder anybody, would he?"

"Why certainly not, dear. What makes you think so?" asked the horrified mother.

"Well, I heard him in the cellar just now saying, 'Let's kill the other two, George!'"

* * *

Willie Johnson, a sawed-off, beaten little man, was arraigned in a Texas district court on a felony charge. The clerk intoned: "The State of Texas versus Willie Johnson!"

Before he could read further, Willie almost broke up the meeting by solemnly declaring: "Lawd Gowd! What a majority!"

* * *

A woman went to buy a drinking trough for her dog, and the shopkeeper asked her if she would like one with the inscription, "For the Dog."

"It really doesn't matter," she replied. "My husband never drinks water and the dog can't read."

* * *

The average sailor is just a dame fool!



Aircraft with the speed of sound were forecast recently by Rear Admiral De Witt C. Ramsey, chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, in a report on naval aviation submitted to the special Naval Affairs Investigating Committee of the House of Representatives.

"It is anticipated," the BuAer chief reported, "that in the near future the top speeds of fighter aircraft in service will approach the sonic range, and be accompanied by further marked increases in rates of climb and service ceilings."

However, while planes of such speed capture the imagination, Admiral Ramsey pointed out that most spectacular of new developments have been "the numerous adaptations of radar and other electronic devices to aircraft use. Among the most outstanding of these is the advent of the night fighter, which is responsible for the early interception of enemy night attacks. Improved aircraft communications, utilizing frequency ranges hitherto employed only experimentally, have been incorporated in fleet aircraft and have proved their reliability and effectiveness while maintaining a higher degree of communication security."

Planes on the experimental list include unconventional arrangements of advanced design such as the use of jet propulsion.

'Beodynamics' Explained

Take it from the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce in Washington, the bumblebee not only flies but does so in accordance with definite laws of flight.

The airworthiness of this buzzing insect was questioned recently by a skeptical Army Air Forces private who wrote the Aero Chamber: "According to aerodynamics the bumblebee should not be able to fly. Can you give us any proof, either pro or con, on this subject?"

In defense of the humble bee, the Chamber's technical department explained: "The laws of aerodynamics as applied to fixed wings would prove the bumblebee unable to fly because of the excessively high wing loading. However, a special field of aerodynamics, which might be called 'beodynamics', would very clearly demonstrate the fact that with sufficiently rapid oscillation it is possible for a very small flat surface to lift a much greater weight than can be expected from an airfoil shape under the laws of aerodynamics."

Parallel With 1918

By Lt. (j.g.) W. O. Shanahan

Numerous comparisons have been drawn between the current German offensive of the Western Front and Ludendorff's "Victory Drive" in the early spring of 1918. Actually these offensives are hardly comparable, although it is hoped that future historians will be able to say that both occurred near the end of the war. In 1918 Germany's prospects for winning the war were far greater than they are today. Ludendorff intended to win the war at a stroke while Rundstedt can only hope to delay the war or, what is still more doubtful, discourage the Allies and secure a negotiated peace.

Germany faced major opponents on only one front in 1918. Russia had been knocked out the year previously, and in October 1917, Italy had been stunned by the blow at Caporetto. Although the United States had been at war for almost a year, in February, 1918, when the German offensive began there were few American troops in Europe. The French and British armies opposing the Germans had been weakened by hard fighting and serious international tension.

A great mutiny in the French army during 1917 had thrown the defense of the west entirely on the British army, which had then doggedly counterattacked the Germans for more than six months to obscure the great peril of the Allies. This effort, which advanced the British lines less than 10 miles, cost 600,000 casualties.

Flower Of Hun Army Moved

Against his groggy opponents Ludendorff moved the flower of the German army fresh from its victories in Russia and Italy. More important than their great numerical strength were the tactical innovations that the Germans had prepared. These included a new method of artillery support, the use of infantry infiltration, and extensive use of shock troops. The last were hand-picked combat soldiers or military daredevils, men who actually enjoyed fighting and could be relied upon to drive into the enemy's defense zones.

Ludendorff struck at the joint between the French and British armies with the main blow falling on the British. The consequences were staggering. An entire British army was swung around as if on a pivot and a gaping hole appeared before the Germans. But their strength had been exhausted and they could not exploit it. Yet Ludendorff retained the initiative until Foch began the Allied counter-offensive in July. After their amazing show of strength the German collapse came rapidly, a circumstance summed up pithily in Churchill's remark, "The Hun is either at your throat or at your feet."

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

