

C LOUDBUSTER

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The Lighter Side...

Chief: Yes, he's a bit bashful, but he led a sheltered life.

Cox: What do you mean, a sheltered life?

Chief: He was 27 years old before his mother let him read the ladies' side of the laundry list.

They carefully carried the wooden box out of the station hospital and put it into the hearse.

"Poor Jim," said one cadet.

"Poor Jim, nuts!" said his mate. "I still think that guy is gold-bricking."

Ensign (as they finished dinner): "Er, er—how about a little demi-tasse now, my dear?"

Chorus girl: "I knew it! You weren't treating me like this for nothing!"

"Who are those people who are cheering us?" asked the recruit as they marched to the train.

"Those," replied the veteran, "are the ones who are not going."

Mac: "I'll call you when I get back from this cruise. What's your phone number?"

San Diego cutie: "Plaza 2222; but if a man answers—the war's over!"

CO (at mast): "And who was driving when you hit that pole?"

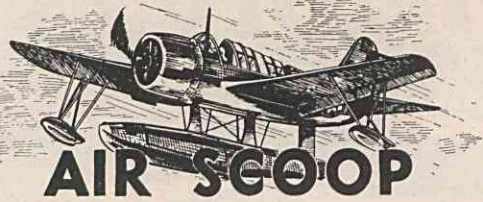
AMM: "No one, sir. We were all in the back seat."

A Californian arrived at the gates of Heaven and asked for admittance.

"Where are you from?" inquired the genial saint.

"Los Angeles."

"Well, you can come in, but you won't like it."



Progress in American production methods is illustrated by man-hour and money savings effected in turning out Republic P-47 fighters.

Man-hours for construction of a Thunderbolt have been slashed more than two-thirds from the 22,927 required in 1942 to 6,290, reducing the unit cost of the plane from \$68,750 to \$45,600.

The economy was gained through installation of continuous production lines and simplification of the work of each employee on the lines, and also through elimination of unnecessary equipment and re-design of many elements.

Perfect Defense By Air Group

While Air Group 15, led by Comdr. David McCampbell, USN, established an unparalleled record in terms of enemy planes and ships destroyed, the achievement of which it is reported to be most proud is that not a single dive bomber or torpedo plane was lost to enemy fighters under its escorting cover. Moreover, the *Essex*, on which it was based, never was hit by enemy bombs, torpedo, or bullets. And the big carrier never was forced to fire a gun in its own defense.

In setting new carrier group records, the "Fabled Fifteen" flew more than 7,000 individual sorties, which required more than 20,000 hours of combat flying. The pilots and aircrewmembers expended approximately 1,500 tons of bombs, 1,700 rockets, 50 torpedoes, and more than 1,700,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition.

Arctic Tests for Jet Planes

The Army's jet propulsion planes are undergoing Arctic tests in Alaska, it is disclosed by an official Army publication, the magazine *Air Force*, suggesting that the tests are intended to fit the plane for use under any climatic condition. The American jet plane had its initial secret tests in the hot, sandy desert at Muroc, Cal.

Air Force indicates that the Alaskan tests probably concern fuel viscosity and other fuel problems, "since kerosene does not act like gasoline at low temperature." The jet engine can operate on virtually any hydro-carbon fuel, such as kerosene, gasoline, or alcohol.

"At present," the publication says, "the engines make a heavy drain on the plane's fuel supply at low altitude, but they use about half as much at extremely high altitudes, where consumption is about the same as gasoline used by conventional engines."

Enemy Pockets

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

It is not known generally that 300,000 to 400,000 enemy troops occupy strong positions behind our lines in both the European and Pacific theaters of war. While these enemy garrisons are not an active menace to our operations, they are a continual nuisance and they keep allied forces tied up in siege work. Few if any of these garrisons have shown an inclination to lay down their arms; all are full of fight and some are so fanatical that they may not give up even though their country surrenders.

Some information about these enemy pockets has been provided by Hanson Baldwin in a recent article in the *New York Times*. Along the Atlantic coast German garrisons still deny us the use of important French ports. About 15,000 men are entrenched around Dunkirk; 30,000 in the Channel Islands; 30,000 in Lorient; 30,000 in St. Nazaire; 18,000 in La Rochelle; and 32,000 in the estuary of the Gironde controlling the approaches to Bordeaux.

Except for the garrison in the Channel Islands (lying off the French coast slightly west of Cherbourg), each unit is well provided with food and ammunition and apparently receives medical supplies and small arms by submarine or transport plane. Since Guernsey and Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands, have a good sized civilian population, arrangements have been made by the allies to supply the civilians with food.

The Canadians have attacked Dunkirk but no other serious attempt has been made to dislodge the Germans from the French coast. French Forces of the Interior and American and British patrols keep a close watch on all of them, however.

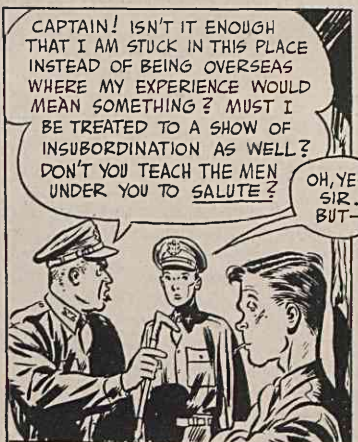
Jap Forces Isolated

Japanese forces cut off and left behind by the rapid advance of the U. S. Navy across the Pacific are perhaps less dangerous than the Germans. They are not in close touch with Japan and in the great reaches of the Pacific we can avoid their strongholds. It is estimated that there are 20,000 Japs in the Palau Islands; 10,000 in the Carolines; 25,000 on Truk; 5,000 on Ponape; 5,000 on Wake; 15,000 in the Marshalls; 25,000 on Bougainville; 10,000 on New Ireland; 40,000 around Rabaul, and 45-60,000 scattered along the coast of New Guinea.

Some of these units, particularly in the Marshalls, are dying of starvation. On Bougainville and New Britain the Japs are growing their own food. Our planes make occasional sorties over these gardens spraying them with Diesel oil. This service is not intended to kill the parasites on the plants!

Male Call

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



Well, Slip My Cable



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