

# C LOUDBUSTER

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## The Lighter Side...

**Medical Officer:** "Now really, seaman, in civilian life would you come to me with a trivium complaint like this?"

**Sick Seaman:** "No, Sir. I'd send for you."

**Sergeant:** "Stop worrying, Mesenjouski-witzburgerhofer, there's no bullet with your name on it."

Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham was aboard his flagship in a Mediterranean port when a cruiser made a sloppy job of tying up to her berth.

The cruiser's captain, dreading the message he knew would come from his commander in chief, was relieved, if puzzled, when it was delivered. It consisted of the one word, "Good."

Fifteen minutes later, the captain was interrupted in his bath with a supplement, reading, "To previous message please add the word, 'God'."

"So you were out golfing with that sailor. How does he use the woods?"

"I don't know. We played golf all the time."

An ambitious young fellow entered the Navy and after three months was made a seaman 1st class. Writing home to his wife, he said: "I have had my first promotion, but speak to the neighbors as usual and don't move into a larger house yet."

There was an aged bos'n's mate who died, and at his funeral the minister delivered a beautiful address, praising the departed in the most glowing manner, extolling his splendid qualities as a fine type of man, a good husband and kind parent. About this time the widow, who was seated up in front, spoke to her little daughter by her side, and said, "My dear, go look in the coffin and see if it's your father."



For the first time since entering the Naval Air Transport Service, the Martin Mars has shed her coat of dusty-blue paint. The coat weighed 628 pounds. Thus, for each trip between California and Hawaii, the "Old Lady" saves 580 pounds of fuel previously needed to carry the paint. And, overall, she saves some 1,200 pounds for additional payload. Besides all this, Glenn L. Martin engineers estimate an increase of 4.3 mph. in cruising speed, even with the additional payload, by losing the air drag of the paint.

### Air Lunch Gives Lift

Army flyers are receiving a decided "lift" through use of a four-ounce package of fudge, gum, chocolate drops, and chocolate-coated peanuts. All men on missions of three hours or more now receive the new "air crew lunch," which supplies a quick release of energy. The package can be opened with one heavily mittened hand. The new ration will keep "for years" without deteriorating, can withstand temperatures of 160 degrees above and 66 degrees below, and up to 90% humidity.

### Rotary-Winged Tugs

Use of rotary-winged aircraft as glider tugs is a possibility now under study. Main advantage is the almost negligible takeoff run needed for an autogiro, while the helicopter can ascend without any run.

Since even a heavily loaded glider becomes airborne before its conventional tugplane leaves the ground, the new development might mean that gliders could be lifted out of very small fields. There is serious question, however, whether the towing efficiency of either a 'giro or 'copter will prove sufficient to justify its use for such operations. First tow of a glider by an autogiro was reported last October in Newfoundland.

A BM2c was standing in line at the Ship's Service counter to buy some perfume for his wife, who is a Navy nurse. A woman pushed in ahead of him.

"Excuse me, I was here first," said the sailor.

"My husband is an officer," said the woman.

"What's his rank?" asked the sailor.

"He's an ensign," she answered.

"Too bad," said the sailor, "my wife's a jg."

## Japan's Strength

By Lt. (jg) W. O. Shanahan

The fall of Manila marks the collapse of Japan's outer defense ring; the war can now be pressed home on the sources of Japanese power. It is always risky to prophesy the course of military operations but it is safe to conclude that the real fighting in the Pacific has just begun. Japan's casualties thus far, perhaps 600,000 men, are less than the number of youths who have achieved military age since Pearl Harbor. Not more than 25 divisions have been used to garrison outlying Japanese bases. Within the "core" of their empire are at least 75 divisions which have never tasted defeat and are spoiling for a fight.

Despite the American victories the morale of the Japanese people appears to be unshaken. Reports from travelers (citizens of Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, etc., still reside in Japan) indicate that the man in the street is taking a very calm view of things. He believes that divine aid and the new Japanese secret weapon of "projecting indomitable spirits" at the enemy will bring victory. More sophisticated Japanese take comfort from the fact that the allies have not been able to conquer Germany despite a terrible air battering and the pressure of almost 300 divisions.

It is dangerous to be misled by the apparent weakness of the Japs on Luzon. Indeed, it is not uncommon to hear that the conquest of the Philippines has been "easy." It should not be forgotten that before the landings the U. S. Navy fought fleet engagements which dwarf the Midway and Coral Sea battles and compare favorably with the grandeur of Jutland.

On land about 10 divisions have been used, the largest force to be assembled for a Pacific campaign. Legends to the "easiness" of battle develop with surprising speed. Most Americans think that the landings in Normandy were relatively unopposed. Actually the fighting on "Omaha Beach" compared with the bloodiest battles in American military annals. So it has been in the Pacific: the victories have lured us into thinking that the war is over.

Japan intends to exploit this sentiment as well as the war weariness that will overtake Americans when Germany falls. It must always be borne in mind that Japan is not fighting for an outright military victory but for a military stalemate that will lead to a negotiated peace. Japan would probably make peace now if we would recognize their "rights" in China. War weariness and the tough core of Japan's military empire may make such a "deal" attractive to some Americans. To safeguard ourselves against this lure it is well to resolve now to fight the war in Asia to a finish.

## Male Call

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

## Is He Trapped Or Is She A Mouse?

