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Although 6,286 airplanes were accepted by the military services last month, aircraft production in February was nearly three percent below schedule—the fourth consecutive month that production failed to meet its goals.

The War Production Board points out that the seriousness of the continued below-schedule output was "further magnified" by the fact that actual military requirements in many instances exceed working schedules.

WPB's Aircraft Production Board has released the following breakdown on February output:

Bombers: scheduled 2,346; produced 2,262, or 4.3% under schedule.

Fighters and Naval reconnaissance: scheduled 2,940; produced 2,873, or 2.3% behind.

Transports: scheduled 600; produced 604, or .6% ahead.

Trainers: scheduled 207; produced 207. On schedule.

Communications and special purpose: scheduled 343; produced 339, or 1.2% behind.

Total production: scheduled 6,454; produced 6,286, or 2.6% behind.

Varying reasons were advanced for failure to produce the planes as scheduled.

The Grumman plant at Bethpage, Long Island, failed to meet its schedule of Navy fighters for the first time in many months. Slow subcontract delivery of parts hindered production, the WPB reported.

The critically-needed Navy patrol bomber, manufactured by Lockheed at Burbank, experienced a production lag with only 40% of the scheduled planes accepted. Again, part of the difficulty here was ascribed to slow delivery of subcontracted parts.

Production of the Navy F4U Corsairs at the Chance Vought plant at Stratford, Conn., missed schedule by a wide margin for the second successive month because of design changes, the WPB stated.

The overall working schedule for March calls for a total of 6,937 airplanes, 483 more than scheduled for February.

Flying Lab Converted

Having served its original purpose as a flying test laboratory, the Douglas XB-19A, still the world's largest plane in the air, will emerge soon in a new role—that of cargo carrier for the Air Transport Command.

A major task in converting the huge



"Any seconds on cheese?"

Leaves . . .

Did you ever walk along the street
And kick the leaves that crunched and
rustled 'neath the tramping of your feet?
I did, not so long ago—when I was home;
And not just a visitor.

I saw them fall from all the trees
That formed straight rows along the walk.
Like soldiers standing "inspection arms"—
Afraid to move, afraid to talk.

Guess I never felt the way I do 'bout trees
and leaves, and all the things I used to
know,

Guess I never thought—or never knew
What all of Nature's dress could mean to
me.

I wish I could pray for all my buddies
And all the fighting men I've seen:
That all those things we used to know
Aren't just a hope, or just a dream.

And we can walk along thru all the leaves
Like we belonged—and weren't just
visitors.

Cadet A. J. Weber, 63rd Batt.

bomber, which never dropped a bomb or fired a shot in combat, was removal of the test panels and recording instruments which have provided Wright Field engineers with much valuable information about big plane and big engine performance.

Originally designed for a 7,750-mile range, enough to fly a non-stop round trip between the United States and Europe, the big plane has never yet flown any longer distance than its delivery flight from California to Dayton, Ohio.

The Lighter Side...

Two gents sat in their hotel room and consumed a quart of spirits. One of them had an idea and raised the window. "I'm going to take off and fly around a bit," he remarked boldly. Leaping from the window sill, he buried his nose in the cement three floors below. The next day his friend went to the hospital to see him.

"I certainly made a fool of myself yesterday," said the patient. "Why didn't you stop me?"

"I should have," replied the friend meekly. "But damned if I didn't think you could do it at the time."

* * *

The beautiful young thing, breezy and peppy, dashed into the florist's shop. She looked around the shelves for something she wanted. Spying an old man puttering around a plant in the corner, she approached him:

"Have you any passion poppy?" she gushed. The oldster looked up in surprise. "Gol ding it!" he exclaimed. "You just wait 'till I get through pruning this lily."

* * *

An aged mountaineer was asked if he wanted to take a plane ride and gave a definitely negative answer.

"Oh, come on," teased the pilot. "There's no danger. You know, when your time comes the Lord is going to call you anyway."

"Yassur, Cap'n—I'se ready when the Lawd calls me, too. But iffen us was up in the air and den de Lawd called you instead of me, I'd sho be in a fix!"

* * *

Stop worrying about the butter shortage. You can make butter from grass. All you need is a cow and a churn.

* * *

"I had an awful pain in my arms last night!"

"Yeah—I saw her."

Male Call

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



Personnel Officer, Female, Civilian, Hep

