

CLOUDBUSTER

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The Lighter Side...

Customer: "Where's the menu?"
Waitress: "Down the aisle and first door to your right."

"My friends," said the old CPO from the Regular Navy earnestly, "remember that while you are in the Navy money is not all. It is not money that will mend a broken heart or reassemble the fragments of a dream. Money can not brighten the hearth nor repair the portals of a shattered home." He paused for breath and then concluded solemnly, "I refer, of course, to Confederate money."

A company commander was discussing Texas with a native recruit: "If Texas is as big as you say it is, I should think you'd have a great deal of trouble in securing the necessities of life."

"We sure do," replied the Texan, "and half the time it ain't fit to drink."

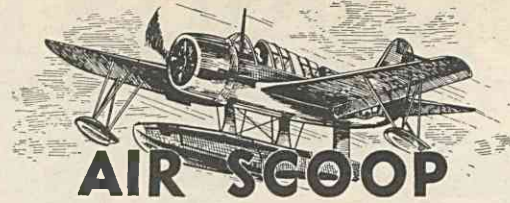
The tailor was selling his best friend, a Navy Chief, a set of blues. "I'm telling you, Harry," he said, "that uniform will make a new man of you. Even your best friend won't recognize you. Just take a walk outside for a minute and get the feel of it."

Harry went out and returned a moment later. The tailor rushed up to him with a smile: "Good morning, stranger," he said, "what can I do for you?"

Mess chief: "What are you looking for?"
Mess cook: "I just rinsed the ice in this warm water and now I can't find it."

A fool and his money are some party.

BOQ—A place where Naval officers live on the station; considered undesirable, but preferable to marriage.



According to engineers of the General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., gyro pilot developments already achieved give promise of complete automatic control of all phases of flight, including landings, take-offs, turns, banks, and other maneuvers, in the not-too-distant future. Such control would make possible operation of the private plane merely by pushing buttons and setting dials, greatly reducing the human margin of error now existing in manipulation of conventional controls.

6,412 Planes In April

Aircraft production for the military services in April totaled 6,412 planes, one per cent above the working schedule of 6,359. The breakdown of April production, which averaged 256 per working day, shows 2,270 bombers, 3,019 fighters and Naval reconnaissance, 591 transports, 168 trainers, and 364 special purpose types.

Big Edge On Jap Pilots

Increasing their victory ratio as the Allies surge ever further into the heart of enemy defenses, Navy and Marine aviators destroyed at least 1,782 Japanese aircraft, while losing 188, during the three-month period ending March 31, 1945, bringing the tally for the entire war to 11,601 to 2,070—a favorable score of 5.6 to 1.

The figures for the first quarter of this year are preliminary and probably will be revised upward as complete reports from outlying units become available. The quarterly figures reflect a victory ratio of 9.4 to 1, almost double the percentage results for the year 1944.

The record by years follows:

| Year | Japs | Navy | Ratio |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1942 | 1,134 | 384 | 3-1 |
| 1943 | 2,212 | 351 | 6.3-1 |
| 1944 | 6,473 | 1,147 | 5.7-1 |
| 1945 (to April 1) | 1,782 | 188 | 9.4-1 |

TOTAL11,601 2,070 5.6-1

Vice Admiral Aubry W. Fitch, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), interpreted the latest figures as follows:

"Of the 1,782 Jap planes destroyed in the first three months this year, nearly 800 were shot out of the air by our aviators. It is doubtful if the enemy's aircraft production and pilot training can keep up with such a mortality rate.

"The remainder of the Jap losses, more than 1,000, were inflicted on grounded air-

The Wolf

by Sansone



craft as our planes, mostly from fast carrier task forces, pinned down Jap air power in supporting amphibious operations and heavy bombing raids, both by Army and Navy."

Vice Admiral Fitch repeated his statement of five months ago that the quality of Jap aircraft is improving, but pointed out that the latest figures prove the Navy's *Hellcats*, *Corsairs*, *Avengers*, *Helldivers*, *Privateers*, *Marines*, *Catalinas*, *Coronados* and other types adequate to the job at hand. He also pointed out that the Navy has a number of new types approaching combat and that intensive work on jet-propelled types is under way.

Biggest Commercial Runway

Closed to airplanes for a brief period a year ago because of its landing hazards, San Diego's Lindbergh Field now has what probably is the longest, heaviest, concrete runway of any commercial airport in the world. When airlines and civic officials dedicated it formally on May 4, I. M. Laddon, vice-president of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp., declared that its 8,700-foot length will "handle the largest ships we are designing." The runway has a width of 200 feet and the thickness of its concrete varies from 12 to 14 inches.

A romantic pair were in the throes of silence as the car very slowly rolled along an enchanting woodland path, when the lady broke the spell: "John, dear," she asked softly, "Can you drive with one hand?" "Yes, my sweet," he replied in an ecstasy of anticipation. "Then," said the lovely miss, her voice purring softly, "you'd better wipe your nose, it's running."

Male Call

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



Bitter Glitter