

Killing Power, Not Firepower, Aim Of Uncle Sam's Army

(Editor's note: Following is the first in a series of six articles comparing a U. S. Army combat infantry division with the infantry division of the Soviet Russian Army.)

The American public has been told that a Russian Army Infantry division has ten per cent more firepower on a man-for-man basis than a larger United States Army infantry division. This is true.

This statement has led many Americans to believe that Russian divisions are organized more efficiently than American divisions. This is not true.

The U. S. Army division is a highly technical fighting machine, and because of its organization it is the most lethal the world ever has seen. It has more killing power than any similar combat unit ever created.

This has been proved in Korea, where the Reds have suffered ten battle casualties to our one.

A U. S. Army infantry division moves faster, gets into action quicker, kills more efficiently, and sustains itself in combat longer than any division of any other army anywhere in the world—on either side of the Iron Curtain.

Not only does the U. S. Army have more killing power than any other, it also provides its soldiers with better weapons, equipment, clothing, food, and medical care than any other army in the world. High morale—essential to an efficient fighting force—is maintained in the U. S. Army through services available to no other army. The American public would not stand for abolition of a single one of them.

The single word that has misled many Americans is "firepower."

"Firepower" is synonymous in the minds of most Americans with killing power.

Yet, in the U. S. Army—which created the word "firepower"—there is a distinct difference.

Firepower is a yardstick used to measure the maximum capability of weapons. It is not a gauge of a fighting unit's efficiency.

In using firepower as a yardstick to compare effectiveness of a U. S. infantry division with that of a foreign division, one assumes that all weapons are employed with full effectiveness.

Full effectiveness of every weapon never has been achieved at any one time by any division in any army. It never will be. Full effectiveness would mean absolute accuracy of every shot fired, perfect target selection, and perfect concentrations of fire—with every weapon of the division in action and unaffected by the fire of an enemy.

Clearly, this is impossible. Hence, firepower, in itself, is not an accurate system of measuring a division's combat efficiency. There is no simple formula that will show a combat unit of one country to be ten, 20 or 50 per cent better or worse than a unit of another country.

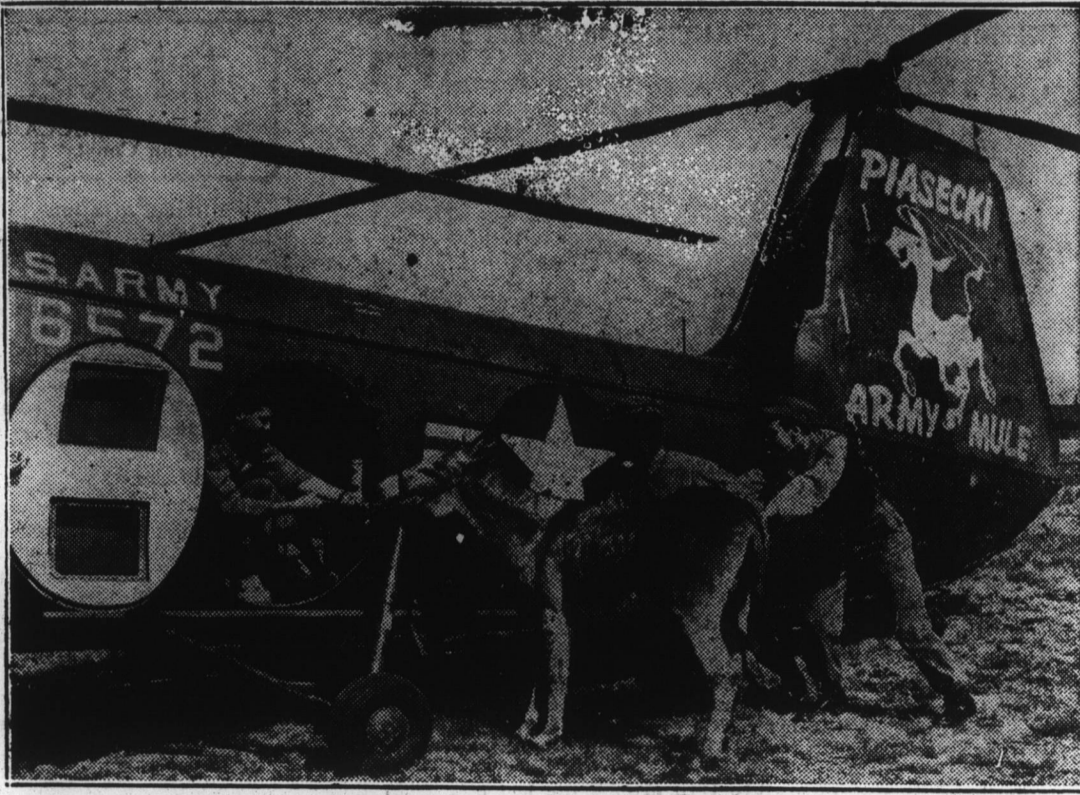
A division's combat efficiency—killing power—depends not only on the number of weapons it has but also on the skill of the men who use them, dependable communications for fire direction, ability to get the weapons to the proper place at the proper time, a ready supply of ammunition, maintenance, and myriad other factors.

This means an effective combat force must have many highly-skilled specialists who, although not actually firing a gun themselves, are necessary for the unit to bring its full firepower into action on a given point at a moment's notice.

This is effective firepower—killing power—and the U. S. Army infantry division has far more of it than any similar unit in any other army anywhere.

Curious

"Who is that letter from?"
"What do you want to know for?"
"There you are! What do I want to know for? You're the most inquisitive person I ever met."



"YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME FOR A RIDE" seems to be the attitude of this reluctant mule intent on keeping all four feet on terra firma as soldiers strain to get him aboard the Army's new helicopter near Philadelphia. Dubbed the "Army Mule," the H-25A Piasecki Helicopter is one of the latest additions to the Army's growing fleet of versatile "whirly-birds"—or is this one a "whirly-mule"?



Each spring as soon as the weather turns warm we get the "fever" to get out in our gardens and plant things. Because of this many trees and shrubs are transplanted at that time of the year which ought to have been planted in November or December. In areas that have severe winters, spring planting is probably best but in mild climates like ours planting at this time of the year has advantages. The winter rains will settle the soil about the roots and the roots will actually start growth before the buds push out in the spring. Spring planted trees and shrubs often do not get well settled before hot dry weather's upon them, and unless they are watered, mulched, and well cared for some of them will not survive—especially in a summer season like the last one.

In taking up shrubs and trees save as much of the root system as possible, especially in the case of those that do not have a fibrous root system. In transplanting, dig the hole large enough to accommodate the roots without crowding. Fill in around the roots with top soil, pack well, and leave a slight depression around the plant for the purpose of watering. Spring planted shrubs must be watered unless there is plenty of rain. Mulching with straw or rotted leaves is desirable. Do not use commercial fertilizer or manure in the hole next to the roots. Fertilizer can be worked into the soil on top just before growth starts in the spring.

Shallow rooted plants such as azaleas and camellias should be transplanted at the same depth as they were before. Fruit trees and most other shrubs and trees may be planted at the same depth or slightly deeper than they were.

If there has been a heavy loss of roots in taking up the shrub or tree, and there usually is, the top should be pruned back to balance the plant—otherwise little pruning is necessary.

Because of the response to my article of last December on the poinsettia, I am repeating the article with some additions.

The poinsettia has long been a popular Christmas plant but probably few people have given much thought to the fact that it does come into bloom each year only at this season. The so-called blooms are really leafy bracts which color up a brilliant red. The true flowers are the small insignificant

yellowish cups found in the center of the whorl of red bracts. The poinsettia is one of a group of plants known as short day plants because it will bloom only in the season of the year with short day length periods, preferably ten hours or less. That is why it is always in bloom during the Christmas season and not during the summer. It could be prevented from blooming now by lengthening the day light period to fifteen hours by means of artificial lights. Flower growers have learned how to bring garden chrysanthemums into bloom any month of the year by using shading cloth to shorten the days and artificial lights to lengthen the days. The chrysanthemum is also a short day plant.

How can one keep a poinsettia plant until next season. After its usefulness is over, place it in the basement or some dry place where it will not freeze. Do not water it, or at least very little, and let the soil dry up. Next May bring the plant out, cut the stem back about two thirds, wash the old soil off the roots and re-pot in new soil. From then on handle it like any other plant. Softwood cuttings taken in July and rooted will give you good Christmas bloom.

A good potting soil can be made by mixing equal parts of sandy soil, clay loam, and well rotted stable manure. The poinsettia is not an ideal house plant. It is rather exacting in its requirements for best growth. The av-

erage home usually does not afford the proper temperatures, light, or atmospheric conditions. Poinsettias require regular watering—every day if necessary—but not excessive watering. They should be placed where they will get a maximum amount of daylight and sunshine. Day temperatures should be about 70 to 72 degrees and night temperatures should never be allowed to drop below 60 degrees. Sharp fluctuations in temperature or cold drafts may cause the leaves to drop. A very dry atmosphere or one containing gas will do the same. The poinsettia is a short day plant—that is, it will bloom only when the days are short (November, December, January). Therefore, after late October it should not be placed where it will be exposed to artificial light at night. Such exposure may prevent blooming or cause poor blooms.

Every honest man will suppose honest acts to flow from honest principles. —Thomas Jefferson

And Sometimes Not
A farmer wished to insure his barn and a few stacks.
"What facilities have you," asked the insurance man, "for extinguishing a fire in your village?"
The man pondered a little while. Finally he answered, "Well, sometimes it rains."

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