

countries of Holland, Belgium, and especially Luxembourg, not because these countries had armies, but because the Germans had difficulty in telling when they were in such a hurry, for almost as soon as they had moved out again, and didn't realize what had happened. This made the Low Countries feel safe, for the enemy never seemed to be longer than a few minutes.

to help fight the Germans away from France, the British developed a new weapon, the spitfire, a very unpolite machine, but which was the dread of the German High Command and the German Sober Command as well - no one likes getting spat at, especially in the air, and many German pilots met their end at the savage drool of the Spitfire.

In 1941, urged by the Motion picture industry, the United States joined the war. Cronkite was said to have grinned when he heard the news, and for years after the war narrated every American battle of the war and sold a lot of insurance everywhere proclaimed the "America, of course, is on the side of the angels." This was very reassuring and let us know that they were on our side. "The Arsenal

But there were other hot action spots in the war, Africa being the key one. While Hitler had been getting all the glory, Mussolini was feeling left out, and though he didn't know it at the time, he would soon be feeling left over. Mussolini decided to attack another obsolete country - Egypt. Unfortunately for Mussolini, the British were there to protect the Egyptians, but the Italian leader was unaware of this fact. It was one fact he most certainly should have made a point to be aware of. At first the Italians thought the highly-coloured and savage British desert commandos were mirages and ignored them. They were overheard to say time after time following their mass surrender that they hadn't otta (Italian for ought to ignore those things again).

Then the war turned into a sort of animal act between the Aussie "Rats of Tobruk" and the "Desert Fox", Rommel. This war lingered on since one fox was a more than equal match for 30,000 rats.

After Eisenhower teamed with Montgomery to finally catch the Fox, "Ike" <sup>2</sup> invaded the Italian "Boot". The Italian turned on Mussolini and joined our side. Mussolini was heard to exclaim at this sour turn of events, "Oh gee,

Germans because the latter said it was all our forces could tell) had a bitter argument as to whether it should be called A-Day, Y-Day, Day-Day, or as Patton suggested M-Massacre or B-Blood B-Bath.<sup>3</sup> In the end it seemed more sensible to call it June 6, 1944.

All that day and the next, and the next, and the next, the invasion forces poured into Normandy and Normandy poured into them (vineyard produce). The German defenders did not give an inch without a fight - they gave approximately 500 miles.

The Allied armies were torn between home and the war, since they fanned out in half a dozen directions at once, thus greatly increasing their numbers. The losses were high and the wounded suffered without much medical aid, but fortunately there were still a few Japanese running west and were on the scene just in time to lick the Allies. (You'll pardon the apparent contradiction.)

Thousands of men and thousands of tons of heavy equipment were landed on the Normandy beachheads every day, and the armies of the allies grew stronger, excepting the ones on the bottom who were pretty uncomfortable. House by house, farm by farm, the British and American soldiers fought their way through village after village, not because they needed to, but because it sounds more poetical in textbooks. Villages with names such as Bayeux, Carentan, St. Lo, Falaise, and St. Sauveur-de-Comte - names no one had ever heard of then or will likely care to remember.

Von Rundstedt, a German general was given the job of making a last ditch effort at driving the Allies back. His counterattack met the American army on the foggy morning of December 16, 1944. The head of the American unit saw that snow lay on the ground beneath the trees but overgeneralized and decided that everything was as it should be. The Germans took this lax moment to attack and did it so swiftly that they even surprised themselves and fled. But they soon realized their genius and attacked the miserable Americans once more.

To make matters worse, some German soldiers were dressed in American uniforms and were able to speak English with an American Accent. This resulted in a lot of confusion, and one German officer was heard to exclaim "Oh, Hell!" in perfect English, as a German infantryman shot him in the pit of the stomach.

The Allies soon advanced to German soil, soil the Germans called the "holy soil", which seemed appropriate enough after a few American mortar blasts.

At this point one of the long-sought-after answers in the scientific community (who else could think of such a foolish thing) was found - "What happens when an irresistible force (Russia) meets an immovable object (American army). If you happened to be a German at that time you wind up in a cellar in Berlin.

Hitler turned out to be a rather poor sport about it all and shot himself. (thought some say he is alive and well and head of the American Army today) This made the British very mad as they had been looking forward to killing their arch-enemy themselves.

Germany had lost, but Japan was still at it. Meanwhile the United States had procured the greatest weapon ever devised - the atomic bomb. She would soon give it to the Japanese. After this, Hirohito admitted that he was not a God, at least not one that would like to be in the way when and A-Bomb (do not confuse this with B-Bomb, THE bomb) fell on him, and made the now memorable statement: "Everyone is entitled to one fatal mistake."

All the peace-loving nations of the world (4) pray that the United Nations will continue to play a vital role - and that no historian of the future will ever have to write a book about "World War III". This much I believe to be assured to our dreams, for in such an event there will be no future historians (intact).

<sup>1</sup>Japan at this time was sorely lacking in medical assistance.

<sup>2</sup>A cry uttered by the enemy when they saw his forces approaching.

<sup>3</sup>The shoe factory at Pergkeepsy N.Y., submitted the suggestion PAY-DAY as it was Wednesday and they had just been paid. On the other hand the Germans had not lost their keen sense of humor, and suggested May-Day.



ocracy" prepared to ship out. Japan moved east and attacked Pearl Harbor. The new statements now uttered by the Americans were "America, of course, is on the side of freedom, especially when Japan destroyed the entire American Fleet".

ER 4

THE JAP A SLAP IN THE YAP

At Pearl Harbor, Lieutenant Colonel C. Doolittle of the Army Air Corps had an idea. He proposed to bomb the Japanese mainland, and even Tokyo itself. Since the Army Air Corps had no bombers with a range long enough to cross the Pacific, it was indeed a bold idea, and most experts hoped that the raid would go back to doing little.

Doolittle was not to be denied his opportunity for greatness, and decided to invade Japan by air. In fact he hand-picked his own crews and flew the lead plane himself. Unfortunately he underestimated his distance from Japan by about 450 miles, and his distance drained the fuel tanks dry before they were over Japan, he followed his bombs down for the visit. But most of the bombs were shot down by Chinese patriots before they could reach their targets.

History books note that the raid accomplished its purpose militarily, except that they hadn't tried to do it again.

The Battle for the Pacific had begun, and the Americans set out with a naval air force and made a surprise attack. The attack surprised the Japanese noticeably, but they got the hell out of the Americans who were practicing drills when someone noticed a ship of Japan floating toward them.

The Battle of the Coral Sea, as it was called, was a tactical victory for the United States, and the Japanese fleet returned to its bases to lick its wounds.

The next great battle in the Pacific area was the Battle of Guadalcanal. United States Marines landed on Guadalcanal in the first week of August 1942. After a week of stiff fighting the Americans had been newly trained and (of shape), the Marines captured the island and began to rebuild it for the use of our planes, since these new forces were in a pretty lousy lot.

whatta dirty trick." This strong speech did not sway his old friends, however, and he was hung, head down, in pain.

Japan now was beginning to get some stronger, and overwhelm the tiny American outposts in the Pacific. Before General Douglas MacArthur, the commanding officer in the Philippines, escaped from that island in a submarine, he made a dramatic statement: "I shall return". Time would seem to have made this somewhat less dramatic than it perhaps was at that time, for the Japanese forces had obviously already returned, and it goes without saying that Hirohito's declaration "Oi shalla (do not be confused and think that this is Italian) retanna, rotsa ruck, Amelican dummies" was not recorded with such adoration by American historians, even though his statement had a good deal more ingenuity and feeling to it than MacArthur's did. The two then engaged in one of the most biting verbal disputes in history (this one at least), and ended dramatically, thus:

Hirohito: Risterine tastes rousy.  
MacArthur: NUTS!

At this point I feel that I should mention the president of the United States at this time, Franklin Roosevelt, a man who became president because of his one burning desire - to be in Abraham Lincoln's shoes, the shoes of greatness. Soon Roosevelt found himself in an asylum claiming himself to be a woollen sock, and had to be restrained from jabbing darned needles into his head. Here Roosevelt died before the war was over, and never really savored the victory of the war or his own greatness.

Getting on to more serious things again, the war between MacArthur and the Japanese. This war was won eventually by the Americans as well, with appalling losses (for Japan) to the Japanese.

Then the forces of interest shifted to Europe once more, where Eisenhower had devised an ingenious plan - it was called "winning the war," and should have been thought of before. It was also known as Operation Overlord, in the typical American flair for the dramatic. Better yet, it was known as D-Day. (The "D" stands for the first letter in the word "day".) This phrase was obviously coined because we just couldn't call the invasion date "Day" - that would have been rather flat. And yet, the Allies (called this by the