

# THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

## Skip Bombing

By Henry F. Pringle

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with Collier's Weekly.)

American fliers used a new, secret and devastating method of aerial attack in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, in which 22 Jap ships were sunk, 15,000 soldiers and an unknown number of sailors killed.

Soon afterward it sank German and Italian vessels in the Mediterranean. On land, the new technique speeded the Axis rout in North Africa, although the details of this later triumph must still remain a secret.

The Japanese never knew what hit them in the Bismarck sea; in any event all were dead, and dead men send no intelligence reports—not even to the sun-god in Tokyo. They certainly did not know that the debacle was the result of experiments at an army air force proving ground in Florida, of painstaking research by experts of the ordnance branch of the army service forces and of combat testing in the Aleutians and the South Pacific.

All that they knew was that planes—both bombers and fighters—roared in for a kill at insanely low altitudes. They twisted and turned as they came in on the target. They dropped no torpedoes, so they were not torpedo planes. Yet they dropped something with amazing precision, and it was powerful enough to send transports and warships to the bottom.

What the American fliers did, it may now be told, was to use the technique which has been called skip bombing. The correct name for it is minimum altitude bombing.

### Usually Missed Target.

Considerable inaccurate information has been circulated about skip bombing, since details of the Bismarck sea battle began to leak out. Bombs dropped by an airplane flying fast at very low altitudes have always skipped—just like stones thrown across the millponds of our youth. Bombs from higher altitudes pointed downward, naturally, and were guided to the target by their fins. Nearer to the ground there was no time for this. The bombs maintained the line of flight. They skipped across the ground or water and back into the air. They usually missed the target.

About a year ago it dawned on some officers at the Florida proving ground that this disadvantage might be turned into an asset. The fliers were not thinking about sinking Axis ships. What they wanted to do was to work out some bombing method which would stop tanks.

A tank is almost invisible from thousands of feet in the air and is virtually impossible to hit. But today's fast fighter planes are projectiles in themselves. It occurred to Brig. Gen. Grandison Gardner, proving ground commandant, that a plane might come in just above the ground at a very high speed, point itself at the tank and then drop a bomb. The bomb would continue to plunge forward and would, so General Gardner reasoned, hit the tank.

There were bugs in the notion, as he was due to learn. One of the bugs was that the bomb sometimes skipped clean over the tank. Later, when the idea was expanded to attacking ships, the bomb not infrequently hit the water and bounced over the ship. It would be necessary, General Gardner knew, to stop this skipping or to guide it. A delayed fuse would also have to be developed, so that the explosion would not wreck the attacking plane when real, instead of dummy bombs were used.

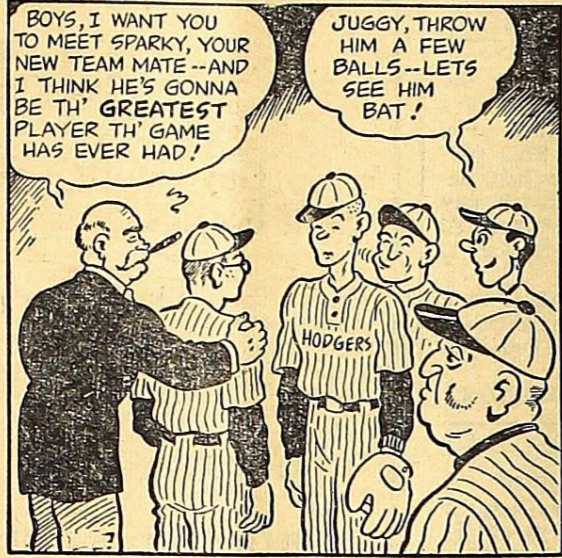
Perfecting a delayed fuse for the bombs was easy enough, but keeping the bombs from skipping over the target—when dropped at 10, 25, or 50 feet at 300 miles per hour—was far more difficult. So was working out the method of sighting.

The details of this, too, cannot be disclosed. This much may be said: It is so simple that a pilot in a single-seater can hit a tank, a moving train or a ship and can correct his aim at the last second. Behind the method lay interminable calculations and experiments. About a year after work had started, the new method of bombing had proved its worth beyond question.

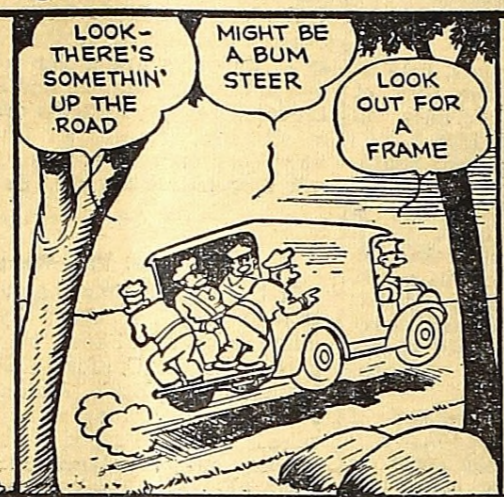
No special bombs are required. Size can vary from 250 to 500-pound bombs for tanks; 500 to 1,000 pounds for unarmored merchant vessels; and up to 1,000 and 2,000 pounds for battleships. Moreover, almost any type of plane will do except those that are heavy and slow.

Mortality, thus far, has been extremely low because the attacking plane can shift its course at will until three seconds before releasing the bomb. Moreover, the pilot is flying so low that larger anti-aircraft guns, difficult to depress, cannot hit him at the range involved.

## SPARKY WATTS

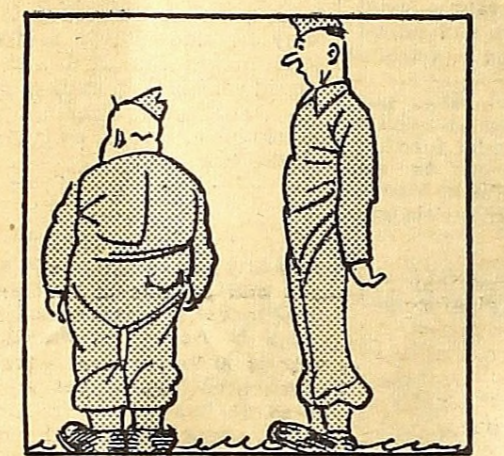
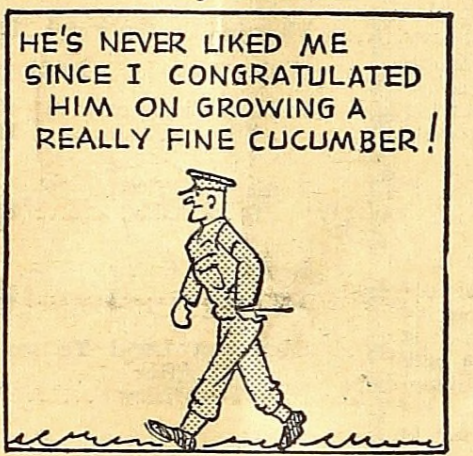


## LALA PALOOZA—Right Through Center



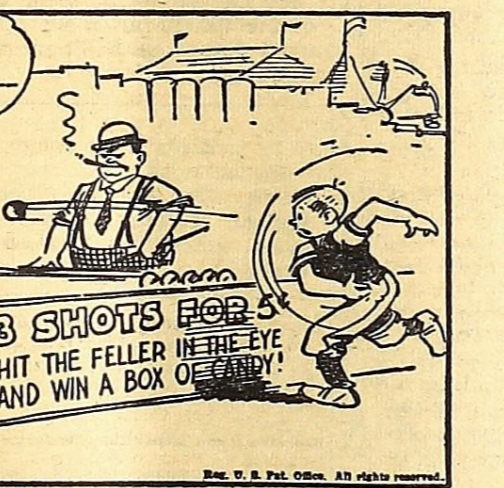
## By RUDE GOLDBERG

## POP—Victory Gardener



## By J. MILLAR WATT

## REG'LAR FELLERS—High-Priced Stuff

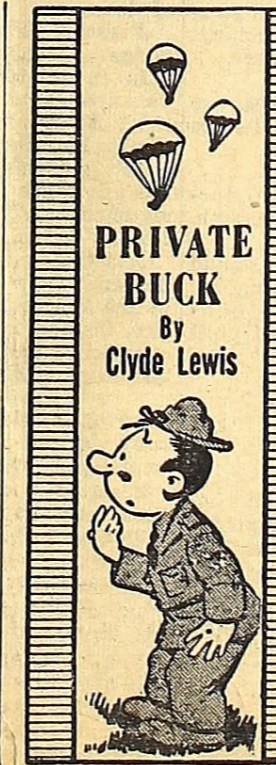
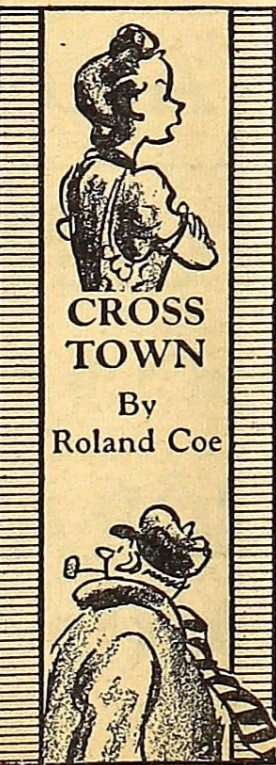


## By GENE BYRNES

## RAISING KANE—He's Important Now

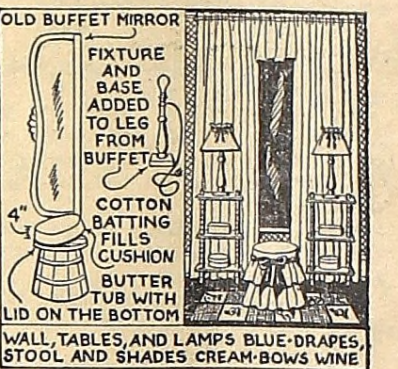


## By FRANK WEBB



## ON THE HOME FRONT

with RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
A LONG mirror with a table at each side makes an ideal place to dress. Here you have it with the old mirror from the buffet turned end-wise and the irregularities of the frame covered with cream colored curtains of unbleached muslin hung from a rod attached to the picture molding.



But that is not the last of the old buffet. The turned legs are here made into lamps. The base of each is a square piece of one-inch lumber which is screwed through the center to the largest end of the leg piece. An electric fixture such as is often used in candle sticks is then inserted in a hole bored in the other end. The lamp shades and the butter-tub stool are covered with the cream colored muslin.

NOTE—The complete story of the old buffet and how its various parts were used is in BOOK 7 of the series offered with these articles. Directions for making a spool table similar to those illustrated are in BOOK 5. Also the directions for the rug illustrated are in BOOK 5. Booklets are 15 cents each. Send your order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
Bedford Hills New York  
Drawer 10  
Enclose 15 cents for each book desired.  
Name .....  
Address .....

## Just Jestin'

Ad: "For Rent—Charming residence, large bay windows. Greenhouse. Only stone's throw from road." And boys will be boys.

Jud Tunkins says a fortune teller is like a flattering friend—often inaccurate, but always comforting.

Some girls never know what kind of a frock they want until they buy it.

Money talks—and a millionaire's will is the last word.

A kiss cuts no ice nowadays—but it sometimes melts it.

"Darling, what a lovely coat! Did your husband give it to you to keep you warm or quiet?"

## Kidneys Must Work Well-

For You To Feel Well  
24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

## DOAN'S PILLS

\$

## We Can All Be EXPERT BUYERS

In bringing us buying information, as to prices that are being asked for what we intend to buy, and as to the quality we can expect, the advertising columns of this newspaper perform a worth while service which saves us many dollars a year.  
It is a good habit to form, the habit of consulting the advertisements every time we make a purchase, though we have already decided just what we want and where we are going to buy it. It gives us the most priceless feeling in the world: the feeling of being adequately prepared.  
When we go into a store, prepared beforehand with knowledge of what is offered and at what price, we go as an expert buyer, filled with self-confidence. It is a pleasant feeling to have, the feeling of adequacy. Most of the unhappiness in the world can be traced to a lack of this feeling. Thus advertising shows another of its manifold facets—shows itself as an aid toward making all our business relationships more secure and pleasant.

\$

He can't tell his father or me apart—but he knows the difference between a Liberator bomber and a Flying Fortress!

"G'wan, take those oranges over to the shipyards where they belong. Can't you read?"









