

REMODELING AND REPAIRING

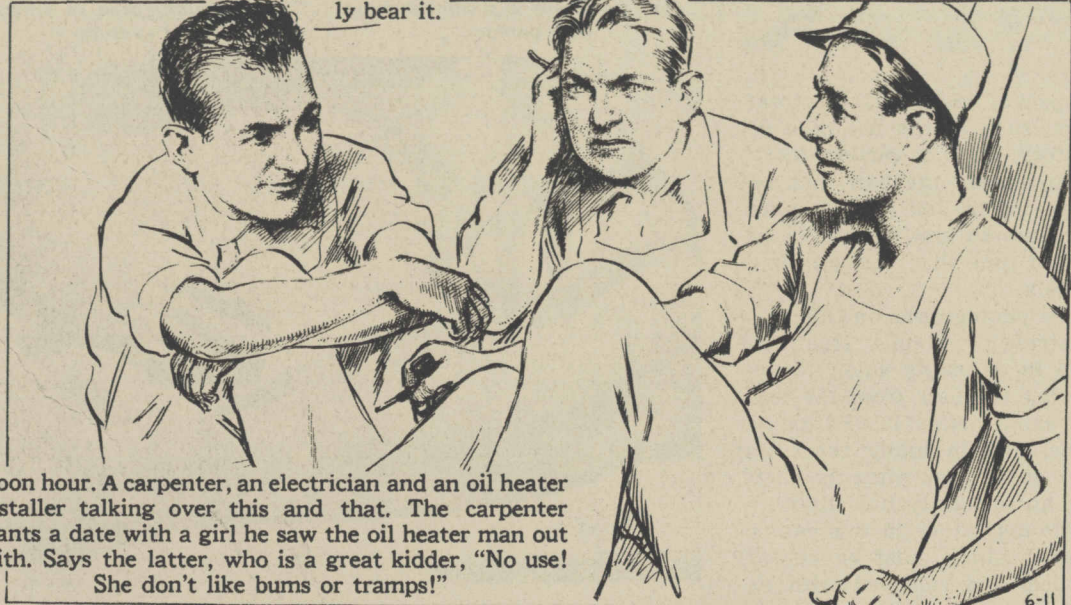
By W. E. Hill

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The paperhanger is telling the painter about the movie, "Dark Victory," he saw last night. About how the heroine plants a flower for her husband and goes upstairs to die all alone. Very sad. The painter can hardly bear it.

"Yeah, we put the order through, but when it came we didn't think it was good enough to deliver, so we sent it back." (Yard boss at the lumber yard handing out a swell excuse for an order that's late.)



Noon hour. A carpenter, an electrician and an oil heater installer talking over this and that. The carpenter wants a date with a girl he saw the oil heater man out with. Says the latter, who is a great kidder, "No use! She don't like bums or tramps!"



This is the open season for doing over the old woodshed into a guest house or a game room, after an illustration some one saw in a magazine. Only no one can find the picture to show the builder, who has been summoned to make an estimate. However, he will try to get the idea and make a rough estimate.

The economical girl who gives the builder a terrific headache by insisting he build the addition out of old lumber and odd window frames she's been treasuring for years.



"Whoever installed these pipes sure done a lousy job!" A plumber loves to pick flaws in the old plumbing. This always embarrasses the home owner, who explains that he knew nothing about it when it was done, and fools no one.



These two are their own architect. When something they planned comes out all wrong they blame the carpenter and accuse him of not following their directions.

Terrible accident. A clumsy carpenter has stepped on the plasterer's index finger and maybe he'll have to see a doctor. And like as not he will have to sue his employer, unless the employer has workmen's compensation insurance.

Air Tactics in Spain

By WAYNE THOMIS

WHAT is to be the place of the airplane in war? Shall the bombers be used to destroy cities, murder women and children, and drop explosives on hospitals, or shall they be used as a direct adjunct of the ground forces along the line of combat? Most of the news dispatches from Spain and China told of the spectacular bombing of cities. Yet, according to experts, the nationalist forces in Spain developed a strong technique of using bombers and attack airplanes as sky artillery. They were thrown against front line trenches, strong points, and infantry objectives just before an attack by the ground troops began.

Descriptions of this use of aviation have been obtained from Brig. Gen. Henry J. Reilly of the United States army ordnance reserve, and from some of the Canadian survivors of interna-

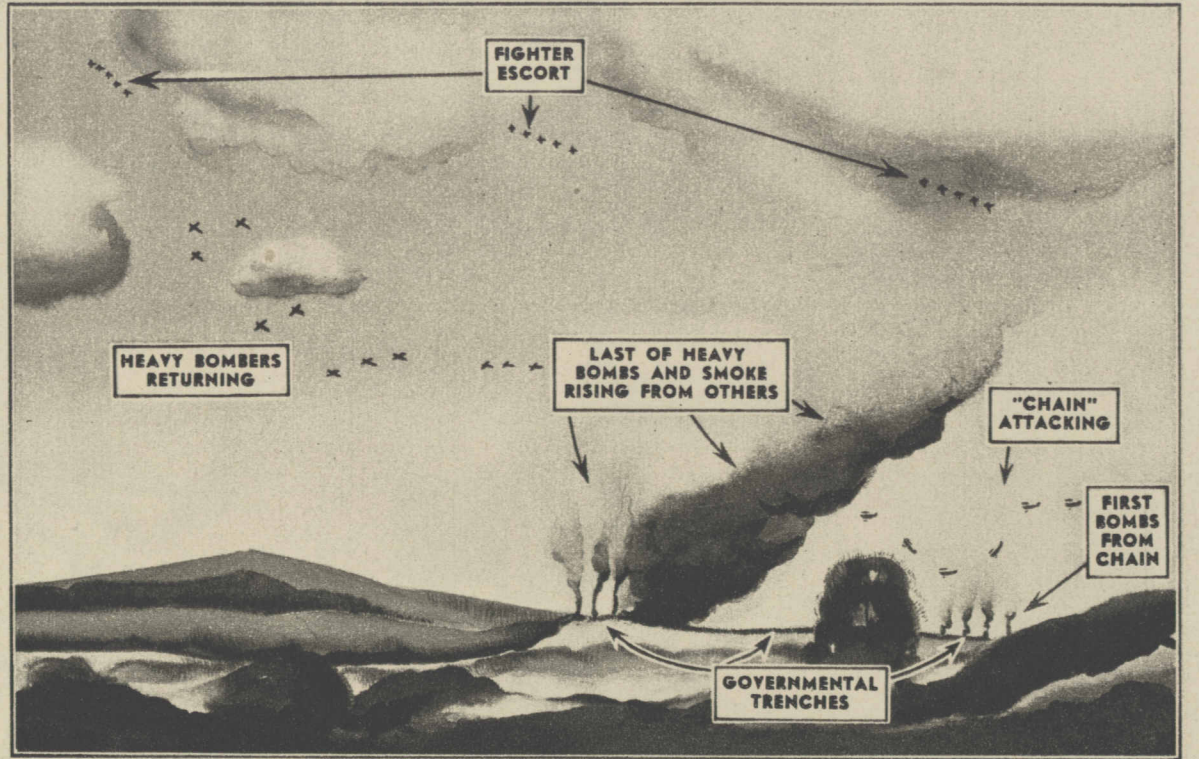
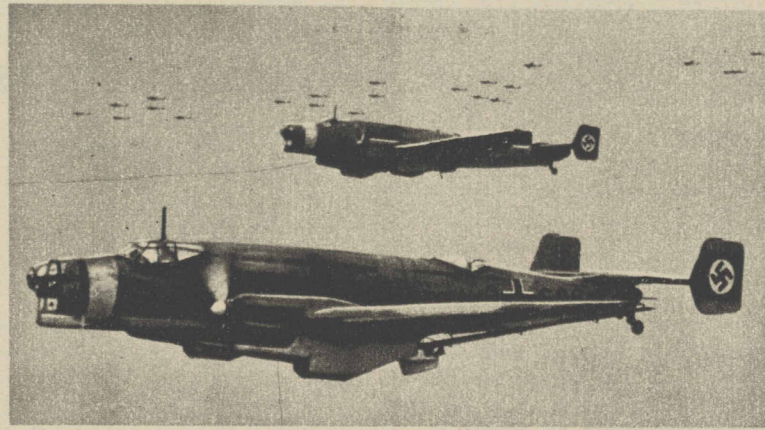


Diagram of a typical nationalist aerial attack.



German Junkers bombers such as used by Franco.

tional brigades that fought on the side of the Spanish republican government. General Reilly watched some twenty attacks by nationalist forces during a four-month stay behind nationalist lines. He did his observing from 2,500 yards behind the front, as close as he was allowed to approach during an attack. His story of one such scene during the advance of the nationalists from Teruel toward Valencia follows:

"Quite like in France during the great war, the attack began with a sudden breaking out of the artillery preparatory fire. This first covered from right to left a line of enemy trenches about a mile and a quarter long, plainly visible on the military crest of a rocky hill with a few trees and bushes scattered about on it.

"It was after an hour of this fire that . . . out of one of the few clouds flew the bombers.

"In four groups of three each, one behind the other, twelve heavy bombers darted across the sky. Far above them, their wings gleaming like silver against the sky, flew fifteen fighters ready to attack any enemy planes before they could attack the bombers.

"The nationalist artillery fire ceased. The leading bomber turned left and began dropping bombs. The others followed, doing the same. They were flying at from 800 to 1,000 meters [2,624 to 3,280 feet] above the enemy trench.

"A succession of single explosions dotted the trench. The

smoke of each mounted in a column in the air. Gradually the distinct columns of smoke disappeared as they merged into one long curtain of smoke, hiding the whole position. As this happened a succession of roars made up of individual bomb explosions reached our ears.

"As the leading bomber reached the end of the trench it turned left and circled back in three more trips over the trenches. As the heavy bombers were on their third round trip seven biplanes appeared in the sky—they were Heinkel 48 attack planes, carrying machine guns and bombs.

"The last of the bombers had hardly gotten away from the trench before the biplanes, in single file, were diving down from 1,000 feet to 150 feet. This was the second phase of the attack. The big bombers had done the same kind of work to prepare the way for the infantry as does the artillery—that is, smashing the trenches, bombproofs, and machine gun shelters wherever they hit.

"The attackers, called 'the Chain' by the nationalists, with their small bombs and machine guns, were now to do the same kind of work as do the infantry trench mortar and the machine gun—that is, kill and wound if possible the bravest who fire on the approaching infantry, keep the less brave down in the trenches until the infantry are on top of them, and cause the cowards to run away.

"In the twenty-six minutes following the first dive of the

leading machine the Chain circled over and dived at the enemy's position twelve times. The first few times nothing but bombs were used. Then every other machine opened up with machine guns, and finally there seemed to be no rule, the crew of each machine using its individual judgment.

"During the attacks of the Chain the nationalist infantry and tanks left their positions back of the nearest hills, deployed into assault formation, and moved up the slope toward the enemy trenches.

"As they moved to the attack there was a moment of silence . . . Immediately machine gun

fire broke out and rose to an enormous volume as the heavy machine guns of the attacking infantry and those of the defenders of the trench settled down to sweeping their targets. There was the short, sharp bark of the tank cannon, the explosions of trench mortars.

"Before long, here and there, the attacking infantry reached and overran the trench. Between these points they were stopped for a time. Then the defenders were flanked and routed out."

The Canadian infantry, describing the same sort of assaults upon trenches they held, declared it was impossible to fight both the nationalist infantry and their aviation. The Canadians said the attacks by

the diving airplanes were the most feared and that only the bravest of their men were able to fire at advancing ground troops while they were simultaneously being bombed and machine gunned by airplanes flying at 200 miles an hour just over their heads.

"The bombers weren't so bad, because their aim was generally poor," said one of the Canadian veterans. "But they'd drop a curtain of bombs back of the trenches to keep our support from coming up to help us, and they'd keep pegging 500 and 1,000 pound bombs that were three or four times larger than the largest artillery shells used against us.

"We never had a chance against the bombers. They flew at heights just above those at which machine gun fire was effective. We never had any adequate anti-aircraft cannon at the front, so we just had to take their attack. We used to fire at the diving planes, and every now and then we'd bring one down. Machine gun fire was the best against these divers. You had to lead them by quite a lot or your bullets would go past behind them. It was a trick something like firing at a lot of ducks in flight."

The Canadians complained that the nationalists never had to fight in the air. There was no government aviation defending any of the front line trenches, they said. The Canadians insist that the success of the air attack on the trenches depended upon the noninterference by defensive air forces.

General Reilly in summing up his conclusions pointed out that Franco utilized both tactical bombing, such as the assault of the trenches, and strategic bombing—striking at rail heads, bridges, railroad lines, and roads. This combination of tactical and strategic bombing was intensified during the latter days of the war at the various Mediterranean ports that remained open to the government.

Next Sunday Wayne Thomis will write of air tactics in China.

Biplane of the type used in "the Chain."

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lyrian coast, certain possessions in and control of Albania, with prescribed neutralization of other portions of the east coast of the Adriatic; retention of the Dodecanese, a share in the partition of Asiatic Turkey, and compensation for any Anglo-French gains taken from German possessions in Africa.

Italy entered the war on the side of the Allies on May 24, 1915, declaring war on Austria and breaking off relations with Germany. Before the year was out she declared war on Turkey and Bulgaria, and on Aug. 27, 1916, on Germany.

A victorious war for the Allies naturally meant Italy would present her claims to the peace conference. In addition to the territories included under the terms of the treaty of London of 1915, Italy applied for annexation of Fiume, on the grounds that the people of that city were in favor of annexation. Italy's Adriatic claims brought frequent clashes between Italian and Jugo-Slav soldiers. Gabriele d'Annunzio, the patriotic poet, took Fiume at the head of an

The Miracle of Italy

Italian force on Sept. 12, 1919, just two days after a treaty of peace was signed by Italy and Austria at St. Germain-en-Laye. By this treaty Italy acquired the frontiers on the north and northeast that had been assigned to her by the treaty of London, plus the Sexten valley and Tarvis. But the Adriatic question remained unsolved. It was not until Sept. 2, 1920, that the last of the Italian troops departed from the mainland of Albania. A treaty with Turkey had been negotiated not long before which definitely gave the Dodecanese Islands and Rhodes to Italy. The first-named islands immediately had been passed on to Greece, but later (in 1923) were taken back by Italy.

By a treaty with Jugo-Slavia Italy waived her rights over Dalmatia, except for the town of Zara. Fiume was established as an independent city, but disorders there compelled the presence of Italian troops.

The growing strength of communism in Italy by this time

caused the rise of the opposition—the Fascist party. Fascism at its beginning, however, was more than mere opposition to communism. It was the spirit of intensive nationalism, engendered by the fear that the country was going to ruin. It required a leader, and one was available—Benito Mussolini. On Oct. 30, 1922, Mussolini's Fascist army poured into Rome. The same day Mussolini presented his cabinet list to the king, and it was accepted. Mussolini by this bold stroke came into power, and he has remained in power ever since.

After much squabbling between Italy and Jugo-Slavia a series of arrangements finally were arrived at between the two governments on Jan. 27, 1924, whereby Fiume, with the larger of its two harbors, was definitely recognized as Italian territory. An Italo-Hungarian convention providing for a free zone at Fiume for the benefit of Hun-

gary was signed in Rome on July 25, 1927.

Still to be satisfactorily dealt with in the kingdom of Italy, which by now had grown into an empire, was the so-called Roman question. It was Mussolini who finally settled this on Feb. 11, 1929, when he executed a political treaty with the Holy See in which Italy recognized the papal sovereignty. The popes ever since the seizure of the last of the papal states in 1870 had refused to leave the Vatican. By the new treaty the Vatican was constituted a tiny state, with the status and immunities pertaining to civil sovereignty and with certain public services placed at its disposal by the Italian government. To Pope Pius XI, who had ascended the papal throne in 1922, went a good share of the credit for having closed the breach between the church and the state.

Italy's most recent imperial expansions were its seizure this year of Albania and its conquest in 1935 and 1936 of Ethiopia, out of which came Italian East Africa, a union of Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and Ethiopia.