

(continued from previous page)

these no more than 2000 are effective—in other words, they are impotent. The Jap planes shot down would be about 4800, the men killed between 100,000 and 150,000, and the ships sunk—well, I just can't remember the figure, there have been so many of them. If the enemy's back is not broken in this area, then his spine is very considerably weakened." The smile. . .

"I need hardly tell you that I don't like the Japanese." The smile. . .

(And that was the only time we heard Admiral Halsey use the word Japanese. The rest of the time he said Japs; except for once, when he said Nips.)

"No. I can't tell you any particular day of stress we went through. I took over on October 18, 1942, with no background of this area or no idea I was being put in this command." (At the time he was given that command it is said he remarked: "This is the hottest potato they have ever handed me.") "Five days after we arrived, we were mixed up in a fight, and for six or seven weeks after that the moments of tension were continuous, and I can't sort out any particular day that was worse than all the others. But I do

remember a feeling of relief after the night of November 15, 1942." The smile. . .

"The very grave danger that New Zealand and Australia faced two years ago is absolutely obliterated. The Japs still have power to make a token attack, but they are so low down in ships, both naval and merchant, that they cannot afford to do it. I, for one, would welcome it. I would love to see them try. I think you people here can breathe in perfect security." The smile, wide open. . .

The Japanese in New Ireland, New Britain, New Guinea, Bougainville, Choiseul, and the rest of the Solomons are doomed, he said. And the formerly-strong enemy base at Rabaul has been bombed dead flat. Would it still have to be taken by assault force?

"Why kill men to take something that you've already got where you want it without wasting any life?" The smile, gentle. . .

As Boastful As . . .

"The Jap orders we have captured have been very interesting. The most recent, on Bougainville, set out the exact place where General Griswold was to be taken to surrender, with instructions that he was not to be shot until orders were given. Well, he hasn't been shot, and he's not going to be shot! The Jap orders are extremely boastful—in fact, they're as boastful as some of the

remarks I made on my last visit to New Zealand!" The smile, wide open . . . and everyone joining in the laughter.

"I have come to see the fine people of New Zealand and to say 'Hullo' to them. Curiously enough, as an American, I am very fond of them!" The smile. . .

"Curiously?" asked a reporter.

The smile, very wide open; the head back; general laughter in the room.

His Only Enemies

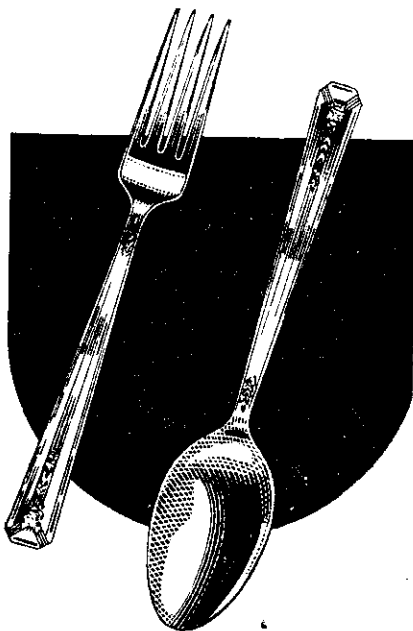
So was this jolly, twinkling-eyed man of the sea a martinet for discipline? I watched him, listened to him, remembering the description Admiral Nimitz gave of him:—

"He is professionally competent and militarily aggressive without being reckless or foolhardy. He has that rare combination of intellectual capacity and military audacity. . . His only enemies are the Japs."

His slogan is well known: "Hit hard, hit fast, hit often." And on a visit to Guadalcanal he is said to have instructed: "Kill Japs, kill Japs, and then kill more Japs."

"Oh, yes," I heard one of his men say, discussing him in a group, "everyone salutes Admiral Halsey. Up in the islands even the New Zealanders, who don't go in for saluting in a big way, click their heels and spring to it when

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