

(Continued from previous page)

other day he would trade places with any captain if he could trade years as well.

Mythology of Rank

There is an interesting bit of mythology about American insignia of rank. It goes something like this: When a young man is commissioned as a lieutenant he enters the forest in the lowest possible position with the whole military universe above him. Therefore he wears only one bar on his shoulder. The next promotion is to captain, so he wears two bars, in order that from the top of the fence he can oversee everything in his immediate vicinity. When he becomes a field-officer he naturally needs a better vantage point and so climbs into an oak tree, which improves his vision. That is why a major wears a gold oak-leaf on his shoulder. After that he mounts a silver poplar, the tallest tree in the forest, so a lieutenant-colonel wears a silver leaf on his shoulder. A full colonel wears an eagle which is supposed to fly above the forest and oversee everything. The general wears stars which look down upon all the forests and all the branches.

This fanciful story is not true because American insignia of rank just grew up haphazard without any logic or planning. Certainly Eisenhower's three stars have not caused him to look down upon lower beings in the military universe. He doesn't look down on anybody. He looks straight at you. He is an informal individual with a broad grin; his manner is pleasant, he is known in the Army as a leader rather than a driver of men. He thinks best when seated in a swivel chair with his feet on the desk. His light brown hair is fast disappearing and when his grin disappears his face can look as bleak as a Kansas cornfield in mid-winter. He is not a hail-fellow-well-met, back-slapping sort of American, but he

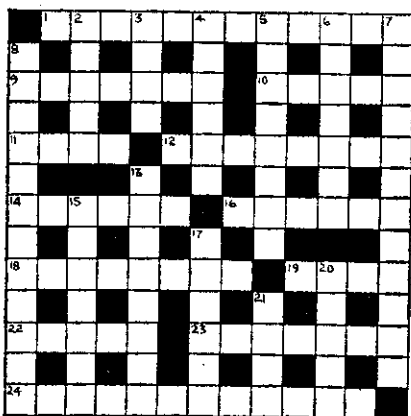
does like people. The over-advertised English reserve has not bothered him in the least. He is pleased, and, I think, a little surprised at the warmth of the welcome extended to him and his officers and men. He wants his men to get to know the British people; he thinks that understanding will be important after the war.

Likes "Wild West" Stories

General Eisenhower is a professional soldier, but when he is off duty prefers to talk on non-military affairs. He plays a good game of bridge and there are rumours that he recognises a good poker hand when he sees one. His taste in non-military reading runs to Wild West thrillers, the wilder the better. There is nothing glamorous, romantic or exciting about Ike Eisenhower. He is a normal middle-class American soldier, proud of his son, now in his second year at West Point. He has an ability to soak up information in a surprisingly short time and is quick and generous with his praise of subordinates and even of superiors. He does not care very much for what he calls "social formations" nor is he very keen about paper plans. He has a preference for seeing how a thing will work out on the ground rather than how it looks on a blue-print. He is an officer with great singleness of purpose, and that purpose is to co-operate with the British and the other Allies in the destruction of German military strength. I have heard him express one unorthodox idea and that is, "Wars are won by public opinion as reflected in the factories and on the field". General Eisenhower has a healthy disregard for personal publicity. I heard him say the other day that this war "wasn't being fought to make a 'hotshot' out of Ike Eisenhower" and that translated merely means that in his opinion personal publicity is no great contribution towards the winning of the war.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 118: Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

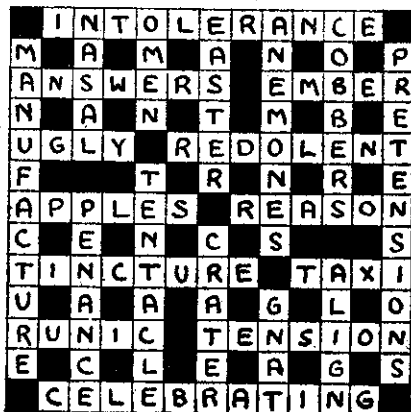
1. Cure hurt with toil—in the garden.
9. God of the sea, also to be found in the sky.
10. Automaton.
11. Charley's came from Brazil—it could be a nut, too.
12. Rare fish (anag.—two words).
14. Habit.
16. Reverse of red rum.
18. Scold—or preach?
19. Bores with risk.
22. Mental peculiarity.

23. Did Alan become famous for his lamp?
24. Renegade? Not I—although it looks like going to the bad.

Clues Down

2. Prone to display an artist.
3. Build huts in this way.
4. Frees of suspicion.
5. Frolic over a ridge to find a flower.
6. Raid pub. (anag.).
7. Print is green—this is certainly bold!
8. Eric can't read if imprisoned.
13. Seldom (two words).
15. Young tree.
17. La! Eric, have a cake.
20. I'd reversed with oar inverted.
21. Carriage.

(Answer to No. 117)



are jolly good—
their quality never varies



More than ever
these days I enjoy
my Craven 'A'.
Each one cool,
smooth and most
satisfying.

Made specially
to prevent sore throats

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NZ28

