

Small Arms More Deadly Than Big Guns, Army Says

By CLARKE BEACH
WASHINGTON (AP)—Big guns kill the most soldiers. Yet rifles and machine guns are the most deadly. A hit from a bullet is far more likely to cause death than a hit from a shell fragment.

These are some of the facts brought out in a report on battle casualties made for the army ground forces. It was "classified" until recently and so not available for publication. The "Infantry Journal" in its September issue reviews its findings.

Facts about death are hard to find. Medical men seldom have time to study battlefield dead. Usually about the only data the army gets is from graves registration personnel, who can only make rough guesses.

A few careful studies, however, were made in the last war. The most thorough was done by medical personnel in the Bougainville, New Guinea and Burma campaigns. They found that a soldier had the least chance of surviving if he were hit by a machine gun bullet. Next came the rifle, then artillery, mortar and grenade, in that order. At Bougainville 58 per cent of machine gun casualties died, yet only six per cent of grenade casualties failed to survive.

Lethal Shocks
Rifle and machine gun bullets have high velocity; the shock effect is lethal. One hit is often enough to finish you.

But in large scale engagements, wounds by shell fragmentation don't come one at a time. The Japanese didn't have massed artillery in the Bougainville and other early campaigns. The Germans had it in Europe and Africa, however. There the story was different.

One thorough study of 1000 battlefield dead was made by medical officers in Italy. They found that 83 per cent of the deaths were caused by fragmentation wounds—artillery, bomb, grenade or mortar. Only 16.7 per cent of the deaths there were caused by gunshot wounds.

The difference was that those who died from fragmentation had an average of seven wounds. Those who died from gunshot had an average of 1.8 bullet hits. The con-

clusion drawn by the "Infantry Journal" is that "multiple wounds appear to be the rule in battlefield deaths."

Death Near Burst

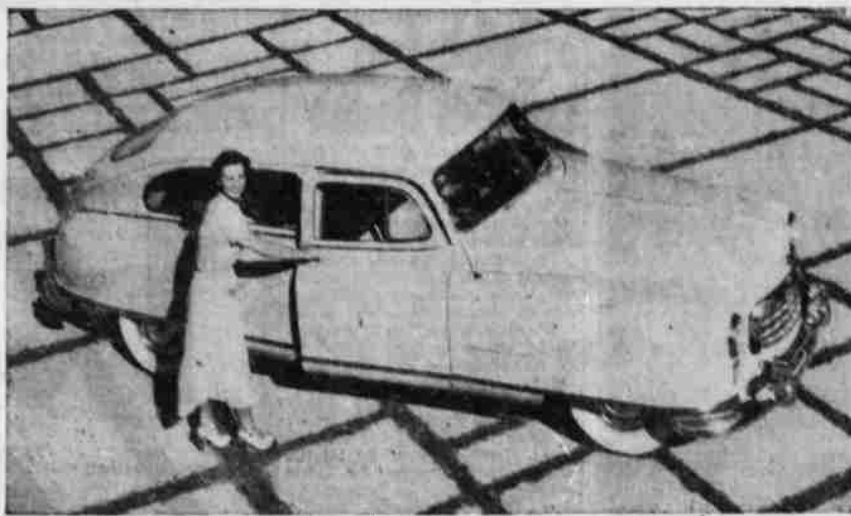
To be killed by a shell you usually have to be close to the burst. The fragments lose their lethal velocity at a relatively short distance. On the other hand, if you are close enough to be badly wounded by one fragment, you are likely to be struck by many of them.

In the New Georgia-Burma studies, it was learned that 80 per cent of those killed by mortar and artillery fragments were less than 10 yards from the point of burst. Eighty per cent of those killed by rifle machine gun fire were hit at ranges of less than 100 yards.

Here are some other facts disclosed by the studies:

1. Very few men die from wounds in the legs or arms. More than three-fourths of the men so wounded survive without leaving the theater in which they are fighting.
2. Men who are wounded in the head chest or abdomen usually don't survive and return to duty only if the wound is superficial. If it is penetrating it is fatal more often than not. Helmets prevent deep head wounds by shell fragment. Light chest armor would deflect missiles saving many lives.
3. Infantrymen representing only 14 per cent of the strength of the army overseas received 70 per cent of the cumulative battle casualties. Further the rifle company receives twice as many casualties as any other type of company in an infantry division. And riflemen suffer almost five times as many casualties as any other group of men in the division.
4. "The fact that a large proportion of our casualties are due to our own fire is little known" says the "Journal." "Accurate figures exist only for isolated instances. . . . Actually 68 out of 393 casualties or one-sixth of all the Bougainville casualties were due to the fire of our own troops. . . . All weapons are represented with rifle and artillery leading in both groups."

"The reasons for these casualties" the "Journal" says "need no elaboration. Carelessness poor discipline lack of leadership and judgment poor dissemination of information—all contribute."



NASH AIRFLYTE—Two new lines of automobiles are being offered by Nash in its new 1950 Airflyte series—the Statesman and the Ambassador—in two and four-door sedans and club coupes. Both lines, aerodynamically designed to minimize wind resistance, feature fully-enclosed front fenders, super-sized passenger compartments, four-wheel frictionless coil springs, re-designed curved instrument panels and twin convertible beds. The new model will be on display Friday at Link River Motors, 606 S. 6th.

Catholic Says St. Peter's Bones Found

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Sept. 22 (AP)—The Roman Catholic archbishop of New Orleans said today the remains of St. Peter have "definitely" been found in a tomb in the S. Peter's basilica in Rome.

The Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummell spoke to reporters just before he boarded the Queen Mary for New York after a pilgrimage to the Vatican.

Pope Pius has long entertained the theory that St. Peter's remains were buried in a crypt in St. Peter's church.

In preparation for holy year,

1950, he is reported to have ordered an effort to prove the theory.

Strong Evidence

"There are very significant circumstances about the crypt in St. Peter's church," Archbishop Rummell said.

"It is a fact that the entire crypt is undergoing a series of studies in the course of which there has been definitely authenticated the presence there of the remains of St. Peter, the chief apostle."

There is an old Catholic-Protestant controversy over the place of St. Peter's death.

Guarded By Pope
The New York Times reported August 22 from Rome that Peter's bones were understood to have been found less than 20 feet under the main altar of St. Peter's basilica, but that the discoverers had been sworn to secrecy. This report said Pope Pius XII himself was guarding the bones in an urn in his private chapel.

Late in August the Vatican radio told Catholics to await a "great

3 OTI Girls Get Student Cheer Posts

OTI—Three pretty, hard working girls have been elected to the post they have worked so hard to merit—Student Cheer society. Patsy Wahl, Barbara Knodel and Kitty Decker have practiced quite diligently for some time, expecting to have rather stiff competition for the "glamorous jobs."

However, since student affairs have taken quite a while to straighten out this year, the council got to a point where it had to do something. Luckily, Otis Ernst had noticed the girls during their practice sessions, so he nominated them at once. They are now permanent members of this year's yell squad. Although the entire squad will

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consist of five members, one of the three should have a good chance of being elected yell queen.

OUTSIZED RADISH

CASINO, N. S. W., Australia (AP)—A radish which sounds as if it should have come from the celebrated Mowbray Swamp, Tasmania—where they grow turnips up to four feet long and still edible—has been reported here. It weighed 44 lbs., and was one of 15, the others

nearly as big. J. Goldsmith produced these monsters in his backyard garden.

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