

ping crankshafts under tremendous loads. A shortage of lubricating oil, or an overload, and they would melt like so much butter.

Kline, the flight officer, stood over his desk. Nick didn't like the rueful twist of his smile. "I don't need even half a cent to tell you what your thoughts are," said Kline.

"All right, wise guy."  
"You're thinking that if you can get the boys to hold down their revs and power on the take-off Monday, you'll be able to nurse those bearings along."

"Right."  
"Then get a load of this." He laid a memorandum from Leighton on the desk: "Squadrons will take off in sections of threes for transit to Panama."

Nick swore. Fancy-formation stuff when each pilot needed to be completely free to devote his attention to his own plane and engines!

Kline nodded. "The Old Man's nuts on formations. Are you going to give him his parade?"

Then for the first time in a long and obedient naval career, Nick knew that he was going to step aside. "No," said he, "we're not."

"Are you planning to faint at the controls?"

"Never mind what I'm planning. You watch me and do what I do." . . .

MONDAY'S fog had begun to thin, giving promise of the sun, when No. 1 waddled down the ramp. She turned sluggishly downwind. At close intervals the remainder of the flight squashed into the water, hulls riding deep. Leighton, sitting beside Nick, regarded them intently, as they trailed aft. Nick hoped that with this physical demonstration of their overloaded condition, Cary would countermand the order for a formation take-off. But, the word did not come. Nick was in for it.

Perspiration broke out on his palms. Here was the penult of all the weeks of sweat and worry and work. He glanced back quickly. The full length of the bay was clear. He blew the tail around with a violent blast from the starboard engine. As the plane swung onto the reverse course, he jammed both throttles forward, but still held the power down to a safe figure.

The engines began their throaty, muffled roar. But the plane might have been lashed to a buoy. At last the flailing propellers bit into the air. Loggy, slow, the big patrol boat began to move along, a tumbling white wave piling up ahead of the bow.

Nick thought he heard Leighton's shout above the fierce screaming of the struggling machine, but he gave all his attention to the controls. The end of the bay was coming up fast, now. There was no time for anything except to get this baby on the step. The water clung tenaciously. He gave a final, decisive push forward on the wheel. The hull rode over the bow wave and onto the step, gathering speed as it skimmed along. His spine tingled. Now was the moment!

The air-speed indicator moved slowly around the dial. Then the hull broke suddenly. I took the air. The wing-tip floats swung her nose and headed for Panama.

Out of the corner of his eye he stole a glance at the commander. Cary's face was flushed, his blue eyes snapping. He shouted, "You're not getting away with anything, Nick. I gave orders to take off in sections."

Allan increased the pitch of the props and

# How's your "Pep Appeal"?

-by Dorne



Starlet: Just wait till I find that columnist! Listen to this, Steve: "Newest starlet, all looks and no 'oomph' . . . somebody should tell her about pep appeal!"

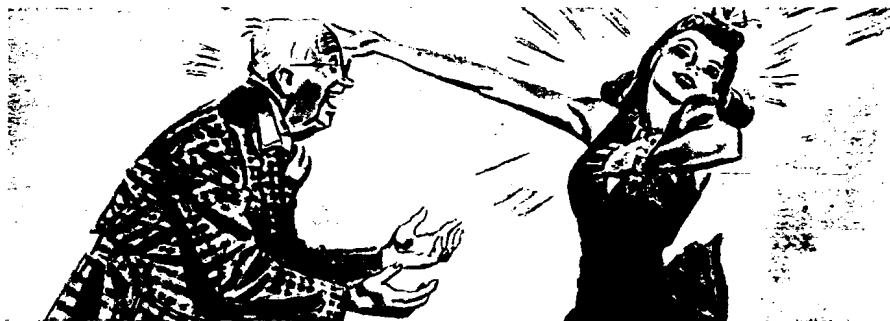


Steve: Now, now. It's only a newspaper man. But you haven't been feeling up to scratch lately. Bet all that dieting you youngsters do has cut into your vitamins. Come along with me, and we'll have a bite of lunch.



Steve: And one of the things this doctor orders, young lady, is that crisp and flaky cereal, KELLOGG'S PEP! Because it is extra rich in two of the most important vitamins, B<sub>1</sub> and D.

Starlet: Save the details, Steve! PEP is the most dee-li-cious cereal I ever tasted!



Starlet: Thanks a million, Steve, for that tip about vitamins and KELLOGG'S PEP. And just watch me become the pep girl of 1940! I might even win an Oscar.

Steve: I'll be pulling for you!

## Vitamins for pep! Kellogg's Pep for vitamins!

Pep contains per serving: 4/5 to 1/5 the minimum daily need of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, according to age; 1/2 the daily need of vitamin D. For sources of other vitamins, see the Pep package.