

Most of us think of heavy artillery as something that destroys lives. We don't think of it as something that can save lives. But it is the insistence of our Army on using heavy artillery to such a great extent, on laying down bigger, heavier barrages than had ever been laid down before, that has made almost every operation in this war result in fewer casualties than were expected. So what it really boils down to, ladies and gentlemen, is more heavy guns, more ammunition for those heavy guns, as many and as much as the Army needs--or...more casualties, more American boys who won't come home.

Most of us don't know much about the use of heavy artillery. We think of heavy artillery as guns that shoot at something a long way off. But that isn't always true. The barrage from heavy guns is desperately important sometimes even in close-quarters jungle fighting.

For instance, in the jungles of the South Pacific, where the opposing lines are often only a couple of hundred yards apart--two long, irregular lines of soldiers in fox-holes--Americans on one side--Japs on the other. Earlier in the war it was the practice of our Army to lay down a heavy barrage on the Jap's foxholes, and then send our troops in to clean up what was left.

It was a good idea--except that sometimes it did not work. Because the Japs were smart, and as soon as the barrage started, the Japs would come out of their fox-holes and move forward, move inside the barrage, so that the shells were going over their heads.

So General MacArthur's artillery-men changed their methods, and moved the barrage back toward the American lines, keeping pace with the Japs. Sometimes the barrage stopped only a few yards from the American fox-holes. It worked--but only because the American gunnery was accurate, and the American shells accurate--in other words, the American shells were well-made and well-loaded with good powder. If they hadn't been well made and well loaded with good powder--if they'd been made hurriedly in plants where there wasn't enough labor--they might not have dropped exactly where they were supposed to drop. They might have dropped on Americans instead of on Japs.

A few minutes ago I said that unless production was stepped up, there would be a shortage of heavy guns and ammunition "in a few months". I wonder how many of you were thinking, when I said that, "Well, the war may be over in a few months." I think a good many people have been telling themselves that the war might be over in a