A pilot of a carrier-based plane must check his instruments before taking off and sign a document saying he found everything in order. In a few weeks, there will be a take-off for many servicemen and civilian students from the Notre Dame campus. Maybe you will be one of the number. How are you taking off? With heart and soul shipshape? Maybe there are defects in your spiritual apparatus. Better check up on a few items, otherwise you will make a crash-landing. It’s suicide to leave base with a machine not up to standard.

Are you worried? Many times God does not help us solve our problems until we are humble enough to seek help from a priest, in the confessional or in a confidential chat in his room or office. What’s your trouble? A difficulty in the family, fear of the future, dread of failure, sick of study? Get it off your chest tonight. Don’t hesitate. The exams are coming. You need a calm mind to pass them successfully.

What’s your attitude? A Catholic is supposed to have a Catholic slant on life and its problems. Do you have a grudge against the church? Are you trying to explain away your sins by saying you don’t understand the Catholic point of view? There is still time to discuss your problems before you leave.

Are you weak spiritually? The Novena for Examinations can also be a Novena for Strength. Daily Mass and Communion will build up your powers of resistance and will draw down God’s favor and protection on your future.

A Sergeant And His Rosary

"My squad was caught short in the jungle. We had to stay there and take whatever was coming because we had an airfield back of us that the Japs wanted. The place was full of snipers, and even though they were rotten shots they hit us once in a while, and they scared us plenty. I remember looking at Bums Casey, a really tough sergeant from Flatbush. His gun was in position, but in his left hand under the barrel-stock he had a rosary, and he was praying it. "The Holy Joe give it to me," he said, "I got to use it, ain’t I?" (America)