



**ONLY** soldier in the U. S. Army entitled to wear four stars on his shoulders is the hard-hitting Chief of Staff, George C. Marshall, who today faces the task of co-ordinating the nation's biggest peacetime army into an effective streamlined machine. To find the man to do that vital job, the President passed over 33 senior-ranking officers a year and a half ago and selected this brilliant tactician, considered by military experts America's best soldier and the greatest U. S. military genius since Stonewall Jackson. The second non-West Pointer to head the service, Marshall entered Virginia Military Institute a clumsy, unpromising recruit, but finished as first captain in his class, fifth in scholastic standing, and an all-Southern football tackle. He's been on the way up ever since.

His most spectacular military feat occurred during the World War, when, as operations chief of the First Army, he moved 500,000 men and 2,700 pieces of artillery from one battlefield to another without a hitch and without letting the enemy get wind of what he was doing.

Up with the sun at his headquarters in Fort Myer, Virginia, he rides horseback for half an hour before arriving at his office at 7:30. Likes to work early in the day, because nobody, he says, ever has an original idea after 3 P. M. Hates only one part of his job—formal military functions. He prefers to read history, surf-fish, picnic with his wife, or swap yarns with his cronies. He is considered the best storyteller in the Army—possibly because every soldier is careful to laugh at the Chief of Staff's jokes.

**American**

December, 1940: p. 87

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