The gal who can lick a Commando

BEFORE PEARL HARBOR, Gale Volchok sold kewpie dolls for a New York store. Now, at Fort Hancock, N. J., Fort Monmouth, N. J., and other military centers, she throws husky U. S. soldiers on their necks and shows them how to do the same to Nazis and Japs. She's a judo expert, can make mincemeat of any two hefty males. (Judo is Americanized jujitsu.) She shows soldiers like Private Grover Bridges, pictured above, how to take a knife from an enemy, plus 21 other knock-out tricks. The boys flock into the ring for demonstrations. A tomboy, Gale began studying judo a year ago while training to be a boxer. Lou Leonard, a judo expert, saw her, noticed she was quicker than a cat, offered to give her lessons. Now she's probably America's foremost feminine judo expert. Age, 21, fights at 128 pounds. Says, "Strength doesn't mean much—it's leverage and balance." In spare moments she composes Russian folk songs. Several of Gale's aunts, uncles, and cousins who live in Russia near Moscow are in the middle of the biggest fight on earth. Her idol is not a movie star but Liudmila Pavlichenko, the cherub-cheeked Soviet sniperess who shot up 309 Germans.

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How Gale parries a club blow. Twisting to the left, she sweeps her left arm upward, grabs attacker's right wrist.

Her right hand grips his right upper arm from underneath. Locks her right foot against his attacker's right foot.

Holding a firm footlock, she gives the right arm an outward thrust, and the surprised guy falls flat on his back.