The Nation At War ★

A complete coverage of the week's news on the all-out effort of the United Nation's fight for freedom.

"A powerful American force equipped with adequate weapons of modern warfare and under American command, is today landing on the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts of the French colonies in Affrica, President Roosevelt said in a statement issued by the White House late November 7. This action "provides an effective second-front assistance to our heroic allies in Russia."

The U. S. force split into three parts and struck Algiers, near Oran on the Mediterranean coast of Algeria, and on the Atlantic coast north and south of Casablanca. The War Department stated late November 8 that the offensive was advancing rapidly everywhere along 1,600 miles of coast against light French resistance. Algiers capitualted within 24 hours. The Vichy government broke off diplomatic relations, but Secretary of State Hull said the main purpose of the Vichy policy of this Government during the past two years was simply to pave the way for the military drive into the western Mediterranean.

"The landing of this American Army is being assisted by the British navy and air forces and it will, in the immediate future, be reinforced by a considerable number of divisions of the British army," the President stated. "This combined Allied force—inconjunction with the British campaign in Egypt is designed to prevent occupation by the Axis armies of any part of northern or western Africa, and to deny the aggressor nations a starting point from which to launch an attack against the Atlantic Coast of the Americas.

"The French Government and the French people have been informed of the purpose of this expedition, and have been assured that the Allies seek no territory and have no intention of interfering with the friendly French authorities in Africa," the President's statement said. "This expedition will develop into a major effort by the Allied Nations and there is every expectation that it will be successful in repelling the planned German and Italian invasion of Africa and prove the first historic step to the liberation and restoration of France."

The President told the French people by radio and by leaflets that the American forces were going into their empire as friends, to "repulse the cruel invaders who would remove forever your rights of self-government, your right to religious freedom and your rights to live your own lives in peace and security. We assure you that once the menace of Germany and Italy is removed from you, we will quit your territory at once. Do not obstruct this great purpose."

Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander of the American forces in the European theater, is commander in chief of the Allied invasion force. Gen. Eisenhower, in a broadcast to "Frenchmen of North Africa," promised not to attack the Frencch themselves, upon certain conditions. These conditions were specific and he repeated them many times in his broadcast.

Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton's head quarters in Cairo reported November 7 that American fliers shot down 45 enemy planes against a loss of 6 of their own in the Middle East from October 1 to November 5. In addition the announcement said, the U. S. fliers have seriously damaged an uncalculated number of tons of enemy shipping and knocked out a number of tanks and other motor vehicles.

The Navy announced that at least 5,188 Japanese, by actual count, have been killed in three months of land fighting in the Solomon Islands. Navy Secretary Knox reported earlier that U. S. casualties were less than one-fifth of Japanese losses. The Navy said 369 Japanese aircraft were destroyed there in October alone. A Navy communique late November 8 reported the probable sinking of another Jap cruiser and destroyer in the Solomons and said the advance of American troops eastward on Guadalcanal was continuing.

Labor Supply

Labor Secretary Perkins reported that between now and December 1, 1943, industry will need 4,500,000 additional workers, and of this number, 3,000,000 will be women. The Office of Defense Transportation said 180,000 women will get jobs in the "traditionally male" transportation industry in the coming months. Agriculture Secretary Wickard said that success of the farm manpower program next year would depend to a considerable extent on the employment of more women and girls and older people on the country's farms.

War Manpower Chairman McNutt said that all major war production plants soon will be required to schedule their manpower requirements in the same manner they must now schedule needs for raw materials. Official instructions and forms for bringing about the orderly withdrawal of workers from war industries for the armed forces are now available to war contractors and operators of essential civilian activities, he said. Federal labor inspectors will be assigned to the plants "to see that labor is being utilized properly" and those plants which fail to cooperate will be subject to "what ever sanctions there are available.

Controlled Materials Plan

The WPB established the Controlled Materials Plan to boost war production through elimination of all nonessential production. WPB Vice Chairman Eberstadt will direct the plan which will adjust production schedules within material supply to meet production requirements. The plan will operate as follows: the WPB Requirements Committee will allot controlled materials (at first only carbon and alloy steel, copper and aluminum) to the "claimant agencies"—Army, Navy, Maritime Commission, the Aircraft Scheduling Unit, Lend-Lease, Board of Economic Warfare and Office of Civilian Supply. The claimant agencies will then make allotments to prime contractors producing essential goods. The prime contractors will divide their allotments among subcontractors and suppliers.

Stablization of Wages

Chairman Davis of the War Labor Board said the WLB, in stabilizing incomes less than $5,000, "will act on the presumption that wage rates prevailing on September 15, 1942, are proper." The Board said "If a group of employees has received increases amounting to 15 percent in their average straight-time rates over the level prevailing on January 1, 1941, the Board will not grant further increases as a correction for maladjustments. The wage rate inequalities and the gross inequities which may require adjustment under the stabilization program are those which represent manifest injustices that arise from unusual and unreasonable differences in wage rates."

Rationing

The Office of Price Administration announced all passenger cars will be eligible for recapping services or for replacement tires under the national mileage program effective November 22, but motorists will be limited by quotas to be assigned to rationing boards. The grade of tire allowed in case recapping is impossible will be determined by the amount of mileage allowed applicants in their gas ration books.

Motorists asking more mileage than the basic ration must furnish specific detailed information about their driving requirements on forms issued by OPA and available from November 12-15 at school houses designated as regristration sites. If the applicant's essential mileage is more than 150 miles a month, but less than 470, he will be issued a B book. Mileage of more than 470 miles will warrant a C book. Holders of C books must display stickers on their windshields indicating why they were granted extra gasoline.

IN STEP WITH JOHNNY DOUGHBOY

A GOOD BOOK TO READ

QUEEN OF THE FLAT-TOPS
—STANLEY JOHNSTON—
DUTTON ($3.00)

(Reviewed by Dr. Lawrence T. Ford, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages, Washington College Chestertown, Md.)

In these busy days one must limit his reading of contemporary books to a few which seem to be worth the time and trouble. In making his choice, the reader should not be ensnared by the publishers' "blurb" Nor should he accept unthinkingly the fulsome need of praise heaped indiscriminately by reviewers on works which, while perhaps spectacular, possess only ephemeral interest and little permanent value. When, for example, a newspaper reviewer lauded Stanley Johnston's "Queen of the Flat-Tops," as "absolutely the best war epic ever written," my first reaction was: "After all, there was the Iliad'." Subsequent perusal, however, of this eyewitness account of the Battle of the Coral Sea, has rendered the foregoing eulogy at least comprehensible.

Our history as a nation is studded with the heroic exploits of such men as John Paul Jones, Decatur, Farragut, and Dewey. On reading Mr. Johnston's well-written narrative of the last days of the "Lexington," one is impressed with the fact that our country can still glory in the courage, the stamina, the initiative, and the devotion of our fighting Navy. Every man on the great carrier, "from admiral to mess boy," was determined to do his duty as efficiently as possible and to avenge the dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor. How well they did so is attested by the result of the Coral Sea Battle. This, "the first 'naval' battle ever fought in the air" cost us one carrier (the "Lexington"), one tanker and one destroyer, but its termination saw the enemy fleet turned back from its would-be invasion of Australia with the loss of twenty-three warships.

One of the author's conclusions may surprise the reader as much as it did the present reviewer. It has been commonly assumed that the aircraft carrier is relatively vulnerable to attack. This thesis Mr. Johnston attempts to disprove. The "Lexington" was an old ship, originally designed as a battle cruiser. This, of course, meant great size, great speed light armor, and heavy guns. She was converted into a carrier in 1922. Yet, with most of her own planes away attacking the Japanese, with five torpedo hits in her port side and with internal fires which spelled her ultimate doom, the "Lexington" destroyed over two-thirds of the enemy planes, "steamed away at 25 knots, and was in fighting trim for hours after the enemy aircraft passed over." She was finally destroyed by internal fires and explosions and torpedoes fired by one of our own destroyers.

Such is the picture presented by Stanley Johnston, surely not one of great vulnerability. Apparently the lesson in naval tactics is that great ships of whatever class when in narrow waters require adequate fighter plane proctection. This has proved as true with battleships as with carriers,—witness the fate of the "Prince of Wales" and the "Repulse."

Even should you not share this reviewer's interest in the technical aspects, "Queen of the Flat-Tops" will grip you as a vivid account of mighty deeds by red-blooded Americans.

(Any book reviewed in this column will be sent to you postpaid by the Washington College Bookstore, Chestertown, Md., upon receipt of order accompanied by check or money order.)

Our Job Is to Save Dollars
Buy War Bonds Every Pay Day

Wasted money is wasted lives. Don't waste precious lives. Every dollar you can spare should be used to buy War Bonds. Buy your ten per cent every pay day.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS
WINDOW GLASS
WALL PAPER
VENETIAN BLINDS
WINDOW SHADES
LINOLEUM FLOORS
RUGS
FLOOR SANDERS FOR RENT
John Bartley & Son
Chestertown, Md.

STIME'S ORVIS SHOP
UNDER VOSHELL HOUSE
Some Exceptional Imports In
WINES and LIQUEURS
In Limited Amounts
ALSO FULL LINE OF DOMESTIC GOODS
THANK YOU
Phone 26
For Free Delivery

NOW OPEN
CHESTERTOWN BOWLING CENTER
RESURFACED
BY EXPERT MECHANICS
OF THE BRUNSWICK BOWLING SUPPLY COMPANY
HAVE ALSO INSTALLED PINSPOTTERS
RED CROWN DUCK PINS USED EXCLUSIVELY
FINEST TEN PIN ALLEYS IN TOWN

FRESH DRAUGHT
BEER DIRECT FROM THE KEG
CHESTERTOWN RESTAURANT
HEADQUARTERS OF ROTARY CLUB
Phone 207 Chestertown, Maryland

NEW FARM MACHINERY
ON HAND
1 Model "WC" Allis-Chalmers Tractor
1 Model "14" New Idea Tractor Manure Spreader on rubber
1 Model "11" New Idea Horse drawn Manure Spreader on rubber.
1 Model "10" Flare Board New Idea Manure Spreader.
Used Equipment
1 Model "B" John Deere Tractor with Cultivators
2 No. 8 New Idea Manure Spreaders.
JEWELL BROS.
Lynch, Maryland
Phones:—Chestertown 819F3; Still Pond 49J

YOUR NEEDS
32% CONCENTRATES with your Home Grown Grains. Produce more milk for less money.
ROSE BUD EGG for better egg production and bigger profits
SALT for curing your meat
BROOKS' MILL
Phone 80 Chestertown, Md.

ANOTHER OF MUTUALS
DISTINGUISHED COMMENTATORS
Raymond Clapper
THE FOREIGN NEWS ANALYST
BRINGS YOU
THE LOW DOWN ON
UP TO THE MINUTE NEWS
MONDAY & THURSDAY
AT 10:00 P. M.
SPONSORED BY
White Owl Cigars
WFBR
FOR THE BEST SHOWS - DIAL 1300

©Maryland State Archives msa_sc3326_scm8232-0397