

MMR
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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U. S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
GSA-361



OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

HRS
Re Processing
Records

Mrs. Edwin W. Semans
4952 Sentinel Drive
Apt. 402
Bethesda MD 20816

REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Please read instructions on the reverse. If more space is needed, use plain paper.

DATE OF REQUEST

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 COMPLIANCE INFORMATION. The following information is provided in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and applies to this form. Authority for collection of the information is 44 U.S.C. 2907, 3101, and 3103, and E.O. 9397 of November 22, 1943. Disclosure of the information is voluntary. The principal purpose of the information is to assist the facility servicing the records in locating and verifying the correctness of the requested records or information to answer your inquiry. Routine uses of the information as established and published in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)(D)

include the transfer of relevant information to appropriate Federal, State, local, or foreign agencies for use in civil, criminal, or regulatory investigations or prosecution. In addition, this form will be filed with the appropriate military records and may be transferred along with the record to another agency in accordance with the routine uses established by the agency which maintains the record. If the requested information is not provided, it may not be possible to service your inquiry.

SECTION I—INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible)

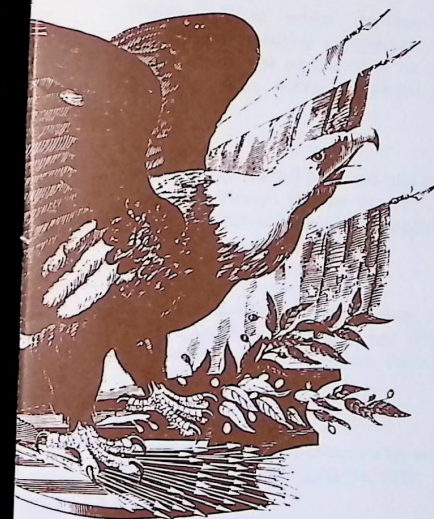
1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (Last, first, and middle)		2. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		3. DATE OF BIRTH		4. PLACE OF BIRTH	
5. ACTIVE SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below)							
BRANCH OF SERVICE (Also, show last organization, if known)		DATES OF ACTIVE SERVICE		Check one		SERVICE NUMBER DURING THIS PERIOD	
		DATE ENTERED DATE RELEASED		OFFICER ENLISTED			
6. RESERVE SERVICE, PAST OR PRESENT If "none," check here ☐							
a. BRANCH OF SERVICE		b. DATES OF MEMBERSHIP		c. Check one		d. SERVICE NUMBER DURING THIS PERIOD	
		FROM TO		OFFICER ENLISTED			
7. NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERSHIP (Check one): ☐ a. ARMY ☐ b. AIR FORCE ☐ c. NONE							
d. STATE		e. ORGANIZATION		f. DATES OF MEMBERSHIP		g. Check one	
				FROM TO		OFFICER ENLISTED	
8. IS SERVICE PERSON DECEASED				9. IS (WAS) INDIVIDUAL A MILITARY RETIREE OR FLEET RESERVIST			
☐ YES ☐ NO If "yes," enter date of death.				☐ YES ☐ NO			

SECTION II—REQUEST

1. EXPLAIN WHAT INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS YOU NEED; OR, CHECK ITEM 2; OR, COMPLETE ITEM 3		2. IF YOU ONLY NEED A STATEMENT OF SERVICE check here ☐	
3. LOST SEPARATION DOCUMENT REPLACEMENT REQUEST (Complete a or b, and c)			
a. REPORT OF SEPARATION (DD Form 214 or equivalent)		YEAR ISSUED	
b. DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE		YEAR ISSUED	
c. EXPLAIN HOW SEPARATION DOCUMENT WAS LOST			
4. EXPLAIN PURPOSE FOR WHICH INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED		6. REQUESTER	
		a. IDENTIFICATION (check appropriate box)	
		☐ Same person identified in Section I ☐ Surviving spouse	
		☐ Next of kin (relationship):	
		☐ Other (specify):	
		b. SIGNATURE (see instructions 3 and 4 on reverse side)	
5. RELEASE AUTHORIZATION, IF REQUIRED (Read instruction 3 on reverse side)		7. Please type or print clearly — COMPLETE RETURN ADDRESS	
I hereby authorize release of the requested information/documents to the person indicated at right (item 7).		Name, number and street, city, State and ZIP code	
VETERAN SIGN HERE		TELEPHONE NO. (include area code)	
(If signed by other than veteran, show relationship to veteran)			

Military Service Records in the National Archives of the United States

National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration
Washington, DC 20408



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Information needed to locate records. Certain identifying information is necessary to determine the location of an individual's record of military service. Please give careful consideration to and answer each item on this form. If you do not have and cannot obtain the information for an item, show "NA," meaning the information is "not available." Include as much of the requested information as you can. This will help us to give you the best possible service.

2. Charges for service. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee you will be notified as soon as that determination is made.

3. Restrictions on release of information. Information from records of military personnel is released subject to restrictions imposed by the military departments consistent with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 (as amended 1974) and the Privacy Act of 1974. A service person has access to almost any information contained in his own record. The next of kin (see item 4 of instructions) if the veteran is deceased and Federal officers for official purposes are authorized to receive information from a military service or medical record only as specified in the above cited Acts. Other requesters must have the release authorization, in item 5 of the form, signed by the

veteran or, if deceased, by the next of kin. Employers and others needing proof of military services are expected to accept the information shown on documents issued by the Armed Forces at the time a service person is separated.

4. Precedence of next of kin. The order of precedence of the next of kin is: unmarried widow or widower, eldest son or daughter, father or mother, eldest brother or sister.

5. Location of military personnel records. The various categories of military personnel records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. For each military service there is a note explaining approximately how long the records are held by the military service before they are transferred to the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis. Please read these notes carefully and make sure you send your inquiry to the right address. (If the person has two or more periods of service within the same branch, send your request to the office having the record for the last period of service.)

6. Definitions for abbreviations used below:

NPRC—National Personnel Records Center PERS—Personnel Records
TDRL—Temporary Disability Retirement List MED—Medical Records

SERVICE	NOTE	CATEGORY OF RECORDS	WHERE TO WRITE ADDRESS CODE
AIR FORCE (USAF)	Air Force records are transferred to NPRC from Code 1, 90 days after separation and from Code 2, 30 days after separation.	Active members (includes National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, and general officers retired with pay.	1
		Reserve, retired reservist in nonpay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in Air Force, and National Guard released from active duty in Air Force.	2
		Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in Air Force.	13
		Discharged, deceased, and retired with pay (except general officers retired with pay).	14
COAST GUARD (USCG)	Coast Guard officer and enlisted records are transferred to NPRC 3-6 months after separation.	Active, reserve, and TDRL members.	3
		Discharged, deceased, and retired members (see next item).	14
		Officers separated before 1/1/29 and enlisted personnel separated before 1/1/15.	6
MARINE CORPS (USMC)	Marine Corps records are transferred to NPRC 4 months after separation.	Active and TDRL members, reserve officers, and Class II enlisted reserve.	4
		Class III reservists and Fleet Marine Corps Reserve members.	5
		Discharged, deceased, and retired members (see next item).	14
		Officers and enlisted personnel separated before 1/1/1896.	6
ARMY (USA)	Army records are transferred to NPRC as soon as processed (about 30 days after separation)	Reserve, living retired members, retired general officers, and active duty records of current National Guard members who performed service in the U.S. Army before 7/1/72.*	7
		Active officers (including National Guard on active duty in the U.S. Army).	8
		Active enlisted (including National Guard on active duty in the U.S. Army) and enlisted TDRL.	9
		Current National Guard officers not on active duty in the U.S. Army.	12
		Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the U.S. Army.	13
		Discharged and deceased members (see next item).	14
		Officers separated before 7/1/17 and enlisted separated before 11/1/12.	6
		Officers and warrant officers TDRL.	8
NAVY (USN)	Navy records are transferred to NPRC 6 months after retirement or complete separation.	Active members (including reservists on active duty)—PERS and MED	10
		Discharged, deceased, retired (with and without pay) less than six months, TDRL, drilling and nondrilling reservists	10 PERS only MED only
		Discharged, deceased, retired (with and without pay) more than six months (see next item)—PERS & MED	11
		Officers separated before 1/1/03 and enlisted separated before 1/1/1886—PERS and MED	14
			6

* Code 12 applies to active duty records of current National Guard officers who performed service in the U.S. Army after 6/30/72.

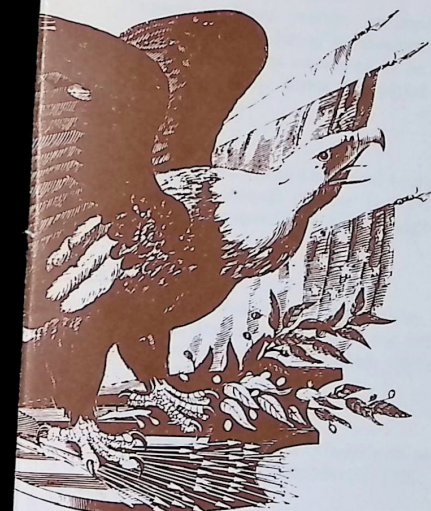
Code 13 applies to active duty records of current National Guard enlisted members who performed service in the U.S. Army after 6/30/72.

ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE)—Where to write / send this form for each category of records

1	USAF Military Personnel Center Military Personnel Records Division Randolph AFB, TX 78148	5	Marine Corps Reserve Forces Administration Center 1500 E. Bannister Road Kansas City, MO 64131	8	USA MILPERCEN Attn: DAPC-PSR-R 200 Stovall Street Alexandria, VA 22332	12	Army National Guard Personnel Center Columbia Pike Office Building 5600 Columbia Pike Boulevard Falls Church, VA 22041
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center 7300 East 1st Avenue Denver, CO 80280	6	Military Archives Division National Archives & Records Service General Services Administration Washington, DC 20408	9	Commander U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN 46249	13	The Adjutant General (of the appropriate State, DC, or Puerto Rico)
3	Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Washington, DC 20590			10	Chief of Naval Personnel Department of the Navy Washington, DC 20370	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63132
4	Commandant of the Marine Corps Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Washington, DC 20380	7	Commander U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel & Administration Center 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63132	11	Naval Reserve Personnel Center New Orleans, LA 70146		

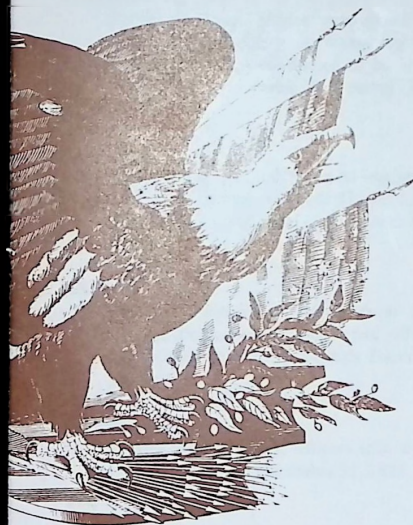
Military Service Records in the National Archives of the United States

National Archives and
Records Service
General Services
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The National Archives and Records Service (NARS) is the official depository for records of military personnel separated from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. The records are housed in three locations: the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.; the Washington National Records Center (WNRC), Suitland, Md.; and the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Mo. Listed below are some of the military service records that are in the holdings maintained at each of these locations. On subsequent pages are pertinent details about the records available.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING

Records relating to:

Volunteers

Chiefly military service performed by persons serving during an emergency and whose service was considered to be in the Federal interest, during the period 1775 through 1902.

U.S. Regular Army

Regular Army enlisted personnel who served from 1789 through October 31, 1912, and officers who served from 1789 through June 30, 1917.

U.S. Navy

Enlisted personnel who served from 1798 through December 31, 1885, and officers who served from 1798 through December 31, 1902.

U.S. Marine Corps

Enlisted personnel and officers who served from 1789 through December 31, 1895.

U.S. Coast Guard

Persons who served in predecessor agencies to the U.S. Coast Guard; i.e., the Revenue Cutter Service (Revenue Marine), the Life-Saving Service, and the Lighthouse Service, 1791-1919. (See also the following listing of records in the National Personnel Records Center.)

Confederate States

Records relating to persons who rendered military service for the Confederate States government in its armed forces from 1861 through 1865.

Veterans Records

Claims files for pensions based on Federal military service, 1775-1916, and bounty land warrant application files relating to claims based on wartime service, 1775-1855.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

Records relating to:

U.S. Army

Officers separated after June 30, 1917, and enlisted personnel separated after October 31, 1912.

U.S. Air Force

Officers and enlisted personnel separated after September 1947 (date of establishment of Department of the Air Force).

U.S. Navy and Marine Corps

Naval officers separated after 1902, naval enlisted personnel separated after 1885, and Marine Corps officers and enlisted personnel separated after 1895.

U.S. Coast Guard

Officers separated after 1928 and enlisted personnel separated after 1914; civilian employees of predecessor agencies (Revenue Cutter Service, Life-Saving Service, and Lighthouse Service) of the U.S. Coast Guard, 1864-1919.

Records Relating to Volunteer Soldiers

Records of volunteer soldiers who fought in various wars chiefly in the Federal Government's interest from the Revolutionary War through the Philippine Insurrection, 1775-1902, so-called compiled military service records, are in the National Archives Building.

A compiled military service record consists of a card or cards on which is recorded information about a soldier that was collected from muster rolls, returns, hospital registers, prison records, and other records. Cards for each war are arranged by State, thereunder by military unit, and thereunder alphabetically by surname. The War Department program for preparation of the compiled service records was begun some years after the Civil War to permit more rapid and efficient checking of military and medical records in connection with claims for pensions and other veterans benefits.

Compiled military service records for the Revolutionary War period are fragmentary because many of the original records were lost in a fire that occurred November 8, 1800, in offices the Secretary of War occupied. Other records were lost or destroyed in 1814 when Government buildings in Washington were ransacked and burned by the British Army.

The compiled military service record of each volunteer soldier is filed with similar records for other soldiers who fought in the same war and regiment or other unit. In addition to abstracts of information about the soldier from original rolls, returns, registers, or other records, the record sometimes contains, particularly for later wars,

one or more original documents relating to the soldier. The records usually show a soldier's presence or absence on certain dates. Typically, they also show the soldier's rank, military organization, and term of service; sometimes they also show age, place of enlistment, and place of birth. Although they are of value for proving military service, they usually contain little genealogical information.

Many of the original records from which compiled service records were made are among NARS holdings, but there is rarely need to examine them because of the care and thoroughness with which the information they contain was copied.

It should be noted that, although the War Department made every effort to assemble available official information, many compiled service records are not complete. Full records of the participation of a given unit may not have been available. Also, a soldier may have served in a State militia unit that was never called into the service of the Continental, Federal, or Confederate States governments. Records of such service, if available, are most likely to be in State archives or in the custody of the State adjutant general.

Records Relating to Regular Army Service

Records relating to service in the U.S. Regular Army by officers, 1789-1917, and enlisted men, 1789-1912, during peace and war are in the National Archives Building.

Records relating to officers serving in the Regular Army are scattered among many files and vary in content so much that it is not practical to describe them in detail here. An officer's service is likely to be documented in orders, muster rolls, returns of posts and military units, station books, War Department correspondence relating to personnel, and medical and other records. Records relating to service of Regular Army enlisted men include registers of enlistments, muster rolls of

regular units, and medical and other records. Registers of enlistments show for each man his name, age, place of birth, date and place of enlistment, occupation at enlistment, regiment and company, physical description, and date and reason for discharge, or, where applicable, date of death or date of desertion and sometimes of apprehension or return after desertion. The information in these diverse and scattered sources was never collected and organized into compiled service records as was done for volunteer soldiers.

Personnel records of officers separated from service after June 30, 1917, and of enlisted personnel separated after October 31, 1912, are in the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Mo. For the most part, these are individual files in which significant papers pertaining to service were maintained in a single jacket or folder generally known as the service record or 201 file. Officers' personnel records include those for separated Regular Army officers and active duty service of National Guard officers; for Reserve officers, if deceased; for nurses, contract surgeons, field clerks, and Public Health Service officers who were commissioned in the U.S. Army; and for officers of the Philippine Scouts. Enlisted men's records include those of members of the Specialist Corps, Russian Railway Corps, Student Army Training Corps, Philippine Scouts, former members of the National Guard, and reservists, if deceased. The clear-cut distinction between regular and nonregular service that characterizes records of the pre-1917 period does not persist thereafter.

Records Relating to Naval and Marine Corps Service

In the National Archives Building there are records relating to service in the American Navy and Marine Corps in the Revolutionary War, 1775-83; in the U.S. Navy—officers, 1798-1902, and enlisted men, 1798-1885; and in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1798-1895.

Naval and marine service records of the Revolutionary War period are fragmentary, including only such information as the serviceman's name and rank, the name of the vessel on which he served, and the dates of his service or the dates he was paid. See also *Records Relating to Volunteer Soldiers*, p. 3.

Records relating to the service of commissioned officers in the Navy after the Revolution but before 1846 give each officer's name, rank, State of birth, sometimes age or date of birth, State of residence, and dates of service. Records for 1846 and later contain the above information and occasionally give the date and place of an officer's death in service or the date of his retirement.

Records relating to a Navy enlisted man's service before 1846 usually give only his name and rating, the names of the vessels on which he served, and the dates of his service. Later records also give the enlisted man's age and place of birth and occasionally place of enlistment.

Records of commissioned officers in the Marine Corps usually show each officer's name and rank and the date of his appointment or acceptance of a commission. They may also give his age and residence. Service records for enlisted marines usually show the man's name and age, and the date, place, and term of enlistment.

In the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Mo., are individual personnel records (jackets) of Navy commissioned officers separated after 1902, Navy enlisted personnel separated after 1885, and Marine Corps officers and enlisted personnel separated after 1895.

Records Relating to Air Force Service

In the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Mo., are military personnel files and related records for officer and enlisted personnel of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard separated since September 1947, the date the U.S. Air Force was established. Service in

predecessor organizations (Army Air Forces, Army Air Corps, and Army Air Service) is also documented in the personnel files.

Records Relating to Coast Guard Service

The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an act of January 28, 1915, which consolidated the former Revenue Cutter and Life-Saving Services of the Department of the Treasury. The Bureau of Lighthouses of the Department of Commerce became part of the Coast Guard on July 1, 1939.

In the National Archives Building are record books, indexed by name of Revenue Cutter Service officers, 1791-1919, that sometimes show date and place of birth and death, but always show date of appointment, promotions, special duty assignments, and names of vessels served on. There are also applications for appointments and commissions as officers or cadets, ca. 1833-90, copies of officers' commissions, 1791-1909, and muster rolls and payrolls (muster rolls after 1871) of revenue cutters, 1832-1914. The muster rolls show each crewmember's name, rating, number of days served during the reported month, transfers, and often termination of service. For enlisted men muster rolls usually also show date and place of enlistment, place of birth, age, and physical description.

Records relating to the service of Coast Guard officers, 1890-1929, in WNRC, include records of former Revenue Cutter Service officers whose terms of service extended beyond 1915.

Inspectors and engineers of the Lighthouse Service districts were officers of the Army and Navy detailed from their respective services; their records will be found under the branch they served in. All other employees of the Lighthouse Service and inspectors, superintendents, keepers, and other employees of the Life-Saving Service were civilians. Requests for copies of records housed in

WNRC should be made by letter and sent to the General Archives Division, WNRC, Washington, DC 20409.

Records relating to the service of civilians formerly employed by the Revenue Cutter Service, Life-Saving Service, and Lighthouse Service, some dating back to 1864 but mostly dating from 1900, are on file at the National Personnel Records Center. Information cannot be furnished on the basis of a name alone. Other identifying data, such as date, place, and type of service, should be provided. Also in the National Personnel Records Center are personnel records of Coast Guard officers separated since 1928 and enlisted personnel separated after 1914.

Records Relating to Confederate Service

Compiled service records for many but not all of the men who served in the Confederate States army are in the National Archives Building. They contain virtually no genealogical information, but they are of value for proving military service. Compiled Confederate military service records are similar to those previously described relating to volunteer soldiers.

As the Confederate government evacuated Richmond in April 1865, the central military records of the Confederate army were taken to Charlotte, N.C., by the adjutant and inspector general, who then transferred them to the Union commander. The records were taken to Washington, where, along with other Confederate records captured by the Union Army, they were preserved by the War Department. In 1903 the Secretary of War persuaded the Governors of most Southern States to lend the War Department Confederate military personnel records in the possession of the States so that they could be copied.

The compiled military service record of a Confederate soldier consists of one or more card abstracts and sometimes one or more original documents. Each card abstract copies an entry in

original records, such as Confederate muster rolls, returns, and descriptive rolls and Union prison and parole records. The card abstracts in the jacket of any soldier, if the original record of his service was complete, may serve to trace that service from beginning to end, but they normally do little more than tell where he was at a given time. The only information of genealogical interest they are likely to give is his age and place of enlistment.

Many of the original records from which compiled service records were made are among NARS holdings, but there is rarely need to examine them because of the care and thoroughness with which the information they contain was copied.

A soldier may have served in a State militia unit that was never mustered into Confederate service. Records of service in such units, if they exist, are likely to be in the archives of the State or in custody of the State adjutant general. Many Southern States have records relating to payment of State benefits to Confederate veterans.

In the National Archives Building there are records for some persons who served in the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps, 1861-65. Confederate naval and marine service records give the serviceman's name and rank and sometimes his station. If he was imprisoned, a record may give the date of his capture, place of his imprisonment, and date of his parole.

Records Relating to Veterans Who Applied for Pensions or Bounty Land Warrants

From the earliest days of English settlement in America, the Colonies gave financial aid to persons disabled in military service and to dependents of persons killed in service. After the Colonies declared their independence, the Continental Congress passed resolutions promising compensation

to all who were disabled in the Revolutionary War, to those who continued in service to the end of the war, and to widows or orphans of officers killed in the war. Compensation could be in money or land, or both. Because the Continental Congress lacked funds, it relied on the States to provide compensation; some States also provided benefits independently of the Congress.

Pension Files

The First Congress under the Constitution approved an act making the United States responsible for payment of disability pensions that had been granted by States for service in the Revolutionary War. Acts passed during the next three decades limited benefits to those disabled in service and to dependents of those killed in service or who died as a result of service. In 1818, however, Congress provided that every person who had served in the Revolutionary War for 9 months or until the end of the war and who was "in need of assistance from his country for support" should be pensioned. Later legislation removed the requirement of need.

Following the precedent set for Revolutionary War veterans, Congress has authorized pensions for those who served in succeeding wars, including the Indian wars, and in peacetime. Pensions for peacetime service have been limited to veterans who suffered service-connected disabilities or to dependents of men who died as a result of service. The records of pensions granted or applied for under many of these laws are in the National Archives Building. The pension files relate to claims based on service in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps between 1775 and 1916.

Applications that the Secretary of War received through November 8, 1800, together with supporting papers, apparently were destroyed in the War Department fire of that date and in the fire of 1814. A few records relating to early claims still

exist, however, and information from them has been summarized on cards that are filed with Revolutionary War pension and bounty land warrant application files.

A typical pension file contains the application of the claimant, documents submitted as evidence of identity and service, and records of action taken on the claim. The claimant may have been a veteran or his widow, minor children, or other dependent. Since a claimant could have applied for a pension under several different acts, a pension file may contain more than one application from a claimant. It may also contain applications from several claimants because applications for pensions based on the service of one serviceman for a certain period were usually filed together. Documents submitted in support of some pension claims include affidavits attesting to service, pages from family bibles, and copies of records of birth, marriage, and death. For service in the Civil War and later, a pension file may also include Bureau of Pensions questionnaires sent out in 1898 and 1915, which contain genealogical information.

Pensions based on military service to the Confederate States of America were authorized by some Southern States but not by the Federal Government until 1959. Inquiries about State pensions should be addressed to the State archives at the capital of the veteran's State of residence after the war.

Bounty Land Warrant Application Files

In 1776 and later, the Continental Congress provided for granting public land to those who remained in the armed forces until the end of the war or until discharged by the Congress and to dependents of those killed. Laws passed between 1796 and 1855 also authorized granting warrants for land to those who had served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, Indian wars, and the war with Mexico. Bounty land warrant application

files relate to claims based on wartime service between 1775 and March 3, 1855.

The documents in a bounty land warrant application file are similar to those in a pension file. They include the application of the claimant, who may have been a veteran or a veteran's widow or heirs, affidavits attesting to service, and the jacket on which action taken on the claim is noted. Since Congress enacted many laws relating to bounty land, more than one application may be found in a file. Many of the application files relating to Revolutionary War and War of 1812 service have been combined with pension files.

Information in the Records

Both pension and bounty land warrant application files usually show name, rank, and military unit of the veteran and period of his service. If a veteran applied, the file usually shows his age or date of birth and place of residence at the time he applied, and sometimes his place of death. If his widow applied, the file shows her age and place of residence, her maiden name, the date and place of their marriage, and the date and place of his birth. When application was made on behalf of minor children or by heirs of the veteran, their names and sometimes their ages or dates of birth are shown.

RESTRICTIONS ON RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING AND IN THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL RECORDS CENTER

Records relating to military service ended more than 75 years ago are available for public examination, and copies can be provided. Records of military personnel who served within the last 75 years, however, are subject to restrictions imposed by the military under the Public Information Act of 1966. Although such records cannot be made

available for public examination or copies provided, information from them may be furnished to searchers on request.

RESTRICTIONS ON RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

Military personnel files at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Mo., are subject to the same conditions of use as are comparable records in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

Generally, other than requests from official sources, only those from members of veterans' immediate families will be honored, and then only for a limited number of applicants' relatives, such as the father, grandfather(s), brother(s), and uncle(s). If the person whose records are requested is living, his written consent is required before any information may be supplied. The information furnished is usually limited to complete name and dates of service, but, if needed to assure identification of the person or if specifically requested, such information as date and place of birth, and name of father, mother, and wife is furnished. Inquiries about military personnel should be submitted on Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Personnel Records (available from the Center), to National Personnel Records Center (MPRC), GSA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

Records relating to Federal employment of civilians are subject to U.S. Civil Service Commission regulations governing release of information from personnel records under the Public Information Act of 1966. Information furnished is limited to name, position titles, grades, salaries, and duty stations. An inquiry about the employment record of a civilian should contain as much identification as possible and should be addressed to Civilian Personnel Records (NCPD), GSA, 111 Winnebago St., St. Louis, MO 63118.

HOW TO ORDER COPIES OF UNRESTRICTED RECORDS

Photocopies of unrestricted original documents are available for a fee. NARS will conduct a search for the documents if, in addition to the full name of the serviceman, the war in which he served, and the State from which he entered service, an inquirer can supply other identifying information. (If the request concerns a Navy enlisted man, the name of at least one vessel on which he served, with approximate dates, must be given and, if possible, his place of enlistment.)

Requests for copies of records housed in the National Archives Building should be submitted on GSA Form 6751, Order for Copies--Veterans Records, which will be furnished free on request. The form should be filled out according to the instructions and with as much information as possible and returned to: Military Service Records (NNCC), National Archives and Records Service (GSA), Washington, DC 20408. The form also explains the procedure for making requests.

Requests for records housed at the National Personnel Records Center should be made on Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Personnel Records, and sent to National Personnel Records Center (MPRC), GSA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

If a file is found for the veteran in question, NARS will supply photocopies of documents that provide pertinent information about the veteran and his family. The inquirer will be billed for copies provided. The NARS staff is not permitted to read all documents in a file or to answer specific questions about them; however, if the inquirer wishes to have photocopies of all the papers in a file, they will be furnished for a moderate additional cost.

If a name supplied by an inquirer is not that under which the serviceman was carried on the rolls or if the unit in which he served is not known or is given incorrectly, the NARS staff may find it

difficult to identify his record. There are usually many servicemen of the same or nearly the same name, and the name under which a serviceman was listed may differ from the name by which he was known to members of his family.

NARS can only make identifications that are relatively easy to establish. It cannot undertake extensive research or lengthy evaluation of conflicting or uncertain evidence in the records. If such research or evaluation is necessary, it will offer to furnish reproductions of all the records.

In attempting to identify a serviceman when the information supplied is not sufficient, the NARS staff will try to match initials and spelling of the surname given in a standard list of variant spellings. If the staff is able to reduce the possibilities to a few individual records, it will attempt identification by comparing the records with any information the inquirer supplies that is likely to be useful for the purpose. If the serviceman's identity seems obvious or probable, NARS will furnish a photocopy of the record it thinks is the correct one.

Inquirers who are unable to supply information necessary for NARS to make an effective search of the records may examine or hire someone to examine files in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. Names of persons who do research for a fee can be obtained from the Board for Certification of Genealogists, 1307 New Hampshire Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Some of the information needed to order copies may be found in *Index to Revolutionary War Pension Applications*, revised and published in 1966 by the National Genealogical Society; in *Report From the Secretary of War in Relation to the Pension Establishment of the United States*, published in three volumes in 1835 as Senate Document 514, 23d Congress, 1st session; and in *List of Pensioners on the Roll January 1, 1883*, published in five volumes in 1883 as Senate Executive Document 84, 47th Congress, 2d session. These publications are available in most large public libraries and in research libraries.





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THE LONG ROAD TO VICTORY

A HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
AND A CHRONOLOGICAL REGISTER
OF THE EVENTS OF
THE WAR IN EUROPE AND AFRICA
1939-1945
WITH A LEADING ARTICLE

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RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH

THE LONG ROAD TO VICTORY

ON September 1, 1939, German armour crossed the Polish frontier and German aeroplanes attacked Warsaw. Ten days earlier the signature of a Russo-German non-aggression pact had proclaimed the imminence of war and the Germans had now completed their preparations for its outbreak. They had perfected a new method of warfare, later to be known as *Blitzkrieg*, by a development of the tactics which had finally overcome the static defence systems of the last war. They now put into execution their plan for overrunning Poland in a mechanized offensive of hitherto unknown mobility. The air arm led the way, attacking the enemy's centres of communication, scattering his columns on their way to their concentration points and blinding him by rendering his airfields unserviceable. Tanks formed the spearhead of the ground attack. They were followed by convoys of motor transport conveying infantry and guns. Thrusting into Poland from north, west, and south, these forces converged on Warsaw before the Polish High Command could establish control over the troops dispersed along the country's frontiers.

The campaign developed at a pace which amazed the world. Within a fortnight all western Poland was lost and the Polish army, so far as it was still in being, had withdrawn behind Warsaw, already closely invested. On September 17 the implications of the Russo-German pact began to be revealed. Russian troops entered Poland from the east and a few days later the stricken country suffered its fourth partition. By the middle of October organized resistance in Poland had been crushed. Thereafter, for more than 18 months, the war in the east was to be conducted mainly under diplomatic forms.

FALL OF FRANCE

In the opening days of the war a British Expeditionary Force which eventually amounted to 10 divisions crossed the Channel. Lord Gort was in command. The Armies took up their positions on their prepared lines. The world waited. Nothing happened. Both sides armed, the Germans more rapidly because their war industries were in full operation. Germany matured her plans; Britain and France faced an unreal present and a

menacing future; and America talked of a "phony" war. The weakest point in the German front was the long line of sea communications with Narvik and the North Swedish iron fields. It was secured against British sea power by the German use of sheltered Norwegian waters. In February the British, impatient of this abuse of Norwegian neutrality, broke in to rescue British prisoners from a German ship. On April 9 Germany decided that neutrality had served its purpose and invaded Denmark and Norway. The Danes yielded; the Norwegians fought on and an Anglo-French Army went to their aid. Imperfectly trained, inadequately munitioned, and lacking air cover, it was forced to retire on its bases, from which it was later withdrawn. During this brief campaign the Germans revealed two more of their secret weapons, the one military, the other political. The almost simultaneous seizure of all the key points in southern and western Norway was made possible by the employment of parachute troops, and the formation of the country's puppet government after its conquest was entrusted to a Norwegian traitor, one Quisling, who "by merit raised to that bad eminence," was to give his name to the whole contemptible breed of which he was the first notorious example.

The unhappy issue of the Norwegian campaign had immediate and decisive political repercussions in Britain. At the close of a debate in the House of Commons a division was challenged. The strong opposition vote decided Mr. Chamberlain to resign. After consulting the Opposition leaders the retiring Prime Minister advised the King to send for Mr. Churchill. Labour, which had hitherto held aloof from office, entered the new Government representative of all parties in the State. Its core was a small war Cabinet with Mr. Churchill as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. Mr. Churchill took office on May 10, a day of momentous events in Europe. Happily for Britain the hour had produced the man.

THE MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK

On the same day the Germans opened the campaign intended, according to Hitler, to settle the course of history for 1,000 years. Holland and Belgium were invaded simultaneously on what appeared to be an expanded version of the old Schlieffen plan. The allies hastened to the support of Germany's victims—the British to fill the gap between the Belgians

and the French, the French to act as the link between the Belgians and the Dutch. The Germans did not interfere with these movements. Their main blow was to be struck elsewhere. Realizing that motorized forces need not be held up by difficult country, they traversed the Ardennes, crossed the Meuse between Sedan and Namur, and sent armoured divisions, with effective air support, on their race to the Channel ports. In the closing days of May the Germans scoured both Boulogne and Calais, and split the allied forces in two. The position of the British in the north was now critical. Holland had capitulated on May 15, and Belgium on May 28. The seaway to England was accessible only through Dunkirk. Through this narrow gap there were safely evacuated in less than a week some 330,000 men, nearly two-thirds of them British. But all their equipment was lost.

While these events were moving towards their climax the French Prime Minister, M. Reynaud, sought to remedy an almost desperate situation by making two appointments, of which one proved futile and the other disastrous. Dismissing General Gamelin, he entrusted the French command to General Weyand, who had been Foch's Chief of Staff and was regarded as the heir to his tradition. To strengthen his Cabinet he recalled Marshal Pétain from his Madrid Embassy and gave him the post of Vice-Premier.

Unable to stem the German rush to the coast, Weyand reformed his armies behind the Somme and the Aisne and a small British Expeditionary Force was landed in their support. It was too late, and on June 14 the Germans entered Paris, which had been declared an open city. From Bordeaux, whither it had withdrawn, the French Cabinet requested the British Government to release it from its obligation not to make a separate peace. To this the British Government—the Coalition Ministry which Mr. Churchill had formed a month before—was prepared to consent if the French fleet first sailed to safety in British ports. But the British proposal went farther. It offered the union of the two States in a common citizenship if France would fight on. The French Cabinet rejected this proposal, M. Reynaud, who had favoured it, resigned, and the octogenarian Pétain took his place to become the central figure in the most humiliating episode in French history.

Pétain's first act was to ask the Germans for terms, and on June 22 an armistice was signed at Compiègne. It divided France into two zones, the one occupied, the other unoccupied, which were roughly equal in area but were so designed as to give the Germans every military and economic advantage. The Germans occupied the whole of northern France down to the Loire valley as well as the entire Atlantic coast to the Spanish frontier. The facilities for submarine warfare thus provided were promptly strengthened by the occupation of the Channel Islands. Two days later the armistice with Italy—Mussolini had found it opportune to declare war when the Germans forced the Somme barrier—drew France's teeth in the Mediterranean by binding her to demilitarize Toulon, her African ports, and a considerable stretch of her African territory.

It remained for Pétain to complete the destruction of the Third Republic. President Lebrun transferred his constitutional powers to Pétain, who at once proclaimed himself Chief of the French State. As such he formed a Government in which his civil genius, Pierre Laval, was given the key post of Foreign Minister and thus placed in charge of future negotiations with the Germans.

But though France had fallen, there were still Frenchmen. Before the armistice was signed General de Gaulle had issued his first call for continued resistance. When all seemed lost he crossed to London, where on June 28 the British Government recognized him as Leader of the Free French. Before August was out most of French Equatorial Africa had rallied to his standard, the Cross of Lorraine, but late in September his movement received a check through his failure to gain Dakar. Nearly five years were to elapse before the patriot and soldier who had organized new French forces in England and in the French colonies and had fostered the resistance movement in Metropolitan France was to re-enter Paris as the living symbol of his country's resurgence.

PRELUDE TO RUSSIAN WAR

After the conquest of Poland the aim of Russian policy, with a view of German intentions that events were to confirm in full, was to control the buffer zone lying between the new German lines and Russian territory proper. Her first step was the absorption of the three Baltic States under the form of mutual assistance pacts—Estonia before September was out, Latvia and Lithuania early in October. Only Finland proved recalcitrant and resisted by force the Russian claim to control both the land and the sea approaches to Leningrad. At first the Finnish resistance was brilliantly successful. Gradually, however, the main Finnish position, the so-called Mannerheim line guarding south-eastern Finland, was broken up by Russian artillery, and by mid March, 1940, there was again an apparent peace in eastern Europe.

It lasted until the following October, when Italian troops invaded Greece and soon showed themselves increasingly unable to make headway against their plucky and determined enemy. For the moment, the Germans were content to watch events in eastern Europe, but in the spring of 1941 they developed elaborate plans, political and military, which included aid to their embarrassed ally, Bulgaria and Rumania passed voluntarily into the German orbit—the latter after the loss of Bessarabia and the Bukovina to Russia—and Yugoslavia would have followed their example had her people not revolted against their Government. After a few tense days the Germans struck on April 6. Sweeping aside the main Yugoslav forces, they penetrated the Monastir gap, occupied Salonika, turned upon the Greek army which was driving the Italians out of Albania, and on April 27 announced, in words which symbolized the condition of Europe, that the swastika was floating over the Acropolis.

WAR IN THE AIR

The R.A.F. at once took the offensive with raids on the German naval bases and at the end of September the first serious air fight took place over Heligoland. But the clash of

arms in the air developed slowly, and for some months the R.A.F.'s main contacts with the enemy arose out of Coastal Command's cooperation with the Navy in keeping the seas clear. During this period, however, the leaflet war on Germany was giving R.A.F. bombers invaluable experience in night flying. Not till May, 1940, did German bombs dropped in Kent and on Middlesbrough give hints of what was to befall. The Battle of Britain opened on August 8. It lasted for a month and was then gradually merged in the Battle of London, familiarly known as the Blitz. The original aim of the *Luftwaffe* was to prepare the way for the invading German armies by depriving the R.A.F. of the airfields in south-eastern England from which its fighters could take off. This battle reached its height on August 15, when 182 German aircraft were destroyed in an attack on Croydon aerodrome. Damage was done to other fields and some were temporarily put out of service in attacks which reached their second climax on September 15 with 185 German aircraft destroyed, but the soil of England was kept inviolate by a few hundred young men flying machines inferior to the enemy's in numbers but superior in design. It was to these days that Mr. Churchill referred in his famous phrase: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Defeated in its cooperation with the military, the *Luftwaffe* fell back on its second function—that of terrorizing civilians. The first daylight attack on central London took place on August 24, the first all-night attack two nights later. Early in September the Blitz began. At its height it was maintained for nearly 60 consecutive nights. Buckingham Palace was damaged on September 11, and on the same night an unexploded bomb, happily removed in time, threatened St. Paul's. The great incendiary attack on the City took place on the night of December 29, 1940, and the Blitz is considered to have ended with the attack of May 10, 1941, which destroyed the House of Commons and damaged the Abbey. Before this date the *Luftwaffe* had again changed its tactics. In its attempt to hamper British war production it had launched its attacks on Coventry, Birmingham, and Liverpool, and in the hope of neutralizing the British command of the sea it had bombed Plymouth, Southampton, and Portsmouth. Meanwhile the R.A.F., still gathering its strength, had begun the daylight sweeps over France and the night attacks on German cities which were later to exercise so profound an influence on the course of the war.

WAR AT SEA

On the first night of the war a German submarine sank the *Athena* and opened what became the Battle of the Atlantic. The conflict was intense and prolonged, but the Atlantic life-line was maintained. Though still neutral the United States showed its concern to maintain it. In September, 1940, the transfer of 50 American destroyers to the British flag in connexion with the lease of bases in the Atlantic and the Caribbean eased the strain on escort vessels, and in the following spring the American Lend-Lease Act—first fruits of President Roosevelt's re-election to a third term of office—ensured the flow of goods. In home waters large defensive minefields were laid and the new German device of the magnetic mine countered by "degaussing" apparatus. There was little surface fighting. After the invasion of Norway the Navy forced

its way to Narvik in two brilliant engagements. Later it covered the evacuation of the allied troops from Namsos and Narvik at the cost of the loss of the aircraft-carrier *Glorious*, and took its great and gallant share in the operations off Dunkirk. In the outer oceans three British cruisers sought and found the German battleship *Admiral Graf Spee* and with magnificent audacity forced her into the River Plate. When she came out she scuttled herself by Hitler's order. This was in December, 1939, and not till early in 1941 were German surface ships again active. The *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisenau* broke out in February and were eventually driven to shelter in Brest, where they became targets for the R.A.F. and on the night of May 21 the *Bismarck* sailed out of Bergen. Three days later, when brought to action between Iceland and Greenland, she sank the *Hood* and damaged the *Prince of Wales*, but while making for a French Atlantic port she was attacked by aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm. Her rudder and propellers were damaged by air attack, and next day, May 27, the Navy closed its net on her and sent her to the bottom.

Meanwhile Italy's entry into the war in June, 1940, had transformed the naval situation in the Mediterranean. It was essential that the powerful French fleet should not fall into enemy hands. The French vessels at Alexandria were successfully neutralized, but the admiral commanding the powerful squadron at Mers el Kebir rejected the proposals made to him and on July 3 the British reluctantly opened fire. A French battleship was blown up, two more were driven ashore, a fourth with some destroyers escaped to Toulon. Four months later, on November 11, the command of the Eastern Mediterranean was secured when the Fleet Air Arm crippled the Italian fleet as it lay at anchor in Taranto harbour. Not till the end of the following March did the Italian fleet again put to sea. Ordered by the Germans to break British communications with Crete and Greece, it was brought to action off Cape Matapan and driven back to its home ports after serious losses. But the Germans had now taken over the Mediterranean war, and before launching their attack on Russia they safeguarded their southern flank by using air power against sea power. In the summer of 1941 British naval strength in the Eastern Mediterranean was weakening and Maltese heroism was already enduring the grim ordeal of an air siege.

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The last six months of 1940 were full of peril to Britain's position as an imperial Power. Italian armies in Africa threatened Egypt, the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and, with the Italian Navy still in being, British supplies and reinforcements had to be sent round the Cape. Actually the Italians achieved nothing beyond the occupation of British Somaliland. Early in December, three months after Marshal Graziani had begun his lumbering advance across the Egyptian desert, Sir Archibald Wavell struck back with the imperial forces under his command. The Italian Army broke and surrendered, and the offensive, whose original objective was Tobruk, swept on until on February 6, 1941, Australian troops entered Benghazi.

In mid-January British, Dominion, Indian, and East and West African forces advanced from the Sudan and Kenya into Eritrea, Abyssinia, and Somaliland and in four months

destroyed Italy's East African Empire. Keren, the Eritrean mountain fortress, fell on March 27. Thereafter events moved swiftly. On May 5, five years after Mussolini had proclaimed his Empire in the Piazza Venezia, Haile Selassie re-entered his capital, and a fortnight later the Italian Viceroy, the Duke of Aosta, was a prisoner in British hands. The last remnants of Italy's Ethiopian empire vanished with the surrender of Gondar on November 27, 1941.

Even before General Wavell launched his attack, British aid had been sent to Greece. In the spring of 1941 the German menace to the Balkans compelled further diversions of strength. A few days before the German onslaught on Yugoslavia the German Africa Corps under Rommel showed its strength in Africa and compelled the evacuation of Benghazi. A series of rearguard actions followed as General Wavell retreated, leaving a strong garrison in Tobruk to withstand a historic siege. The full scope of the German plan of campaign was now revealed. It proposed to combine the German forces in Libya and Greece as elements in a common offensive to secure command of the Eastern Mediterranean and safeguard the southern flank of the armies soon to be launched against Russia. Accordingly on May 20 strong German airborne forces were dropped in Crete. The attacks of German bombers had compelled withdrawal of the British fighters and the garrison had to fight without cover. The Navy, though sustaining heavy losses, prevented an invasion by sea but more troops were dropped from the air and after 11 days' heavy fighting all Crete passed into German hands.

The stage was now set for the attack on Russia. A few uneasy weeks slipped by during which German and Russian forces gathered all along the line from the Baltic to the Black Sea. It may well be that the resistance in Greece and Yugoslavia imposed a fatal delay upon the German concentration. Not till June 22 did Hitler, satisfied that he could better Napoleon's example, give the order to march on Moscow.

TIDE'S SLOW TURN

The German armies concentrated on the Russian front from the Baltic to Bessarabia, where Rumanian forces were in line with them, numbered over 160 divisions, about 20 of which were armoured. They were divided into three Army Groups, the northern under Field-Marshal von Leeb, the central under Field-Marshal von Bock, both north of the Pripiet marshes, and the southern under Field-Marshal von Rundstedt. An army of five divisions cooperated with the Finns. Five air fleets, each comprising from 800 to 1,200 aircraft, cooperated with the armies. This great host numbered some 5,000,000 men, highly trained, fanatically confident, and admirably equipped for all eventualities—except the Russian winter. The Russians, though probably stronger numerically, had not completed their concentration when attacked. They met the onset with a defence in depth which, though it did not defeat the attack, checked its momentum and prevented any repetition of the German successes in Poland and France. They were far better found, especially in aircraft and tanks, than the Poles had been, and the Finnish campaign had taught them valuable lessons. It must be added that they fought much better than the French had done. Their

infantry, though often outflanked and overrun by German tanks, displayed the utmost determination, frequently breaking out of the rings of armour and mechanized infantry which the enemy had thrown around them. Above all they had no reluctance to strip their own countryside rather than allow its livestock and transport and its stores of grain to fall into the invaders' hands; they had the great advantage of possessing ample space in which to manoeuvre in retreat, and their commanders, with few exceptions, made all possible use of these assets.

In the north Leeb's forces overran the Baltic States, reaching the neighbourhood of Leningrad in September, while the Finns threatened it from the north. Blockaded, except during the winter, when supplies reached it over frozen Lake Ladoga, Leningrad bore famine, bombardment, and cold unflinchingly. In the centre Bock reached Smolensk on July 16 and held Russian counter-attacks during a 10 weeks' halt. Rundstedt's armies, after several victories, occupied Kiev (September 19), Odessa (October 16), and Kharkov (October 24), and broke into the Crimea (October 29) to beleaguer Sevastopol. The fall of Rostov (November 22) marked the eastward limit of this advance. A week later a Russian counter-stroke regained the city. Meanwhile the march on Moscow had begun on October 5. At first Bock's armies advanced rapidly. By November 1 they had taken Rzhev, Vyasma, Kaluga, and Orel, and at one point they were but 60 miles from their goal. Although government departments, foreign missions, and many non-combatants had been evacuated to Kuibyshev from the capital and the situation was described as "grave," Stalin stayed. The Red Army fought tenaciously; the impetus of the attack waned.

On November 16 Bock renewed the attack with 51 divisions, attempting to combine encirclement from north and south with a central thrust from Mozhaisk. After three weeks' furious fighting the Russians held their ground; and on December 7 the German High Command announced that all operations, "being impeded by intense cold," must be limited to securing safe winter quarters and suitable positions for a spring offensive. Aided by an exceptionally bitter winter which inflicted heavy losses on the invaders, the Russians pressed them back from 25 to 60 miles on the whole central front. On December 19 Hitler announced that he had taken the place of Field-Marshal von Brauchitsch as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, that he would "follow his intuitions," and reserve to himself all essential decisions in the military sphere. The allies had every cause to approve the change.

During the rest of the winter the Germans stood on the defensive in fortified "hedgerogs," the most important of which repelled Russian attacks. They suffered greatly from the attacks of well-organized Russian partisans infuriated by their cruelties. But they yielded no essential ground; they had been reinforced by Hungarian and Italian contingents and from their own reserves, and awaited the drying of the ground for their offensive. In May they expelled the Russians from the Kerch Peninsula, but while they were thus engaged Marshal Timoshenko opened an offensive which nearly retook Kharkov (May 14-17), but was halted by Bock's counter-offensive across the Donetz (May 19-26). The Germans then turned on Sevastopol, which fell after a desperate defence (July 1). On June 26 they opened dangerous, but eventually

disastrous, offensives against Stalingrad and the Caucasian oilfields.

STALINGRAD AND AFTER

At first the offensives prospered. The Germans forced the Donetz and the Don lines, and reached Stalingrad, on the Volga, and Mozdok, in the northern Caucasus. But they were not strong enough for final victory on both fronts. In Stalingrad they encountered an epic resistance (September 5-November 18), and on November 19 began the Russians' relief offensive which cut the besieging army's communications and besieged it in turn. The German Caucasus army, weakened by the detachment of a force to relieve their Stalingrad forces, was driven back. The relieving force was defeated at Kotelnikovo (December 29). On January 31, 1943, 46,000 men, all that battle, hunger, and cold had left of over 200,000 encircled soldiers, surrendered, with their commander, Field-Marshal von Paulus, outside Stalingrad. The whole southern front gave way. The Germans had employed large numbers of Hungarian and Italian troops on supposedly quiet sectors on the flank of the great two-pronged salient which they had driven to the Volga and along the northern flank of the Caucasus. Lacking training and enthusiasm, these satellite forces were rapidly overpowered; and their defeat involved that of their German masters, who were now tardily discovering that the Russians, who, according to their Führer, had been beaten beyond hope of recovery, possessed almost inexhaustible reserves of men and an inexhaustible spirit. These defeats compelled the Germans to spend themselves in a vast series of rearguard actions fought always in bitter cold, often in snowstorms, against an enemy whose endurance of cold and hardship far exceeded their own. The "hedgehogs" began to succumb to well-planned Russian attacks. By mid-March the Russians were approaching the Dnieper, and, though the Germans temporarily regained Kharkov, the balance of the winter campaign was heavily against them. They suffered further losses on the central front, and on January 18 Leningrad was relieved. Yet they still planned another offensive, though their last year in Russia had cost them and their satellites over 2,000,000 dead and prisoners. On July 6 they attacked between Orel and Bielgorod, only to be fought to a standstill, with immense losses of men and armour. By July 12 the Russians opened a general counter-offensive regaining Orel, Kharkov, and Taganrog, with many other towns, by September 2.

FROM MALTA TO PERSIA

With the loss of Crete, our situation in the Mediterranean had worsened, in spite of Middle Eastern successes. In Iraq, where the ex-Premier Rashid Ali and pro-Axis officers had seized power in April, 1941, had opposed our right of military passage guaranteed us by treaty, and attacked our aerodrome at Habbaniya, an expeditionary force had restored order and the lawful Government by June 1. The Vichy French authorities in Syria had allowed Germans flying to Iraq to use Syrian airfields. Imperial Dominion, and Free French troops entered Syria on June 8 and compelled the surrender of the garrison on July 14. In Persia German agents were active and increased in numbers after Hitler's attack on Russia. The Shah neglected allied warnings until on August 25 Imperial troops invaded southern, and Soviet forces northern Persia, meeting only a token resistance,

which ceased on August 28. The Shah did not abide by his undertakings and was deposed. Persia became an ally and opened a new line of communications with Russia by road and rail. Nevertheless the fact that the enemy now held both the Mediterranean "narrows" between Sicily and Malta and between Crete and Cyrenaica under threat of air attack cramped our Mediterranean operations. Rommel, the German commander in Libya, received reinforcements and supplies from Italy and Greece. Our reinforcements and supplies reached Egypt round the Cape of Good Hope, and were exposed to U-boat attack far longer than Axis transports crossing the Sicilian Channel. So when we advanced into Libya in November we found the German armour and equipment superior to ours, and though we relieved Tobruk and drove the enemy from Benghazi he regained it in January, 1942. Even when the United States was brought into the struggle by the Japanese attack of December 7, 1941, and the German and Italian declarations of war, many months passed before it entered the Mediterranean war in strength. Meanwhile, on May 26 Rommel opened a new offensive, which after alternations of fortune took Tobruk (June 21) and thrust our Eighth Army back to El Alamein, 80 miles west of Alexandria. Here General Auchinleck repulsed Rommel's attack in July. In October his successor, General Alexander, having been reinforced by British infantry and American Sherman tanks ordered General Montgomery, the Commander of the Eighth Army, to attack, and after a fortnight's battle the counter-stroke drove the enemy headlong from Egypt with the loss of two-thirds of his army.

The church bells ringing to celebrate the victory carried a message of deliverance. For over a year our naval position in the Mediterranean had been precarious. At one period we had but three cruisers available there, and every battleship had been lost or damaged. Continuously bombed Malta was also threatened with famine. Admiral Vian's remarkable battle against an immensely stronger Italian fleet (March 22, 1942) in defence of the Malta convoy gave the heroic garrison and population of the island relief at a most anxious moment.

BRITAIN AND THE LIFE-LINE

The situation in the Atlantic remained serious. The entry of the United States into the war was followed by an intensified U-boat campaign, which extended to the West Indies, and inflicted great losses on allied shipping. Brazil joined the allies in August, 1942.

The Germans carried combined operations by strong groups of submarines—the "wolf-pack system"—to a high degree of efficiency. German aircraft ranged far into the Atlantic; E-boats harassed vessels in the narrow seas. The journeys to Murmansk of the Arctic convoys carrying the arms and supplies which did much to support Russian resistance, notably during the period of the removal of industrial machinery from western Russia to the Urals, involved terrible hardships and heavy losses. On February 12 the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, and Prinz Eugen slipped out of Brest and, detected only near the Straits of Dover and covered by swarms of land-based aircraft escaped to German waters. The struggle against the U-boats continued throughout the year. Early in 1943 the Germans were still believed to be producing U-boats at a rate much exceed-

ing their losses. Hitler's appointment late in January of Admiral Donitz, a convinced adherent of unlimited submarine warfare, to be Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy gave evidence of the intention to increase the scale of these attacks. But three months later the number of monthly sinkings claimed by the enemy had fallen markedly, and in May it was clear that the campaign against these pests of the seas was taking a favourable turn. By mid-August, 1943, more U-boats were being sunk than merchant ships. New methods of attack, increased provision of escort craft, escort carriers, and long-range aeroplanes, and the immense output of shipping in the United States brought this relief.

BREACHING THE DAMS

In the air British attacks on Germany grew more formidable monthly. Stages in its development during 1942 were marked by the daylight attack on Augsburg in April, the first raid of over 1,000 bombers on Germany on the night of May 30, and the participation in the attack of the enterprising American air forces which were soon to equal and later surpass the R.A.F. in numbers. August 17 saw the first all-American bombing raid from this country. On January 27, 1943, the Americans opened the series of large-scale daylight attacks with the heaviest bombers that contributed so greatly to the decline of German war production. "Round-the-clock" bombing by the R.A.F. began in the exceptionally fine February of 1943. The breaching of the Mohne and Eder dams on May 16 was a masterpiece of brave and accurate bombing. To these attacks, in which new tactical methods and more destructive bombs were being employed, the Germans, their *Luftwaffe* mostly committed to the Russian war or shoring up Italian resistance, found no adequate reply. "Hit-and-run" dashes at English coast towns and the "Baedeker raids" on historical monuments in the spring of 1942 were poor reprisals for the wrecked factories of the Ruhr. During this phase land operations in western Europe were confined to raids on the French and Norwegian coasts—the most important and costly of which was the mainly Canadian reconnaissance raid on Dieppe (August 19, 1942). Throughout it powerful forces were being built up in Great Britain for foreign service, while the Home Guard relieved the Regular Army of much of its burden of defence. The American troops who landed in Northern Ireland in January, 1942, were forerunners of a great army.

It was in Africa, however, that the United States struck its first heavy blow against the Axis. Our attack at El Alamein had been planned in conjunction with a great Anglo-American descent on French North Africa, from which we could strike at what Mr. Churchill called "the underbelly" of the Nazi monster. On November 8 the allied expedition landed. After a brief resistance the French troops in Morocco and Algeria surrendered to the allied Commander, General Eisenhower, and the capitulation was signed by Admiral Darlan, whose subsequent assassination terminated the controversies aroused by the allied acceptance of his useful change of front. The enemy promptly landed troops in Tunisia and sent reinforcements to Rommel's retreating army. The Eighth Army reached Tripoli (January 23) after a memorable pursuit of 1,350 miles. By then heavy and indecisive fighting had begun in Tunisia. It lasted until May 7, when the allied armies, including excel-

lent French troops, closed with General von Arnim's army, captured Tunis and Bizerta, and on May 13 took the surrender of the famous Afrika Korps. Nearly 250,000 prisoners, three-fifths of them Germans, fell into their hands.

The allies now prepared to invade Italy, which was suffering grievously from their naval and aerial attacks and had been defeated morally since El Alamein. On July 10 strong allied forces landed on the Sicilian coast and made good their footing. Italian resistance was weak, and although the German troops fought stoutly they had all evacuated Sicily by August 17. This disaster overthrew Mussolini, who was abandoned by most of his party and was imprisoned but was afterwards rescued by the Germans. His successor, Marshal Badoglio, while assuring them that he would continue the war, entered into secret negotiations with the allied High Command. After various difficulties an Italian envoy signed the armistice terms at Syracuse on September 3 on condition that they should not be published until the night of September 8-9 when the allies were about to land near Naples.

LIBERATION

In accordance with the armistice terms the Italian fleet, still a substantial force of five battleships and seven cruisers with attendant destroyers, put to sea and shaped course for Malta. It was attacked by German aircraft and the battleship Roma was sunk by a direct bomb. The other ships reached Valletta on September 11. The command of the sea had now passed to the allies and Sardinia and Corsica were recovered by October 1, but land operations proved more hazardous. The day after the armistice was announced allied troops landed in Salerno Bay. The Germans, whom Italy's collapse had not taken by surprise, seized control, and concentrating rapidly almost drove the invaders into the sea. Supported, however, by fire from warships the allies held on until, after a critical week, the advance of the Eighth Army from the south relieved the pressure. Naples was occupied on October 1 and the enemy fell back to the line of the Volturno, where, over 80 years earlier, Garibaldi had been checked in his victorious advance. During a severe winter the river was crossed, but allied progress was held up before Cassino and a successful landing at Anzio early in 1944 only created a second deadlock. It was broken on May 11 when the allies opened an attack which carried them through the Liri valley. A junction with the Anzio troops followed and on June 4 Rome was freed.

The Germans rallied their unbroken forces near Lake Trasimene, and, though the advance continued, its speed was reduced. Siena and Leghorn were liberated in July, Florence in August, and early in September the allies forced the so-called Gothic line in the Northern Apennines. But Bologna was still covered. All through the winter the allies pushed gradually forward, Ravenna falling in December, but it was not until April 10 that the final blow was struck. The Eighth Army on the Adriatic front opened the attack, the Fifth Army made its thrust a few days later, and on April 21 the allies entered Bologna.

The defence now collapsed. The Germans surrendered in tens of thousands, while partisan bands, their action coordinated by General Cadorna, seized the industrial cities of the north. Two days after the fall of Bologna the victorious allies had reached the

Po. No serious opposition was offered at its crossings, and through the closing days of April the advance swept on. Genoa, Turin, Milan, Brescia, Verona, already freed by the partisans, were entered, and Mussolini's life ended with the final overthrow of his régime. Partisans shot him on April 28, the day before two German officers signed the allies' terms of unconditional surrender. On May 2, in accordance with their provisions, nearly 1,000,000 men, including Fascist Republicans, laid down their arms.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM

British and American forces led by General Montgomery landed on June 6, 1944, in the Seine Bay—a region which had known many landings from England in earlier centuries. The operation, postponed for 24 hours, took place during a short break in the weather of what turned out to be the stormiest June on record. Happily some such contingency had been foreseen. All the world knew that large and splendidly equipped forces were gathering in England, but the great secret had been well kept. British engineers had designed and produced an artificial harbour, capable of transport across the Channel there to provide, within a breakwater formed by caissons and sunken ships, an area of calm water containing all facilities for landing men, guns, and stores. The enterprise was known as "Mulberry", it bore fruit in due course.

For weeks past persistent air attacks had been made "on military objectives in Northern France" with the object of breaking down all the bridges across the Seine and the Loire and of creating a vast box in which the German forces, their communications cut, could be brought to action and destroyed. This object was largely attained, but the vague official formula also contained its secret. The Germans had produced a jet-propelled, unpiloted aeroplane carrying about a ton of explosives to be launched against southern England in general and London in particular from concrete platforms in northern France. Before D Day over 100 of these platforms had been discovered and destroyed, not without loss. Then the Germans produced a prefabricated ramp which could be assembled quickly and camouflaged thoroughly. A week after D Day the first flying-bomb, promptly nick-named "doodle-bug," fell on British soil. For 80 summer days and nights before the victory in Normandy enabled the bombing sites to be cleared Londoners were familiar with the roar of the approaching bomb, the sudden silence and the crash on impact. In all 2,300 bombs out of 8,000 launched eluded pursuit machines, A.A. guns, and barrage balloons and reached the London area. The cost to both life and property was high. Some 5,500 men, women, and children were killed and over 16,000 seriously injured—the great majority in the London area. On the material side, both churches and hospitals suffered heavily, but the worst damage was to hundreds of thousands of small houses.

BATTERING THE HINGE

The plan of invasion gave the British Caen and the Americans Cherbourg as the first main objectives. Moving rapidly across the neck of the Cotentin peninsula the Americans entered Cherbourg on the 20th day after their landing. Caen proved a harder nut to crack. It was not taken until July 9, and even then the Germans maintained themselves on the farther side of the river on which it lies.

General Montgomery's plan, drawn up long before the landing, was to keep the enemy's greatest strength fighting hard in the Caen area while the Americans broke through in the Cotentin peninsula and wheeled right round to the Seine. For a full month after Cherbourg was taken the British and the Canadians battered at the hinge while the Americans prepared for their decisive stroke. Late in July they broke through the German lines into Brittany, and, leaving the German garrisons in the Atlantic ports to be dealt with later, swung round inland behind the enemy. The Germans retaliated by a strong westward thrust to cut the American armies in two. It failed, and the Normandy pocket began to form. On August 8, anniversary of a black day for the German Army, the British and Canadians smashed the hinge and drove towards Falaise, the Americans moving up north to join them. By August 12 such of the German Army as had escaped the trap was hurrying towards the Seine, but the Americans reached it first and crossed it above and below Paris. The city, where the French *maquis* had risen in revolt, was entered on July 25, while the Germans, thanks to a stand at Elboeuf, were moving their disorganized forces across the lower Seine. Meanwhile great events were taking shape in southern France. On August 15 allied troops landed near Cannes. Toulon and Marseilles quickly fell, and the liberators, preceded and supported everywhere by the men of the *maquis*, pushed up to Rhône valley and drove the Germans towards and through the Belfort gap. By the end of August most of France was free, save the Biscayan ports and Alsace-Lorraine.

But the end was not yet. At the beginning of September the British crossed first the Seine and then the Somme, liberated Brussels on September 3, and on the following day entered Antwerp, whose great harbour, thanks to the Belgian resistance movement, was secured intact, though as yet inaccessible from the sea. During these same days of expanding victory the Americans, under Generals Hodges and Patton, crossed the Meuse and raced for the Meuse and the Moselle. But supplies could no longer keep up with the tanks, and the Germans had begun to rally. One final effort was made to break through into northern Germany. On September 17 large allied airborne forces were dropped in northern Holland to seize the crossings of the Maas and the lower Rhine. Arnhem was the key point, and for an anxious week the struggle raged about its bridge. It could not be held, and on the night of September 25 such elements of the British airborne division as were still on the river's northern bank were brought across it to safety. After suffering 1,000,000 casualties the Germans had at length stabilized their line.

RUSSIAN TRIUMPHS

During the winter of 1943-44 the Russians made steady progress on every sector of their front. Before November was over they had liberated Kiev and many other cities, and had crossed the Dnieper on a wide front. They continued to gain ground in the Ukraine and elsewhere after the New Year, and the Germans on several occasions incurred disastrous losses by failing to retreat in time; indeed, their whole conduct of operations on this front suggests that their intuitive Führer had vetoed any rational scheme for a general shortening of a line which they had not enough troops to hold. By March 31 the Russians had

isolated the Crimea and entered Rumania. In April they invaded the Crimea, capturing Sevastopol on May 9. The summer saw fresh Soviet successes, a victory over the Finns in June, successful thrusts into Poland and the Baltic Republics, and advances to the Carpathian foothills. A gallant rising in Warsaw by the Polish "Home Army" in expectation of a Russian advance failed when the Russians received a check and the insurgents surrendered (October 1). The Russians were also held in East Prussia, but they had cleared the Germans from all but a coastal strip in the *Baltikum* by November.

The satellites made haste to change sides, Rumania late in August, Bulgaria, after an absurd three days during which she was at war with Germans and Russians, in September. Their armies were placed at the Russians' disposition, and were employed against the enemy in Hungary and Yugoslavia. The Finns made peace in September, and when the Germans refused to evacuate their territory helped the Russians to expel them. Russian and Norwegian troops entered Arctic Norway. The end of the year saw a lull on the Baltic-Polish front while the Russians prepared for the invasion of Germany. But in the Danube basin the Russians and their allies, after liberating Belgrade and all Transylvania, fought their way up the Danube, secured the support of a large section of Hungarians, and captured Budapest on February 13. British forces, cooperating with Marshal Tito's Yugoslav patriots, harassed the Germans retreating along the Adriatic coast. British troops landed in Greece in October. The future of the Greek monarchy and the disposal of political power proved decisive issues. Party jealousies and deep-rooted suspicions and the hysteria caused by famine and oppression exploded in a brief, ferocious civil war, in which our troops were unhappily involved.

WEST OF THE RHINE

In the west the allies, faced by German troops of high quality, still holding most of the Siegfried zone and ably led, made slower progress, often through floods and mud. The laborious clearing of the Scheldt approaches was completed in mid-November, and Antwerp was soon opened to traffic. Further south their capture of Aachen and their liberation of Metz and Strasbourg marked further stages on their way to the Rhine. In mid-December, however, a heavy German offensive in the Ardennes region checked their advance towards Cologne, and threatened to disrupt their front by a 40-mile penetration.

Field-Marshal Montgomery's skilful dispositions and General Patton's counter-stroke from the south defeated the attack, and in February began the penultimate allied offensive in the west. It was entirely successful. Trier, Krefeld, Cologne, and Coblenz were in American hands by March 17, and the unexpected seizure of Remagen bridge gave the American Ninth Army a solid foothold across the Rhine.

BY SEA AND AIR

Before chronicling the last stage of the war by land its final developments by sea and air must be recorded. Few blockade-runners reached German-occupied ports with rubber and strategic minerals from Japan. The U-boats suffered heavily during the winter of 1943-44; during several months the number sunk exceeded that of their victims, and their attacks on allied shipping in the

Channel during the period of invasion met with scanty success. But in December, 1944, new types appeared fitted with devices enabling them to remain submerged for long periods, and thenceforward their activity was more marked, though it was largely counter-balanced by the loss of bases, such as Danzig, and the bombing of shipyards. Interference by German surface ships with our Arctic convoys was discouraged by the destruction of the Scharnhorst by Admiral Fraser's squadron off the North Cape on December 26, 1943. The Tirpitz, also stationed in Norway, was disabled for long periods by British midget submarines and naval aircraft, and was finally sunk by R.A.F. in November. Of the few German warships that remained seaworthy most were sunk by air attack during the final offensive.

In the air allied strategic bombing reached an intensity in 1944 which told heavily on German arms production and gradually destroyed the enemy's synthetic oil factories on which he was entirely dependent after losing the Rumanian and Polish oilfields. The use of 10-ton bombs by the R.A.F. in March, when the United States 8th Air Force alone dropped 65,000 tons of bombs on the Reich; the "non-stop" bombing by day and night of certain targets, the swarms of aircraft operating literally in thousands from bases extending from Great Britain to Italy made the last months of the war memorable. Jet aeroplanes brought into use by the enemy in the previous autumn were too few and came too late to affect the issue for all their speed. His V 2 rockets killed and injured more than 9,000 people in southern England, mostly in London, from September 8 to the fall of the last on March 27, but did virtually no military damage.

THE FINAL ASSAULT

In mid-January the Russians surged forward in Poland. By mid-March they had surrounded Breslau, broken into Brandenburg, and isolated a great part of the enemy's eastern armies in pockets with the Baltic at their backs. On March 23 allied forces under Field-Marshal Montgomery began to cross the Rhine between Rees and Wesel on a 30-mile front, while 40,000 airborne troops landed in the enemy's rear. Four days later the allies were crossing the Rhine at nearly 20 points and their armoured vanguards were thrusting deep into the Reich. The fall of Vienna, of Bratislava, Breslau, Königsberg, Danzig, and Stettin to the Russians, their junctions with the Americans on the Elbe, the tale of how, breaching every defence, they closed in furious house-to-house battles with the defenders of Berlin are fresh in all memories. So, on the west, are the British capture of Bremen, Hamburg, and Lübeck, the sweep of American armies through central Germany to the Elbe, the surrenders in the Ruhr pocket, General Patton's swift capture of Nuremberg and Munich, the Nazi holy cities, the fall of Ulm to the French, and the American march on Prague.

Himmler's offer to make peace with the western allies and not with Russia—which was promptly rejected—the death of Hitler, the fall of Berlin, and Dönitz's futile attempt to resist in the east while surrendering in the west foreshadowed the end. On May 5 the German forces in Holland, Denmark, and north-west and southern Germany surrendered. The final general surrender came yesterday. So perished the monstrous régime of the Third Reich under the accumulated hatred provoked by its crimes

THE WAR IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

A REGISTER OF EVENTS, 1939-1945

1939

September

1. Germany invaded Poland.
3. Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. German fleet off Wilhelmshaven photographed from R.A.F. bomber.
4. Small advanced parties of B.E.F. arrived in France. German fleet attacked by R.A.F.
9. Battle for Warsaw began.
10. Main force of B.E.F. began to arrive at Cherbourg.
13. Vistula crossed by Germans at Annopol.
14. Germans entered Gdynia.
15. Przemyśl captured by Germans.
17. Russian troops entered Poland. Aircraft carrier Courageous sunk.
24. All-day air raid on Warsaw.
27. Warsaw surrendered.
28. Poland partitioned by Russia and Germany.

October

10. Empire air-training scheme announced.
14. Royal Oak sunk by U-boat in Scapa Flow.
16. First German air raid on British Isles (Firth of Forth); Naval casualties.

November

4. United States Neutrality Act passed.
13. First bombs on British soil (Shetlands); no damage.
18. German magnetic mines sown from air.
28. Russia denounced non-aggression pact with Finland.
30. Finland invaded.

December

13. Battle of River Plate; Admiral Graf Spee scuttled on 17th.

1940

February

16. Altmark prisoners released by Cossack in Norwegian waters.

March

12. Finland signed Peace with Russia.
16. First British civilian killed by German bomb (Orkney).

April

9. Denmark and Norway invaded by Germany.
10. Battle of Narvik; first V.C. award of war.
11. British troops landed in Norway
13. Second battle of Narvik.

May

9. First bombs on British mainland (near Canterbury).
10. Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg invaded by Germany; first use of glider-borne troops (by Germans); British forces entered Belgium. Mr. Chamberlain resigned; Mr. Winston Churchill became Prime Minister. British troops landed in Iceland.
11. Germans crossed Albert Canal by undestroyed bridge. First British bombs on German mainland.

May, 1940

12. R.A.F. bombed Maastricht bridges.
14. Rotterdam heavily bombed by Germans.
14. Formation of Home Guard ("Local Defence Volunteers") announced.
15. Dutch capitulation signed at 11 a.m. French front penetrated.
16. General Giraud captured by Germans.
23. Boulogne evacuated by British.
24. First British industrial town attacked by German Air Force (Middlesbrough).
- 24-27. British brigade held Calais against two German divisions.
28. Belgian army capitulated at 4 a.m. Narvik captured by Germans.

June

3. Dunkirk evacuation completed: 211,532 fit men, 13,053 casualties, and 112,546 allied troops embarked at Dunkirk and the beaches. First bombs on Paris.

5. Germans launched new offensive on the Somme and the Aisne.

8. Aircraft carrier Glorious sunk.
9. Norwegians ordered to cease hostilities.
10. Italy declared war on Great Britain and France as from 11th. Evacuation of Norway announced.

11. French forces retired across Marne.
14. Germans entered Paris. Canadian Infantry brigade landed at Brest.

16. Germans pierced Maginot Line. British offer of Anglo-French union rejected.
17. Marshal Pétain formed Government, and announced that France had asked for terms. Evacuation of B.E.F. from France completed.

22. France signed armistice with Germany; with Italy on 24th.

27. Germans reached Spanish frontier.
28. General de Gaulle recognized by British Government as leader of all Free Frenchmen.

30. Channel Islands occupied by German troops.

July

3. British attacked French capital ships at Oran and Mers-el-Kebir.
4. Italians crossed Sudan border.
5. Vichy Government broke off relations with Great Britain.
8. British attacked Richelieu at Dakar.

August

4. Italians invaded British Somaliland.
8. "Battle of Britain" began.
15. Croydon aerodrome bombed. 182 aeroplanes brought down over Britain.
17. British forces evacuated Somaliland.
24. First air raid on Central London.
25. First R.A.F. raid on Berlin.
26. First all-night raid on London.

September

7. Three months' air attack on London began.
11. Air raid on London; Buckingham Palace damaged, unexploded bomb near St. Paul's.
13. Italian invasion of Egypt began.

September, 1940

15. 185 aeroplanes shot down over Great Britain.
23. George Cross and Medal instituted. General de Gaulle and British warships arrived at Dakar; attempt to land abandoned on 25th.
27. Axis pact (Germany, Italy, Japan).

October

28. Greece invaded by Italy.
29. British troops landed on Greek territory.

November

11. First large Italian air raid on Great Britain. Fleet Air Arm attacked Italian warships at Taranto.
14. Heavy air-raid on Coventry. This was the first mass raid on a British provincial town.

December

9. British opened offensive in Western Desert; Sidi Barrani captured on 11th, Sollum and Fort Capuzzo on 17th.
29. Heavy incendiary raid on City of London. Guildhall and eight Wren churches destroyed.

1941

January

5. Bardia captured by Imperial Forces.
10. Russo-German pact renewed.
18. Dive-bombing attacks on Malta began.
19. Kassala (Sudan) re-occupied by British.
22. Tobruk entered by Australians.
30. Derna captured by Imperial Forces.

February

1. Agordat captured by British.
3. Cyrene occupied by British.
6. Benghazi occupied by Australians.
15. Kismayu occupied by African troops.
26. Mogadishu (Italian Somaliland) occupied by African troops.

March

4. British raid on Lofoten Islands.
9. Italian offensive in Albania.
11. Lend-Lease Bill signed by President Roosevelt.
16. Berbera re-occupied by British.
21. Jarabub captured by British.
24. British Somaliland regained.
27. Revolt in Yugoslavia. Keren captured by British and Indian forces.
28. Battle of Cape Matapan began.

April

3. Benghazi evacuated by British. Pro-Axis coup d'état in Iraq.
5. Addis Ababa occupied by Imperial Forces.
6. Greece and Yugoslavia invaded by Germans.
8. Massawa occupied by British forces.
9. Salonika occupied by Germans.
10. British forces in action in Greece.
12. First extensive daylight raids by R.A.F.
13. Belgrade occupied by Germans.
26. Egyptian frontier, at Sollum, crossed by Axis forces.
27. Germans entered Athens.

May

1. Evacuation of Imperial Forces from Greece completed.
10. Rudolf Hess landed in Scotland by parachute after flight from Germany. Heavy air attack on London; House of Commons destroyed.

May, 1941

15. Sollum recaptured by British.
19. Duke of Aosta's forces surrendered at Amba Alagi.
- 19-31. Battle for Crete.
24. H.M.S. Hood sunk by Bismarck.
27. Bismarck sunk.

June

1. Evacuation of British and Greek forces from Crete completed.
8. Syria entered by British and French forces.
22. Russia attacked by Germany.

July

12. Anglo-Russian mutual assistance treaty signed.
14. Allied forces occupied Syria.
21. First German air-raid on Moscow.

August

7. First Russian air-raid on Berlin.
11. Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, meeting on board U.S.S. Augusta, agreed on Atlantic Charter.
25. British and Russian forces entered Persia. Raid on Spitsbergen by British, Canadian and Norwegian forces.

September

17. R.A.F. wing in Russia in action.
19. Kiev occupied by Germans.
25. Germans attacked Crimea. French National Committee formed.
- 26-27. Eighth Army formed.

October

5. Battle for Moscow (lasted until December 6).
12. Briansk evacuated by Russians.
16. Odessa evacuated by Russians.
19. State of siege proclaimed in Moscow.
24. Kharkov captured by Germans.
29. Germans began to cross Perikop Isthmus into Crimea.

November

1. Simferopol captured by Germans.
14. U.S. Neutrality Act amended. H.M.S. Ark Royal, torpedoed by U-boat, foundered while in tow.
16. Colonel Keyes led raid on Rommel's H.Q. at Beda Littoria.
18. British offensive in Libya began.
21. Big tank battle S. of Sidi Rezegh (lasted until December 6).
22. Rostov occupied by Germans.
23. Bardia occupied by New Zealand forces.
25. New attack on Moscow. H.M.S. Barham sunk off Sollum.
26. Russian advance of 70 miles in Ukraine announced.
27. Italians at Gondar surrendered.
28. Russians re-occupied Rostov.

December

7. Great Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Rumania.
8. *Great Britain and United States of America declared war on Japan after attack on British and United States bases in Pacific.*
9. Siege of Tobruk raised.
11. Germany and Italy declared war on United States of America.
16. Germans in retreat on Eastern Front.
17. German retreat from Gazala.

December, 1941

24. Benghazi recaptured by British.
26. Second British raid on Lofoten Islands.
27. British raid on Vaagsø and Maaloy, off Norway.
29. Russians re-occupied Kerch and Feodosia.

1942

January

1. 26 Nations' pact signed in Washington.
2. Bardia recaptured by British.
12. Sollum recaptured by British.
17. Halfaya recaptured by British.
19. Mozhaik recaptured by Russians.
21. Second German counter-offensive in N. Africa began.
26. American troops landed in Northern Ireland.
29. Benghazi captured by Axis forces.

February

4. Derna evacuated by British.
- 11-12. Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, and Prinz Eugen escaped from Brest and sailed up Channel.
27. Raid on French coast at Bruneval.

March

1. Russians launched offensive in Kerch Peninsula.
28. St. Nazaire raid.

April

16. George Cross awarded to Malta.
17. Augsburg raided by R.A.F. in daylight.
21. General Giraud escaped from Germany.
24. First of series of "reprisal" raids on historical monuments (Exeter).

May

16. Kerch captured by Germans.
26. Twenty-year Anglo-Soviet Treaty signed in London. Axis offensive opened in Libya.

June

- 6-8. Heavy German attack on Free French at Bir Hakeim.
13. "Knightsbridge" evacuated by Guards Brigade after heavy tank battles.
21. Tobruk captured by Germans.
24. Germans advanced 50 miles across Egyptian frontier.
29. Mersa Matruh captured by Germans.

July

1. Germans reached El Alamein. Germans captured Sevastopol.
4. U.S.A.A.F. took part in their first air offensive against Germans.
27. Rostov evacuated by Russians.

August

1. Gen. Montgomery took over command of Eighth Army.
5. Voroshilovsk captured by Germans.
9. Krasnodar and Maikop captured by Germans.
11. Aircraft-carrier H.M.S. Eagle sunk in Mediterranean.
17. First all-American bombing raid on European front.
19. Nine-hour raid on Dieppe.
24. Germans crossed Don in force at Kletskaya.
28. Russians opened offensive in Leningrad area.

September, 1942

5. Germans entered streets of Stalingrad.
23. Russians launched counter-offensive north-west of Stalingrad.

October

4. Small British raid on Sark.
8. British prisoners taken at Dieppe put in chains; British retaliate as from 10th; Germans unshackled on December 12.
23. Battle of El Alamein began. First full-scale employment of British paratroops.

November

3. Axis forces retreat westwards in Egypt.
8. United States and British Forces landed in French North Africa.
11. French forces in Algeria and Morocco capitulated. Axis forces entered Vichy France, and, from Sicily and Sardinia, began to arrive in Tunisia.
12. Axis forces driven out of Egypt. German attacks renewed at Stalingrad.
13. Tobruk and Gazala captured by Eighth Army.
17. Derna and Makili occupied by Eighth Army.
19. Russian offensive in Stalingrad area.
20. Benghazi occupied by British.
27. Germans entered Toulon; French fleet scuttled.

December

13. Agheila evacuated by Axis forces.
29. Kotelnikovo captured by Russians.

1943

January

1. Velikiye Luki captured by Russians.
3. Mozdok and Malgovek captured by Russians.
4. Nalchik captured by Russians.
11. Kutelnikovo captured by Russians.
13. General Leclerc's Chad force occupied Murak and Sebha (Fezzan).
14. President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill met at Casablanca; "unconditional surrender" of Axis Powers demanded.
15. Eighth Army attacked at Buerat.
18. Siege of Leningrad raised.
20. Proletarskaya captured by Russians.
21. Voroshilovsk captured by Russians. Homs and Tarhuna captured by Eighth Army.
22. Salsk captured by Russians.
23. Tripoli entered by Eighth Army.
25. Voronezh captured by Russians.
27. United States heavy bombers made first raid on Germany (Wilhelmshaven).
29. Tunisian border crossed by Eighth Army.
30. First daylight raids on Berlin by R.A.F. Field-Marshal Paulus and 16 generals captured at Stalingrad.
31. Zuara captured by Eighth Army.

February

2. Remaining German forces at Stalin-grad capitulated.
6. General Eisenhower appointed to command North African theatre of operations.
8. Kursk captured by Russians.
12. Krasnodar captured by Russians.
14. Rostov and Voroshilovgrad captured by Russians.
16. Kharkov captured by Russians.
25. R.A.F. began "round-the-clock" bombing.

March, 1943

1. First of saturation raids on Berlin.
3. Rzhnev occupied by Russians.
12. Vyasma captured by Russians.
15. Kharkov evacuated by Russians.
21. Eighth Army attacked Mareh Line.
21. Byelgorod captured by Russians.
30. Gabes occupied by Eighth Army.

April

7. Offensive opened by First Army in Northern Tunisia.
10. Sfax occupied by Eighth Army.
12. Sousse occupied by Eighth Army.
26. Longstop Hill captured by First Army.

May

3. Mateur captured by U.S. forces.
6. Massicault captured by First Army.
7. Tunis and Bizerta captured by Allied forces.
13. Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered.
16. Mühne and Eder dams breached by R.A.F.

June

11. Pantellaria surrendered.
12. Lampedusa surrendered.

July

6. Germans launched offensive in Russia.
10. Sicily invaded by Allied forces.
12. Russian counter-attack launched.
19. First allied raid on Rome.
25. Mussolini resigned and arrested. Later he was rescued by German parachute troops.
26. Fascist Party dissolved.

August

2. Hamburg, as a result of systematic bombing by R.A.F., which began on July 24, had suffered the most serious damage of any industrial city of the world, at a cost of 87 British aircraft.
4. Orel captured by Russians.
5. Bielgorod captured by Russians.
15. Taormina captured by Eighth Army.
17. Resistance in Sicily ended.
23. Kharkov captured by Russians.
26. French Committee of National Liberation recognized by Allies.
30. Capture of Taganrog by Russians announced.

September

3. Italian armistice signed. British and Canadian troops landed in Italy.
8. Italy surrendered to Allies.
9. Allied forces landed at Salerno.
10. Italian fleet reached Malta. Rome occupied by German troops. Salerno occupied by Fifth Army.
16. Novorossisk captured by Russians.
17. Capture of Briansk by Russians announced.
19. Evacuation of Sardinia by Germans announced.
25. Capture of Smolensk by Russians announced.
29. Full armistice terms signed by Italy.

October

1. Naples occupied by Fifth Army.
4. Corsica liberated.
7. Dnieper crossed by Russians.
12. Agreement with Portugal for use of Azores announced.
- 12-13. Attack on Volturno River opened.
13. Italy declared war on Germany.

October, 1943

14. Italy accepted as co-belligerent in war against Germany.
23. Melitopol captured by Russians.
25. Capture of Dnepropetrovsk and Dneprozerzhinsk by Russians announced.

November

1. Germans' land retreat from Crimea cut off.
4. Eighth Army captured Isernia and linked up with Fifth Army at Castelpetroso.
5. Vatican bombed.
6. Kiev captured by Russians.
18. R.A.F. Bomber Command began "Battle of Berlin," which continued until March 24, 1944.
23. 8th Army crossed R. Sangro in strength.
28. Teheran Conference (Marshal Stalin, President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill).

December

- 4-6. Cairo Conference (President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill, President of Turkey).
10. Capture of Znamenka by Russians announced.
14. Capture of Cherkasy by Russians announced.
19. Four war criminals hanged at Kharkov.
24. Appointment of Allied invasion chiefs announced. Russians opened major offensive W. of Kiev.
26. Scharnhorst sunk off North Cape.
28. Ortona captured by Eighth Army.
31. Zhitomir recaptured by Russians.

1944

January

4. Battle for Cassino began.
8. Kirovograd captured by Russians.
15. Gen. Eisenhower assumed duties as C-in-C. Allied Expeditionary Force.
20. Capture of Novogorod by Russians announced.
- Minturno captured by Fifth Army.
22. Amphibious landings at Allies S. of Rome. Nettuno and Anzio occupied on 24th.
27. Complete lifting of Leningrad blockade announced.

February

1. Kingisepp (Leningrad front) captured by Russians.
3. Germans opened offensive against Anzio beach-head.
8. Nikopol captured by Russians.
15. Cassino Abbey bombarded by Allies.
18. Staraya Russa captured by Russians.
22. Krivoi Rog captured by Russians. First coordinated air attack on Germany from bases in U.K. and Italy.

March

4. Russians opened offensive on 1st Ukrainian front.
6. Russians opened offensive on 3rd Ukrainian front. First heavy attack by U.S. bombers on Berlin.
10. Russians opened offensive on 2nd Ukrainian front.
13. Kherson captured by Russians.
15. Heavy air and artillery bombardment of Cassino by Allies.

March, 1944

24. By this date Bomber Command, R.A.F., had dropped 44,848 tons on Berlin.
28. Nikolaev captured by Russians.
30. Gernauli captured by Russians.
31. Russians entered Rumania.

April

10. Odessa captured by Russians.
13. Simferopol (capital of Crimea) captured by Russians.
15. Tarnopol captured by Russians.
18. Balaklava captured by Russians.

May

9. Sevastopol captured by Russians.
11. Fifth and Eighth Armies opened offensive, crossing Rapido and Garigliano rivers.
15. French troops cut Gustav line in Italy.
18. Cassino captured by British forces, Monastery Hill by Polish troops.
22. British and American forces opened offensive from Anzio. Hitler line cut by Canadians.
25. Patrols of Fifth Army linked up with Anzio beach-head forces, after advance of 60 miles.

June

4. Rome occupied by Allied troops.
- 5-6. Allied air-borne troops made landing behind German line in Normandy.
6. D DAY.—Allied troops landed in France between base of Cherbourg Peninsula and Caen.
8. Bayeux liberated.
10. Russians opened offensive on Karelian front.
12. Mr. Churchill visited the beach-head in Normandy.
13. Flying bomb attacks on Britain began.
19. Elba captured by French forces. Perugia captured by Eighth Army.
20. Viipuri captured by Russians.
23. Russian offensive opened on central front.
26. Vitebsk captured by Russians.
27. Cherbourg liberated by U.S. forces.
28. Mogilev captured by Russians. Castagneto captured by Fifth Army, Monticiano by U.S. forces.

July

3. Siena captured by French forces. Minsk captured by Russians.
9. Caen captured by British and Canadian forces.
12. Russians advanced 21 miles on Baltic front.
13. Vilna captured by Russians.
14. Pinsk and Volkovysk captured by Russians.
16. Arezzo occupied by Eighth Army troops. Grodno captured by Russians.
18. British and Canadian troops attacked and broke through area east of the Orne and south-east of Caen. Ancona captured by Polish forces.
19. Leghorn captured by U.S. forces.
20. Attempted assassination of Hitler and staff by German officers.
23. Pskov captured by Russians.
24. Lublin captured by Russians.
26. Lvov and Dvinsk captured by Russians.
27. U.S. forces W. of St. Lô broke through German lines.
28. Przemysl, Yaroslavl, and Brest Litovsk captured by Russians.
31. Avranches occupied by U.S. forces.

August, 1944

1. Warsaw rising by Polish Home Army began (ended October 2). American troops entered Brittany.
3. Rennes occupied by U.S. forces.
4. Purge of German army announced.
7. R.A.F. attacked German line south of Caen prior to full-scale offensive by Canadian forces.
9. St. Malo and Le Mans captured by U.S. forces.
11. Florence evacuated by Germans.
12. Germans began retreat from Normandy.
14. Canadians opened major attack on approaches to Falaise.
15. Allied troops landed in France from Mediterranean.
17. Falaise captured by Canadian Forces.
20. Gen. Montgomery issued last orders as Commander of Allied land forces. Toulon entered by French troops. Toulouse captured by F.F.I.
21. U.S. forces crossed Seine in force.
25. Paris liberated. Rumania declared war on Germany.
29. Constanza captured by Russians.
30. Ploesti captured by Russians. Rouen captured by Canadian forces.
31. Bucharest entered by Russians.

September

1. Gen. Eisenhower assumed direct control of all Allied Armies in France. Dieppe captured by Canadian forces.
2. German Gothic line in Italy broken by Eighth Army.
3. Brussels liberated by British. Lyons liberated. Pesaro captured by Polish forces.
4. Cease fire in Finland following preliminary armistice with Russia. Antwerp captured by British.
5. Russia declared war on Bulgaria.
8. Bulgaria declared war on Germany. Russians crossed Rumanian-Bulgarian frontier. Liège captured by U.S. forces; Ostend by Canadians. German rocket attacks on England began, the first falling at Chiswick.
9. Hostilities between Russia and Bulgaria ceased.
11. German frontier crossed by U.S. troops north of Trier.
12. Le Havre captured by British.
13. Armistice signed between Russia, Great Britain and the United States and Rumania.
15. Siegfried line breached by U.S. forces.
17. British 1st Airborne Division landed in Holland; withdrawn from Arnhem on September 25-26.
19. Brest captured by U.S. forces.
20. British forces reached the Rhine (River Waal) at Nijmegen. Organized resistance ceased in Brest.
22. Boulogne surrendered to Canadian forces. Tallinn (capital of Estonia) captured by Russians. Capture of Rimini by Eighth Army announced.
30. Calais surrendered to Canadian forces.

October

3. Dyke at West Kapelle on island of Walcheren breached by R.A.F. Truce at Dunkirk to allow civilians to leave town.
4. Allied forces landed on Greek mainland entered Patras.

October, 1944

9. Canadian and British forces landed in rear of Germans south of the mouth of Scheldt. Russian forces reached Baltic coast near Libau.
- 9-19. Mr. Churchill (with Mr. Eden) visited Moscow for talks with Marshal Stalin.
11. Cluj (capital of Transylvania) captured by Russians.
13. Riga (capital of Latvia) captured by Russians.
14. Athens entered by British.
15. Death of Field-Marshal Rommel announced. Petaimo captured by Russians. Hungarian request for Russians.
18. Russians crossed East Prussian border and occupied Eydikuhnen.
20. Belgrade occupied by Russians.
21. German Commander of Aachen signed unconditional surrender.
22. Russians in Finland reached Norwegian frontier.
23. Recognition by Allies of General de Gaulle's administration as Provisional Government announced.
26. British forces crossed Scheldt and landed on Beveland peninsula.
28. Armistice signed between Bulgaria and the Allies.
31. British forces reached the Maas.

November

1. British landed on Walcheren Island.
2. Belgium cleared of Germans; they re-entered on December 16. Belgium finally liberated February 4, 1945.
3. Flushing captured by British.
6. Liberation of Monastir by Yugoslav forces announced.
12. Tirpitz sunk in Tromsø fjord by R.A.F.
20. Belfort captured by French.
22. Mulhouse captured by French. Metz captured by U.S. forces.
24. Strasbourg captured by Allies.
28. Antwerp port re-opened to traffic.

December

4. Enemy bridgehead west of the Maas eliminated by British forces.
5. Arnhem-Nijmegen sector flooded by Germans.
9. Russian forces reached Danube N. of Budapest.
16. Germans opened counter-offensive in the Ardennes.
17. Field-Marshal Montgomery appointed to command American 1st and 9th Armies in addition to British 2nd and Canadian 1st Armies.
22. Deepest penetration of German counter-offensive—Laroche (40 miles).
26. U.S. airborne troops in Bastogne relieved.
27. Germans driven out of Celles and Ciney.
30. Hungary declared war on Germany.
31. Rochefort recaptured by Allies. New offensive opened by U.S. forces between Bastogne and St. Hubert.

1945

January

11. Laroche re-captured by British and U.S. forces.
14. Radom (Central Poland) captured by Russians.

January, 1945

16. British forces launched attack from Sittard, in Holland, against German salient E. of the Maas.
17. Warsaw entered by Russians.
18. Lodz and Cracow captured by Russians.
19. Tilsit captured by Russians.
30. Armistice with Hungary signed in Moscow. Tannenberg captured by Russians. French forces opened attack in Vosges.
31. Allenstein and Insterburg captured by Russians.
23. Bromberg captured by Russians.
24. Gleiwitz (Silesia) captured by Russians.
26. By this date German forces in Ardennes had been forced back to German frontier.
27. Memel captured by Russians, liberating Lithuania.
28. German Pomerania invaded.
31. Russians broke into province of Brandenburg.

February

1. Russians 50 miles from centre of Berlin. Thom captured by Russians.
2. Colmar captured by French forces.
4. Belgium liberated.
6. Russians forced the Oder S.E. of Breslau.
8. British and Canadian forces opened offensive S.E. of Nijmegen; Cleve and Gennepe captured on 12th.
11. Russians forced the Oder N.W. of Breslau.
12. Prüm captured by U.S. forces.
13. Budapest completely occupied by Russians. Reichswald forest cleared by Canadian forces.
15. Breslau surrounded by Russian forces.
16. Rohrbach captured by U.S. forces.
19. Goch captured by Scottish and Canadian forces.
23. U.S. forces opened attack from direction of Aachen towards Rhine at Düsseldorf. Poznan captured by Russians.
24. Duren captured by U.S. forces.
25. Duren and Julich captured by U.S. forces.
28. Neu Stettin captured by Russian forces.

March

1. München-Gladbach captured by U.S. forces.
2. Trier and Krefeld captured by U.S. forces.
6. Cologne captured by U.S. forces.
7. Rhine crossed at Remagen by U.S. forces.
8. British and Canadian forces launched attack on German bridgehead at Xanten.
9. Stolp (on Danzig-Stettin coast road) captured by Russians. Xanten captured by British forces.
11. German bridgehead at Wesel eliminated.
12. American forces launched new attack from Remagen bridgehead. Küstrin (on E. bank of Oder opposite Berlin) captured by Russian forces.
14. First use of 10-ton bombs by R.A.F.
17. Coblenz captured by U.S. forces. Brandenburg (E. Prussia) captured by Russians.
18. Biggest daylight air attack on Berlin.
19. Worms and Saarbrücken captured by U.S. forces.
21. Ludwigshaven entered by U.S. forces.

March, 1945

23. Allied forces under Field-Marshal Montgomery began Rhine crossings between Rees and Wesel; 40,000 airborne troops landed in two hours.
24. Darmstadt captured by U.S. forces.
27. Last rocket fell at Orpington. In all 1,050 reached England.
28. Gdynia captured by Russians. Last air-raid warning sounded in London.
29. Mannheim captured by U.S. forces.
30. Danzig and Küstrin captured by Russians. Dutch frontier crossed by Canadian First Army.

April

1. Germans in Ruhr area trapped; by the 19th twenty-one divisions destroyed.
3. Hamm and Cassel captured by U.S. forces.
4. Bratislava (capital of Slovakia) captured by Russians. French forces entered Karlsruhe.
5. Minden reached by British forces.
9. Königsberg (capital of E. Prussia) captured by Russians. Allied offensive opened in Italy.
10. Hanover captured by U.S. forces.
11. Essen captured by U.S. forces.
13. Vienna liberated by Russians.
14. Canadian forces in Holland reached North Sea and captured Leeuwarden. French forces began land and sea attack on Germans in Bordeaux area after U.S. air attack.
16. Nuremberg entered by U.S. forces; organized resistance ended on 20th. Lutzow, last German battleship, sunk by R.A.F.
20. Civilian casualties in the U.K. due to enemy action from outbreak of war, 146,760.
21. Bologna captured by Allies. Dessau entered by U.S. forces. Berlin suburbs reached by Russians.
22. Stuttgart captured by French forces.
23. River Po reached by Allies. Black-out restrictions removed in Great Britain.
24. Himmler offered to surrender German Reich to Governments of Great Britain and United States.

April, 1945

26. Russian and American forces linked up on the Elbe near Torgau. Verona captured by Fifth Army. Bremen surrendered to British. Milan liberated by Italian partisans. Marshal Petain arrested at frontier.
- Total civilian casualties in London region by enemy attacks 80,307.
27. Genoa captured by American forces.
28. Mussolini executed by Italian partisans in Milan.
29. Unconditional surrender of German armies in Italy signed at Caserta. Hostilities ceased 12 noon (G.M.T.), May 2.
- Munich entered by U.S. forces. Venice entered by British. British forces crossed Elbe S.E. of Hamburg. R.A.F. bombers dropped their first load of food in German-occupied Holland.
30. Turin entered by U.S. forces. Fire Guard orders cancelled.

May

1. Death of Hitler in Berlin announced by Germans. Grand Admiral Dönitz appointed himself as successor. New Zealand troops of Eighth Army entered Monfalcone and linked up with Marshal Tito's forces.
2. Berlin surrendered to Russians at 3 p.m. British and Russian forces linked up in Wismar area on the Baltic. Trieste captured by New Zealand troops.
3. Hamburg captured by British.
4. German First and Nineteenth Armies surrendered to American forces. American Fifth Army crossed Brenner Pass and linked up with Seventh Army.
5. All German forces in Holland, N.W. Germany, and Denmark, including Heligoland and Frisian Islands surrendered as from 8 a.m. (B.D.S.T.).
7. Act of unconditional surrender of German armed forces signed at Rheims at 2.41 a.m., and ratified in Berlin on May 9.
8. VE Day in British Isles. Oslo liberated.
9. Channel Islands liberated. Victory Day celebrated in Moscow.

Leading Article from THE TIMES

VICTORY

The war with Germany is ended. To-day—"VE Day"—victory will be formally proclaimed. The task to which Great Britain and France set their hands nearly six years ago, in furtherance of which nearly all the peace-loving nations of the world have successively enrolled themselves, has been faithfully accomplished. The official announcement will be made at 3 o'clock by the PRIME MINISTER and the KING will broadcast to his peoples at 9. Yesterday COUNT SCHWERIN VON KROSIGK, speaking with the scarcely more than titular dignity of German Foreign Minister, but as the best mouthpiece still remaining to the fallen Government, acknowledged to the world the unconditional surrender of his country. This was the climax to the series of piecemeal submissions. One by one the commanders of the defeated German armies, each for the remnants of the fighting formations that his orders can still reach, have yielded to their conquerors; first fell the army of Italy, then the forces opposing the British and Canadians in the north-west and those fighting the Americans in Bavaria, and at last the garrison of Norway and the broken divisions still desperately holding the field in the east. With the signature of a Soviet delegate to the formal act of surrender made yesterday by GENERAL JODL to GENERAL EISENHOWER, finality is reached. Except where German detachments are still offering sporadic and unauthorized resistance, the guns have ceased to fire anywhere in Europe, and silence has fallen in the stricken lands where the din of war thundered so recently. Of the tremendous panoply with which HITLER and his followers set out to conquer the world nothing is left. The ships, the aircraft, the tanks, the guns, and the untold multitudes of fighting men—all have been destroyed or have been placed at the absolute disposal of the conquerors. The very German State itself, which commanded this vast array of material power, is dissolved in the moment of defeat; and there is no authority left in the land save that which the allied commanders can supply.

So passes to its just doom of ignominy and ruin the most monstrous dominion that pride, cruelty, and the lust of power have ever sought to impose upon the suffering millions of the nations. The pledge is fulfilled which the PRIME MINISTER gave to the world in the day when all seemed lost for liberty: the curse of HITLER is lifted from the brows of mankind. As was the enormity of the

design for the subjugation of a continent, so is the apocalyptic completeness of the overthrow. Never in the history of war has the entire fighting strength of a great military State been more decisively ground into fragments and overwhelmed in the uttermost catastrophe of defeat. Of the hosts that once seemed innumerable and invincible, millions have left their bones on the lost fields from Stalingrad to Caen; millions more have been herded into captivity; and the survivors, cut off and surrounded in pockets of hopeless resistance, as helpless in their own country as in the lands they have invaded, have been saved from destruction only by surrender. In a score of the great cities of Germany scarcely a building stands intact; the Russian armies have swept like an avenging hurricane over the shattered avenues and palaces of Berlin. In the factories where, through the length and breadth of the Reich, all the resources of a rich and populous nation were harnessed, even in time of peace, to the making of engines of destruction, the wheels of industry have stopped. The fields are left untilled by the liberation of the foreign slaves upon whose labour German agriculture had come to depend. Famine and pestilence lower over Germany; only by the efforts of her conquerors can she hope to escape or moderate their ravages. More terrible in the perspective of the human story even than the material ruin is the universal execration that the years of the domination have earned for the German name. The Third Reich goes down to destruction unmourning, even by those nations which in the time of its prosperity were content to appear its friends.

It is with the slave empires of the ancient east, and not with any polity of the European tradition, that the National-Socialist despotism must be compared; yet it was more barbarous than these because less primitive, because it was a deliberate attempt to destroy the work of centuries of advance, in which humanity had struggled towards finer forms of political and spiritual life. "The soul of 'savagery is slavery.'" The epigram is true, though it is but a negative expression of a truth that may be stated in positive terms: the soul of civilization is liberty. The civilization that has been reared in Europe on the double foundation of classical thought and Christian faith and thence propagated round the world is centred upon a belief in the inalienable dignity and rights of every human

soul. It was these rights and this dignity that National Socialism set itself to obliterate. It was a conscious and calculated conspiracy. The thousand years of supremacy, which HITLER prophesied in all seriousness for the Third Reich, were to be secured by the use of overwhelming mechanical force, first to destroy and then to deprive of any possibility of revival, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of worship, and all the fundamental rights of man, as the inheritors of European culture have learned to treasure them. That was the dedication of German power to the service of barbarism, and that was the evil against which Great Britain and France, as principal heirs and champions of the tradition of liberty in Europe, took up the challenge.

The British people went to war for the second time in a generation with a stern and sombre resolve. The exalted mood of 1914 was not recaptured. Exaltation of a different order was to come afterwards, and in a darker hour. An instinctive loathing there was of arrogance, brutality, and bad faith, but most of all perhaps in those first days there was the grim determination, rooted in the traditions of this great though tolerant people, to stand firm at last against a menace which, though its full definition was yet to come, was plainly real and growing. And in this act of simple faith and quiet duty there was a complete answer to the claims and boastings of the enemy. The German rulers justified the servitude they had imposed upon their own people as the means to securing a unified nation; in contrast to the fanatical devotion they had succeeded in evoking they mocked the anarchy of class and party faction, which they presented as the prevailing attributes of peoples bred to parliamentary self-government and economic liberty. Later, as their malign grip was extended over one after another of the lands surrounding them, they developed their doctrine into a grandiose claim to restore the lost unity of Europe, under German leadership, by the power of the sword. The means remained the same; for in the service of the German war machine the conquered populations were reduced to a slavery unexampled since the pre-Christian ages. Some specious colour seemed to be given to the German tales of the superiority of the "new order" when France fell, as much riven by internal doubts and divisions as broken by the overwhelming numbers and armament of the *Wehrmacht*, until through years of suffering the French people were to atone for their moment of weakness with that shining resilience under misfortune which has done so much to win for historic France her place in the

admiration and affection of civilized mankind. Meanwhile the British Commonwealth was left to hold the ramparts of freedom alone in the face of a continent enslaved and bestridden by the enemy.

The British people rose to the full stature of their ancient greatness only after the tragic glory of Dunkirk. The great disaster deprived them of all their meagre land armament and left them apparently helpless to meet the assault of the most terrible engine of war ever constructed; but the issues had become plain, and in the new certainty was a new strength. A vaunting enemy and a sceptical world were to be shown that there resides a power of united action in a free nation far surpassing anything that dictatorship can impose upon its subjects. The unchecked play of party controversy in a community mature in the practice of self-government is possible only because there is ultimate agreement on the supreme ends that all party programmes attempt, by their conflicting means, to serve. It is the demonstration, not the contradiction, of the final harmony on which the life itself of a nation reposes. Under the guidance of the leader called to authority in the hour of crisis the British people became aware of the hidden sources of their strength. It was MR. CHURCHILL who told them that, because of the tolerance and variety that they had fostered for centuries, they were "the most united of all the nations"; and they proceeded by their actions to prove that his words were true. The instant and unquestioning self-dedication with which men and women alike, at the summons of Parliament, placed their lives and their property at the disposal of their leaders, who themselves represented all parties in the State working as one, vindicated a native self-discipline and gave substance to the proud hope that this was to be "their finest hour." It saved this island and, by so doing, won the war. The conflict was joined between the unity of the spirit, which inspires free men to the defence of a universal cause, and the regimented uniformity that is enlisted to enforce the will of despots; and the outcome through many perils and escapes was henceforth never in doubt.

The clear vision of MR. CHURCHILL's leadership soon enabled men to perceive that this unity of free men was itself a strategic force. The common impulse of patriotism among all parties in the State, sweeping the millions into the services and the Home Guard, the Merchant Navy, the factories and civil defence, was reflected upon a wider scene. Already the great Dominions, by the spontaneous identification of themselves with the cause of the mother country, now reaffirmed in the moment of greatest danger, had shown the

capacity of five sovereign nations to think and act at a supreme crisis as a single people. The forces of resistance were not so narrowly confined as the enemy supposed. Against HITLER'S Europe could be set Canada, Africa, India, Australasia, and all the oceans of the world. This island might be submerged beneath the flood; but the forces of freedom, linked by the steel chain of sea-power, would surely live on. Moreover, while the forlorn hope of a few British airmen snatched victory from the massed squadrons of the *Luftwaffe*, and later while the civil population in the towns endured uncomplaining a nightly rain of bombs, Britain was left in no doubt that the lonely struggle was being watched with sympathy by powerful friends across the Atlantic, already eager to render material aid in the conflict, and becoming gradually conscious that the cause of resistance to German tyranny was in the fullest sense their own. The patient guidance of American opinion, until the people, convinced in their hearts that the United States belonged by vocation and duty to the united brotherhood of nations fighting for freedom, were stung to battle by treacherous attack in the east and by the defiant provocation of the Nazi boasters, was the supreme service rendered to his age by the great President whose untimely loss casts a shadow over to-day's celebrations. We may rejoice that FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT lived to see, shining clear on the horizon, the lights of the victory for which he laid down his life.

If MR. ROOSEVELT was the inspired interpreter of the ideals of the United Nations, it fell to MR. CHURCHILL to play the principal part in determining the grand strategy of the alliance. His was the high imaginative vision that insisted, even when England lay isolated before the imminent threat of invasion, upon preparing a design of war that should afford full scope for the existing unity of the Empire, and for the larger unity of world Powers of which he foresaw it must become the nucleus before victory was achieved. A strategy concentrated upon the safety of the British Isles would have lost the war. But it needed courage of the rarest order to act upon that opinion when action meant diverting to the Middle East the only armoured formation available to meet the expected descent upon the Channel coasts. With a mind steeped in military history, the PRIME MINISTER committed his country to the pursuit of its traditional strategy, to maintain the Empire's lines of communications round the globe, to contain the enemy within the ring of sea-power, and to challenge him on land at the extreme limits of his dominion until his strength should begin to exhaust itself. Thus would time be

won to mobilize the reserves of the imperial Commonwealth, and to range in the line for the decisive stroke the forces of all other nations that would rally to the standard of liberty.

The old strategy proved its virtue in the old way. Like a greater autocrat before him, HITLER attempted to escape from the constriction of sea-power by breaking out to the east, and so committed himself to a grapple with a people so numerous and so indomitable that even his vast armies would bleed to death. When his Japanese ally, with ruthlessness and faithlessness to match his own, embarked four months later upon an ambitious scheme of conquest, which seemed to look towards a junction of the triumphant despotisms of Europe and Asia on the frontiers of India or the shores of the Persian Gulf, blows fell that shook the foundations of the Commonwealth system in the Far East. But the advent of the new ally was of far greater significance than the entry of the new enemy. "The new world, with all its power and might," to use MR. CHURCHILL'S prophetic phrase of 1940, "stepped forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

Thenceforth the story of the war is that of the development of an ever closer unity among the allied nations, while on the enemy's side the system of uniformity through repression was rendered hard and brittle by constantly progressive degrees of brutality and enslavement. Comradeship in the field led on to unified command and common counsel among the heads of allied States. The defensive phase of the war was passed. The enemy plunged against the bands which contained him, but they held. Then with the great victories of El Alamein and Stalingrad the process of compression began. For 1,400 miles the German hosts were borne backwards across the plains of Russia and Poland into the streets of their own capital. Their comrades in the south were driven along the coast of Africa; at its western extremity the American armies entered the field, and both together pressed on over the sea to Sicily, Calabria, Rome, striking down the Fascist despotism as they went, and finally in these latter days to the passes of the Alps. Most decisive of all came the great expedition, patiently prepared and consummately executed, to storm the Channel coast, to liberate France, to force the passage of the Rhine, and to pour armed men in overwhelming power into the heart of Germany, there to meet the Russian ally on the banks of the Elbe.

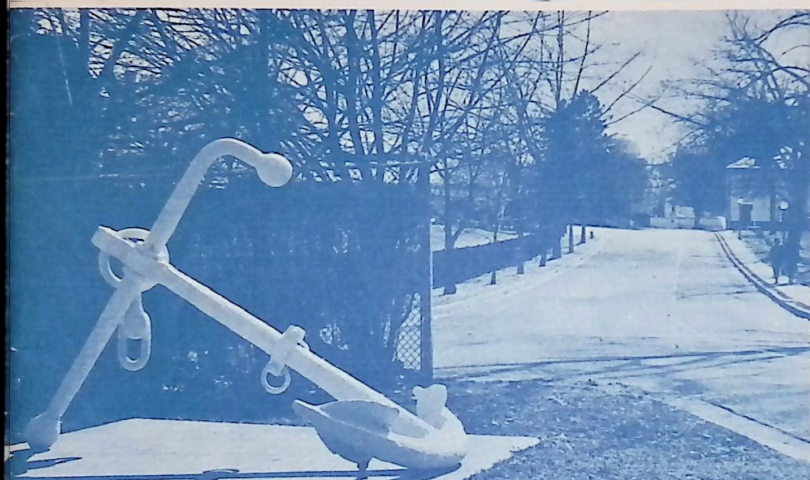
The victory has been won by the joint action of many peoples, and only by continued unity in war and peace can its fruits

be garnered and guarded. Unity in war is still the paramount obligation. The aggressive and domineering brutality of self-centred militarism has still to be shattered in the Far East. From now on the western Powers will be able to concentrate overwhelming force against an enemy beginning to reel under the blows already delivered. The full work of peace cannot be taken up until the bloodthirsty pretensions of Japan have been checked for ever. No doubt the nations that have submitted themselves to a common discipline for the purposes of war against a common enemy, like the British parties that in their smaller sphere set the example of restraint five years ago, will each turn again one day to the development of its distinctive life and its distinctive political tradition. It is natural and it is right that this should be so. But these same nations have to keep the memory of the lesson they have learned in the hard school of war, that the ideals that unite them are nearer to their hearts and more vital to their safety than the opinions or the habits or the interests that divide. For many months now the efforts of statesmanship and diplomacy have been devoted to the means of perpetuating the brotherhood of nations that has won the war, so that it may henceforth stand sentinel over the forces of destruction and death now overcome. It is of good augury that the news of victory in the west comes while the delegates of the nations are already assembled at San Francisco charged with the duty of founding a central institution of world unity. Only if that supreme political expression of the idea towards which the allied nations have been fighting their way

through six of the most terrible years of history can be built firm and true, powerful and permanent, will humanity have some recompense for the millions of precious lives that have been spent in hunting down the beast of prey.

Finally, on a day that will stand as a solemn date in history, it is not possible to celebrate so great a deliverance without the sense that a larger design has been fulfilled than is comprehended in the calculations of strategy. Now that the danger is passed, it may be acknowledged that there was a time when, had the enemy's mastery of the art of war matched the immense superiority of his material power, no human valour or effort could have thwarted his deadly purpose. In the last resort that which has sustained resistance when all seemed lost, not only in England but in all the enslaved lands, is the faith that in the order of the universe the just cause, provided that the last measure of devotion and sacrifice be offered to it, will not be allowed to fail. It is right to affirm to-day that that faith stands justified. The noblest of English Kings, who had come as near as our generation to final submersion beneath the barbarian flood, wrote after his victory: "I say, as do all Christian men, that it is a divine purpose that rules, and not fate." In the same spirit KING ALFRED'S remote descendant, GEORGE the SIXTH, goes to St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday to render thanks on behalf of all his peoples to the only giver of victory. *Non nobis, Domine.* "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give the praise: for thy loving mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

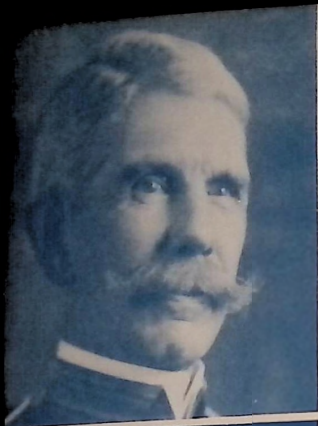
ADMIRAL'S



HOUSE

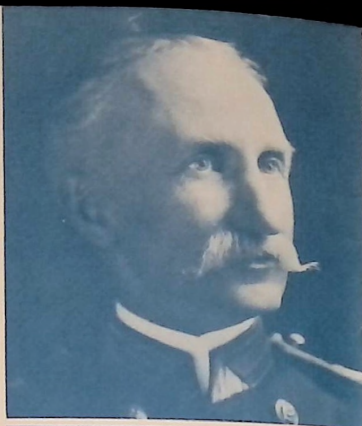
and its Occupants

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION ■ NAVY DEPARTMENT ■ 1963



Rear Admiral Richard Wainwright
3 Dec 1909—17 Dec 1911

*From 3 December 1911
to 1 August 1939*



Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske
17 Dec 1911—11 May 1915

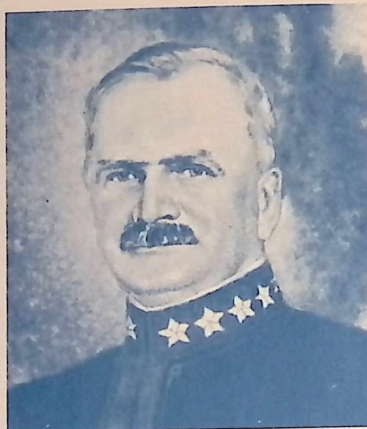


Admiral William S. Benson
11 May 1915—25 Sept 1919

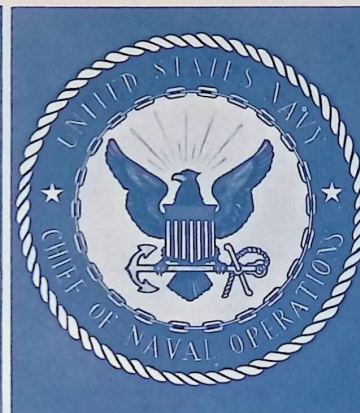
ADMIRAL'S HOUSE

Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. 63-60054

Admiral Robert S. Coontz
1 Nov 1919—21 Jul 1923



Admiral Edward W. Eberle
21 Jul 1923—14 Nov 1927



Admiral Charles F. Hughes
14 Nov 1927—15 Sep 1930



Admiral William V. Pratt
15 Sep 1930—30 Jun 1933



Admiral William H. Standley
1 Jul 1933—1 Jan 1937



Admiral William H. Leahy
2 Jan 1937—1 Aug 1939



*and its
Occupants*



ADMIRAL'S HOUSE AND

Fittingly for the atomic space age Navy, The Chief of Naval Operations' quarters, Admiral's House, stands amidst some of the Navy's most complex and far reaching scientific operations. Passing between two massive anchors, sentries of the sea that flank the Massachusetts Avenue entrance to the U. S. Naval Observatory, a gently rising drive brings one to a handsomely landscaped house identified as "Quarters A". This is Admiral's House. For more than a generation it has served as home port for the Chief of Naval Operations.

Admiral's House itself dates from 1893, but the Naval Observatory that surrounds it represents the Navy's leadership in science and technology for many generations. Thus the senior naval officer of today's mighty forces for freedom, in the brief times he can be home, appropriately lives like the commander afloat amidst unresting machines and men ever probing out into the seas of earth and space, on watch for America. Timekeeper of the space age, the Naval Observatory has been universally recognized as one of the world's foremost scientific institutions since before the Civil War.

A source of the Navy's professional competence from earliest times has been the pursuit of excellence. Courage, skill, leadership, training, preparation, perseverance and audacity have all proudly played their role in the Navy's service to each generation. Intermingled with them has been scientific knowledge, the "Ex Scientia Tridens" of the Naval Academy seal.

Give me a fast ship "for I intend to go in harm's way" said John Paul Jones.

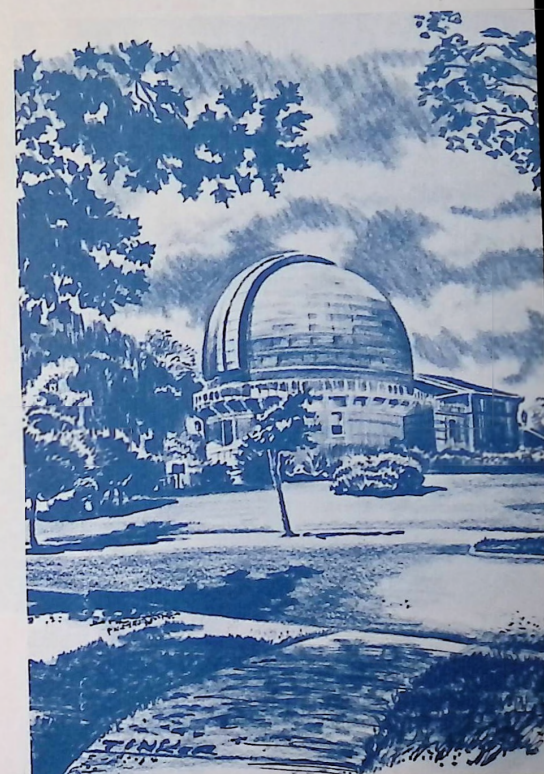
ENVIRONS

The skill that built fast ships and rigged and fought them came from the scientific approach as surely as does the Polaris submarine, the complex nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the communication and navigation satellites of the 20th Century.

From the day man first ventured to sea until he orbited the globe and now explores ever deeper into the universe

opening beyond, the stars have guided the navigator across trackless reaches. Early in our national life, statesmen like James Monroe and John Quincy Adams recognized the importance of systematic observations of celestial bodies to our Navy, to seaborne commerce, and to scientific progress. The founding of an observatory was urged.

The first positive step toward a Naval Observatory took place in 1830 when the Secretary of the Navy established the Depot of Charts and Instruments as a central office for all nautical instruments and charts. A house was rented for the Depot in Washington on G Street North West between 17th and 18th Streets; in a circular building nearby chronometer accuracy was checked by means of sextant and circle observations.



Lieutenant L. M. Goldsborough, first Commanding Officer, became a Flag Officer in the Civil War and led the early successful amphibious assaults on Roanoke Island, North Carolina—in a sense symbolizing the part the work of the Naval Observatory-to-be would play in the vast combined operations in the World Wars of the 20th Century.

Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, destined to fame as explorer of the Pacific and Antarctica, followed Goldsborough in 1833. Wilkes removed the Depot to Capitol Hill where, at his own expense, he set up a small observatory.

■ Lieutenant Matthew Fontaine Maury, USN, pioneer in oceanography and "Pathfinder of the Seas". He did his great work at the old Naval Observatory which even before the Civil War had achieved world wide recognition.

Congress authorized the Navy in 1842 to construct a suitable permanent building for the Depot of Charts and Instruments. The act made no mention of an astronomical observatory, but the site between 23rd and 24th Streets near "E" Street, North West, was chosen and the building plans drawn with an observatory in view. The new location was ready within two years. To it as first Superintendent of the Naval Observatory came Lieutenant Matthew Fontaine Maury, soon to be known wherever men voyaged into the unknown as "Pathfinder of the Seas".



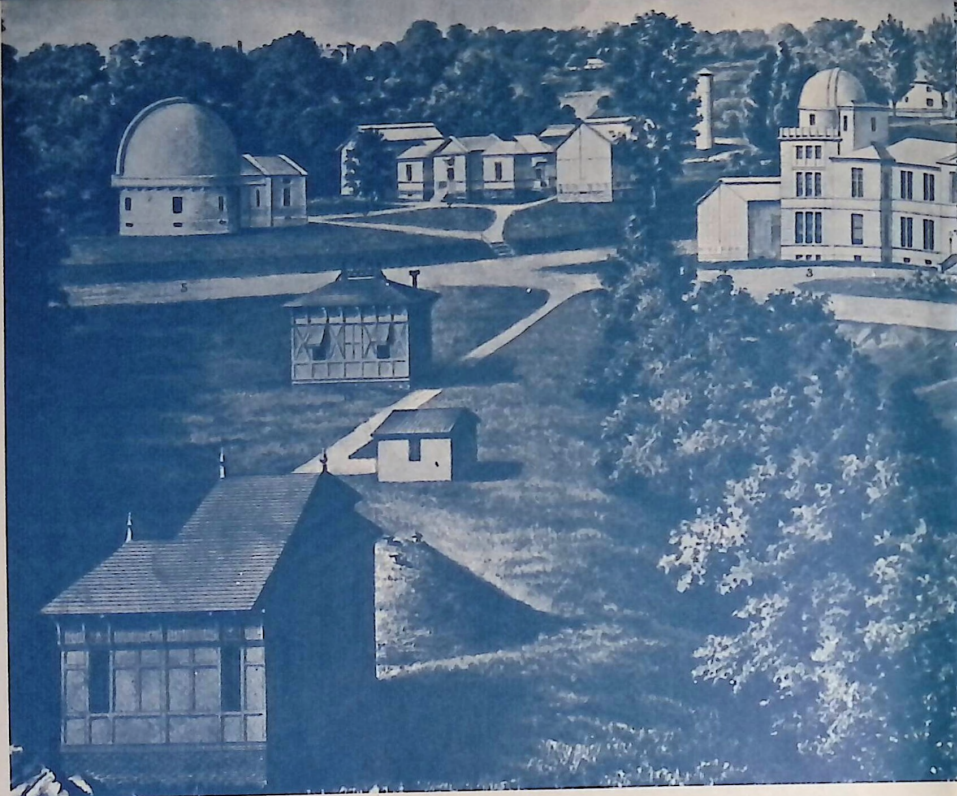
During his long stay at the Naval Observatory, Maury, naval officer-scientist of first rank, undertook his great work in oceanography, winds and currents. He uniquely recognized the oceans as the subject of a distinct branch of science of far reaching importance. In a few years his contributions to navigation brought international fame as foreign governments vied to honor him. To this day, pilot charts issued by the Navy's Oceanographic Office carry the words: "Founded upon the researches made in the early Nineteenth Century by Matthew Fontaine Maury while serving as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy."



Captain Frederick V. McNair, USN, Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, 1890-1894, was the first resident of the present Admiral's House.

■ Scientists at the Naval Observatory always took a leading role in astronomical observations and calculations. The "Venus Transit Group" is pictured here in 1874.



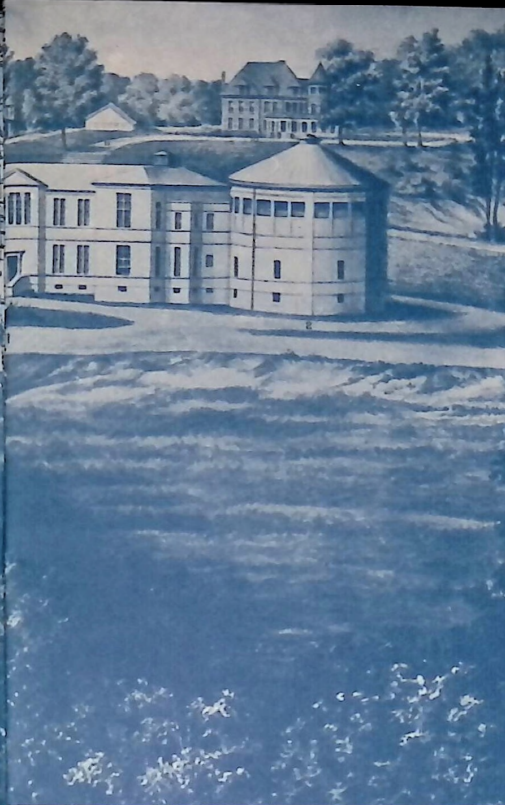


Under Maury the Naval Observatory achieved universal renown for advances in astronomy as well as in navigation and oceanography. As early as January 1845, he initiated the program that continues uninterrupted to this day, of precise charting of the ever changing sky.

In the post Civil War period, distinguished and talented naval officers including Rear Admirals Charles Henry Davis and John Rodgers ably followed Maury as Superintendent at the Naval Observatory. Leading mathematicians and astronomers at the Observatory,

such as, Simon Newcomb, George William Hill and Asaph Hall, won world esteem.

By 1880 the growth of the Federal City and its traffic closing in on the Naval Observatory made precise observations and measurements increasingly difficult in "unhealthy Foggy Bottom". President Hayes named a commission from Congress with the Observatory Superintendent "to select a site for a new Naval Observatory . . . upon an even degree of longitude west of Greenwich, and to possess . . . facility of access from the City of Washington, healthful-



The beautiful surroundings of the Naval Observatory with Admiral's House in the background are shown in this drawing from the 1890's.

servatory would continue into the space age.

From the vantage point of the teeming 1960's one reads with interest the Commission's reason for selecting the location: "It is remote from any public road, being approachable only by a private carriage path, so that it enjoys the inestimable advantages of seclusion, quiet, and freedom from disturbance, either by frequent visitors or by passing vehicles . . . The site is protected against encroachment by deep ravines in the vicinity, which are likely long and perhaps forever to prevent its being hemmed in by buildings, whatever may be the growth of the city."

Events moved sedately in the stately 19th Century. Ten years later the Naval Appropriation Act, approved 2 March 1891, provided funds for equipment, completing buildings, furniture, etc., at the Observatory and included an allotment of \$20,000 for constructing an "official residence of the Superintendent." Leon E. Dessez, a Washington architect, drew the plans.

Mr. Dessez designed a three story brick structure with extensive use of dormers and exhibiting a French Provincial influence that enjoyed considerable popularity as the Victorian era waned. The 33 rooms provided spacious comfort and gracious living on the eve of events that would launch the United States into world leadership as if following the track of the Navy out into the misty seas.

ness, clearness of atmosphere, freedom from obstruction from the horizon, and freedom from objectionable vibrations from the traffic. . ."

On 28 February 1881, the Commission reported to the President that it had, "after due deliberation and careful scrutiny, selected Mrs. M. C. Barber's place on Georgetown Heights." On 5 April some 72 acres of "Pretty Prospect" were acquired from Mrs. Barber at a cost of \$63,000. Appropriately, some of this land had earlier belonged to Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy. Here the achievements of the Naval Ob-



To the left in this hallway in Admiral's House hangs a portrait of the War of 1812 naval hero, Commodore Thomas Macdonough. Through the doorway may be seen a naval print from the outstanding Beverly Robinson Collection on loan from the U. S. Naval Academy Museum.

The handsome mirror above the dining room mantle was purchased for Admiral's House from the George Dewey estate by Mrs. George Anderson.



The Superintendent's house was "commissioned" in 1893 coincident with the transfer of the Naval Observatory to the new location. Shortly thereafter the Nautical Almanac Office that had operated separately since 1849 joined the Observatory. Meanwhile, in 1866 the Hydrographic Office had separated.

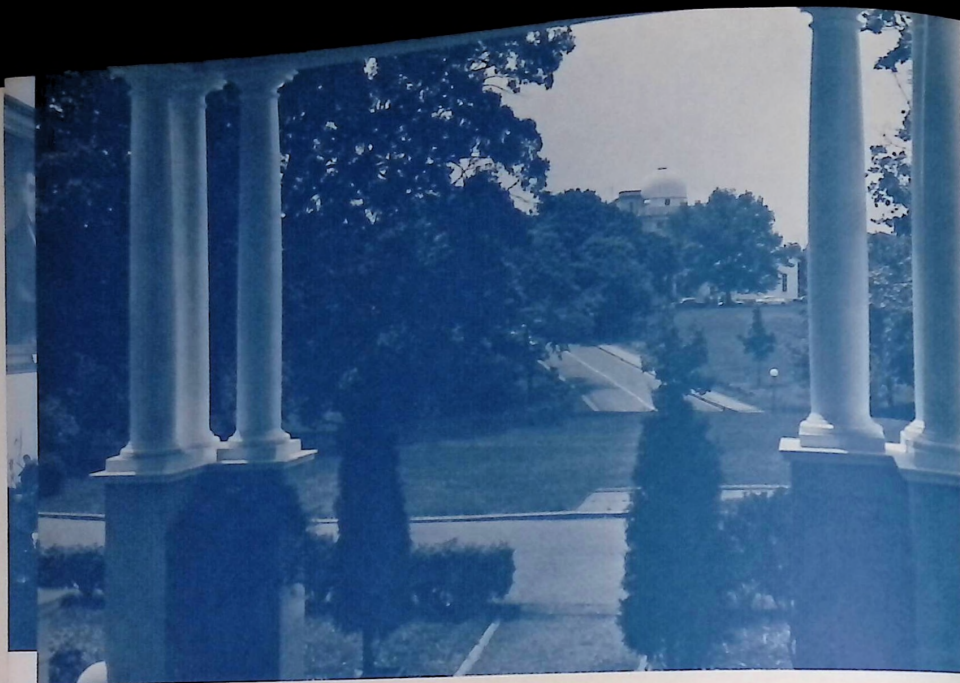
The Superintendent, Captain Frederick V. McNair, had a full naval career. He saw action afloat throughout most of the Civil War including the capture of New Orleans under Farragut and the amphibious assault on Fort Fisher with Porter. After the Observatory he would

take command of the Asiatic Fleet; and the story has it that he relinquished it early so that his friend Dewey might get the command before he was too old - and just in time for fate to open the way to greatness.

A generation later Public Law 630 of the Seventieth Congress, approved 10 December 1928, authorized the Secretary of the Navy to assign the quarters to the Chief of Naval Operations. So began an even larger role for "Admiral's House" that like the role of the Naval Observatory, of the Navy, and of America would expand with the phenomenal speed of a mushrooming atomic cloud.

The dining room is graced with a handsome eighteenth century oil painting by Vernet of a French port and Thomas Sully's nineteenth century portrait of Commodore Stephen Decatur. They are on loan from the collection of the U. S. Naval Academy Museum.





The "Family Entrance" on the wide porch of Admiral's House commands a magnificent view of a broad terrace and the Observatory dome.

CHIEFS OF NAVAL OPERATIONS IN ADMIRAL'S HOUSE

When Admiral Charles F. Hughes, then Chief of Naval Operations, moved into Admiral's House, many Americans still held the illusion of peace for our time won by World War I. High hopes for disarmament still bemused many in the roaring, prosperous Twenties, but not in the Navy that faced facts. Leaders saw missions expanded across the seas of the world and technological changes carrying the Navy into the heavens, into the silent depths beneath, across so-called "impregnable" beaches, and into incredible scientific advance. At the same time they saw the size of the fleet reduced and operating funds cut.

Despite inadequate funds, they managed to direct a portion of the scanty budget into research, development and production of the changing Navy the United States would need desperately in the years ahead. Under Admirals Hughes, William V. Pratt and William H. Standley, great strides were made. This was the period through the mid-1930's when the Navy, within the most stringent treaty and fiscal limitations, struggled to maintain high efficiency in order both to carry out worldwide day to day duties in keeping the peace and to have ready against the hour of need a proficient nucleus for rapid expansion.

Considering funds available (from 1930 through 1939 the Navy's budget averaged less than \$500,000,000 annually), a large fleet was kept afloat, new ships built, and remarkable technological progress made. In these years, and immediately preceding ones, while not foreseeing all needs the Navy made notable strides in aviation, anti-aircraft gunnery, amphibious developments, radar, submarines, anti-submarine warfare and other fields including at the end of the 1930's pioneer steps in atomic energy.

From the Navy came such vital strength for America as the horizontal bombing sight, the overwhelming tactics of dive bombing, the air cooled aircraft engine, the full integration of aviation into fleet strategy and tactics. By the close of the 1930's the U. S. Navy had the best anti-aircraft director and heavy AA gun in the world, steadily equipped ships with them, began to fire target

mission of protecting American interests and citizens in the revolution-torn West Indies, China, and elsewhere.

Admiral William D. Leahy became Chief of Naval Operations and resident of Admiral's House in January 1937 as Japan's rising sun cast ever longer rays over the Far East and war clouds loomed darker. The gunboat USS PANAY on duty in the Yangtze River was sunk by Japanese aircraft in December of Admiral Leahy's first year as CNO. On the other side of the globe the meaning of Nazi Germany was coming into clear focus. Red Russia fished in troubled waters everywhere.

Heeding the ominous signs, Congress voted an increase in naval strength to supplement the new destroyers, submarines and heavy ships like YORKTOWN (CV-5) that joined the fleet in 1937 and ENTERPRISE (CV-6) in 1938. Four battleships along with many other

practices at realistic radio controlled drones and had prototype radar afloat. Submarines increased in size and effectiveness. Sonar advanced against the grave days of enemy submarine threat. Ship design and equipment made steady progress in aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers as well as submarines. Fleet amphibious exercises developed techniques, doctrines, gunfire and air support methods and outlined requirements for special amphibious craft.

These were likewise the years when the Navy, with its battle trained Marines embarked, continued the time honored

ships were laid down. In his final report as CNO, Admiral Leahy warned: "The Navy must be sufficiently strong . . . and it must be adequately trained."

Within a month after Admiral Harold R. Stark relieved Admiral Leahy as Chief of Naval Operations on 1 August 1939, Hitler's troops marched into Poland and World War II shattered the hopes of man—the lights had gone out again in Europe in a generation.

Before Admiral Stark left office, March 1942, the Navy's Neutrality Patrol was operating in the Atlantic, the "Two Ocean Navy" act sponsored by CNO had become law, USS REUBEN JAMES



USS RANGER (CV 4) left, first ship in the U. S. Navy designed from the keel up as an aircraft carrier, was commissioned in 1934 and served the nation with valor through World War II.

The great naval victory at Midway—one of the decisive battles in world history and the turning point in the war against Japan.



had been sunk off Iceland in October 1941, and the Japanese had united America by the perfidious attack on Pearl Harbor.

In March 1942, Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King assumed office with the dual assignment as Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations. He directed the mightiest naval force in history to victory, bitterly fought and nobly won, on two oceans. The trident of sea power with magnificent new strength above the sea and beneath added to its ancient strength on the waves, magnificently shaped history. It turned back the German submarine menace, destroyed the Japanese Navy in desperate battle where "uncommon valor was a common virtue," sank Japan's life line of merchant ships, made possible a mounting flood of men and materials flowing overseas to battlefields ashore, kept the U. S. free from invasion and mounted resistless amphibious assaults across the Atlantic and Pacific. The sum of these tremendous efforts made it possible for all of America's

giant strength to concentrate on enemies East and West in overwhelming victory.

Great Americans of many types have served the United States in the Navy. In the fore rank of these is Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Kind yet inflexible in integrity, humane yet tough when the chips were down, simple in manner yet profound in understanding, he directed the Pacific War brilliantly, at first against appalling odds.

As he often stated, victory that culminated in Japan's surrender on board USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay came only because millions of Americans gladly gave their best, many their lives, that man might live free. Yet without leadership like his, this best, whether in the air, on the unresting surface warship, in the submarine deep below the waves or on the beaches might have led only to despair.

Admiral Nimitz was the logical successor to Admiral King. Washington went wild when he came home for the victory parade late in 1945 to be the first post-war Chief of Naval Operations and

occupant of Admiral's House. He characteristically stepped out after two years so that a younger man might take the crucial post he had filled so effectively.

These two years were significant ones. When Admiral Nimitz took office the national urge was for rapid demobilization to "get the boys home." The large troop lift operation "Magic Carpet", using many types of warships besides assault transports, sped to its end to make many families happy. Thereafter public demand continued to reduce the Navy along with other forces.

Nevertheless, under Admiral Nimitz' sagacious guidance the Navy continued to serve America well. After years of preparation significant steps were made toward nuclear ship propulsion that in less than a decade would result in the phenomenal success of NAUTILUS, man's first nuclear ship. Outstanding progress continued in many other fields: in naval aviation that included planes capable of setting a world's distance record that lasted into the 1960's; in ship design of all types; in

anti-submarine warfare technology (potent new weapons of the '60's follow from that time); in anti-aircraft and other guided missile developments where the Navy had long been in the forefront; in power for the United States foreign policy such as reestablishment of U. S. naval strength in the Mediterranean—continuation of a historic need since the 1790's.

In these years it became apparent that war was won but peace was not. Communist designs to win the world were plain. They took over shattered West Europe wherever their armies controlled. Greece and Turkey stood in imminent danger. The battleship MISSOURI, aircraft carrier FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, cruiser LITTLE ROCK and indispensable destroyers were dispatched to the Mediterranean, clear evidence of America's determination to say to the embattled people, "Stand firm . . . we are with you."



All elements of sea power were brought into action by the Navy during the Pacific war.



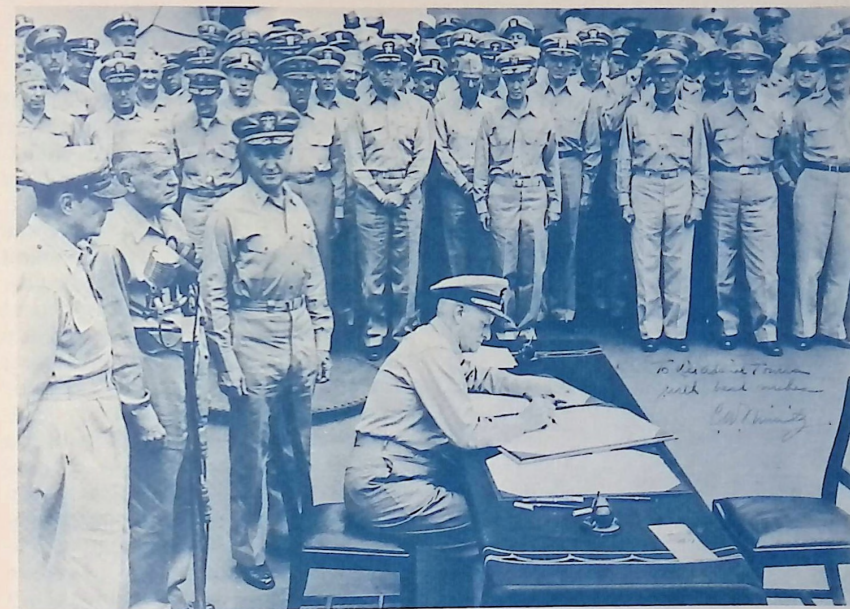
Across all seas to all shores.



This decision was of the most far-reaching importance: Greece and Turkey held; Iran stood fast against Soviet take-over; in the years to come Lebanon and the rest of the Middle East would be saved from catastrophe. The powerful "Gray Diplomats" had again shown the value of seapower reaching far across the globe to hold the line for freedom.

Admiral Denfeld, who became CNO in December 1947, continued the sound course Admiral Nimitz had set. Soon, following this first "police force", the SIXTH Fleet sailed the Mediterranean, vigilant guardian of freedom like the squadrons under Commodores Preble and Decatur in the early 1800's. Likewise the SEVENTH Fleet in the Western Pacific steadfastly kept Red China in check where men like Commodore Matthew Perry had sailed to fame long before.

Despite expanding Communist aggression, when Admiral Denfeld relieved Admiral Nimitz in December 1947 the trend of thought in the United States still resembled that of the 1920's—we had crushed an aggressor; now only armament stood in the way of harmony among



Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, one of the most inspiring leaders in the Navy's long history, signs the Japanese surrender documents as United States representative on board USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay.



■ "The Gray Diplomats" of the U. S. SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean.

nations; ipso facto, reduction in arms meant peace on earth. Unfortunately the Communists understood otherwise—on earth, purpose backed by power, not wishful thinking, controls man's destiny.

Notwithstanding Admiral Denfeld's strong efforts, budgets were cut, the Navy shrank, and with it our power for peace. The results again paralleled those after World War I. Crisis followed crisis in the ceaseless ambitions of man. The Berlin Blockade brought war close. Then, since aggression ever bursts through weakened dikes, in 1950 the old unhappy lesson repeated itself.

Following Admiral Denfeld, Admiral Forrest Sherman had been Chief of Naval Operations only a few months when the Communists invaded South Korea. Self-deluded America again awoke to reality, and it was grim indeed. While the West disarmed, the Communists had built up strength. They launched their attack

convinced that the unprepared West would yield to Communist imperialism.

Stodious, far seeing and wise Admiral Sherman soundly reexpanded the Navy—made possible in large part by the efficient Naval Reserve and the nucleus Reserve Fleet developed by Admiral Nimitz and Admiral Denfeld. During his tenure at Admiral's House (as with most occupants) the lights burned long into the night for he made a point of knowing through study with a mind that encompassed many things quickly.

Fortunately we did not have to meet a powerful Navy in the Korean War. Thus, though greatly reduced, the fleet denied the sea to the enemy, kept ocean highways open for the flow of America's reviving strength, and played a key role with its skilled aviators from aircraft carriers, fighting marines and devastating ship fire in helping the gallant Army stem the Communist onrush. It was just



■ Mobile Strength—U. S. Navy Task Force off Wonsan, Korea.

Versatile Strength—Hwachon Dam, Korea, blasted by torpedoes from carrier-based aircraft. Sea power has a long reach.

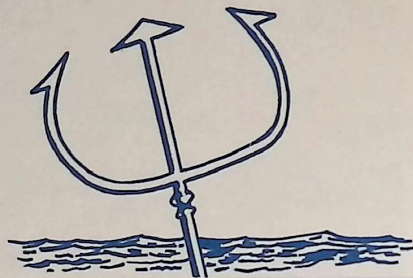
enough to check the enemy in the last bitterly held toehold on the tip of Korea.

Then under the masterful leadership of General MacArthur, seapower again greatly served America and freedom. Boldly employing the mobile flexibility and unique capacity of concentration, surprise, and crushing assault inherent in strength based afloat, General MacArthur won a great victory. Inchon was a perfect example of the terrific power in a nation's purpose concentrated on a single spot. It was also the perfect example of America's perpetual need to hold the sea. In the stirring minutes after H Hour at Inchon, that meant the utter rout of the enemy in all South Korea, General MacArthur truly said "The Navy and Marines have never shone more brightly"



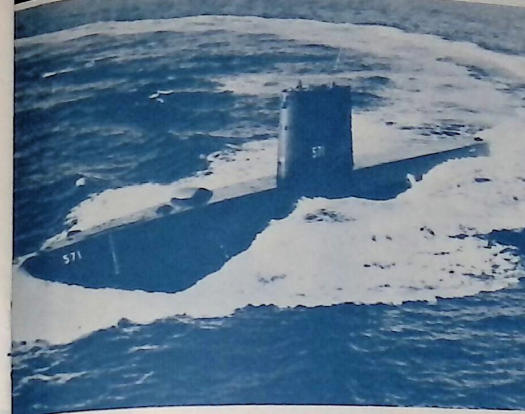


The Trident of Sea Power.

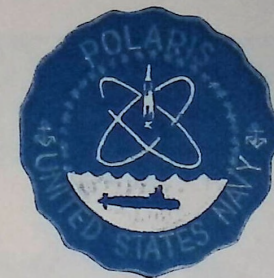


The occupant of Admiral's House has far reaching responsibilities that take him to distant seas and troubled shores in person as well as in mind. Flying to Europe on an important politico-military mission for the President, Admiral Sherman suffered a stroke and died—a great citizen who lived first of all for his country.

A fighting seadog, Admiral Fechteler, succeeded as Chief of Naval Operations and resident of Admiral's House on August 16, 1951. Vigorously he continued the build-up of the Navy needed to handle the Korean War. In 1950 when the Communists invaded South Korea, the Navy had shrunk to 7 attack aircraft carriers, 8 light and escort types, 1 battleship, 13 cruisers, 136 destroyer types and 72 submarines, plus specialized amphibious, mine and other types for a total of 671 ships. These ships were spread thin indeed for world responsibilities over millions of square miles of ocean. When Admiral Fechteler left office in August 1953 the Fleet had expanded to 14 attack aircraft carriers, 15 light and escort types, 4 battleships, 19 cruisers, 246 destroyer types and 110 submarines plus specialized amphibious, mine and other types for a total of 1129



Submarine launched Polaris—freedom's silent sentinel and the nation's most awesome deterrent.

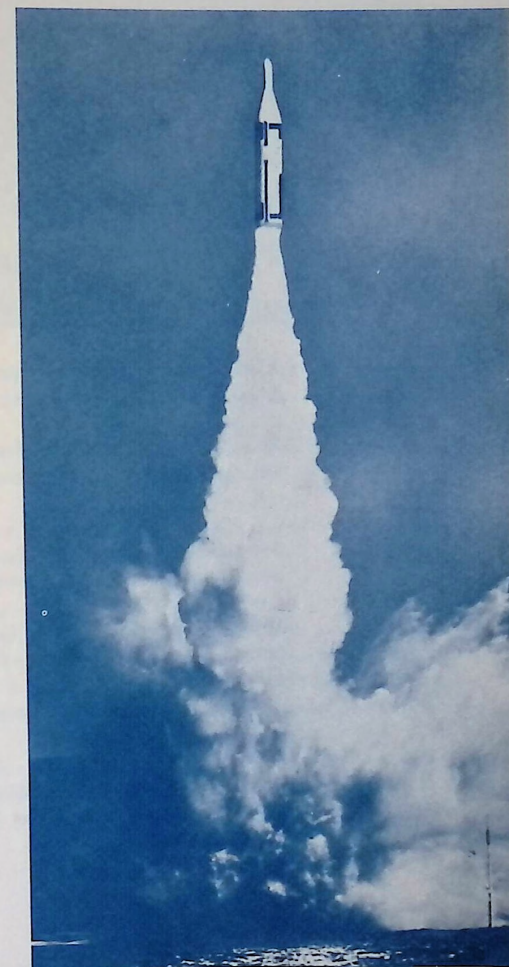


ships in commission. The Navy had likewise been able to forge ahead in research and development. Some of the world's first operational guided missiles afloat joined the fleet. Powerful new aircraft took shape for duty at sea. Nuclear propulsion for submarines raced to success.

In 1953 Admiral Carney took the helm, from command in the Mediterranean, decisive sea of history since antiquity. He had been CINCSOUTH, a Command that included the Southern and Eastern elements of NATO that reached into the fateful Middle East.

Admiral Carney astutely continued plans and operations of his predecessors in Korea, the Middle East and around the globe where if America's influence is to be felt at all, it has to be felt across vast sea spaces. He likewise urged forward the technical developments that assured for our protection world firsts in nuclear propulsion, missiles, advanced electronics and remarkable anti-submarine warfare weapons.

USS NAUTILUS, first nuclear powered ship in the world, was commissioned on 30 September 1954. NAUTILUS, and the nuclear submarines which followed her,



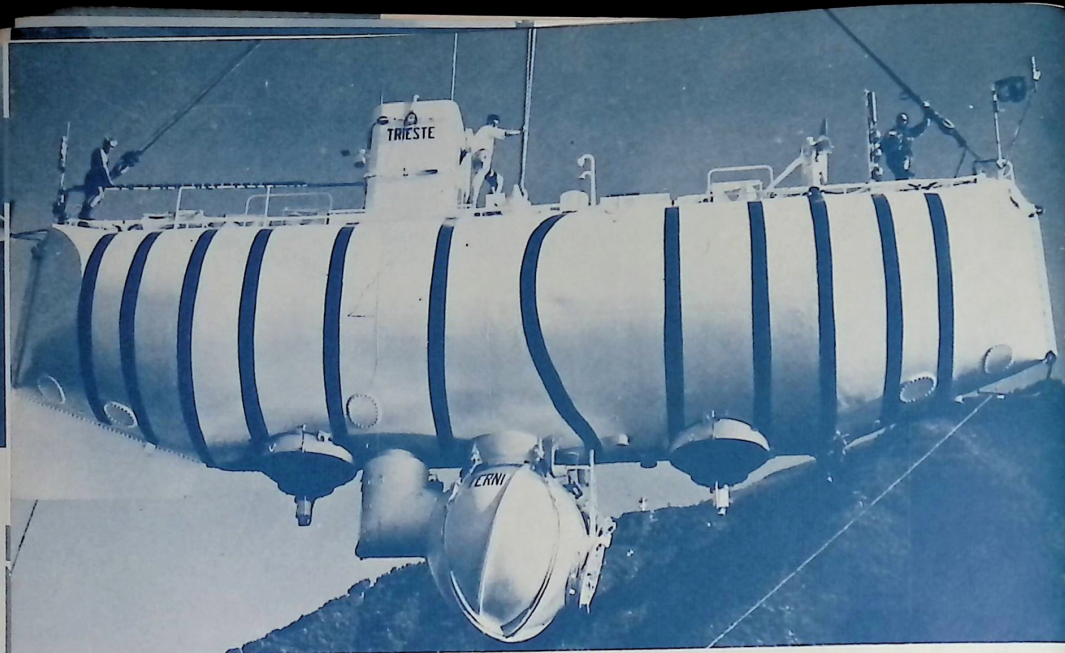


- ① 1946 A U. S. Navy force, including the carrier FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, visited the port of Athens to bolster the government of Greece.
- ② 1948 - 1949 During the Berlin Airlift, a prime illustration of keeping the peace, 24 naval planes took part, flying 45,990 hours and carrying some 129,989 tons of supplies to the besieged city.
- ③ 1954 United States Navy provided a "Passage to Freedom" for hundreds of thousands of refugees from North Vietnam to South and Central Vietnam.
- ④ 1955 At the request of the Republic of China units of the U. S. SEVENTH FLEET evacuated troops, civilians, and tons of material from the Tachen Islands off the China Mainland.
- ⑤ 1956 When the Suez-Middle East crisis became critical SIXTH FLEET ships evacuated American and allied nationals.
- ⑥ 1957 In late April and May 1957, the SIXTH FLEET deployed in the Eastern Mediterranean to support the regime of Jordan's King Hussein. The "steel-gray stabilizer" was effective and Jordan stood.

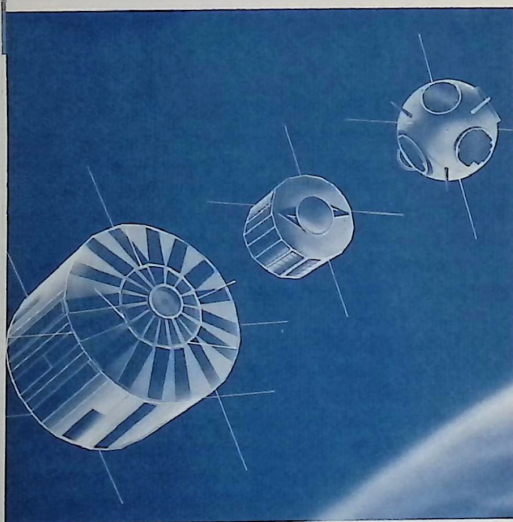
Some recent examples of the U. S. Navy . . . employed in keeping the Peace.



- ⑦ 1958 Units of the SIXTH FLEET lifted and provided carrier air cover for 1,800 Marines who were landed on a beach near Beirut, Lebanon, at the request of the Lebanese government.
- ⑧ 1959 - 1960 SEVENTH FLEET units were alerted near Laos as a ready force to render assistance to the United Nations Fact Finding Commission should the need arise.
- ⑨ 1960 At the request of the governments of Guatemala and Nicaragua, surface and air units of the U. S. Navy were positioned to provide assistance if required.
- ⑩ 1960 - 1961 Units of the South Atlantic Force of the Atlantic Fleet, including WASP (CVS-18) cruised in the South Atlantic area to establish friendly relations with the large number of new African countries which are establishing their independence. U. S. Navy ships transported United Nations troops to the Congo area and have carried emergency food supplies to relieve the starvation conditions existing among the Congolese peoples.
- ⑪ 1962 On 24 October the air and surface units of the Atlantic Fleet established the Quarantine of Cuba and continued surveillance operations until 20 November when the President lifted the quarantine.



Ever searching to advance man's knowledge, the Navy probes the ocean's inner space from TRIESTE and the universe's outer space with the Transit satellite.



have the capacity to circumnavigate the globe submerged at high speeds. They can operate under the polar ice, where NAUTILUS would soon be the first ship to reach the North Pole. They cruise unseen wherever water reaches. Nuclear propulsion has since been applied to surface ships capped by the mighty carrier USS ENTERPRISE.

Similar striking success has come in many other fields of the scientific Navy. Entire families of air and surface missiles are operational and ever more sophisticated versions have sped on their way under Admiral Carney and his successors, Admirals Burke and Anderson. Ships have been converted and new ones specifically built as ever-moving guided missile launching platforms packing a potent punch. USS FORRESTAL joined



USS JOHN WILLIS, a DEALEY class destroyer escort, fires a rocket powered "weapon Alfa" at a simulated submarine contact during an anti-submarine exercise.

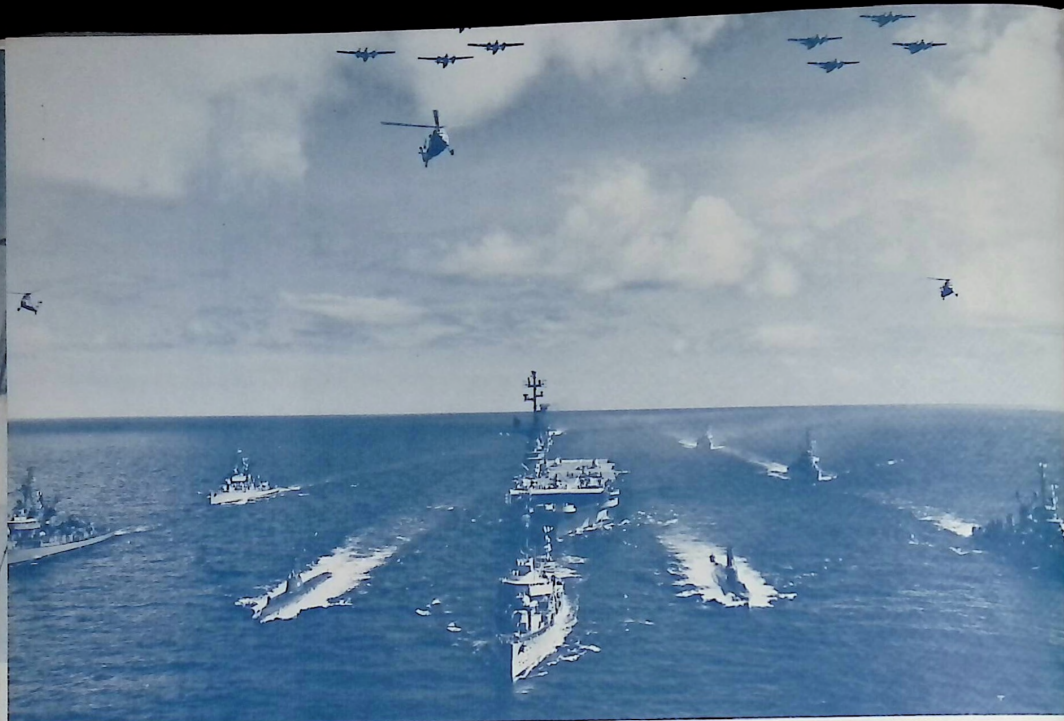
the fleet in 1955 leading a class of large angle-decked attack carriers capable of handling the most modern jet aircraft.

The foregoing, plus striking achievements in submarine detection, solid rocket fuels, exploration of the upper atmosphere and the dark inner space below the sea, earth satellites for navigation, communications, and radio astronomy illustrate the comprehensive research and development aimed at keeping the Navy our first line of defense today as in the past.

The fleets and their weapons change, but in the profound words of Fleet Admiral Nimitz, "The Navy is constant, and so is the meaning of seapower . . . The sea is a way of life. It is the highway over which our commerce flows in two directions, and will blow as far into the

future as we can see . . . There will always be a Navy . . . The Navy is always learning to the end that it may always be prepared."

In 1955, Admiral Burke took the watch from Admiral Carney with the same firm hand and driving purpose that had won him fame as "31-knot Burke" in the furious battles of the South Pacific. Every Chief of Naval Operations makes decisions that continue to affect the United States and the world's future long after he leaves office. Few decisions however have had such dramatic and swift impact upon the balance of power and fate of nations as Admiral Burke's on the Polaris submarine. Early in his unprecedented 6 years of office he created the Special Weapons Task Force, assigned it some of the best talent of



■ Anti-submarine warfare demands constant research, training and a broad spectrum of ships and aircraft.

the Navy and diverted from other critical demands the large funds needed.

From a dream in 1955, many seemingly impossible barriers were shattered and breakthroughs accomplished to produce in phenomenal time the most powerful weapon system in history—the atomic submarine armed with the nuclear ballistic missile. On 20 July 1960 USS GEORGE WASHINGTON proudly launched her first Polaris missile that surged up out of the sea to hurtle over a thousand miles down range precisely to target. America had acquired a new strength irresistible—and peace a new champion of giant stature.

Other events of great moment marked Admiral Burke's tour. Many took place

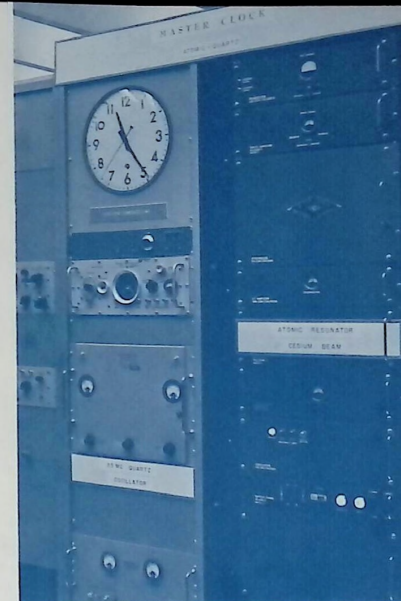
far around the world where seapower extended to hold the frontiers of freedom. Intensive Communist exploitation continued. Explosive situations primed to erupt into large-scale conflict, as in Suez, Syria, Jordan, Quemoy, and Matsu, were successfully met by America in large part because of the Navy's capability to bring a powerful deterrent to bear by its very presence, deployed and ready in international waters off danger spots.

For example, Lebanon, threatened by overt aggression in 1958, requested direct United States assistance. Powerful units of the SIXTH Fleet suddenly and dramatically appeared out of the sea off this ancient Phoenician coast where history has so often been made. On

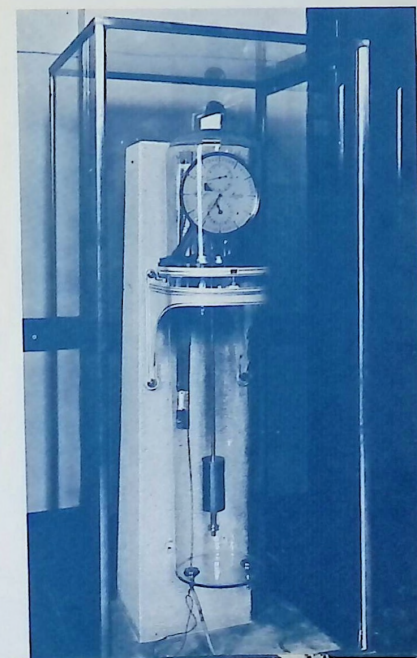
15 July, these mighty ships with massed guns and concentrated airplanes swept in to land their Marines at Beirut. Once more the "Gray Diplomats" carrying with them the power that makes diplomacy succeed, promptly assured a small nation's independence—and just as promptly withdrew when the crisis quieted. Thus did seapower operate in its classical manner of swift application of just the right amount of power to quench an ember before it becomes a conflagration to involve the world.

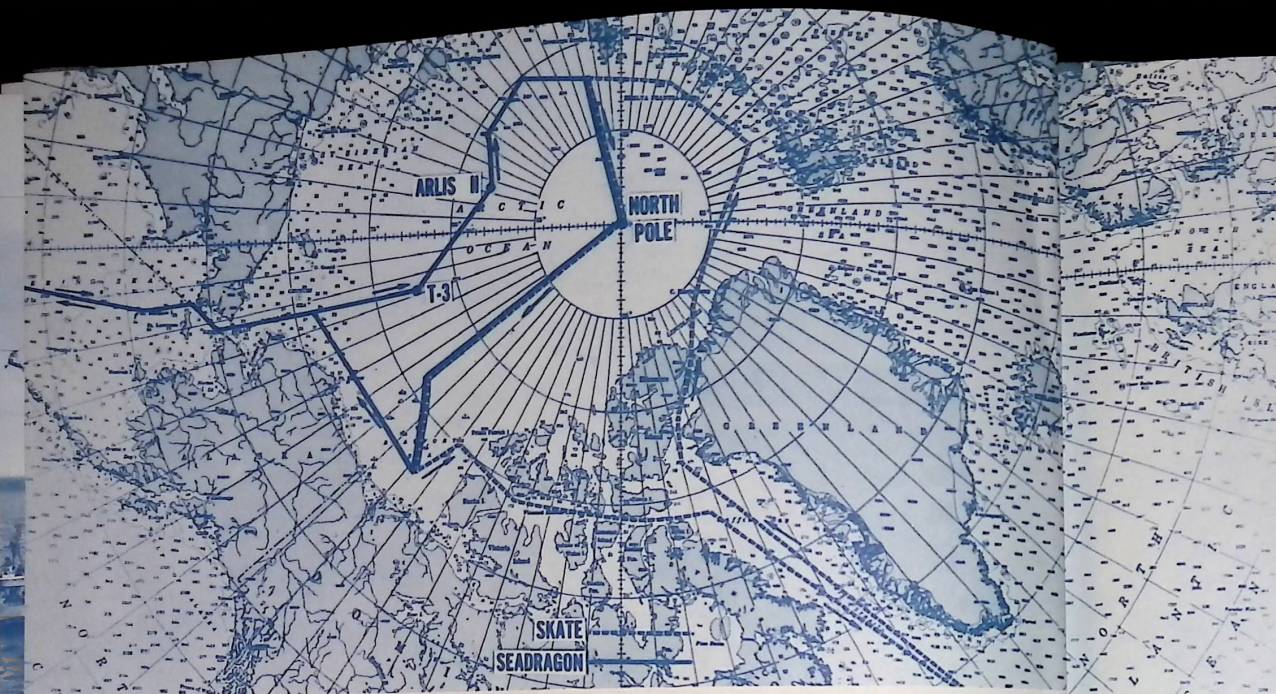
There were many other events of lasting importance to America in Admiral Burke's six years, as there have been in almost every year of the Navy's long and proud service of striving to keep the peace, protect our shores and carry war across the seas to the enemy. Yet among them all, the Polaris submarine has a distinction of its own—a great dream driven with seaman-like precision to ac-

Missions of mercy are deeply rooted in our naval heritage.



On earth and in space, precise time measurement is the heart of navigation and of space operations. The Riefler Clock (below) pictured about 1903 and the Atomic Clock of 1963, document the Naval Observatory's leadership in this vital science. The Atomic Clock measures time to one millionth of a second.





comply "the impossible" and to produce a phenomenal increase in sea based strength. It is an increase similar to that of steam, the submarine, the aircraft and radar. It is an increase that may well hold the key to man's dream of world freedom.

In August 1961, again significantly from the Mediterranean, came the next in the long line of eminent leaders who have shaped America's course at sea. Admiral George W. Anderson brought to the office an outstanding record as Commander of the SIXTH Fleet. In turning over the watch to him, Admiral Burke said: "The coming months and years will offer the supreme test of our concept of life, a concept based on the abilities of the sovereign individual; on disciplined individuals motivated by fundamental principles by a sense of justice, by moderation and integrity."

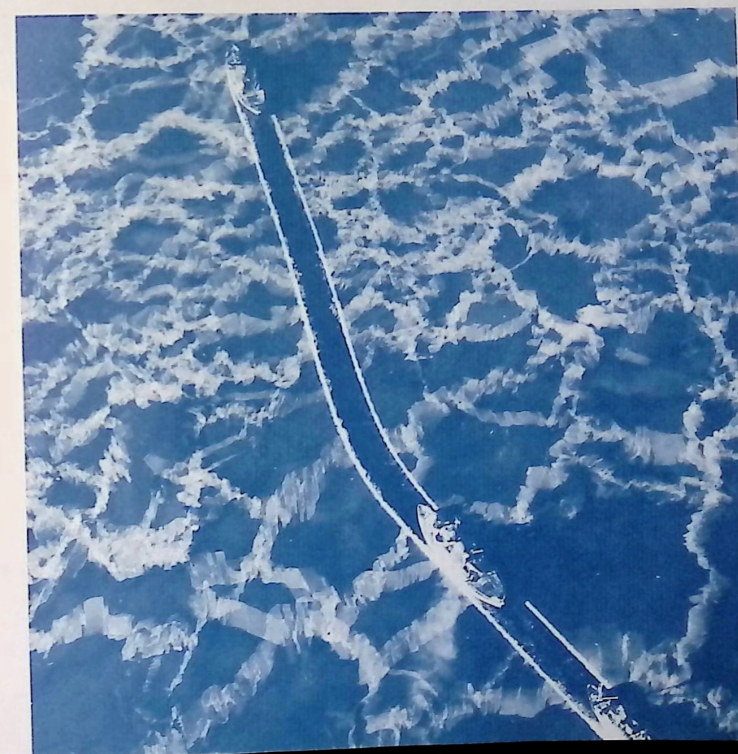
Admiral Anderson is well aware that the American concept of life is in jeopardy. Portraits of early naval heroes—Stephen Decatur, Isaac Hull, Thomas Macdonough—that grace Admiral's House bear historic witness that men of the sea have always met the test of past dangers. The deeds they recall reinforce the certainty that whether darkness threatens in Southeast Asia, Berlin, the Caribbean or Africa, the ships, aircraft and dedicated men of the U. S. Navy are ready.

Under Admiral Anderson's direction the Navy has continued on watch day and night throughout the world unrelenting in serving to keep the peace; to be "ready now" if crisis comes as it dramatically did in Cuba in October 1962; and while carrying out these grave operating responsibilities still to speed on into the



Left. Track of the nuclear submarines USS SKATE and USS SEADRAGON in their historic rendezvous under the North Pole ice pack.

Below. Vital Antarctica supply line forged through the ice pack.





■ *USS ENTERPRISE, mighty nuclear powered aircraft carrier, symbolizes the modern Fleet—strong, fast, mobile and vigilant world wide guardian of free men.*

technical and scientific changes that hurl mankind into the space age.

Long before space flight seemed a tangible hope, developments took place for other purposes in the Navy with direct application to space operations—for example early radio, radar and in 1941 Dr. Draper's work with gyroscopes (for gun sights) whose descendants function in space vehicles today. A host of other achievements have issued from the Navy's network of laboratories, proving grounds and inter-meshing support of research in industry and universities.

This is as it should be for the Navy with its complex requirements for serving America on the sea, under it, on its edge, and into space above, cuts across the full range of this country's remarkable scientific, technical and engineering history. This has long been so since Maury from the old Naval Observatory served the world looking out into space; or a generation later when Ensign Albert A. Michelson, USN, a recent Naval Academy graduate ordered ashore to the faculty there, with midshipmen assistants began his famous measurements on the speed of light as it ranges out into infinity; or



■ *Guided missile cruiser USS ALBANY on 30 January 1963 successfully fired three surface-to-air test missiles simultaneously—the first such launching by any navy in the world.*

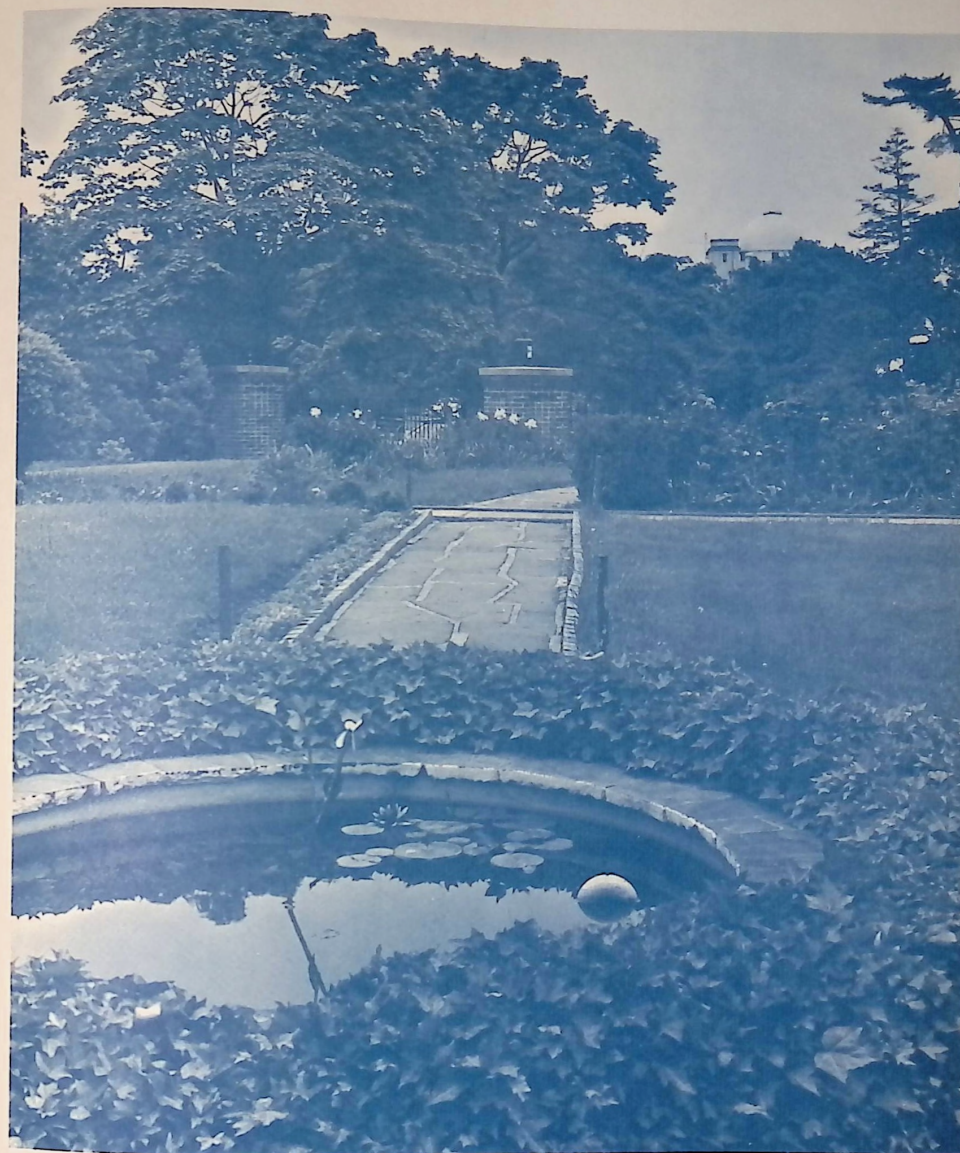
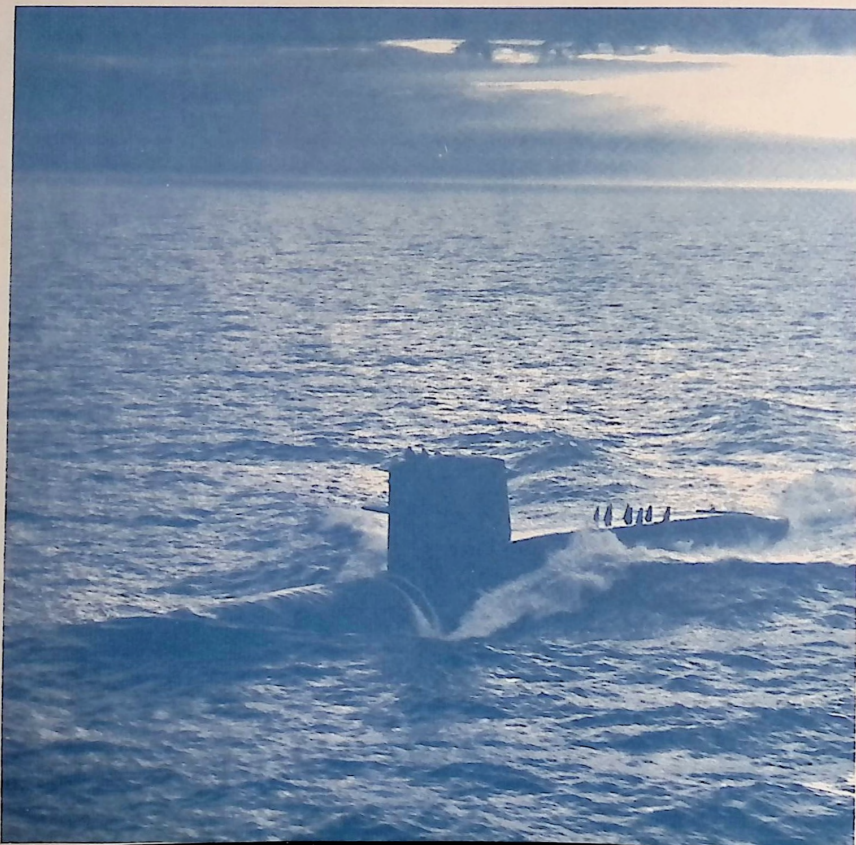


still another generation afterwards when USS BIRMINGHAM and USS PENNSYLVANIA provided the "carriers" for the world's first airplane take-off and landing afloat—the beginning of wings from the sea.

These are but highlights in a long and stirring list that includes leadership in radio, radar, radio astronomy, nuclear propulsion, space surveillance, satellite communication, inertial navigation guided by the forces of the universe, atomic

time. And the number grows at an astronomical rate. Hence this brief account may appropriately state again at the end as at the beginning, that it is fitting indeed that the Chief of Naval Operations of America's complex scientific Navy, steaming with wide open throttle into the space age, should dwell in Admiral's House amidst the Navy's oldest and first famous venture into the mysteries of the heavens.

Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine GEORGE WASHINGTON and elusive sister ships guard the ramparts of liberty.





Admiral Harold R. Stark
1 Aug 1939—12 Mar 1942

*From 1 August 1939
to 196?*



Admiral Ernest J. King
18 Mar 1942—15 Dec 1945



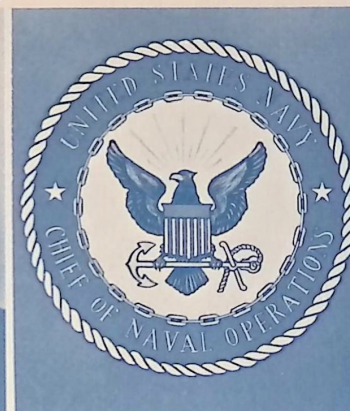
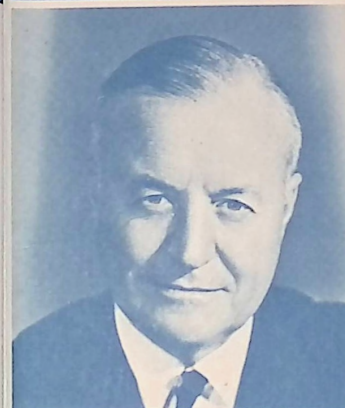
Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
15 Dec 1945—15 Dec 1947

LEADERSHIP

Admiral Louis E. Denfeld
15 Dec 1947—2 Nov 1949



Admiral Forrest P. Sherman
2 Nov 1949—21 Jul 1951



Admiral William M. Fechteler
16 Aug 1951—17 Aug 1953



Admiral Robert B. Carney
17 Aug 1953—17 Aug 1955



Admiral Arleigh A. Burke
17 Aug 1955—1 Aug 1961



Admiral George W. Anderson
1 Aug 1961—



*Vital
element of Sea Power*

