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“A Major Victory Was Obtained”

The fighting men of the Navy last week gave effective and resounding reply to those, who like Rep. Melvin J. Maas, of Minnesota, have been declaiming in recent weeks that the United States is losing the war with Japan.

Speaking over a national radio hookup on Nov. 12, Rep. Maas, who had just returned from four months of duty with the Marines in the Pacific, told the nation that the Pacific war has been running steadily and dangerously against America since Pearl Harbor. He asserted that the Navy had suffered a “major disaster” in the Solomons campaign.

Naval spokesmen at the time made no reply to these charges, but even as Mr. Maas' words were still echoing on the air, naval forces in the Pacific were engaged in what has been termed generally the greatest naval victory of the war.

Results of this conflict were bared by the Navy in a communique on Nov. 17 reporting that a huge Japanese armada had been smashed, with 23 enemy ships sunk and seven other vessels damaged in a three-day running gun battle in the Solomon area which opened on the early morning of Nov. 13.

The Navy reported that, backed by MacArthur's bombers, surface and air units of the Navy had sunk one Japanese battleship, three heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, five destroyers, had destroyed 12 transports, and damaged a battleship and six destroyers.

The only American vessels thus far reported sunk in the engagement were two light cruisers and six destroyers.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U. S. Navy Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, declared that “by far the strongest Japanese attempt to date to recapture Guadalcanal has been completely frustrated by the aggressive action of Vice Admiral W. F. Halsey and his forces. . . All enemy forces were either destroyed or driven back and a major victory was obtained by our gallant forces.”

Including the 23 Japanese ships sunk in the rout of the enemy's fleet in the Solomons, Associated Press records indicate that at least 365 Nipponese vessels in all categories have been blasted to the bottom of the Pacific in 11 months of war. The total sinkings approximated 1,500,000 tons.

Based on official announcements by the Navy and Allied headquarters in battle zones throughout the Far Eastern areas, the following AP compilation offers an over all picture of comparable American-Japanese losses in the Pacific since Pearl Harbor:

	U. S.	JAP.		U. S.	JAP.
Battleships	1	2	Minesweepers or		
Aircraft carriers	4	6	minelayers	7	10
Cruisers	6	29	Gunboats	5	7
Destroyers	22	46	Patrol boats	1	5
Submarines	5	28	Oilers	3	4
Transports	5	86	Auxiliaries	3	7
Supply ships	0	13	Miscellaneous	4	13
Merchantmen	11	108			
Sub-chasers or			TOTALS	84	365
torpedo boats	7	1			

No Holiday Here Nor There

Thanksgiving Day, 1942, will not be a holiday on this station, according to an order issued by the Executive Officer.

Naval personnel and civilian employees will report for work as usual next Thursday, mindful that the fighting boys overseas will have no holiday either.

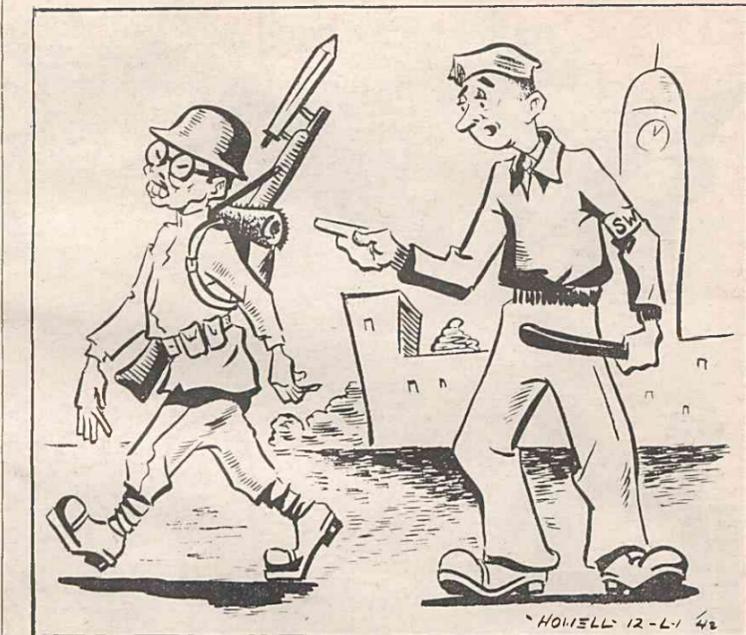


By LIEUT. ERIC H. ARENDT
Chaplain Corps, USN

Next Thursday is *Thanksgiving Day!* Although it is a day which, this year, will be observed by accomplishing the work of any other day, it still remains in our thoughts and hearts one that is near and dear to us. We are proud of the opportunity to observe this day as a *work day*, because we fully recognize the need of shortening every possible element of time in the attainment of the goals we seek, not only as potential officers and fliers, but as persons contributing to the national effort.

As we compare ourselves with other less fortunate nations, we think again in terms of Thanksgiving and *Thanksgiving*. We thank God for all His blessings—we seek strength to do His will. We might well take a few moments, even in the time-consuming day that it will be this year to review our gratefulness. Here is a litany which might help:

Let us give thanks to the Lord! For the day, for the glory and warmth of the sun, for the stir of life, and for



“Who goes there—friend or foe?”

honest toil that wins food and rest, we thank Thee, O Lord.

For the earth, the sustainer of life; for the hills, the plains, and the dales; and for the beauty of all the world about us, we are thankful.

For the sky, for the shifting clouds, and for the glory of sunrise and sunset, we are thankful.

For the sea, that yields and receives again the water without which life would die, and is wonderful in its stillness and more wonderful in its storm, we are thankful, O Lord.

For our fathers and mothers, by whom He orders lives and comforts hearts, bringing strength and sweet-

ness to a house, we are thankful, O Lord.

For good friends and shipmates, who rejoice with us in our joys and cheer us in trouble, and who lighten our task; may He help us to repay them in fellowship and service.

For happiness, that unites us with others and refreshes us for our work; may He help us to keep it kind and true.

For health, bringing wholesomeness of body and mind; May God help us to give our strength to His service.

For these and other blessings we are thankful to God in our Thanksgiving thoughts.

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