

Combat Toll For U. S. Hits Record High

NEW YORK—Combat toll six times as great as in World War I and greater than that of the combined deaths in all previous wars the United States has ever fought, is the cost in American lives in World War II according to the statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. At the same time, they report that our forces exacted a much heavier toll of the enemy.

In their review of America's combat losses in World War II, the statisticians estimate the total to be approximately 325,000. This includes an allowance for deaths among those wounded in action and for men still carried on the rolls as "missing in action," who will eventually have to be written off as killed in combat or died as the result of enemy action.

About four-fifths of our losses, or between 255,000 and 260,000 were suffered by the army and the remaining 65,000 to 70,000 were incurred by the navy, including the marine corps and the coast guard. Of the navy's total, about 23,000 were in the marine corps and about 900 were in the coast guard.

Relative to their strength, however, the combat losses for the army and navy were more nearly equal, the statisticians report. "The navy, including the marines, had a combat toll appreciably greater than the total losses in the first World War. This toll in the recent war was more than 20 times higher than navy and marine losses in the first World War, and the navy alone since Pearl Harbor lost about 100 times more men than in the last war."

Army losses of 260,000, or about 89 per cent of its total, were suffered in the European theater, including Italy and North Africa. Approximately 9,000 of the navy and marine losses in World War II occurred in the war against Germany. The remainder of the losses, over 55,000, were suffered in actions against the Japanese and were about the same as those suffered by the army in the Pacific sector. Practically all of the marine losses occurred in this area.

In 1945 alone American losses approximated 125,000. Army dead accounted for 100,000 of this toll, and navy dead for 25,000. "No definite figures are yet available on the comparative death losses in the various branches of the service," the statisticians continue. "The infantry, however, as in every previous war, bore the brunt of battle. Combat deaths in this branch of service were the highest and its rate was greater than for the army as a whole. The rate of air force losses was the highest of all major branches of the army, being more than 15 per cent of

the army total and in Europe nearly 20 per cent of the total. "Heavy as American losses have been in World War II, even higher losses were inflicted on the enemy. In his recent biennial report, General Marshall estimated that German and Italian dead in the Mediterranean area and on the Western front totaled nearly 375,000 in land operations, while Japanese battle deaths, some time before the fighting ended, were estimated at more than 1,200,000 figures well above the losses suffered by all the Allies on these fronts."

Pointing out that the United States was the only major belligerent to escape severe destruction of life or property in its territory, the statisticians conclude that "the very size of our combat losses should spur our leaders in their every endeavor to develop with other nations a permanent world organization for peace."

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Uncle Sam Preparing Atomic Test On Worn Out American Vessels

WASHINGTON—Captain Billy Mitchell's prediction may finally come true. Years ago, this American prophet of the future of airpower forecast that the day would come when a plane could sink a battleship with a single bomb.

That theory soon will be put to test, not only against a battleship, but against an entire fleet. The weapon, of course, will be the atomic bomb.

Plans now are well advanced for the great experiment. The ships are being chosen, and there will be many of them of every fighting category. The instruments are being assembled and the personnel is being picked.

The time and the place are not yet decided. Two separate experiments will be held—one to test the effect on a fleet of an atomic bomb which explodes in the air, over the warships; the second to test the effect of an atomic bomb exploding under water.

All concerned with the problem admit both explosions will be devastating, and from testimony which has come out in the congressional investigations of atomic energy control, the scientists believe the under-water blast will have the greater effect.

Some captured enemy ships, especially those of the Japanese, will be used. But primarily the suicide ghost fleet will be made up of American vessels which proudly carried the United States flag into action during the war. This is because the United States officers conducting the experiment do not want to find out so much what the A-bomb will do to an enemy fleet, but what it will do to ours.

Ships whose job is done, for which there is no longer any use, will be used in the test. It will be an expensive experiment—the cost of bombs alone will run into millions. But military officers feel it will be worth it.

Patton Talks With Wife And Is Reported Improved

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., paralyzed by a broken neck, was improved yesterday after a half an hour talk with his wife and his condition was described officially as "very satisfactory."

The colorful U. S. Army general was fully conscious, rational, and taking nourishment. Nurses attending the former Third Army commander described him as "one of their best patients" and said Patton was accepting his condition like a "true soldier."

A further neurological examination of the injured commander showed "normally active" tendon reflexes. A medical bulletin omitted the phrase "prognosis guarded" for the first time since the general arrived at the 130th Station Hospital at Heidelberg on Sunday, after an auto crash near Mannheim. (A prognosis is a prediction or conclusion in regard to the course and termination of a disease.) Mrs. Patton arrived at her 60-year-old husband's bedside, confident that his fighting heart would carry him through. She appealed to Maj. Gen. Albert W. Keener, who has been with the general since the accident, to "tell me all about it," and added: "I have seen George in these scrapes before, and he always comes out all right."

It may decide the whole future of the battleship, even of the entire navy, in the defense plans of the United States.

It might uphold another conviction of Billy Mitchell—that the battleship is obsolete.

Mitchell argued repeatedly that with the advent of airpower, surface warships had lost their usefulness as the first line of defense and as for offensive operations, to disrupt an enemy's sea-trade, he insisted that submarines were by far the better weapons.

In the early 20's he predicted that in a future war, neither navies nor armies would be able to exist unless the air over them is controlled, and air forces, he said, would take over the job of wearing down the enemy by blasting at its sources of production, transportation and power.

While many of Billy Mitchell's predictions did come true, the one he made of a single bomb sinking a battleship never was realized. In all the previous tests and throughout the war it took several bombs and especially torpedoes under water to sink a dreadnaught.

St. John's School Tops \$26,721.05 In Victory Loan Drive

St. John's School purchased \$26,721.05 bonds and stamps during the Victory Loan Drive ending December 8.

The total war bond purchases by St. John's School to date are \$123,299.75.

PRINTING FIRM FOR BLIND HAS UNLIMITED FUTURE

In Louisville, Ky., since 1858, there has been a local institution to publish reading matter for the Kentucky School for the Blind. Now this worthy institution is going to expand its usefulness into a broader role by throwing its postwar planning into high gear.

Christmas Traditions

WHAT THEY MEAN



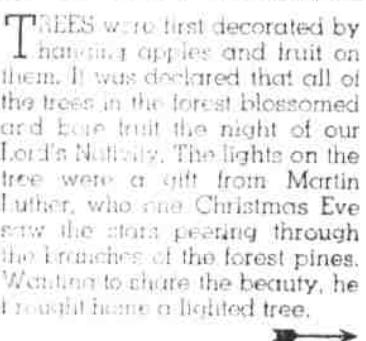
AT one o'clock on Christmas morning, wherever they were free to do so, the cattle would turn their heads to the eastward, get down on their knees to worship the King that was born in a stable. During the Christmas season the barnyard cocks were accustomed to crow with more than usual force. Special food was provided for birds and animals.



To illustrate Clement Clark Moore's poem, "A Visit to St. Nicholas," Thomas Nash located Santa's home at the North Pole and gave him a sleigh drawn by reindeer. He drew the familiar fat, merry old fellow with red cheeks and white beard, dressed in red, wearing a cap and boots, carrying a pack of toys and smoking a short pipe. Santa was given a spy-glass to look at the good children and a book in which to enter their names.



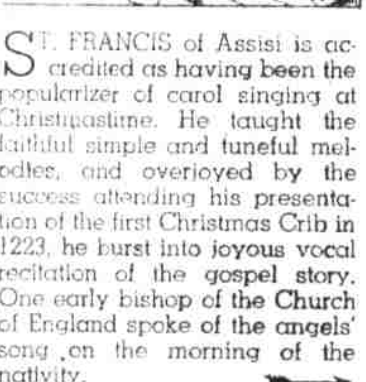
THE practice of placing burning candles in the windows on Christmas Eve is a continuation of an Irish custom, bound up with the thought of the Christ Child out alone in the cold and dark and requiring to be lighted on His way. The blazing Yule log, radiating warmth, was also emblematic of Christ as the light of the world.



TREES were first decorated by hanging apples and fruit on them. It was declared that all of the trees in the forest blossomed and bore fruit the night of our Lord's Nativity. The lights on the tree were a gift from Martin Luther, who one Christmas Eve saw the stars peering through the branches of the forest pines. Wanting to share the beauty, he brought home a lighted tree.



THE stockings the children of today hang by the fireplace were once the wooden shoes of the children of Amsterdam. With the passing of wooden shoes, the children hopefully begin to hang their stockings by the fire instead. The apples and nuts placed in the stockings are symbolic of love and fertility.



ST. FRANCIS of Assisi is accredited as having been the popularizer of carol singing at Christmas. He taught the faithful simple and tuneful melodies, and overjoyed by the success attending his presentation of the first Christmas Crib in 1223, he burst into joyous vocal recitation of the gospel story. One early bishop of the Church of England spoke of the angels' song on the morning of the nativity.



HOLLY, considered sacred by the Druids, who believed that its evergreen leaves at- tested to the fact that it was never deserted by the sun. Legends relate that the crown of thorns was plaited from the holly. Before the Crucifixion, the berries were white, but turned crimson like drops of blood. Whoever brings the Christmas holly into the house first, either husband or wife, is the one who will rule the ensuing year.

Steel Workers Set January 14 As Date To Open Big Strike

PITTSBURGH—The CIO-United Steel Workers, rejecting President Truman's appeal to continue at work set January 14 for the beginning of a general strike in the nation's steel mills.

Unless it is forestalled, the strike will be the largest in the history of American industry, affecting an estimated 700,000 workers at basic steel mills and in the allied aluminum and iron ore industries.

At issue is the steel workers' demand for a \$2 a day pay increase, which was turned down by the steel companies on the ground that wages could not be raised without commensurate increases in the price of steel products.

The action, by the union's 175-man policy committee, follows upon a strike poll conducted by the National Labor Relations board under the terms of the Smith-Conally war disputes act. The vote showed more than 400,000 favoring a strike and 83,000 against.

In the resolution calling the strike the union declared: "It has been 90 days since the union initiated collective bargaining with the steel corporations on this wage issue. The steel workers have exercised meticulous patience. They have experienced a thorough cooling off period. They are now confronted with the industry's challenge to the very existence of the union and the right of the steel workers to earn a wage which will assure a decent standard of living."

Sought Statement
The membership of the United Steel Workers of America have bent every effort to avoid taking strike action. They have endeavored at all costs to accomplish a peaceful settlement of this all-important issue.

A small flock of sheep will be found to be a paying investment on many farms in all sections of North Carolina, says Leland Case, extension animal husbandman at State College.

Can you guess the profit any industry can make on unknown volume after paying a certain wage? Any official who pretends to know is a crackpot.

4,000 Soldiers Re-enlist In Army At Okinawa

MANILA—Four thousand soldiers, including veterans of Pacific beachhead battles, have re-enlisted in the regular army in an impressive ceremony on Okinawa.

The tattered American flag first planted on the little island flew overhead as Major-General C. H. Danielson administered the oath to the peacetime soldiers.

The ceremony took place December 5th beneath the battle-scarred cliffs of the island. Many young soldiers who recently reached the Pacific as replacements were among the enlistees, standing side by side with men who made the first landing on Okinawa.

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