



JOHN STEINBECK

CABLES FROM LONDON

"I HAVE SEEN the soldiers come down from the ships and stand in long lines on the docks, their 'B' bags on their backs and their rifles slung over their shoulders.

"I have seen the supplies come in by the hundred shiploads, locomotives and tanks and trucks—acres of boxed food and great mounds of hams, shiploads of bombs stacked in from keel to hatch and all materials that we need at home—steel for bridges and buildings, food for our own people, material enough to make all America well fed and well housed and well clothed.

"I have seen the men climb into the Fortress in the early morning and fly away waving with elaborate nonchalance and I have seen the gap in the mess when they

did not come back and the empty bunks, the blankets thrown aside as they threw them, and the framed photographs on the steel lockers.

"The men have gone up the gangway again to go into action and they jump from landing barges to a beach, strewn with the bodies of their own people, and they claw their way like animals into a hostile coast.

"I have seen the hospitals with the mangled men, the legless and blind, the fingerless hands and the burned faces—all the destruction that steel and fire can do to a man's body and mind. In God's name, what is it for except to get this horrible thing over with as quickly and as thoroughly as possible? And if this is true, it should not be a matter of 'Who will lend his money?' but 'Who dares not to?'"

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