

# U. S. Now Forging Mightiest Peacetime War Machine

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race, but today's U. S. policy calls for a Navy second to none and equaled only by Great Britain's. Appropriations for the next fiscal year will give the War and Navy Departments about a billion dollars, which is more than three times as much as the war machine cost in the last prewar year of 1916.

## Volunteering Lagged

America had been by no means sold on sending a large Army to Europe when we entered the World War. The regular Army of 1916 had only 107,000 officers and men, and there were 132,000 members of the National Guard.

Gen. Peyton March, who became chief of staff, records that this Army was "of no practical military value for warfare in Europe." Gen. Pershing found that there were but 550 guns in reserve and only enough shells for a nine-hour bombardment. The Army had 55 airplanes, of which 51 were classified as "obsolete" and four as "obsolescent."

Thus, loans were for a long time about all this country gave the Allies—financial advances and soon amounting to half a billion dollars a month.

## Everything Done in Hurry

Everything else had to be done in a frenzied hurry. There was no great rush of volunteers to the colors, and three weeks after declaration of war Congress adopted military conscription and the draft.

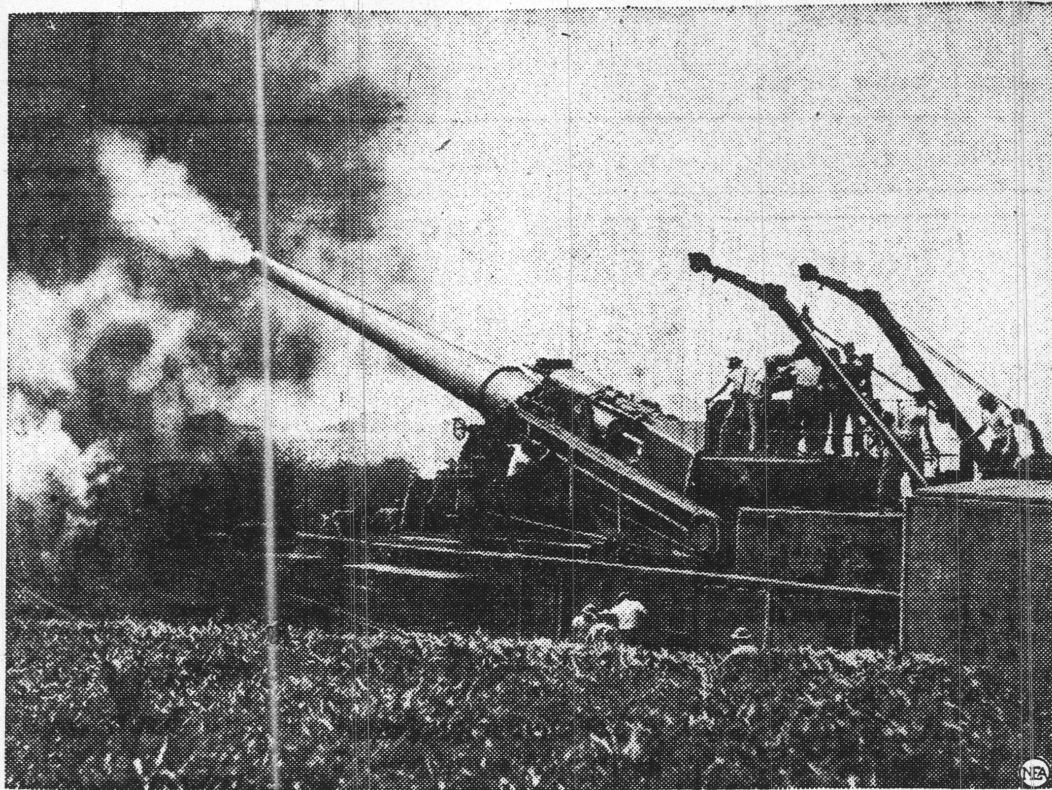
Gen. Pershing has written that "with some exceptions it was practically six months before training of our Army was under way." He blames this on the building of cantonments to house the new troops. Gen. March insisted there was further needless delay in using American troops after they arrived in France—there were about 300,000 there by April, 1918, although soon afterward they were arriving at the rate of about 300,000 a month.

The Navy was in somewhat better condition. Congress had voted a program of eight new battleships, but most of these were abandoned after the declaration of war and the Navy concentrated on a big fleet of destroyers and other smaller craft.

None of the principal types of guns used by the American troops were of American manufacture. Mortars were obtained from the British and tanks from the French.

## Ready for Action

Today the War and Navy Departments have a complete industrial mobilization scheme designed to gear the economic system on to the war machine with all possible efficiency and speed. The Sheppard bill designed to curb war profits, which contains the War Policies Commission's plan, provides for military conscription of all men between 21 and 31. Presidential power to mobilize industry and control it through licenses, and seemingly,



Today's defense of the Panama Canal involves the use of heavy ordinance like this 14-inch railway gun, shown firing in joint Army and Navy maneuvers as part of the defense against a naval attack.

Presidential power to fix prices and wages. The industrial mobilization plan is designed to assure prompt equipment and supply of a huge army. All over the country officers are surveying industrial plants which would supply the various branches of the service in wartime. The War Department knows at all times the maximum capacities of such plants, keeping elaborate up-to-date records with lists of plant facilities.

## Air Fleet Greatly Improved

Regulations have been prepared which would curtail civilian consumption of certain commodities immediately upon declaration of war. The Army especially watches size of domestic stocks of articles which this country must import, such as rubber.

Neither in organization nor equipment do the Armies of 1917 and 1937 much resemble each other. The old aviation unit of the Signal Corps, with its 55 poor planes, has grown into an Air Corps of 1600 planes, 1425 officers and 16,000 enlisted men.

In the World War practically anything that could fly was pressed into use. Pilots bundled a few bombs into the cockpit and pounded a couple of nails into the side of the ship as sights for bombing raids.

## Order "Flying Fortresses"

Most of World War planes had a speed of 90 miles an hour. Today the Army has planes which average 225 miles an hour. It has ordered

13 four-engine planes which have been dubbed "flying fortresses." War planes rapidly become obsolete. There are training planes, observation planes, transport and cargo planes, attack planes, pursuit planes and bombing planes.

In 1917 the Army had no chemical warfare service. Today this branch, specializing in such pleasures as poison gas and liquid fire, has 87 officers and 733 enlisted men. The anti-aircraft unit, now part of coast artillery, is a post-war development.

The cavalry force is smaller than in 1917, but has been greatly strengthened by mechanization until it now has 58 combat, 18 armored and two scout cars. Although wartime tanks made a speed of about four miles an hour, the new light combat tanks can do 40. They travel on four wheels for level ground and are convertible to a caterpillar tread on rough terrain.

## Army Rifle Improved

Biggest single improvement in infantry equipment is the development of the new semiautomatic shoulder rifle, a cross between a repeating rifle and a machine gun. As to personnel, the number of enlisted men in the Army has increased from 102,000 in 1916, to 158,000.

The National Guard has increased from 132,000 to 168,000. More significantly from the standpoint of the future, the number of officers has risen from 5000 to 12,000 and there is now an Officers' Reserve Corps of 115,000, which did not exist before the war. This year's appropriation for the Army is \$378,000,000, as compared with \$165,000,000 in 1916.

## Navy Strengthened

The number of general staff officers has been increased enormously as a result of World War experience. Also with a view to more efficiency, the country has been divided into four army areas and nine corps areas.

The Navy, which cost the country \$154,000,000 in 1916, received appropriations of \$530,000,000 for 1937. A large increase in size, plus normal progress in engineering, represents most of the change since 1917. Maximum speed of battleships has been increased from 21 knots to 27 knots in 20 years. Range of the Navy's big guns has been increased from 10 miles to about twice that distance. Aircraft carriers also have come into the picture in a big way. The Navy entered the war with 54 planes. Now it has 970, with 1705 ordered.

## 15 Capital Ships Now

Its strength boosted somewhat by preparedness measures, the Navy had 58 armored ships of 845,000 tons in 1917, with 14 of 467,000 tons under construction. Five battle cruisers of

## PATROLS HUNT 3 VICTIMS OF MIDAIR CRASH

Four Killed When Two Navy Bombers Collide Off West Coast.

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las transport plane that crashed in a snowstorm Saturday with eight persons aboard. The eight are feared killed.

Last night they camped on a ridge only about eight miles from the scene of America's ninth airline disaster in three months. It will take the ground party several hours to cover the distance. There was no broken trail ahead. Snow lay 25 feet deep in the canyons and 8 feet deep on the slopes. The wreckage was almost inaccessible.

## Ice Is Blamed

A spokesman for the Douglas Aircraft Corp. at Santa Monica, Cal., said the crash probably was caused by ice forming on the ailerons, the same cause attributed to the crash of a T. W. A. plane near Pittsburgh two weeks ago, in which 13 persons died.

The Douglas plane was not equipped with one of the new de-icing devices, the Douglas representative said. It carried a radio receiver that would have enabled it to follow a radio beam director.

## 3 LOCAL STUDENTS IN DEPAUW ELECTION

Time Special GREENCASTLE, April 7. — De Pauw students today were to choose members of the student executive board and student affairs.

Fifteen members for the student executive board and seven for the student affairs committee were to be selected. Candidates of the dominant University party included Rosalind Barrows, 6825 College Ave., Indianapolis, and John Lynn, 704 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis. Nominees of the opposition Constitution party included Jack West, 5004 E. New York St., Indianapolis.

## BUTLER MEN CHASE ANNOYER OF COEDS

Prowler Followed Them to Sorority House, Girls Say.

A Butler fraternity chapter turned posse last night to aid three coeds in distress. Sigma Chi members scoured 46th St. for more than an hour after receiving an S. O. S. from the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority house across the street.

The girls said a swarthy man had watched them as they rode home on a bus. They said he got off when they did and followed them down the street. When they entered the house the man ran across the street and hid behind a tree. The boys searched the neighborhood but found no trace of the prowler. The young women told police this was the second time the man had followed them within a week.

## CANAL HEARINGS SET

WASHINGTON, April 7.—In a surprise move the House Rivers and Harbors Committee today agreed to open hearings tomorrow on the proposed \$197,000,000 Florida ship canal.

## SENIORS ELECT OFFICERS

The Shortridge High School seniors elected four class day officers yesterday. Robert Shank was elected gifforian; Julia Jean Rowe, historian; Eleanor Cook, prophet, and James Hudson, will-maker.

## Army Flier Plunges To Death in Sea

By United Press

GALVESTON, Tex., April 7.—Lieut. A. E. Livingston, Army flier, was killed today when his pursuit plane plunged into the Gulf of Mexico three-quarters of a mile offshore. He was a member of the Fifth Army Pursuit Group, stationed at Ft. Crockett.

Coast Guardsmen started search for Livingston's body and the plane wreckage.

## REPORT 6 RA MISHAPS

Only six accidents resulting in loss of time occurred on Resettlement Administration projects at Decatur, Burns City and Nashville during February, W. C. Crozier, regional safety director, reported today. There are 888 workers on these three projects. A total of 40 accidents were reported in the state for the month by Mr. Crozier.

# WHAT! NO AD TONITE?

