

BRITAIN MAY GET MORE U. S. SHIPS

Part-Way Naval Convoys Possible but Chances Are Slim For Craft Under American Flag Entering Actual War Zone.

(This is the third of a series of articles on the role of the U. S. in Britain's need for ships.)

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Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—With Churchill and Hitler making shipping the crucial war issue, the British have a good chance of getting the use of more American ships, shipbuilding facilities, destroyers, and maybe part-way naval convoys.

They have less chance of getting our ships under the American flag, or with naval convoys, into the actual war zone.

The British demands for shipping help, and the Washington reactions, are:

1. More destroyers, plus submarines. The Administration thinks Congress and public opinion are prepared as a result of the last destroyer deal, but the Navy is even more opposed than before. Besides 45 converted ships of this type, the Navy now has 74 "over-age" destroyers, 85 "under-age" and 206 building, including 40 just ordered. Submarines: 68 "over-age," 36 "under-age," 81 building.

Japan Watched

The President's decision probably will depend on the developments of the Japanese war threat, and on the possibility of the U. S. "neutrality patrol," providing an informal part-way convoy for British freighters.

2. More planes to protect British ships, ports and shipyards. The British share of combat planes (not trainers) produced here probably will be increased from the present 80 to 90 per cent to almost 100 per cent of the newest type.

3. Remainder of U. S. Maritime Commission's old ships. Britain got 16 last week, and probably will get 24 of the remaining 44 in January. Our Navy wants the others.

4. All the other idle ocean-going American ships. There are not many left. Between the British, who have bought up 146 of all kinds, and the U. S. Navy, which has bought upward of 100 for auxiliaries in addition to many smaller craft for minesweepers and submarines, the remainder is unimportant.

5. All the "enemy" ships marooned here, estimated from 85 to 140 (exact number a military secret). There is little immediate chance of American seizure of German or Italian ships, which is unauthorized by law. But—as described in the first article of this series—our Government is trying to find a device to "buy" Spanish ships and perhaps ships of other conquered countries, and to turn over these or their American equivalent to the British.

6. As much as possible of our present merchant marine of about 1,600,000 tons. There is small chance of getting much more than old ships, as they are replaced by those now building. The reason: American companies are unwilling to give up present lines, and the U. S. Navy needs 10,000 merchant ships the day it goes to war. Now that foreign buying already has cut the number of our merchant ships below our supply when the war started, our Navy has earmarked most of our fast freighters and particularly the new tankers, many of which it already has requisitioned.

7. Dibs on most of the 178 ocean-going vessels now building, including the 121 Maritime Commission ships. Of the 178 commission ships contracted for, keels have been laid for 118, 83 have been launched, and 58 delivered. They are now being completed on an average of one a week, with building time cut from two years to six months. These fast ships, built as naval auxiliaries, would be wasted in British convoys timed to the slowest freighter.

8. More British shipbuilding facilities here. Virtually all of the 80 odd active shipways (nominal annual capacity of one million tons) are cluttered with slow naval construction, or freighters and tankers essential for the naval reserve. British production must await the reconditioning of some of the 35 or so inactive shipways, or the building of new yards.

9. Under the new British 60-ship contract, two new yards are to be built in an estimated four months; the first ship is promised for next fall and the last a year later. The expansion will develop more labor shortage in the highest-skilled trades. This, plus a potential steel premium, may drive the British to wooden ships.

10. U. S. diplomatic pressure on Latin American countries to seize and sell to Britain "enemy" ships in their ports. The State Department is not in a position to do this, because of our negative example. But Argentina has hinted she will do it.

RUSS-JAPANESE 'DEAL' DRAGGING

Nippon Makes Little Progress in Attempts Toward Rapprochement.

TOKYO, Dec. 26 (U. P.).—Japan has made little progress in its attempts to effect a rapprochement with Russia, the influential newspaper Nichi Nichi reported today, despite the efforts of Lieut. Gen. Yoshitsugu Tatekawa, new Japanese ambassador to Moscow.

Lack of progress was due, Nichi Nichi asserted, to Russian misapprehension that Japan was soliciting its favor because of the "necessity" for its expansion southward, as well as because of its policies toward China and the United States. Nichi Nichi made its statement after saying that this was the golden opportunity to adjust relations.

New Difficulties Seen

The newspaper's editorial might be interpreted as implying that Japan might encounter new difficulties even in continuing a temporary treaty or modus vivendi with Russia on Siberian fishing concessions to Japanese interests. Though, as Nichi Nichi pointed out, the temporary treaty expires in five days, the newspaper made no mention of an agreement to keep it in force pending a permanent treaty.

Emperor Hirohito, in a message formally opening the new session of Parliament, asked the entire nation today to aid the Government in conducting state affairs in view of the troubled world situation.

He said he was pleased to see the intercourse between Japan and the nations with which it has treaties, become closer.

These nations now include Germany and Italy, with which the Government had contracted a military alliance since the last session of Parliament.

Disturbance Endless

The Emperor said "the prevailing unprecedented disturbances in the world appear to threaten to keep it as far from that reason, he said, that he wished the entire nation to exert greater efforts in aiding the Government."

The Emperor instructed Parliament to approve the budget for the next fiscal year, the largest in the country's history, totaling 6,853,080,000 yen (\$1,611,432,400).

If necessary to move wheat and meat surplus to England.

Hesitate on Ireland

10. U. S. diplomatic pressure on Eire to grant Britain use of naval and air bases, the quickest way to combat German raiders. This is dynamic, and will be handled as such.

11. Closer co-operation with British blockade control and intelligence. Probable.

12. Boycott by American business of firms friendly to Axis, as proposed by British Minister Dalton. Improbable this winter.

13. Use of American-flag ships through war zone, requiring repeal of "carry" provision of the neutrality law. Possible, but the President prefers the indirect method of "lending" such ships for use under Latin American flags.

Direct Method Opposed

Gallup reports 80 per cent of the public still opposed to the direct method. Another alternative considered here, but not so acceptable to the British, is for American-flag ships to take over British shipping routes outside the war zones, thus liberating more British ships for the war trade.

14. Use of the U. S. naval vessels for war-zone convoy. Highly improbable until and unless the President is ready for war. Probable alternative: More combat planes, and perhaps destroyers and submarines, transferred to Britain for that purpose. Second alternative: Virtual convoy by the U. S. Navy within an enlarged "neutrality zone," extending several hundred miles beyond Newfoundland and Bermuda.

The latter might risk a German declaration of war.

NEXT: Limits on shipping aid to Britain.

AYRES DOWNSTAIRS STORE

AFTER-CHRISTMAS SALES & CLEARANCES

SAVE 1/4 - 1/3 - 1/2 OFF OF REGULAR PRICES

CLOTH COATS

12 Untrimmed Sport Coats, were \$8.88, now \$5.88
A group including untrimmed sport coats in Junior, Misses' and Women's sizes. Also some man-tailored suits.

12 Untrimmed Dress Coats, were \$11.88, now \$8.88
Smart untrimmed dress coats and 3-piece suits in Juniors', Misses' and Women's sizes.

100 Dress and Sport Coats, were \$15, now \$11.88
Untrimmed sport coats and dress coats, Persian fabric coats and man-tailored suits to choose from. Sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women in the group.

35 Dress and Sport Coats, were \$16.95, now \$13.88
Fine Persian curl coats, untrimmed sport coats and untrimmed dress coats. Sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women in the group.

35 Fur Trimmed Sport Coats, Dress Coats and Suits, were \$18, now \$14.88
A select group of lavishly fur-trimmed sport coats, dress coats and suits in sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women.

30 Untrimmed Coats, were \$19.95 & \$21.95, now \$16.88
Persian fur fabric coats, untrimmed sport and dress coats in sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women.

12 Fur Trimmed Coats, were \$39.50, now \$33.88
Beautiful coats that any woman will be proud of. Lavishly trimmed with many furs. Sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women.

"Neva-Split" FUR COATS

Our Famous "Neva-Split" fur coats guaranteed 456% stronger at the seams by actual test. Dyedoney \$65 with fur greater beauty and wear than you've ever known. **Reg. \$58**

DRESSES for All SIZES

100 Select Dresses of higher quality than this low price. The group includes Spun Rayons, and Rayon Camel Suedes in many attractive colors and styles. Junior sizes in the group. Some misses' sizes. Formerly \$3.98. **\$2**

100 Dresses for street and afternoon wear, also sports, dressy and tailored styles, also evening dresses and wraps. Fashioned in Rayon, Alpaca and Rayon and Wool. Sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women. Formerly \$6.98 and \$7.98. **\$3**

75 Dresses for street, afternoon, sports, dressy and tailored styles. Also evening dresses and wraps in the group. Sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women. Many choice styles and colors included in the group. Formerly \$7.98 to \$12.95. **\$5**

35 Dresses in a group of street, afternoon and sport dresses. Better dresses for Juniors, Misses and Women. Select styles and colors. Choose a better dress... pay less. Formerly \$8.98 to \$12.95. **\$7**

ACCESSORIES Reduced

Sample Fabric Gloves... 59c Pr.
Sample gloves in plain and double woven fabrics. Slip-on styles, novelty rayon fabrics with leather trims. Black, Brown, Wine, Navy and Beige. Sizes 6 to 7 1/2 in the group.

Better Handbags... 79c
A large assortment of better handbags in simulated leather fabrics and genuine leathers. Blacks, Browns, and bright plaids.

Women's Better Neckwear... 69c
Lace and pique vestees, round, square and V necklines. White only.

Ladies' Print Hankies... 4c
Attractive print hankies for ladies. Assorted floral patterns, fast colors.

BETTER LASTEX GIRDLES

Better lastex girdles and pantie girdles made of durable two-way stretch lastex. Small, medium and large sizes in the group but not in every style. Reduced for clearance. **39c**

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543 Pairs of Women's Shoes... \$1.59
Women's higher-priced shoes in Pumps, Oxfords and Ties. Colors in Black, Brown and Navy. Low, medium and high heels. Some styles have built-in steel arch supports. Sizes 4 1/2 to 9 in the group. Widths AA to E.

Our Stock of "Corliss" Suede Shoes... \$2.39
Our regular stock of 33 "Corliss" suede shoes. 483 Pairs to choose from. Style shoes, Arch shoes and growing girls' shoes. Black and brown suede. Pumps, Straps and Ties. Sizes 4 1/2 to 9 in the group. Widths AAA to E.

Clearance of "Betty Shaw" Suede Shoes \$3.29
350 Pairs of black and brown suede shoes. Elasticized pumps in medium and high heels. Sizes 4 1/2 to 9 in the group. Widths AAA to E.

Men's \$5 W. L. Douglas Shoes... \$4.00
Your choice of our entire stock of men's W. L. Douglas shoes. Black or brown oxfords. Medium, wide or narrow toes. Sizes 6 to 11 in the group. Widths B, C and D.

Children's Regular \$1.59 Shoes... 89c
143 Pairs of children's black oxfords with solid leather soles and insoles. Broken sizes in the group. Hurry for your clearance bargain.

HOSIERY CLEARANCE

Irregulars of "SHEERMODE" Pure Silk STOCKINGS **69c**

MORN.: A durable 4-thread weight stocking that is perfect for sports, street or everyday wear.
NOON: Beautifully sheer 3-thread weight for afternoon wear. A stocking that wears well but still has a luxurious look.
NITE: A superb stocking that is striking in its sheerness. For your most gala occasion and evening wear.

Sizes 8 1/2 to 10 1/2 in the group. Smart hosiery colors.

Elastic Top Stockings... 49c Pr.

Irregulars of full fashioned elastic top stockings. Lisle reinforced at points of wear. Broken sizes and colors.

"Lady Isabel" Chiffon Stockings... 29c Pr.
Clearance of irregulars of "Lady Isabel" chiffon weight stockings. Broken sizes and colors.

Durable Rayon Stockings... 19c Pr.

Irregulars of durable rayon stockings that make fine everyday stockings. Assorted colors, sizes 9 1/2 to 10 1/2.

Children's 5/8 Length Stockings... 15c Pr.
Misses' and Children's 5/8 length stockings. Irregulars of Buster Brown stockings in assorted colors.

"SILVERTONE" FELT HATS

Clearance of smart Silvertone felt hats. Styled in Pork Pies, Profile Brims and Tiny Bumpers. Selected winter colors. **88c**

Better Blouses and Sweaters

A quality group of choice blouses and sweaters for women. Slightly counter soiled but still included are many choice colors and sizes. Reduced to half price for clearance. **\$1.00**

Cotton Fleece Cardigans... 50c

Slightly soiled cotton fleece cardigans in attractive colors. Half price for clearance. Broken assortment of sizes and colors.

100 Better Rayon Dresses

A fine group of better dresses reduced 1/2 and 1/3 of former prices. Broken assortment of sizes and colors. Several styles to choose from. **\$1.00**

Better LINGERIE 1/4, 1-3, 1/2 OFF

Women's Rayon Satin or Rayon Crepe nighties in plain and printed patterns. Also pajamas, slips, dancettes and chemise. Dainty and lovely lingerie in tailored and lace trimmed styles. Batiste or Cotton Crepe Gowns... 50c
Women's Porto Rican Gowns... 25c
Women's Plain Rayon Undies... 35c
Part Wool Vests and Panties... 25c
Women's 2-Pc. Pajamas... 35c
Women's Plain Knit Rayon Undies... 15c
Women's Cotton Knit Union Suits... 35c



Men! A Sale for You!

A Maker's Pre-Inventory Clearance of 500 Fine

OVERCOATS and TOPCOATS

SALE \$10 PRICE You Save \$5

This manufacturer of men's better coats wants to "start the new year right"—with low stocks and cash in the bank! He took a loss on every coat! His loss IS YOUR PROFIT! So, if you need a big heavy overcoat for January's raw days, or a topcoat for spring... NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT! There's a huge assortment to choose from—smartly tailored in newest styles—made of quality fabrics.

- * Grays!
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—Downstairs at Ayres.

Infants'—Tots'—Girls' WEAR

Tots' 3-Pc. Wool Snow Suits... \$2.79
Warmly lined snow suits for tots. Brown, Wine, Green. Sizes 3 to 6 in the group.

Tots' 2-Pc. Wool Fleece Snow Suits... \$2.79
2-piece wool fleece snow suits, warmly lined. Sizes 2 to 4.

Tots' Coat, Leggings and Hat Sets... \$8.24
Higher priced sets including coat, hat and leggings. Some have fur trims. Sizes 1 to 6.

Tots' Buckingham Fleece Coat Sets... \$5.99

Brother and sister styles in warmly lined fleece coat sets. Sizes 1-4.

Tots' Snow Suits... \$2.79

Girls' warm snow suits in neatly tailored styles. Broken sizes in this group.

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Broken sizes in dresses for the chubby girl. Tailored to correct fit. Better cotton and spun rayons. Broken sizes.

Wool and Corduroy Skirts for Girls... 79c

Girls' smartly styled skirts. Wool flannel of fine wale corduroy. Several colors to choose from.

Girls' Better Blouses... 79c

Worth much more than this low sale price. Spun rayon or wool flannel. Broken sizes.

Girls' Cotton Blouses... 39c

Girls' cotton knit blouses. Some are counter soiled. Whites and colors to choose from.

PERCALE REMNANTS

600 Yards of new spring percale remnants in 2 to 10-yard lengths. Many new wanted colors and patterns in large and small figures. **10c**

900 Yds. Assorted Dress Fabrics

Attractive dress rayons in plain colors and prints. Mill clearances from a large dress maker. Much better fabrics than the low price indicates. **29c**

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Good heavy outing flannel. Light and dark backgrounds in mostly stripe patterns.

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Pillow tubing remnants. Full 40 inches wide in 64x64 thread count fabric. 2 to 20-yard lengths.

Sample Dress Pieces... 10c Ea.

Rayon Samples of 1/4 to 1-yard lengths. Printed and plain colored patterns. Nice for pillows.

Part Linen Toweling... 10 Yds. \$1

10-Yard lengths in 18-inch wide linen toweling. Colored border, heavy bleached toweling.

1000 Yds. Corduroy Remnants... 44c Yd.

A new shipment of corduroy remnants in 1 to 5-yard lengths. Fine for making your own sportswear. Red, Dusty Rose, Light Blue, Dark Green, Navy and Wine.

CHENILLE BEDSPREADS

A brilliant new collection of fine chenille spreads in full 99x114 sizes. White grounds with multi-colored floral patterns. Rich, deep chenille. Colors in Blue, Dusty Rose, Green, Wood Rose, Peach and Gold. Some twin sizes in the group. **\$2.50**

"Bates" Colonial Bedspreads... \$1.39

Large sizes first quality Bates spreads in an all-over pattern. Blue, Green, Gold and Rose. 84x105 inch size.

"Cannon" Bath Towels... 7 for \$1

All-over checks and plain colors with borders. Heavy Turkish towels in colors of Green, Blue, Gold and Red. Sizes 18x36 and 20x40 inches.

Percale Sheets... \$1.39

81x108 and 72x108 inch sizes extra large. Slight irregulars, made from fine combed corded yarn. Fine sheets at a low price.

"Truth" Sheets... 89c

Our famous foot room sheets in three large sizes. 81x99, 72x99 and 63x99. No sizing or filling, torn sizes, 64x64 thread count.

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Fine 64x64 thread count construction, torn to size and bleached pure white, no sizing or filling. Slight irregulars of "Truth" sheets, 81x99, 72x99 and 63x99.

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First quality plaid sheet blankets in all cotton blankets. 66x76 inches in colors of Blue, Gold, Rose and Orchid.

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10c — 25c — 50c — \$1.00
Ea. Ea. Ea. Ea.

Fine fabrics from a leading decorator. Also some remnants from our own stocks. All are remnants of better fabrics. Useful lengths for many uses. Priced according to size and quality.

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Lengths up to 8 yards of dark ground cretonne and colored figured marquisette in useful lengths for kitchen curtains.

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One pair of a kind in this group of heavy cotton homespuns. Eggshell and various woven designs. Fine for portieres.

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All-Wool Face—Seamless
Fine quality all-wool face Axminster rugs with deep heavy nap, neat tailored ends. Oriental patterns, hooked patterns, colonial patterns. Some imperfections in the group. **\$23.95**

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Lounge chairs with large ottomans. Covered with heavy velour or tapestry in colors of Rust or Green.

Metal Smokers... \$1.98

Metal smokers complete with cocktail tray. Enameled finish with chrome top. Higher values for legs in these.

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Walnut finished end tables in several different styles. All nicely constructed and smart looking furniture.

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