

AIR CONTROL SEEN FOR DEMOCRACIES

Production Goal of 500 Bombers Monthly in U. S. to Bring Supremacy by 1943 Mid-Summer, Say Experts; Output to Exceed Nazis'.

WASHINGTON, May 22 (U. P.)—Aviation experts said today that plans to produce 500 heavy bombers a month by the fall of 1942 should insure aerial supremacy for the democracies by mid-summer of 1943.

They estimated that approximately 8000 long-range heavy bombers, capable of carrying a four-ton bomb load more than 3000 miles, could be produced in this country between now and June, 1943, under the production plan formulated by OPM Director William S. Knudsen.

According to these experts, Germany could not produce as many heavy four-engined craft as the United States and Britain combined, should be able to build by the latter part of next year.

Informated officials said approximately 100 heavy bombers a month are being produced here. These include the Boeing "flying fortress" bomber and the consolidated B-24, both four-engined craft.

Output to Gain Rapidly

Two of the four Government-owned bomber assembly plants now under construction at Tulsa, Okla., and Ft. Worth, Tex., were expected to begin production early next year on Consolidated B-24s. It will not take long, officials said, for them to attain a combined output of 100 planes a month.

Under the new program, in which the Ford Motor Co. will play an important part, 300 additional heavy bombers a month will be built. Considerable plant expansion and perhaps some new plants will be necessary, officials said, before this rate could be reached. Nevertheless, they were confident that this level was possible by the early fall of next year.

Mr. Knudsen revealed that the Ford Motor Co. and the three aircraft companies have been notified that the Government will sign contracts with them within a few weeks for production of heavy bombers. Ford will produce the Consolidated B-24's at Ypsilanti, Mich. This will be the only automobile manufacturer to turn out completed aircraft for the Government. The other major motor car companies will produce sub-assemblies for the Government's assembly plants.

Develop Huge Transport

A defense official predicted that the Ford Ypsilanti plant would be able to turn out 100 heavy bombers a month.

While the accent appeared to be on heavy bombers, officials said steps may be taken shortly to expand production of two-engined medium bombers.

Meanwhile, an OPM official disclosed that the Lockheed Aircraft Corp., Burbank, Cal., has been told by the Government to continue development of a new 44-passenger transport plane known as the "Constitution." This official said one of the reasons Lockheed has been assured of preferential treatment for its work on the huge airliner is that the Army is interested in it as a possible troop transport.

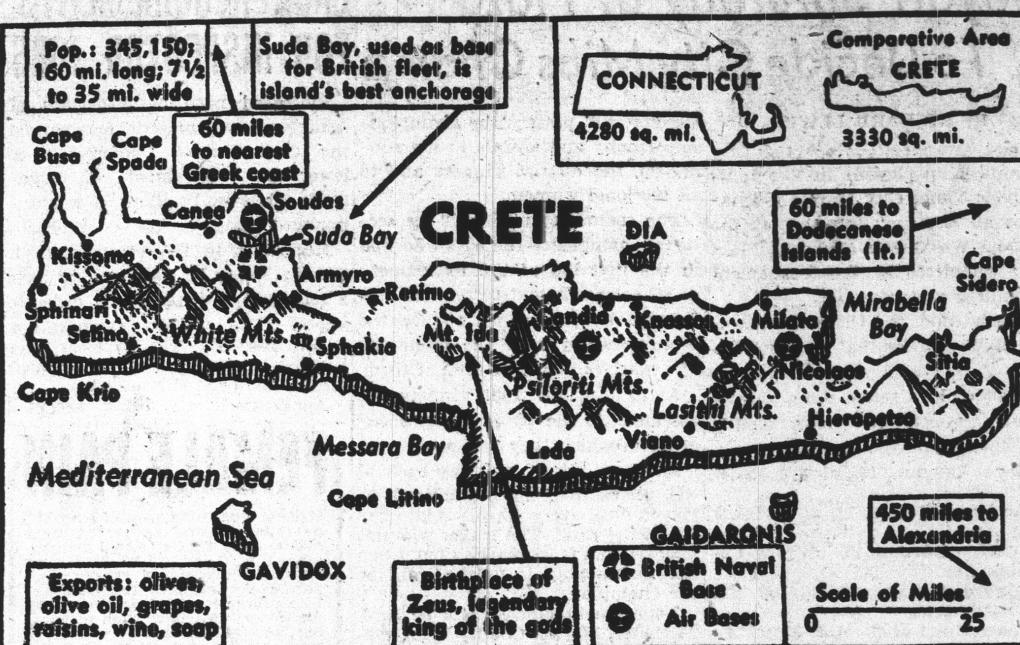
First Objectors Report to Camp

ELEVEN HOOSIER conscientious objectors to military service, Indiana's first contingent, reported today for work under civilian direction at the new conservation camp near Lagro, in Wabash County.

Three others are scheduled to arrive at a second camp near Richmond June 2.

The conscientious objectors will receive no pay during their year of service and those financially able will be expected to pay for their own maintenance—about \$35 a month. The camps are organized and directed by churches whose members are known for their conscientious scruples against military training.

Close-Up View of Today's Battlefield



This is how Crete, fourth largest Mediterranean island and today's battlefield, looks close up.

BATTLE OF CRETE MAY DECIDE WAR

Nazi Invasion of Britain Hinges on Outcome, Observers Say.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS Times Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Hitler's

plans for the invasion of Britain, some of the best informed military

observers here assert, almost certai-

nly depend upon the outcome of the

Battle of Crete.

There is reason to believe, there-

fore, that the Nazi general staff has

given the order to take Crete at any

price. If it cannot be taken, Eng-

land cannot be taken. If it is

taken, but at prohibitive cost, then

the cost of taking the more strongly

defended and better prepared Briti-

sh Isles would be too high and the

project probably dropped.

Unquestionably, it is pointed out

here, the possession of Crete would

strengthen Germany's position in

the eastern Mediterranean.

The island is less than 450 miles from

Suez and only about that distance

from Solum. It is a stepping stone

between Nazi-held Greece and Nazi-

dominated Syria. It completes the

buttoning-up of Russia and blocks

Turkey's exit from the Dardanelles

and Aegean seas.

Not Vital to Nazis

But, it is observed, possession of

Crete is not vital to Germany, Sicily,

belonging to the Axis, cuts

the Mediterranean in two approxi-

mately midway between Gibraltar

and Suez. Crete is only 80 miles

nearer than Greece itself.

The Nazis are already in Libya, on the

Egyptian frontier, and they are in

Syria, which is much closer to Suez

than Crete.

Why then, the writer asked, a

number of military experts here,

should the Nazis take such a des-

perate chance in Crete? Their

composite answer was about this:

Hitler is aware that he must de-

feat Britain to win the war. To do

that he must invade England.

Divided on Invasion

The Nazi General Staff, however,

has long been reportedly split over

the possibility of invasion. One fac-

tion holds that it can not be done

Another insists it is possible but

that it would probably be costly.

"How costly?" the Nazi leaders

ask. They want to know because if

invasion is tried and it fails, the

war will probably be lost. And if

it ends in disaster—if the English

Channel is closed with the corps

of German boys who died in vain—

it would probably be the last of the

Nazi regime.

So Crete is the test.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

Here Is the Traffic Record

	County	City	Total
1940	13	30	43
1941	31	25	56
May 21	28	Injured	9
Accidents	52	Dead	—
Arrests	6	27	33
TOTALS	88	71	\$390

MEETINGS TODAY

Advertisers Club of Indianapolis, Indian-

apolis Athletic Club, noon.

General Assembly, United Presbyterian

Churches, Hotel Severin, noon.

General Assembly, United Presbyterian