

“This program is between Americans...we hope you like it, but you don't have to; at any rate, nobody is gonna make you stick around and listen to it. That's one of the advantages of being an American.” That is how Orson Wells began *Between Americans*, an evening radio program on The Gulf Screen Guild Theater heard the 7th of December, 1941. It was not a happy time for Great Britain and her allies, nor during the weeks that followed; America was included in this misery.



Not long after Pearl Harbor was bombed.

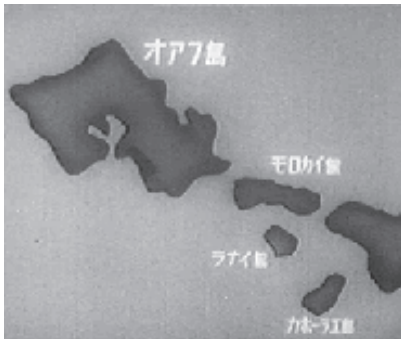
Orson Wells that December night reminded people that they do not have to wear a red, white and blue button in their lapels to prove they are Americans.

America was a sizable country of 131 million diverse people. Mr. Wells narrated a program that was a stirring example of patriotism, but it was a time that needed something more than mere patriotism. People needed to think about their country. Patriotism began to sweep the country after Pearl Harbor, but what stood out was his opening repertoire about America. Radio listeners, he said, should know that it

does not really matter where you come from or what your last name is. “What counts is that we are all Americans,” he said. Listeners heard some of the places in the United States of America—“London, Minnesota. I’m in from Dublin, New Hampshire. Flew in this morning from Cairo, Illinois. I’m from Canton, Connecticut. I’m from Paris, Texas. I came all the way in from Shanghai, West Virginia. Warsaw, Georgia. I’m a delegate representing Moscow, Kentucky. My town Toronto, Kansas. As for me, Lisbon, Maine. Delegate from Madrid, Alabama, reporting. I’m from Stockholm, South Dakota. Drove down this afternoon from Bombay, New York. Hitchhiked here from Baghdad, Florida.”

1941 was a big year in radio history, incidentally. About 13,800,000 radio sets were sold; with some \$180,000,000 in net time sales.

But, the beginning of 1942 saw the Axis outclassing



the United States and her Allies. Danger threatened the American people. And, they rose up and became united, including the media. Radio during all this time played an important part in WW II. On December 15, 1941, the beginning of this radio program was heard: "This is a program coming to you over the combined radio networks of the United States. Bringing you the voices of Americans. Bringing you the voice of the President of the United States. This is a program for listeners in all zones of continental time. For listeners on ships away from home. For listeners in uniform. For listeners on the American islands in the two great oceans. This is a program about the guarantee made to the people of America 150 years ago. A guarantee that has been kept through peace and war, peace and war."

Heard by over 60 million Americans, it began, "We hold these truths,"—which was the name of the program. "This is a program about the making of a promise, the keeping of a promise. This is a program about the rights of people." It was written by Norman Corwin, emanating in play form, with Leopold Stokowski's orchestra, narrated in part by Orson Wells and Lionel Barrymore. A guarantee, Mr. Barrymore said, "...in praise of a document that men have fought for. That men are fighting for..." and keep on fighting for, a freedom that must be guarded to be kept. One hundred fifty years of the past in radio drama, heard by more people than any other U.S. radio show in history.

The centerpiece: Jimmy Stewart describing a visit to Washington DC. He reads several inscriptions on the monuments, including the words of a giant-sized seated Abraham Lincoln: "With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive on to finish the work we are in. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

President Roosevelt was on the air live, and read the following:

"Free Americans know faith in the long history of freedom, means more to liberty-loving men, in all liberty-loving countries, than the 15th day of December, 1791.

"On that day 150 years ago, a new nation, through an elected Congress, adopted a declaration of human rights which has influenced the thinking of all mankind, from one end of the world to the other. There is not a single republic of this hemisphere which has not adopted in its fundamental law, the basic principles of freedom of man, and freedom of mind enacted in the American Bill of Rights.

"There is not a country, large or small, on this continent, and in this world, which has not felt the influence of that document, directly or indirectly. Indeed, prior to the year 1933, the essential validity of the American Bill of Rights was accepted everywhere, at least in principle. Even today, with the exception of Germany, Italy, and Japan, the peoples of the whole world, in all probability through bits of them, support its principles, its teachings, and its glorious results.

"But in the year 1933, there came to power in Germany, a political clique which did not accept the declarations of the American Bill of human rights as valid. A small clique of ambitious and unscrupulous politicians announced that an admitted platform was precisely the destruction of the rights that instrument declared. Indeed, the entire program and goal of these political and moral tigers was nothing more than the overthrow, throughout the earth, of the great revolution of human liberty, of which our American



“Bill of Rights is the mother charter.

“The truths which were self-evident to Thomas Jefferson, which have been self-evident to the six generations of Americans who followed him, were to these men, hateful. The rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which seemed to the founders of the Republic, and which seemed to us, inalienable, were to Hitler and his fellows, empty words which they proposed to cancel, forever. The propositions they advanced to take the place of Jefferson’s inalienable rights were these:

“That the individual human being has no rights, whatever, in himself, and by virtue of his humanity.

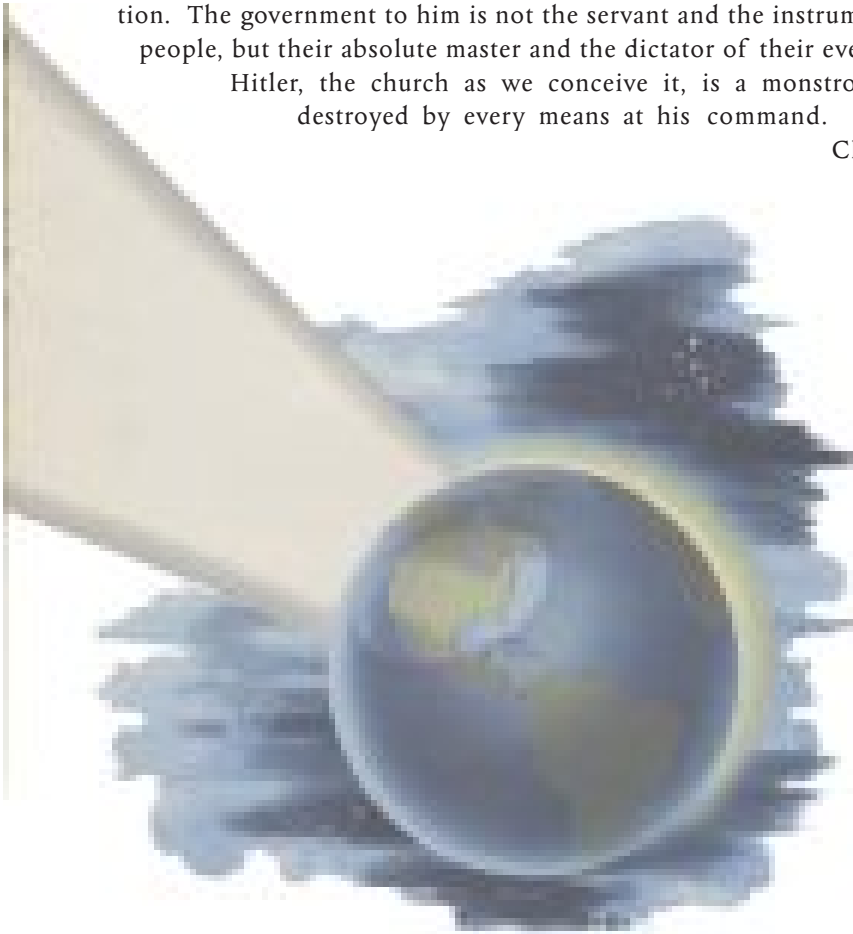
“That the individual human being has no right to a soul of his own, or a mind of his own, or a tongue of his own, or a trade of his own; or even to live where he pleases or to marry the woman he loves. That his only duty is the beauty of obedience, not to his God, not to his conscience, but to Adolf Hitler. And, that his only value is his value not as a man, but as a unit of the Nazi state.

“To Hitler, the idea of the people as we conceive it, the free self-governing and responsible people, is incomprehensible. The people, to Hitler, are the masses, and the highest human idealism, is, in his own words, that a man should wish to become a dust particle of the order of force which is to shape his universe.

“To Hitler, the government, as we conceive it, is an impossible conception. The government to him is not the servant and the instrument of the people, but their absolute master and the dictator of their every act. To

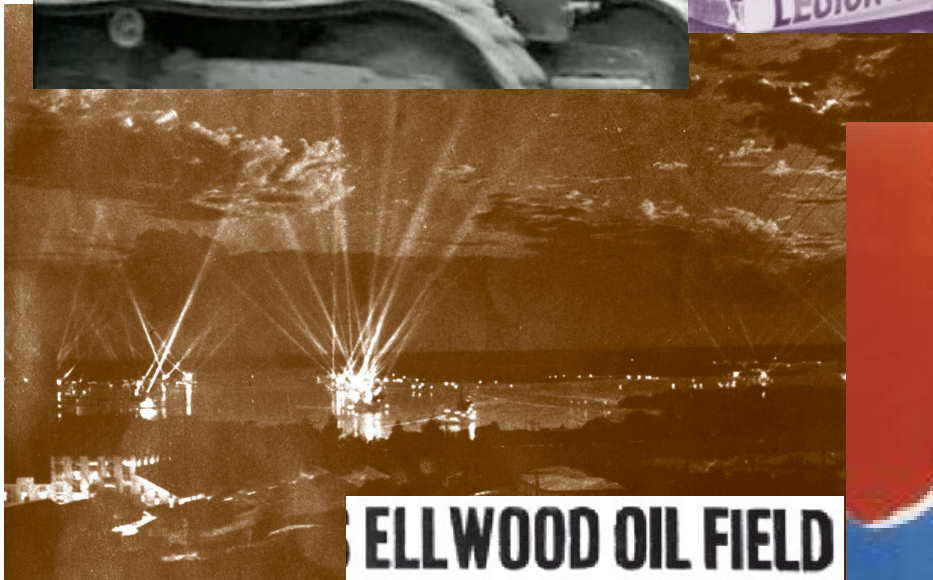
Hitler, the church as we conceive it, is a monstrosity to be destroyed by every means at his command. The Nazi

Church is to
be the
na-



tional church, a pagan church, absolutely and exclusively in the service of one doctrine, one race, one nation. To Hitler, the freedom of men to think as they please, and speak as they please, and worship as they please, is of all things imaginable, most hateful and most desperately to be feared.

“The issue of our time, the issue of the war in which we are engaged, is the issue forced upon the decent, self-respecting peoples of the earth, by the aggressive dogmas of this attempted revival of barbarism.



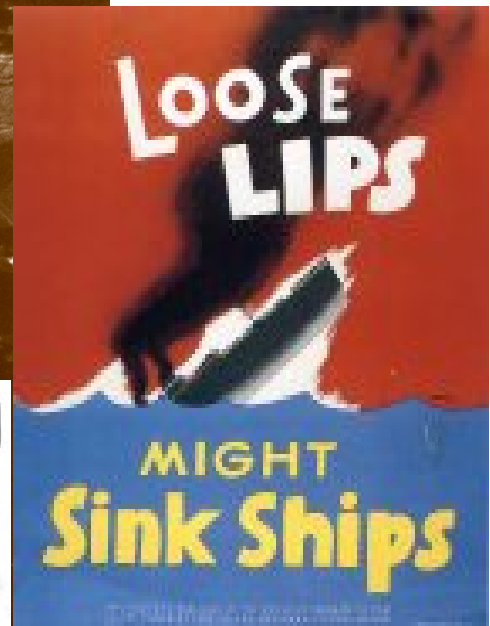
ELLWOOD OIL FIELD
First Attack Of War
On Continental U. S.

Blackout shortly after midnight

CITY'S ATTITUDE MERITS NATION'S PRAISE—MAHER

Craft Methodically Hurls Missiles At Rich Field; One Derrick Wrecked; No Casualties Reported In Bold Raid

Starts from an enemy submarine holed on ground and fired ten miles, the first to fall up and at commercial United States in World War No. 2





Part One: USA 1942

The threat of World War for the United States rather increased in intensity as Europe tore and tore itself apart, and as death engulfed more of humanity.

The conflict in Asia in the pre-Pearl Harbor era, in retrospect, was made up of conflicts that seemed uncombined threats, growing, but nevertheless it seemed still confined. In the battle of the press and public consensus, various pre-war words which had been tossed about were the self-centered interests, "Churchill's War," fight anti-democratic... "foreign wars are not for our boys," and "V is for victory."

And, so it was during the first two years that the Second World War was undertaken. It was far from the real thing to most Americans. It was rather a limbo world, seemingly endless, in which forces are fighting forces, and people were supplying something. Few people were affected by war. Very few found themselves low on consumer commodities because they were scarce, in the early part of the war. Very few homes received telegrams from the War Department expressing sorrow for the loss of a loved one. But then, the threat of war disappeared, because war became a shocking reality. Pearl Harbor shook this nation such as no other event that had ever hit this country. For better or for worse, the two eyes of America, and of the world, were to see just what we could do and just how this country looked and would function

chapter 2





Antilles

food to meet essential needs.

Foreign Economic Administration, created September 25, 1943, to unify and consolidate war-

time governmental activities related to foreign economic affairs.



In the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean or the Pacific, war covered fathoms of sea, and shipmates fought to survive in fathoms of sea, top. "General Motors expects to employ 450,000 persons, Ford--200,000, including 25,000 women among the 100,000 of its bomber plant; Chrysler--130,000....[Ford will have] eleven miles of airplane runways at Willow Run."

Time magazine, Feb. 9, 1942 announcement of factory workers.

Night photo on page 72 is from the author's collection: Honolulu, early 1942. It is beseeched by towering searchlights looking for enemy planes. There was no sophisticated radar system, yet. On March 4, 1942, around 2 a.m. two small Japanese flying boats penetrated U.S. defenses and bombed Oahu, Hawaii.

At the time of December 7, 1941, the U.S. Army Air Corps had 1,157 combat airplanes, of which only 159 were heavy-engined bombers. At the end of hostilities, the aircraft industry employed 1,650,000 persons and had constructed 299,293 aircraft. In 1941, 19,433 aircraft were produced in the United States. In 1942, 47,836 were produced.

	When the National Defense Program began	When the United States entered the war
Military and civilian labor forces combined	<u>54,354,000</u>	<u>55,891,000</u>
Labor force	<u>53,890,000</u>	<u>53,820,000</u>
Employed	46,400,000	50,370,000
Unemployed	7,490,000	3,450,000
Military forces	464,000	2,071,000
Employed in---		
Agriculture	9,920,000	8,350,000
Non-agriculture	36,480,000	42,020,000
Women in the labor force	13,250,000	13,960,000

PUBLIC MORALE AND OWI



Paul V. McNutt

Former governor of Indiana, Director of Defense, Health and Welfare Services (1941-43), and chairman of the War Manpower Commission (1942-43) which had less power than the WPB.

Native Americans served with distinction. The Navajo Tribal Council called a special pow wow in early 1942. Over 50,000 Indians responded. Six nations--Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, Tuscarora declared war on the Axis Powers; later, were joined by the descendants of the Chippewas and the Sioux. On Dec 7, 1941, there were only 5,000 Native Americans in uniform. By 1945, there were 44,500, including the Navajo Code Talkers. The number of enlisted Indian warriors went from 7,500 in summer of 1942 to around 22,000 at the beginning of 1945. The story of the Navajo Code Talkers remained classified until 1968. Around 300 Native Americans were caught in the fall of Bataan and Corregidor.

"War touches every individual. Newspapers and broadcasting stations must be as active behind the war effort as machines or manufactures. No one can remain aloof." *OWI*, 1942

That became a job of the agency created on June 13, 1942, the OWI, the Office of War Information, which superseded the OFF. The consciousness of public morale was a big deal in WW II. It was led by Elmer Davis, divided into a domestic (with 7 deputies) and an overseas operation. He gave a report by radio every week. Each operation was subject to the approval of the Board of War Information which met daily. It included Davis, MacLeish, Robert Sherwood (a renowned playwright), Milton Eisenhower, the younger brother of Dwight, and Gardner Cowles, Jr., publisher of *Look* magazine, two Iowa newspapers and a radio station. OWI did not have any official mandate from the State Department or Congress to define the purpose of the war in specific terms. However, Davis repeated often, that his department was not a press agency for F.D.R. His job was to inform and give an understanding of what the war was about without giving aid to the enemy.

Conflicts arose over the years of its existence. Davis later felt obliged to disclose more of the true horrors of war, such as adolescent misbehavior or casualty rates. MacLeish wanted less escapist films and showing of more American failures. But, it was a give and take matter.

OWI trusted the Bureau of Motion Pictures (BMP), run from Washington DC, headed by Lowell Mellett, to supervise the production of government short films. But, they were not in charge of censorship. A 39-year old publisher of the *St. Petersburg Times* was in charge of OWI's setup in Hollywood, with an office at Hollywood and Vine. He was a so-called cheering section coach for BMP. No power to force. No power to censor. No power to penalize. Just intended to facilitate the talents of the Hollywood studios in coordinating better government information activities in winning the war by utilizing feature films--as opposed to shorties.

For most of 1942, BMP relied on a platonic patriotic tide and verbal persuasion to change movie scripts. After an early film *Little Tokyo U.S.A.* was released, the OWI paid more attention to "final" scripts. A 20th Century-Fox 64 minute B-flick, it offended everybody especially loyal Japanese-Americans, partly because what was originally sent to OWI was not what was envisioned by director Otto Brower.

OWI issued in the summer of '42 a document bound in loose-leaf form to compensate for changes called "Government Information Manual for the Motion Picture Industry." Believe it or not, the manual was not thrown into a ditch and forgotten. All the major studios distributed it, discussed, and gave it serious consideration. This is shown in their lengthy summaries by the studios for their staffs. The concept of democracy, 5th Columns, fascism, and unity really meant something and were not seen as air words. Social theorist Robert K. Merton termed concepts like democracy and unity as "sacred and sentimental" symbols. It all started with 7 simple questions. So simple a turkey could understand it.

1. Will this picture help win the war?
2. What war information problem does it seek to clarify, dramatize or interpret?
3. If it is an "escape" picture, will it harm the war effort by creating a false picture of America, her allies, or the world we live in?
4. Does it merely use the war as the basis for a profitable picture, contributing nothing of real significance to the war effort and possibly lessening the effect of other pictures of more importance?
5. Does it contribute something new to our understanding of the world conflict and the various forces involved, or has the subject already been adequately covered?
6. When the picture reaches its maximum circulation



Donald M. Nelson

WPB was created in the early part of the war. Nelson, as chairman of this civilian war agency, effectively harnessed all the groups--labor, business, government, education and military from 1942-44. Headed Sears and Roebuck, he shattered the myth anyone could make a buck at the expense of the American people. The interest of ordinary Americans was just as important, or more, than corporate profits. During its 3-year existence, WPB prohibited none essential industrial activities. He was followed by Julius A. Krug. WPB denied some 50% of all civilian requests for new office equipment in 1942-43.

"Dressed as German U-boat commanders, [two reporters from the Philadelphia *Record*] William B. Mellor Jr. and Frank Toughill wandered about downtown Philadelphia, talked German in a crowded automat, peering suspiciously at defense plants, asked a traffic cop questions in broken English. Only interest they aroused was from a small boy on roller skates. Said he: "Oh, boy! Join the Navy and see the world." *Time* magazine Feb. 9, 1942.

HOLLYWOOD



on the screen, will it reflect conditions as they are and fill a need current at that time, or will it be out-dated?

7. Does the picture tell the truth or will the young people of today have reason to say they were misled by propaganda?

The effect of the war brought comedies which helped release tension. Popular Culture films such as *Palm Beach Story* and *Janie* are prime examples. Many of the war-time cartoons, for example, as well as films, were made to offset the ugliness of war.



It was not just Hollywood stars and personalities that sacrificed for the duration, as you will read in my next book on WW II. Glenn Miller, above, Big Band leader, great composer, trombonist, enlisted in 1942 and spent the war touring the home front and front lines with his Army Air Force Orchestra. He wrote famous music arrangements like *In the Mood*, *Little Brown Jug*, *Tuxedo Junction*, *Hot Time in the Town of Berlin*. First Gold Record Award: Feb. 10, 1942, for *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, which sold a million, two hundred thousand records. To the right is movie star, singer Bing Crosby, during the Bond rally parade for the Victory Caravan of Stars. Among the troupe were Cary Grant, Irene Dunne, Claudette Colbert, Joan Blondell, Desi Arnaz, Olivia De Havilland, musical director Alfred Newman, director Mark Sandrich (director of many Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers movies), Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, Groucho Marx, Pat O'Brien, Bob Hope and Spencer Tracy, among others. Original scores by Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Frank Loesser, and Arthur Schwartz gave the show pizzazz.

The motion-picture industry became a very important part of not only strengthening the nation's defense but as a disseminator of information and uplifter of morale. The Office of War Information mobilized Hollywood and its studio system. One of my favorite books on the subject, and well recommended reading, is *Duty, Honor, Applause, America's Entertainers in World War II*, by Gary L. Bloomfield, Stacie Shain, and Arlen C. Davidstone.



In December of 1941, actors and actresses huddled together and formed the Hollywood Victory Committee, led by Clark Gable. It would coordinate and dispatch across the country all sorts of stars for personal appearances in shows and bond rallies, called the *Victory Caravan of Stars*. The original committee consisted of Gable, Jack Benny, Charles Boyer, Claudette Colbert, Ronald Colman, Gary Cooper, Bette Davis, Irene Dunne, John Garfield, Cary Grant, Bob Hope, Myrna Loy, Tyrone Power (who enlisted in the Marine Corps in August of '42), Ginger Rogers and Rosalind Russell, in alphabetical



order. Gable also enlisted in August of '42.

On the night of January 16, Hollywood was faced with one of its first casualties. Just outside Las Vegas, after a successful Bond Tour, the famous actress Carole Lombard went down in a tragic airplane crash, killing all. She was scheduled to return to California by train, but instead chose to fly.

In 1942, the stars carried on, knowing the importance of not giving up. Comedian Bob Hope visited lonely military bases in mainland Alaska and the Aleutians right after The Victory Caravan. He was not the only one in USO-sponsored tours. There was Jerry Cologna, Francis Langford and Martha Raye. Bette Davis, in two days in one tour, sold 2 million dollars worth of bonds. Bud Abbott and Lou Costello once did a special 3-day tour and netted \$89 million. The *Victory Caravan of Stars* overall, it is estimated, netted at least \$50,000 in donations in every performance. In its first year of operations, it raised over \$12 billion dollars in donation and bond sales for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and relief agencies and charitable causes.

Hollywood did not just provide escapist films, cartoons or sensation-type bravado. In their capacity, actors, actresses, producers, musicians, technicians, etc. pledged their support to strengthen the nation's defenses. Bottomline: never give up. From the first meeting in Dec. 1941 at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel, attended by hundreds from Hollywood, their aid grew, and grew. In April, stars boarded a special train at Union Station, Los Angeles, and headed east. Southern Pacific RR offered, free of charge, 7 pullman cars with separate berths, a dining car, and a lounge car with a fully stocked bar and a piano for The Victory Caravan. Photos from author's collection.

In a condolence telegram from Pres. Roosevelt to Clark Gable, "Carole brought great joy to all who knew her and to millions who knew her as an artist. She gave unselfishly of her time and talent to serve our country in peace and in war."

TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT



The early war news from abroad was generally all-depressing, not to mention full of immediate danger. People at home needed some kind of outlet and lift for all this.

HOLLYWOOD, during this period, portrayed some of the wildest and hokiest and zaniest type of Yankee patriotic thinking that was advertised nationally, regionally and locally. In *The Daring Young Man*, three Nazi 5th Columnists discover they can send out secret messages to a submarine, using a guy's bowling ball while he bowls. Of course, at the end of the movie the hero single-handedly captures the entire Nazi gang.



Tough guy James Cagney in the Victory Caravan of Stars 1942, the year he starred in a command performance that, to this day, is marvelously remembered, a movie called *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, about composer, Broadway star, dancer, George M. Cohan, a part Fred Astaire turned down.

Another early picture was the feature titled *The Navy Comes Through*, starring Pat O'Brien, George Murphy and Jackie Cooper. Unfortunately, it was too uninspiring and phony even by 1940 standards that the critics of the era said so. If you do read some of these early propaganda messages or hear old radio war commercials, you will know what I mean by this. Hollywood was not exempt, but they were more restrained. Speaking of restrained, the rules of making a film changed. Night filming was nearly impossible thanks to "blackouts." Battle scenes, especially air combat, were disallowed on the West Coast. Hollywood directors could not shoot near dams, war plants, military reservations, nor film from the sea in all harbors from Seattle to San Diego.

Life at sea was one of Hollywood's earliest themes of war. One of the earliest best pictures was *In Which We Serve*, starring Noel Coward. It was a drama of a crew of a destroyer of the British Royal Navy—from Dunkirk until it was sunk off Crete in 1941. *Time* reported in December of 1942 that when it was first shown in London, tears poured down the cheeks of those who saw it. Even though it was a British picture, it was a needed impulse to combat the war jitters. I will describe this, along with more on Hollywood, in my subsequent book on Hollywood and war.



You may not realize it, but the average young American of the nineteen-

Traveling with Americans in early World War II: The American people had to deal with real or perceived hostile threats, coast to coast. A family is deep inside its bomb shelter. Note the CD poster on the wall.

forties possessed a unique way to express themselves. Stemming from the thirties, practically everyone by now knew it and you could even say, they had a "jive lingo" all their own.

To give you a taste, here are some popular quips:

"Step on the gas, Jack, we're being tailed.

Get a load of that dish.

Count me in.

Closed for the duration.

Long time no see.

Shove in your clutch, professor."

Some others that may need explaining: "moola" or "dough" meant money; "fire extinguisher" meant a chaperone; "take a powder" means to go away, leave; "no dice" means we do not agree; "What's cooking?" means what's happening? "What was that crack?" (What kind of wisecrack?) means what kind of insult are you giving me?; and when a dollar no longer was worth a buck it had become a "banger."

Strictly military jive talk among others were: "Take it or leave it, you're in REPORT!" "On the double." "Roll the dice, he's one of us." "Hey, Toots, what's cooking?" "Don't get nervous in the service." "Get the lead out." "You're Okay!" "Deuces never loses." And, "If your number's up, well, you gotta go." No one planned all this.



The prospect of possible attack—although remote—altered life. Americans who lived in coastal cities maintained vigils for enemy ships and aircraft—radar was still



North African Theater

Bermuda Command



Fifth Air Force
Sw Pacific



Panama Canal Dept
Controls
units
in Canal Zone



U.S. 34th Inf Div
North Africa



Victory has its cost. Port-city under attack by dive-bombers

Enemy objective: to cut our lifeline of supply. Some four thousand miles from the shores of America. The forward movement of the British-American expeditionary forces was at first good, until wretched heavy rains fell in December. Whenever weather cleared, German aircraft flew in from great distances, such as Sardinia, nearly 500 miles from Algeria or 1100 miles from Casablanca--to bomb the Allies in N. Africa. Allied front movement was stopped about 25 miles from the port-city, Tunis.

The strength of the United States was still not at full zenith. One must remember the WW II generation did not begin to see that zenith until two years hence. At this stage of war, UK forces had more in uniform than the United States.



Afrika Korps and a downed American P-38.

had to be flashed to America and then back again before we could hear it.



It was some time before the Allies would be able to swing their full might. Straight from a controversial, political context, Vichy French North

Africa was quite a hotbed of political pressurements constraining allied operation, and even though there was some kind of cease fire, not all French units complied, especially those nearest German and Italian divisions. Although France fell to Hitler in 1940, Axis troops generally stayed out of French No. Africa. How neutral would the over 60,000 French troops in Morocco and Algeria under Vichy authority be? Added to them were the 200,000 reservists. If German troops pulled into the land, whose orders will they follow? Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria composed French North Africa in WW II. There was a strip of land some 200 miles up near the tip of the straits of Gibraltar on the African continent called Spanish Morocco, which like Spain was neutral—but all sides were fanatic on keeping Spain neutral, and it so remained. There used to be an Italian Morocco, but by 1942 it ceased to exist. By the end of November, over 12,500 tons of supplies and 17,000 German troops had

The U.S. Commander of the African-based air force was General James H. Doolittle. Commander of U.S. land forces was General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then relatively unknown.

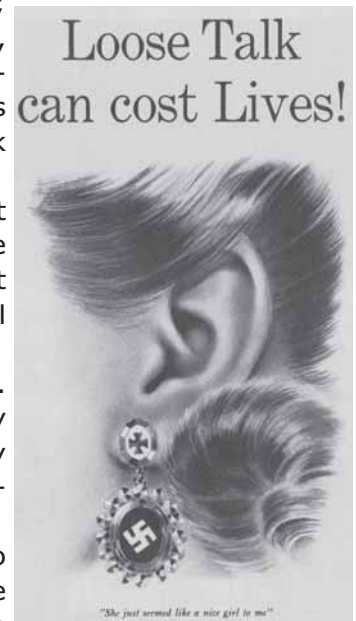
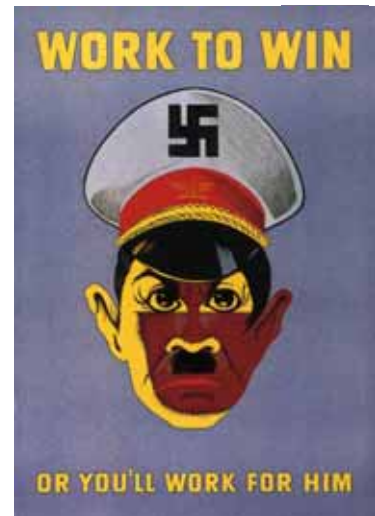
Eisenhower found out in December that supplies and armor could not be maintained overall and that the mental and moral strain of British forces were, according to Gen. Alexander, hurt badly by constant Luftwaffe dive-bombing. In mid-December, the Allied Front in western Tunisia had 20,000 British, 30,000 French, 11,000 U.S. troops; the Axis had 38,500.

The War Department got its vital long-distance radio communications opened on the fifteenth of November; receivers between Oran and Kano, Africa, were opened, followed by a major connection on the 28th from Casablanca, and on the 25th of the next month from Algiers to the outside world. USAACS units made the direct link from Algiers to London.

Opening a direct radio circuit was important; without it, one relied on carrier pigeon or underwater sea cable connecting Algiers-Gibraltar-London-Washington, that established a secret direct line between the principal Allied headquarters in London and Algiers.

There was, however, Radio Algiers and Radio Maroc. CBS and NBC, for example, utilized them, but had to buy time and via voicecast sent news to the world. The only problem: Radio Berlin friends could also pick up the transmissions.

Obtaining information from Radio Algiers and Radio Maroc was not always reliable. This was the world before satellites. By the end of the year, the North African campaign stalled and remained in low gear until January, 1943—the enemy and the terrain creating the chief resistance. From then on, it was a time of supply, and waiting.





Control of the mideast meant control of the Suez Canal, pictured. A fraction of U.S. troops traversed the Suez. It was in the British zone.

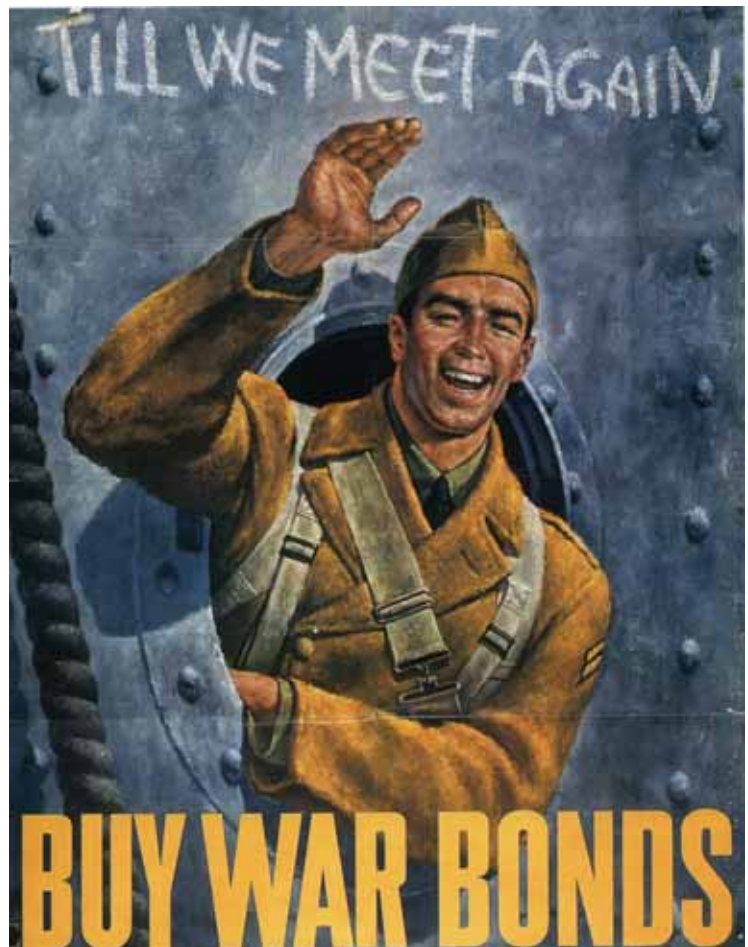
World War Two was in convulsive, international, myriad war zones. China, our Ally, was in its 5th year of war.



Persian Theater



Fourth Air Force
U.S. Far West





U.S. 27nd
Inf Div
Hawaii



U.S. 40th
Inf Div
Hawaii



U.S. 1st
Marine Div
Guadalcanal



Americal Div
Guadalcanal

Two pictures from the war zone, one in Africa, one in Guadalcanal; one in color, one in b/w. A long way from home, the troops in North Africa, plus 15,000 Marines and 15,000 Army that rounded-out Guadalcanal initially, plus another 80,000, represent only a fraction of the 6.4 million in U.S. uniform on Dec. 31, 1942.* The United States was still not at full zenith. But, the American people were beginning to flex their muscle. Both Allies and Axis would meet a dire loss of gruelling battles and a cost of people. In the color picture, troops fire at enemy aircraft. We learned no great victory is possible without air superiority.

*WAACS included

Until Guadalcanal, the Allied ground forces engaged in purely defensive operations, but taking the offense was hell. The first American Ground Offensive belonged to the U.S. Marine Corps. It would be 3 more months before the Army launched its first offensive of WW II.

