



The Secretary of the Navy saw American sea-power at first hand during World War II, serving both in the Pacific—the Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Philippine campaigns—and in Europe—the invasion of Southern France. After the war, he served as director and national vice-president of the Navy League of the United States, sponsor of

today's Navy Day observance. A native of Germantown, Pa., and son of a president of the University of Pennsylvania, Gates was appointed Under Secretary of the Navy in 1953 and became Secretary last April.

were there can see it all over again.

Remember the jungle rot of the Solomons, the smell of the dead, the flares of the early torpedo attacks. The Rising Sun and the Swastika, Rabaul, Tulagi, the bloody beaches of Tarawa, the Coral Sea, Midway, the Philippine Sea, Leyte Gulf, the flag at Iwo, the boys in the water.

"Scratch one flattop." "The slot." "The turkey shoot." "Send us more Japs." The "Can do, will do, did" men of the Seabees.

Those who were there say, "These things I have lived, these days taught me love of God."

Remember the confidence and calm of Nimitz, the thrill of Halsey's "get moving tonight" dispatches, the careful planning of Spruance, the fleet lit up by Mitscher whom the pilots loved, the dream of a lifetime when Oldendorf "crossed the T" at Suri-gao, the names of such fighters as Vandergrift, Howling Mad Smith, McCain, Butch O'Hara, Killer Kane, Erskine, and Cates.

Remember the ships, too. The Enterprise, Lexington, Yorktown, South Dakota, Salt Lake City, Boise, O'Bannon, Barb.

It was the superiority of our carriers which spearheaded the war in the Pacific, one of the great achievements in the history of modern warfare. We also had amphibious forces perfected to a degree hitherto unimaginable, and an incomparable submarine force which almost singlehandedly strangled the Japanese.

Yet these inanimate things are nothing without leadership—the leadership of a Marine sergeant directing a squad, the gallantry of a flight leader, the leadership of an admiral commanding a task force.

As a result of some of our experiences in war, we are inclined these days to think of victory primarily

in terms of quantitative superiority of men, ships, and planes; in resources, money, and munitions. We should not diminish the amazing wartime production of armaments; we are grateful for the genius of our engineers, scientists, mechanics, and laborers. Indeed, we know that military success is increasingly dependent on science and engineering. But let us remember that, above all else, leadership is the essential ingredient of victory.

Out of the smoke and death of Pearl Harbor, the ingenuity and resources of America produced the greatest force on earth, and the United States rode the airways and the seaways of the globe in omnipotent power. This mighty force was led by men—men trained for years—men who existed for such an emergency. It was their reason for being, the reason for their services to exist.

Throughout the war, their leadership employed our seapower so as to overwhelm the enemy at every point of contact. They demonstrated the ability of seapower to use mobility, concentration, and economy of force to a degree approaching the ultimate in warfare.

Modern weapons are changing, but the gift of this leadership has been passed on, and its principles guide our leaders of today—Radford, 31-knot Burke, Pate. These principles will guide and serve our leaders of tomorrow as well.

Thus, the men who wore their country's uniform in World War II played a vital part not only in history, but in the future. And on this Navy Day the future of our beloved United States is full of promise because of the strength and will of all the free people of the Western World, an oceanic confederacy cemented together by modern seapower.



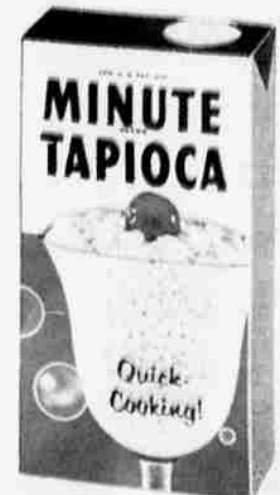
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