

NURSES TELL EXPERIENCE IN SHIP SINKING

By EDDIE GILMORE
LONDON, July 7 (AP)—American Red Cross nurses who survived the sinking of the Netherlands steamer Maasdam said today the sea was so rough when the Maasdam went down that some of their lifeboats capsized.

Seven of the nurses were in the water an hour or more before they were picked up from other ships of the convoy, they said.

The Maasdam was torpedoed in the Atlantic last month. Nine of the 17 American nurses on board arrived in England Friday. Six are known to be on another ship. The whereabouts of two still is unknown, but Dr. John Gordon of the Red Cross hospital unit said he believed they had been picked up by a third ship and were safe.

The nurses said the German submarine came up in the middle of a convoy, although depth charges were dropping around it at the time.

"The sailors told us they saw the submarine shoot, but we didn't see it ourselves," said Shirley Ralph, just out of Jamaica (N.Y.) high school.

"We knew the submarine was around us. We put on our lifebelts and listened to the depth charges exploding around our ship.

"This kept up about an hour. When I felt a sudden shock, I knew we were hit.

"Up went a huge column of everything. Pieces of boat, men, clothes. Just everything.

"Something hit me on the head and knocked me on the deck. Then something else fell on me. I was pinned to the deck. It's a terrible feeling to be on a sinking ship and unable to move. But somebody got me free.

"We climbed into lifeboats that were swaying on the ropes and seemed to be whacking themselves to pieces on the side of the ship. There was a heavy sea and a stiff wind.

"I came on the trip for excitement. I certainly had it then."

Lillian Evans of Cambridge, Mass., said she was on the last life boat to leave.

The boat sank a short distance from the Maasdam. As it began slipping away, she said, she asked an officer what to do.

"Swim," he said.

Miss Evans said she and two others swam about 200 yards to another ship, which was part of the convoy.

"It's a terrible sensation," she said, "to be sitting there in a lifeboat, feeling the water come first to your knees, then to your waist, then your shoulders. All the girls had lifebelts on, so they couldn't help swimming, although some barely knew how."

Ruth Martin of Washington, D. C., said she was in her cabin when the torpedo struck.

"You don't hear them hit," she said. "You feel them."

BRITAIN CHANGES SHIPMENT ORDERS

WASHINGTON, July 7 (AP)—A sign of improvement in Britain's shipping situation was seen here today in a British notice to the department of agriculture that it expects to take at least 20,000 bales of cotton a month under the lend-lease act.

For months Britain, cramped for shipping space, has not bought cotton in this country and has restricted agricultural purchases to highly concentrated goods such as evaporated milk, cheese and dried eggs. Her announcement this week that she was prepared to take a minimum of 20,000 bales of cotton monthly came as a surprise to agricultural officials who had given up hope of disposing of any of the American staple soon to the united kingdom.

The current market value of 20,000 bales is about \$1,350,000.

Britain's ability to transport that amount of cotton, observers said, could result only from shipping aid extended by the United States. They called attention particularly to the 2,000,000-ton shipping pool being assembled here to aid Great Britain and her allies.

President Roosevelt, in directing creation of the shipping pool, said it should be used only to transport materials needed for the national defense and aid-to-Britain program.

Tanker, intercoastal and coastwise operators have been the heaviest contributors to the pool.

Since 1938 the average American-built bombing airplane's average maximum range has been increased nearly 900 miles and average service ceiling is 3300 feet higher.

Cantinflas Outstrips GWTW



Mexico's favorite comedian, "Cantinflas," is shown above as the "scholarly monkey" accepts plaudits from the crowd after a bullfight scene.

'Mexican Chaplin' Knocks At Doors of Hollywood

By EUGENIA M. THORNTON
NEA Service Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., July 7 (AP)—The throne of the mighty Chaplin has been challenged many times without success—but now from south of the border comes the genial thunder of a nation's laughter and the news that "the world's favorite comedian" has had to take second place in the hearts and boxoffices of Mexico.

Mexican exhibitors rubbed their eyes, then raked in the pesos recently when "Ni Sangre, Ni Arena" ("Neither Blood Nor Sand"), the second full-length film starring Cantinflas, topped the receipts of "The Great Dictator" and blew the record established by "Gone With the Wind" almost back to Atlanta.

Not even the success of Cantinflas first feature, "Ahi es el Detalle" ("There is the Detail"), a phrase which is his identification, nor the comedian's long popularity in Mexico City's theatres, had prepared them for such cataclysmic triumph.

Cantinflas' background is not fully known. He came up from the "barrios," the outlying metropolitan districts, where tent-shows and open air vaudeville are part and parcel of the people's entertainment. One rumor has it that he was discovered by two American newspapermen. Another claims that he was introduced to the public by the manager of a popular music hall. Still another tale calls him a protegee of Roberto Soto, himself a great Mexican comic artist.

It would seem, however, that the true discoverers of Cantinflas were the Mexican people and, after them, the audiences of Central America and Cuba. They found him, they wanted him—lots of him, and they got him.

At the same time that "Ahi es el Detalle" was playing to packed houses in the cinemas of Mexico City and the provinces, Cantinflas in person was nightly cramming them in like sardines at Folies Bergeres, the capital's largest music hall. The public came again and again to watch their idol. They stamped their feet and whistled for encores; they stayed through a second show, a third.

As the children of the world once imitated Chaplin's slow-

footed strut, so the children of Mexico imitate the slouching gait and quizzical shoulders of Cantinflas. On Cinco de Mayo, one of the capital's main thoroughfares, there is a young bootblack who dresses and grimaces like Cantinflas to stimulate business. In the barrios from which he emerged, a popular song is sung about him, and lesser comedians ape his costume and technique. In the smart hotels and the cheap cantinas people laugh over and repeat his none too delicate lampoonings of public figures.

IN HOLLYWOOD "TO LOOK AROUND"

In make-up Cantinflas resembles a scholarly monkey. His small, wistful brown face is painted dead white around the mouth, his eyes are emphasized. His costume is elementary: skintight jersey, gravity-defying trousers, and around his neck a ragged scarf that terminates in tiny tatters, like the tail of a kite. In this garb he is "Chato," the immortal street-Arab.

His excellent and subtle pantomime immediately brings Chaplin to mind, but in appearance and gesture he is more akin to Jimmy Savo. When his triumphant stare rests upon his aggressors, it is possible to recall some of the quieter moments of Master Harpo Marx. But these resemblances are only superficial. Uninfluenced by anyone else's grave insouciance, the shattering candor, the inexpressibly graceful and comic genius of his timing which makes every word and gesture hilarious—and faintly sad. Like all great comedians he is, even at his most slapstick, close to pathos.

On the wave of his great success his managers have sent him to Hollywood to "look around and see how things are done." While he is here "Ni Sangre, Ni Arena" will be released in the southwest, and, it is to be hoped, in the rest of the United States.

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\$500,000 TO PROTECT WEST FOREST LANDS

PORTLAND, July 7 (AP)—Congress has allotted \$500,000 for additional forest protection in certain critical areas of the Pacific northwest, H. J. Andrews said Saturday on his return from the capital.

Andrews, assistant regional forester, U. S. forest service, in charge of the division of state and private forestry, said Gov. Arthur Langlie of Washington and Gov. Charles A. Sprague of Oregon joined in the appeal for money.

The additional protection will be utilized in western Washington and Oregon where major defense activities are located, in an area producing approximately 25 per cent of the national lumber supply, the forest service announced.

"This should not be considered

an all-out effort to meet a crisis, but these precautions are believed to be sufficient to prevent undue damage or delay to the defense program," a forest service spokesman said.

Elsewhere In Oregon

MARSHFIELD, July 7 (AP)—The Marshfield chamber of commerce has urged other Oregon chambers to create county organizations for development of the state's mineral resources.

THE DALLES, July 7 (AP)—Ralph E. Moody, Salem, counsel for the proposed The Dalles Columbia river bridge, left yesterday for Washington, D. C., to press the project.

CAVE JUNCTION, July 7 (AP)—A one-day record was established July 4 when 1247 persons toured the Oregon caves.

LA GRANDE, July 7 (AP)—The Union county grange has proposed that the banks of all new roads in the state be planted with Oregon-grown grass seed.

Blonde Tresses Needed for Work in National Defense

By LOUIS J. SCHAEFLE
United Press Correspondent
WASHINGTON, July 5 (UP)—It seems that Adolf Hitler has a corner on the blondes of Europe and this fact has caused the U. S. war department to invite American girls with golden tresses and a sense of patriotism to step forward in the interests of national defense.

The army is eager to pay promptly and well—but it will not quote prices—for blonde, female hair which must be of soft texture and of the highest quality. It is a strategic material used in meteorological work. The army is completely uninterested in male hirsute adornments whether they be blond, brunette or otherwise.

Blonde hair, scientists discovered, expands and contracts according to various conditions of heat and cold better than any substitute researchers have been able to devise.

The army, navy and weather bureau use the silky strands in airplanes which are sent aloft early in the morning. Because of the emergency it is more important than ever that the

American weather reporting service be kept at par.

Until two months ago the hair used in the delicate recording instruments was imported from Europe. It seemed that a lush growth of particularly good blonde hair came from the Balkans.

American girls could furnish plenty of blonde hair, army officials said, but the practice of bobbing brings up a complication. To be useable the hair must be at least 12 inches long.

Some army experts are confident that American girls, particularly those from Minnesota, the Dakotas and other states with large Scandinavian populations, will supply more than enough hair to fill the need. They were cheered by reports of scouts that some farm girls, especially those of Scandinavian descent, never have gotten around to barber shops and beauty parlors.

Already the war department has one volunteer. She is 16-year-old Doris Jahneke, Durbin, N. D. She wrote enclosing a sample of her hair tied with a red, white and blue ribbon. Miss

Jahneke stated that her hair is 30 inches long and she is pretty proud of it and is prouder yet to contribute to national defense.

The army accepted the offering and Miss Jahneke's hair now is being tested in laboratories.

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