America Only Place, Says Grace After Convoy Duty

(Continued From Page One)

be right in there. Except there was a little matter when I announced that drinks were on the house. Then you heard and saw considerable French. The place was full of forces of all nations. The bar was high and a half circle. Sort of a stage looking down on the customers.

"Great Life"

"An engineer who had come down with us from England to Africa was telling me what a great life the sailors led. Wished he had it that soft. I saw him—a few weeks later. He told me he had changed his mind. While unloading ships one day he was watching a convoy pulling into port. Suddenly a tremendous blue flame appeared where once had been a ship. Three men were saved. Either a mine or torpedo. These mines are terrific things. I've seen torpedoes and lots of bombs hit on ships, but they never kick up the way a mine does.

"I was standing watch one morning on the bridge as we were leaving port. One of the escort was about two miles away, right on our port beam. All was tranquil and smiles when, wham! The water rose as one great mass—about six stories high, completely losing the escort vessel. The length and breadth of this mass of water was what surprised me. The ship had hit the mine on her starboard quarter. We thought certainly she had been blown to pieces. But she came about, burning badly, and made for shore. Got her fires under control, only to blow up 20 minutes later. Got most of the crew off before it happened.

Convoy to Russia

"When we went to Russia the fighting was so heavy and for so many days we had become quite hardened to the tremendous racket that goes with this sort of thing.. Had hundreds of depth charges going all the time. When you consider that hundreds of guns were being fired and bombs were exploding all around you, you can understand why it was not easy to hear the bombs when they came down.

"There is too much to tell. I've been so many places I could write pages. I will say that I've seen enough war to last you and me and everybody our life time. It is the rottenest business I could ever imagine. In fact we never imagined it was or could be as rotten as what we saw.

First Attack

"We said as much after our first attack on the way to Russia in the Arctic. Forty-four torpedo planes, first attack, attacked us with 88 torpedoes just before the dive bombers came on us. All the time these aircraft attacks were going on, scores of subs were after us, some breaking through the destroyer screen and coming up in the convoy. This explains why the destroyers continue night and day to weave in and out of the columns, dropping hundreds of depth charges. Mines were constantly laid by the Germans whose planes had us sighted 10 or 12 days from Russia. They had excellent team work between their subs and recon planes. Three or four of their recon planes would circle us all day long, (some days would have 15 to 18 hours of light,) just out of range of the outside destroyer screen's guns.

"As you all know, torpedo planes attack about bridge-high. If I were to go into the air corps, I would quietly but firmly refuse a torpedo plane. It's the worst assignment I've seen. We got 24 of them on this first attack. And they got some of us.

Torpedo Planes

"I remember one coming at us off our starboard bow. His cockpit was on fire, his engines were burning. But the plane was gliding—right at us. The pilot must have still been alive, or fallen over his controls, for the plane lurched suddenly away from us—very close to the water—and headed for a cruiser on our beam. Missed the cruiser and landed on the deck of a cargo ship. The plane still had its torpedoes. In about three minutes there was exactly nothing except a tremendous wide column of smoke rolling up through the low gray clouds. The next ship in line came along and passed. Not a scrap of wreckage showed itself on the sea. That ship had the same type of cargo we were carrying. Among other items, 3000 tons of TNT. We lost all appetite for food. Some were almost actively ill.

"A few minutes later a torpedo plane came too close to a ship when he dropped his torpedoes at her. He was not able to bank away fast enough. Nor did he reckon with the type of cargo the ship was carrying. High test gasoline. A great mass of yellow flame, almost no smoke, you could see balls of red in that mess. And then no ship. You can't be brave when you see this stuff. No man can honestly say he isn't frightened clean out of his boots. My legs shook.

Convoy in Port

"The first attack was so tough that it left us seasoned men. That sounds a little far-fetched, I know, but we had many attacks after that and were able to keep fine control of ourselves and our fire.

"Jerry kept after us while we were in port. Hitler sent a message to the world that another Anglo-American convoy had been wiped out. And he explained how. He was at the Russian front when he sent this via radio. He called it the "Battle of the Atlantic." We had him on our ships' radio. The amusing thing about the broadcast was that all the while, his bombers were overhead, trying to finish us off. The allies used this convoy for propaganda purposes to advertise what we were doing on the lease-lend to Russia.

Size Told

"Two months later they announced our size. The British said that we had 75 warships, half were out of sight waiting for the German fleet to attack us, we had a carrier with part of our convoy and 40 merchantmen. About 12 MM ships were lost.

"About 10 days after we were in port, Anthony Eden got on the air and announced to the world that the largest consignment of ammunition ever shipped anywhere (this was before the African invasion) had arrived in Russia. Jerry came over that night to confirm!

"Well, enough of war talk. Most of all I've missed the old friends. e

"Got a letter of commendation and recommend for Bos'n 2nd. Easy glory these days. Nuts, give me peace. Here's away—Harry."

(Ed. Note: Harry Grace enlisted in the service after several years residence here as a member of the sales staff of Weyerhaeuser Timber company.)

EDITORIALS ON NEWS

(Continued From Page One)

Mediterranean hits Sicily and Sardinia. Violent opposition by enemy interceptors and intense anti-aircraft fire are encountered.

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A LONDON military observer (whose name is withheld) says the "neutralizing of the Ruhr" is nearing completion. The normal industrial haze over the valley (smoke from the factory chimneys), he adds, is THINNING OUT and in some places has actually disappeared.

In the three and a half months since this massive bombing experiment began, he says, 30,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on the Ruhr. We've lost more than 500 bombers and some 3000 of their crewmen have been killed or captured.

• • •

OUR army headquarters in Europe reports that in their last two operations over Germany our (American) heavy bombers have destroyed nearly 100 enemy fighters while losing 37 of their own planes.

An American air force commentator adds that while the primary task of daylight heavy bombers is to slow down enemy armament production "ATTRITION against enemy fighter defenses is an important secondary consideration and is MOUNTING STEADILY.

In other words, we're forcing the German fighters to come up and are SHOOTING THEM DOWN. That's the way air supremacy is achieved.

• • •

GOEBBELS squawks loudly today about "allied terror planes destroying in an hour cultural possessions which the centuries have built."

He gave no thought to that when Germany's Luftwaffe was destroying the cultural possessions built by the centuries in England.

"The galled jade winces."

• • •

IN the Mediterranean, enemy fighter-bombers fly over our attacking Fortresses dropping fragmentation bombs intended to explode among the dense formations of our bombers—hoping not only to damage but to force them to BREAK FORMATION, thus leaving holes in their deadly field of fire through which enemy fighters can zoom to attack us.

This tactic has been mentioned before. So far, we outsiders have been given no trustworthy report as to its effectiveness.

• • •

THERE has been much comment of late about the LULL in the fighting.

Slowly a new conclusion takes shape in our minds.

THERE IS NO LULL!

The BATTLE OF GERMANY is on. Also the battle of Italy. It is BATTLE IN THE AIR.

Its outcome may decide the war.

GILCHRIST WILL AIR BOND SALE PROGRAM

The last of the radio broadcasts sponsored by the Kiwanis club will be heard over KFJI on Monday night from 9:30 to 9:45. Gilchrist will be the community represented at this time.

Kiwanians in charge of the Gilchrist campaign are Don Drury, Vance Vaupel and Mac Epley.

On Tuesday there will be a short broadcast which will wind up the programs devoted to the June bond sales. Buyers who have pledged to buy bonds for the community of their choice are urged to buy these bonds at the banks before 3 p. m. on Wednesday, the last of the month.

Moose Association Buys $200,000 of Bonds During Meet

TACOMA, June 26 (AP) — The three-day meeting of the Northwest Moose association will conclude here today and officials predict the members will have purchased $200,000 worth of war bonds personally and on behalf of their oldges by the time the convention closes.

A total of $129,000 has been purchased so far. Lodges purchasing bonds include Spokane, $15,000, Tacoma, $15,000, Eugene, Ore., $12,177.75, Portland, $1350, Hoquiam, $8000, and Rainier, Ore., a lodge with but 60 members, $3000.

Classified Ads Bring Results.

If all the blueprints required to build a fast, modern medium bomber were one foot wide and end to end, it would take the plane two hours to fly the length of the strip — and it couldn't even carry the weight or bulk of the prints.

If it's a "frozen" article you need, advertise for a used one in the classified.

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PELICAN

FOR INFORMATION DIAL 4572 OR 4567

STARTS TONIGHT MIDNIGHT

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• Best-seller novel packed with punch comes romantically alive on the screen!

JOAN BENNETT MILTON BERLE OTTO PREMINGER in MARGIN for ERROR

ENDS TONIGHT! ★2★ SMASH HITS

HIT PARADE of 1943 with JOHN CARROLL SUSAN HAYWARD

Last Day
ROY ROGERS
in
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Another
GIANT DOUBLE FEATURE

in Home in Wyomin'
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2nd Big Star Hit!
Riotous Comedy

LAST DAY! "THE MOON IS DOWN"

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Starts SUNDAY
THE SHOW YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

Continuous Shows Every Day from 1 P.M.
— LAST DAY —
"SANTA FE SCOUTS"
DR. CHRISTIAN HIT

PINE TREE

— STARTS —
SUNDAY
First Showing

Monkey Business in the South Seas!

Allan JONES Jane FRAZEE in RHYTHM of the ISLANDS
with Andy DEVINE and introducing ACQUANETTA

COMPANION FEATURE

A NEW HIGH IN BREATHLESS SUSPENSE!

Looney Cartoon
Latest News Events

STARTS TOMORROW!

CONTINUOUS RUN SAT., SUN. FROM 12:30

ESQUIRE

Last Day!
DEANNA DURBIN
"THE AMAZING MRS. HOLLIDAY"

THEY'RE BURNING UP THE TROPICS!

As these Babes from Brooklyn put the Heat on the Equator . . and the finger on Millionaires . . in Paramount's Gay, Grand, Gala Technicolor Laugh Cruise Everyone's Taking . . . .

COME ALONG!

"Happy Go Lucky"

IN TECHNICOLOR

starring Mary MARTIN
Dick POWELL
Betty HUTTON
Eddie BRACKEN
Rudy VALLEE

• Extra •
"Boy and the Wolf," Cartoon
Pete Smith's "Wild Horse"
Latest War News