

4.
attack on a British steamer. A Berlin dispatch countered by claiming British planes had attacked an unarmed German ship.

1,270,000 men, have been registered by Great Britain under the Military Training Act. Up to 9 March, 25,801 persons had been registered provisionally as conscientious objectors.

Diamonds, Russian reports said that one of the world's largest diamond fields had been discovered in the Ural Mountains. An expedition is being sent to investigate it by the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

QUEEN MARY, sailed from New York harbor today, casting loose at 8:22 A.M.

Danish Steamer MINSK, was sunk off Scottish Northeast coast on Tuesday night, it was learned when nine members of the crew were landed at a Scottish port today. Eleven members of the crew were listed as missing.

French Cabinet, The new cabinet was announced officially today with Paul Reynaud premier and foreign minister. Daladier was named as Minister of War and National Defense and Camille Chautemps was named the new vice premier.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
22 March 1940

Total Enlisted Strength, 21 March 135,177
Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty ... 2,899
Other Reservists " " " " ... 938
Total 3,837
Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 269
Aggregate Discharges " " " 86
Net Increase 183

Retired Officers returned to active duty as of 22 March:

Line Officers	303
Staff Officers	100
Warrant Officers	32
<u>Total</u>	435

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for enforcement
of neutrality patrol as of 22 March:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Allowed</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Obligated</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Ordered</u>
Aviation Instructors	150	150	66
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	63	61
Miscellaneous	192	162	136
Ens. and Lieuts. (jg) with Fleet	200	200	110
Merchant Marine and Lieut. D-V(G)	100	100	85
<u>Total Officers</u>	870	675	458
<u>Men</u>			
District Patrol Planes	340	340	340
Communications	120	75	75
Miscellaneous	900	894	670
<u>Total Men</u>	1360	1309	1085

2.

Major General Commandant, of the Marine Corps has returned from inspection of Parris Island and reports the defense battalions, both new and old, and equipment in excellent condition.

New Orleans Drydock, is now in the Gulf of Mexico, having safely cleared the mouth of the Mississippi River. The drydock is being towed commercially.

U.S.S. OWL, (minesweeper) has been substituted for the BLAKELY in accompanying the HEEKON.

German ships, remaining in the Western Hemisphere total 55. Only 2 remain in U.S. territorial waters, the PAULINE FRIEDRICK in Boston, and the AURACA in Port Everglades, Florida.

31 Aviation Cadets, have been appointed for flight training at Pensacola in the class convening 25 March. These cadets come from 12 aviation bases in all parts of the country.

U.S.S. TROUT, (SS202) is scheduled to be launched at the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, on 21 May.

Selection Boards, A Board to recommend officers for promotion to the grade of Commander in the Merchant Marine Reserve will convene in the Navy Department on 1 April.

3.

Another Board will convene on the same date to recommend officers of the Construction Corps for advancement to the rank of lieutenant commander and lieutenant.

Congressional Party, itinerary has been changed to include an overnight stop at San Salvador City instead of Guatemala City on 22 March.

Representatives, Maas and Magnuson expect to depart from Miami for Pensacola today and for Anacostia tomorrow morning.

Bureau S. & A., reports Department of Labor All Commodity Price Index for the week ending 16 March was 78.2, off .1 from a week ago. This is the third consecutive weekly decline.

French Cabinet, Premier Paul Reynaud's new government won an official vote of confidence of 269 to 156, with 110 not voting in the Chamber of Deputies today. After the vote, Reynaud called a meeting of the Cabinet to consider the situation resulting from the small vote.

The War at Sea, A British submarine, penetrating the heavily mined waters at the entrance to Germany's end of the Baltic, sank the German steamship HEDDERNHEIN, 4,947 tons. It was the first German merchantman to meet its

4.
end by a British submarine torpedo during the war. The HEDDERHEIN was sunk just inside the Kattegat. German naval forces have sunk 32,694 tons of shipping in 3 days, the High Command asserted. Two Danish ships were sent to the bottom today, making a total of 7 neutral ships lost in the last 2 days. Six, and probably seven, were victims of torpedoes. Latest Danish losses were the CHRISTIANS-BORG, 3,270 tons, and CHERKOV, 1,026 tons. Other vessels lost in the last 48 hours were the Danish ships BOTHAL, 2,109 tons; VIKING, 1,158 tons; MINSK, 1,229 tons, and ALGIERS, 1,654 tons. Also the SVINTA, 1,267 tons, was torpedoed. A German submarine was believed destroyed in the North Sea by the British trawler STAR OF PEACE.

Anglo-American relations, may be improved by establishing a contraband control base at Halifax, Nova Scotia, thereby keeping American ships out of the combat zone. Revision of the method of inspecting mails on American carriers was also being considered along with partial resumption of American tobacco, pork, and apple purchases.

Bureau of C. & R., announces the following award: Contract to Jonwal Construction Co., Inc., New York City, for completing the hangar at the Naval Aviation Base, Floyd Bennett Field, for \$230,600.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

25 March 1940

Total Enlisted Strength, 23 March 135,411

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty ... 2,899

Other Reservists " " " " ... 938

Total 3,837

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 192

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 128

Net Increase 64

Retired Officers returned to active duty as of 25 March:

Line Officers 303

Staff Officers 100

Warrant Officers 32

Total 435

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for enforcement

of neutrality patrol as of 23 March:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Allowed</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Obligated</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Ordered</u>
Aviation Instructors	150	150	66
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	63	61
Miscellaneous	192	163	144
Ens. and Lieuts. (jg) with Fleet	200	200	110
Merchant Marine and Lieut. D-V(G)	100	100	85
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>676</u>	<u>466</u>

Men

District Patrol Planes	340	340	340
Communications	120	75	75
Miscellaneous	900	894	670
<u>Total Men</u>	<u>1360</u>	<u>1309</u>	<u>1085</u>

Bureau of Yards and Docks, the following contract has been made:

Completion of hangars at the Naval Air Station, Banana River, Florida, awarded to the Smith and Pew Construction Co., of Atlanta, Georgia, for \$86,981. Time of completion, 120 days.

Ships of the U. S. Antarctic Service, the BEAR and NORTH STAR have departed from the East Base, Marguerite Bay, Palmer Land, for the United States. The BEAR will proceed via Cape Horn to Punta Arenas, Chile, and then to the United States. The NORTH STAR will proceed to Valparaiso, Chile, and then to Seattle, Washington.

U.S.S. MAYRANT (DD402) is scheduled to hold final trials off Rockland, Maine, and heavy displacement standardization runs under the Board of Inspection and Survey, beginning 9 April and lasting about 5 days. About 13 April the MAYRANT will return to Boston for post trial examinations and completion of Navy Yard work in preparation to join U.S. Fleet. After test torpedo firings at Newport and 9 days at Navy Yard, Washington, MAYRANT will proceed about 18 May and report to CINCUS for duty in destroyer battle force after reaching the Canal Zone.

U.S.S. SAN FRANCISCO, reported for duty in Cruiser Division 6, Scouting Force, on 24 March.

NOKOMIS (harbor tug), will depart Navy Yard, Charleston, 19 April for duty in the 14th Naval District, escorted by the VEGA (cargo ship) as far as San Diego where another vessel will be designated for further escort to Pearl Harbor.

U.S.S. MUSTIN (DD413), On completion of Navy Yard availability on 10 April and after test torpedo firings at Newport, will visit the Naval Academy in connection with session of Board of Visitors, 29 April, departing 3 May for San Diego via Norfolk, Guantanamo, and Canal Zone.

On departure Canal Zone the MUSTIN will report to CINCUS for duty in Destroyer Battle Force. It is expected the HAMMANN (DD412) and ROWAN (DD405) will be ready to depart Norfolk on 7 May for the West Coast. If these vessels are ready it is desired that the MUSTIN proceed in company with them.

Congressional Party, arrived Anacostia in the evening of 23 March.

Senate Military Affairs Committee, considered today a resolution by Senator La Follette calling for an investi-

4.
gation of allied purchases of new types of American made
airplanes.

War at Sea, Great Britain, by torpedoing two German merchantmen close to the Danish coast, has started a new phase of its blockade in which warships will operate along the 3 mile line of neutral Scandinavian territorial waters, it was indicated. Germany's 2,189 ton EDMUND HUGO STINNES was added to the torpedoed HEDDERNHEIM (previously reported). The British lost the trawler LOCH ASSITER, sunk by a mine. It is the British view that Germany has violated international law by sinking neutral as well as allied ships without warning whenever opportunity offered. There is growing sentiment in Britain that the dictates of humanity alone should control her sinking of German ships, regardless of law. The Danish steamer BRITTA, 1,146 tons, has been sunk in the Atlantic, west of the Orkneys. It was the 7th Danish vessel sunk in the past week.

British Government reorganization, was emphasized again today by London newspapers which said such was imminent.

It seemed taken for granted that in any change Winston Churchill would be intrusted with more responsibility and that he might be put in charge of all three fighting services, Army, Navy, and Air Force. Chamberlain might also institute a small war inner cabinet to consider only big problems, it was said.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

26 March 1940

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Total Enlisted Strength, 25 March 135,631

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty ... 2,896

Other Reservists " " " " ... 944

Total 3,840

Aggregate Enlistments (last 48 hours) 249

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 31

Net Increase 218

Retired Officers returned to active duty as of 26 March:

Line Officers	301
Staff Officers	100
Warrant Officers	<u>32</u>
<u>Total</u>	433

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for enforcement of neutrality patrol as of 25 March:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Aviation Instructors	150	150	66
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	63	61
Miscellaneous	192	163	144
Ens. and Lieuts. (jg) with Fleet	200	200	110
Merchant Marine and Lieut. D.-V(G)	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>85</u>
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>676</u>	<u>466</u>
 <u>Men</u>			
District Patrol Planes	340	340	340
Communications	120	75	75
Miscellaneous	<u>900</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>670</u>
<u>Total Men</u>	1360	1309	1085

Recruiting Activities for week ending 23 March:

Number of applicants accepted for first enlistment, 823	
Number of first enlistments	594
Number of reenlistments within three months (continuous service)	54
Number of reenlistments under broken service	26
<u>Total Enlistments</u>	674

S. & A. Reports, a contract has been made with MacLeod and Company, Inc., for 837,810 pounds of manila fibre (Abaca) at a unit price of \$0.056 per pound, total \$46,817.36, Grades E, I, and JI. These prices reflect a drop in the market from the high peak of Grade E, \$0.145; Grade I, \$0.135; Grade JI, \$0.1225, per pound, reported about October 1st at the time the Procurement Division was in the market for the purchase of a large quantity of manila fibre for the accumulation of a stock of strategic materials.

PT6 to Finland, the modifications of the Navy contracts involved in the sale of a motor torpedo boat of the type known as Navy PT6 to the Finnish Government have been consummated. The Higgins Industries, Inc., holding contract for the hull, has refunded the partial payments made on this boat, together with interest for the time

the funds were in the possession of the company, thus discharging the lien on the hull and fittings. The Packard Motor Car Company has likewise refunded the partial payments made on the engines, thus discharging the lien and releasing them to the interested parties for the installation of the hull built by the Higgins Industries, Inc. While no particular difficulties were encountered in the consummation of this transaction, the urgency necessitated numerous conferences and priority correspondence to bring the matter to a successful conclusion.

New Orleans Drydock, being towed commercially, is making about 5.8 knots headway, and is now off the South Coast of Cuba.

Fleet Problem 21, will begin on 2 April and will be fully completed by 17 May.

Midshipmen's Cruise, (previously reported) has been approved, but diplomatic arrangements are not yet completed.

TIMBER RUSH, The Merritt-Chapman Company, salvagers, have had 4 lines out trying to pull her off the sands south of Acapulco. List is 18°, seas are heavy, and she is in grave danger of breaking up. The crew is jettisoning

4.

the cargo. No word has been received as to the condition of that part of it belonging to the Navy.

U.S.S. TRITON (SS201), was successfully launched at Navy Yard, Portsmouth, on 25 March.

U.S.S. SEAWOLF (SS197) will hold trials off Provincetown, Mass., beginning 27 March. The SEAWOLF will operate submerged on the outer and inner standardization courses, and will also run various submerged speed trials.

U.S.S. HOUSTON, is now listed as AUGUSTA's relief in the Orient, probably next fall. The date is not yet definite.

U.S.S. ELLIOT, (DDL46) will convey to Mulege, Lower California, a party of ten with Dr. Whitney in charge, all Americans, to observe the eclipse of the sun on 7 April. Time of arrival at Mulege will be 5 April, leaving on 8 April.

Medicine and Surgery, An examination of medical students for appointment to internships in the Medical Corps will be held at all naval hospitals and at Naval Medical School Washington, beginning 26 June. This examination is limited to medical students who will be available for appointment upon graduation from medical school in June, 1941. Candidates for internships must be between the ages of 21 and 32 years at the time of appointment and students of schools listed as Class "A" by the Council of Medical Education of the American Medical Association.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

27 March 1940

Total Enlisted Strength, 26 March 135,819

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty ... 2,896

Other Reservists " " " " ... 944

Total 3,840

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 302

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 114

Net Increase 188

Retired Officers returned to active duty as of 27 March:

Line Officers	301
Staff Officers	100
Warrant Officers	<u>32</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>433</u>

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for enforcement

of neutrality patrol as of 26 March:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number Allowed</u>	<u>Number Obligated</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
Aviation Instructors	150	150	66
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	63	62
Miscellaneous	192	181	147
Ens. and Lieuts. (jg) with Fleet	200	200	110
Merchant Marine and Lieut. D-V(G)	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>85</u>
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>694</u>	<u>470</u>
<u>Men</u>			
District Patrol Planes	340	340	340
Communications	120	75	75
Miscellaneous	<u>900</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>670</u>
<u>Total Men</u>	<u>1360</u>	<u>1309</u>	<u>1085</u>

2.

U.S.S. KING (DD242), An explosion yesterday afternoon

that was probably caused by hydrogen escaping from a tank, demolished the forward part of the after deck house.

Richard Karl Oehlert, fireman 1st class was apparently blown overboard. His body was not recovered. Charles

Edward McCoy, Jr., machinist's mate, 2nd class, and

Gerald Edward Hagg, fireman 1st class, suffered multiple bruises, cuts, and shock. Four others on board suffered

minor cuts and shock.

U.S.S. ACUSHNET (ocean going tug), with lighter 187 arrived Annapolis.

U.S.S. BANCROFT, Navy Yard, New York has requested that date of completion be extended to 31 May.

U.S.S. MAYO (DD422), was launched yesterday, 26 March, at Quincy, Massachusetts.

DesDiv 65 (AARON WARD, BUCHANAN, HALE, and CROWNINSHIELD) will get underway 27 March and proceed to Navy Yard, New York, for scheduled interim overhaul. Upon completion, about 20 April, this division will return to Key West.

Medicine and Surgery, 8 medical officers, volunteer reserve, have qualified as aviation medical examiners in class completed at Pensacola. They will serve in various

3.

activities. An additional class for probably 10 medical reserve officers will commence at Pensacola 1 May.

German Steamer ALTMARK, which had been lying in the Joessing Fiord off the Coast of Norway, since British destroyer rescued merchantmen prisoners from it on 16 February, is reported on its way to a German Baltic port.

A German pilot was said to be on board to guide the ALTMARK through the mine fields.

Senator Bone, of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee charged that the present national emphasis on armament trade "geared national economy to an abnormal high profit business" while agriculture was being neglected. He suggested the government make its own arms, that western farmers had lost their markets while armament makers profited both abroad and in doubling the nation's defense.

Government Officers, in Boston investigated rumors today that crew members of the scuttled German pocket battleship ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE had been smuggled into this country from South America.

War at Sea, The Norwegian Steamer COOMETA, 3,794 tons, en route to South America, was sunk in the North Sea.

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The British oil tanker DAGHESTAN, 5,742 tons, sank in the North Sea. The British steamer CASTLE MOOR, 6,574 tons, bound from Philadelphia to a British port was listed as overdue today, having sailed from Philadelphia on 2 February.

U.S.S. THRESHER (SS200), was launched at the plant of the Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut, today.

French Destroyer RAILLEUSE, was sunk, said a dispatch from Tangiers to the Giornale d'Italia, after a violent explosion split the ship in two on leaving Casablanca. 100 men were reported lost and a number of others injured. The cause of the explosion was not confirmed in Paris. The RAILLEUSE is of the ADROIT class, with a tonnage of 1,378, and a speed of 34 knots.

Bureau of Yards and Docks, announces the following contract: For completion of hangar at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Squantum, Mass., awarded to Grande & Volpe, Inc., Malden, Mass., for the sum of \$203,000.00. Time: 150 calendar days, except that all work in connection with the sliding door tracks shall be completed within 90 calendar days.

Sumner Welles, is due to arrive back in the United States at 1 P.M. tomorrow.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

28 March 1940

Total Enlisted Strength, 27 March 135,789

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty ... 2,892

Other Reservists " " " " ... 949

Total 3,841

Aggregate Enlistments (last 24 hours) 132

Aggregate Discharges " " " " 101

Net Increase 31

Retired Officers returned to active duty as of 28 March:

Line Officers 301

Staff Officers 100

Warrant Officers 32

Total 433

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for enforcement

of neutrality patrol as of 27 March:

	Number	Number	Number
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Obligated</u>	<u>Ordered</u>
Aviation Instructors	150	150	66
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	63	62
Miscellaneous	192	181	147
Ens. and Lieuts. (jg)			
with Fleet	200	200	110
Merchant Marine and			
Lieut. D-V(G)	100	100	85
<u>Total Officers</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>694</u>	<u>470</u>

Men

District Patrol Planes	340	340	340
Communications	120	75	75
Miscellaneous	900	894	670
<u>Total Men</u>	<u>1360</u>	<u>1309</u>	<u>1085</u>

2.

U.S.S. LIVERMORE (DD429), scheduled to be launched at the plant of the Bath Iron Works on 3 August is the first vessel in the U.S. Navy to be named after a Chaplain.

U.S.S. BEAR, Byrd Expedition, is experiencing mountainous seas in a gale in her trip North from the Antarctic, 250 miles southwest of Cape Horn.

Propelling Machinery, for each of 2 small seaplane tenders, bids will be received until 10 April, when they will be opened publicly.

Congressional Party, and Lieutenant Brandley arrived at Anacostia from Panama this morning.

International Sea Plane Base, at the New York Municipal Airport, La Guardia Field, will be dedicated 31 March with the inauguration ceremonies for Transatlantic Air Service. Admiral Stark, Admiral Towers, and Lieutenant Smedberg will attend.

U.S.S. WICHITA, has completed successfully post repair full power trials. No excessive vibration was experienced at any speed. Repairs by the Philadelphia Navy Yard and the trials were entirely satisfactory, concurred in by Bureau of Engineering and Navy Yard representatives.

2.

Machinery Space Ventilation, In addition to the study to be conducted in the SIMS, a similar study of conditions will probably be conducted in a heavy cruiser of Cruiser Division 7. Tests on the SIMS will be completed about 4 May. If a cruiser is made available for a period of about 5 days, the SIMS will be directed to transfer observers to the cruiser designated on completion of destroyer tests. Tests on SIMS will last about 2 weeks, embarking authorized observers assigned to make this study about 21 April at Key West.

U.S.S. DAHLGREN, will visit Navy Yard, Washington, from 29 March to 8 April, and will be available for inspection by interested representatives of Navy Department Bureaus during this period.

Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, reports the Department of Labor All Commodity Price Index for week ending 23 March was 77.9, the 4th consecutive weekly decline and the lowest it has been since 2 September 1939.

Testimonial Dinner, to Rear Admiral John Schofield, USNR will be held at the Army-Navy Country Club on 29 May.

Admiral Schofield will retire on 1 April.

Naval Reserve Policy Board, will adjourn on 30 March.

4.

Western Front, 7 British Hurricane fighting planes attacked 31 German planes, and shot down 5 and probably 6 Messerschmidts and 1 Dornier, it was announced today by the British Air Force in France.

H. G. Wells, today accused the Chamberlain Government of only "playing about with the war" and warned that "if we don't end the war, the war will end us."

Bank of Brazil, announced it would not deal in the pound sterling, effective tomorrow. The measure was said to be temporary.

Air Ministry, London, confirmed officially the shooting down of a British plane by Dutch fighter craft. One British officer was found dead, four others parachuted to safety.

German Submarine U-21, went aground off the Coast of Norway today, and was being towed to Kristiansand for internment by the Norwegian Navy. U-21 in Jane's is described as of 250 tons, 3 - 21" tubes, carrying 6 torpedoes.

Lester P. Barlow, conferred with Army and Navy officials today.

Land for Air Station, Key West, a bill was introduced by Rep. Cannon today authorizing purchase of 62 acres for \$125,000 on the Gulf of Mexico.

~~Confidential~~

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

29 March 1940

Total Enlisted Strength, 28 March 135,763

Fleet Reservists (Enlisted) on active duty ... 2,893

Other Reservists " " " " ... 953

Total 3,846

Aggregate Discharges (last 24 hours) 163

Aggregate Enlistments " " " 132

Net Decrease 31

Retired Officers returned to active duty as of 29 March:

Line Officers 301

Staff Officers 100

Warrant Officers 32

Total 433

Naval Reservists ordered to active duty for enforcement

of neutrality patrol as of 28 March:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Allowed</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Obligated</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Ordered</u>
Aviation Instructors	150	150	66
District Patrol Planes	128	0	0
Naval Intelligence	100	63	61
Miscellaneous	192	184	152
Ens. and Lieuts. (jg) with Fleet	200	200	112
Merchant Marine and Lieut. D-V(G)	100	100	88
<u>Total Officers</u>	870	697	479
<u>Men</u>			
District Patrol Planes	340	340	340
Communications	120	75	75
Miscellaneous	900	894	670
<u>Total Men</u>	1360	1309	1085

2.

U.S.S. NIBLACK (DD424), launching date has been set for

18 May at Bath Iron Works.

S.S. TIMBER RUSH, is expected to break up into a total loss off Acapulco, Mexico. Salvaging of the cargo is now going on and will continue for 2 or 3 weeks. No word has been received concerning the Navy cargo on board.

U.S.S. SIMS (DD409), apparently stripped an intermediate pressure turbine today and has been ordered back to Navy Yard, Boston, for repairs. Knocking in shaft, vibrating, and clicking noises lead to the belief turbine has been stripped.

U.S.S. DIXIE (destroyer tender), preliminary trials are being held today.

U.S.S. HOUSTON, definitely designated as relief for AUGUSTA in the Asiatic Station about 15 November.

U.S.S. CHAUMONT, (Naval Transportation Service), sailing date held up for a few days (previously reported as 30 March), to load extra equipment at Norfolk which was expected to be taken aboard in Charleston.

Cienfuegos, Cuba, City officials have extended an invitation for U.S. Naval vessels to visit Cienfuegos during carnival, from 23 March to 22 April. Commander Atlantic

3.

Squadron has been authorized to schedule visits upon giving diplomatic notification direct to American Embassy, Havana.

U.S.S. CURTISS (AV4), seaplane tender, is scheduled to be launched at the plant of the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, N.J., on 20 April. It is named after Glenn H. Curtiss. War at Sea, The Norwegian steamship BURGOS, 3,220 tons,

has been sunk off the East Coast of England. Its crew was saved. A German High Command communique asserted that German planes had attacked and dispersed a British convoy, near the Shetland Islands, sinking one warship, setting fire to one merchantman, and striking 6 others.

Also a report swept through Europe today that the German High Seas Fleet was taking to sea to challenge Britain for the first time since Jutland. The report originated in Rome and was denied by German sources.

German Ships, in the Netherlands East Indies are loading coal and cargo and preparing to leave harbor for a break through the Allied blockade, it was asserted in a dispatch from Batavia. At least 6 ships including 3 passenger liners are preparing for the run. Ships named were the

4.
NORDMARK, 7,750 tons; REUDSBURG, 6,200 tons; VOGTLAND, 6,608 tons; CASSEL, 6,407 tons; ESSEN, 5,158 tons; and NAUMBERG, 5,878 tons. the VOGTLAND, CASSEL, and ESSEN are liners.

Bureau of Yards and Docks, has awarded the following contracts:

For Barracks and Mess Hall at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Squantum, Mass., awarded to John Rugo & Son, Inc., Dorchester, Mass., \$90,800. Time, 120 calendar days.

For Magazines at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., has been awarded to Smith & Pew Construction Co., Atlanta, Georgia, \$26,795. Time, 120 calendar days.

For Completion of Hangar at the Naval Station, Key West, Florida, has been awarded to the W.P. Thurston Company, Richmond Va., for \$189,000. Time 150 calendar days, except that all work in connection with the sliding door tracks shall be completed within 60 calendar days.

For electrical Distribution System for Dry Dock No. 3, at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, to Cory & Joslin, Inc., 50 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, Calif., for \$90,800. Time, 160 calendar days.

German Propaganda, loudspeakers on the Rhine front launched a "Love thy neighbor" program today. The French replied with machine gun and artillery fire.

Industrial Machinery Exports, reached a new monthly high in February, of \$28,995,673, the Department of Commerce reported. This was a 40% increase over February, 1939.