

Contributed by Michael Fraticelli

FORECASTS

(By U. S. Weather Bureau.)
Continued cold today and tonight with snow flurries today. The lowest temperature for tonight will be about the same as last night.

Buy More War Bonds, Stamps

Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph



The Associated Press

VOL. 31—NO. 123 34 PAGES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1942 FOUR CENTS

International News Service

Planes Hunting 'Buzz' Wagner, Missing 3 Days

5 TRANSPORTS SUNK IN AFRICA INVASION, U. S. NAVY REVEALS

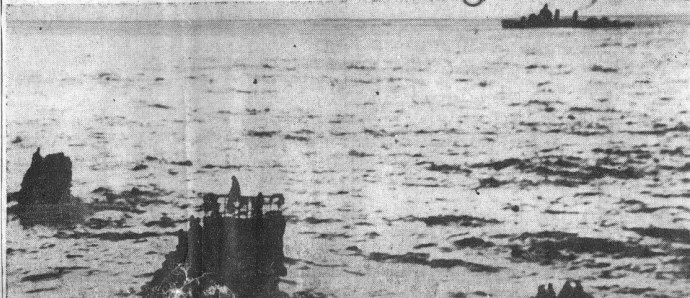


Bizerte Battle Rages

British Navy Sinks Six Ships Rushing Reinforcements to Besieged Nazis

LONDON, Dec. 3.—(AP.)—British naval guns have sunk four more enemy merchantmen and two destroyers bound for Tunisia with reinforcements for the Axis in the decisive battle for Bizerte and Tunis in which the opening shots apparently already have been fired, it was

Rescuing Yanks From Torpedoed Transports



British Lose 11 Warships

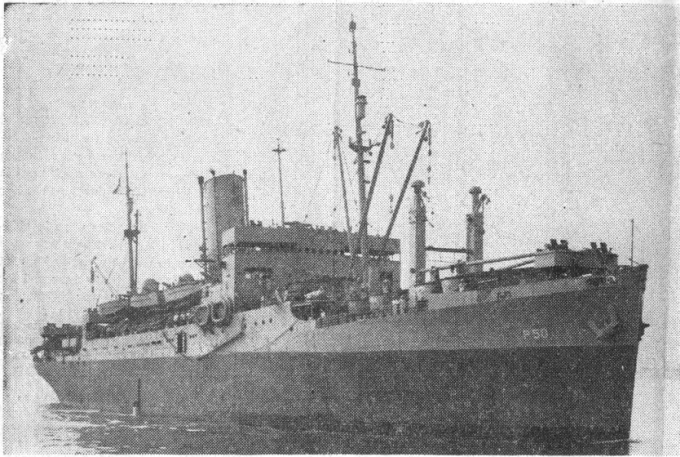
5 Other U. S. Vessels Damaged by Subs, 'Light' Loss of Lives For Yanks Reported

By JOSEPH A. BORS
International News Service
WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The Navy disclosed today that five of its transports, totaling 52,945 tons, were sunk during the North African invasion. The five transports, all former well-known peacetime

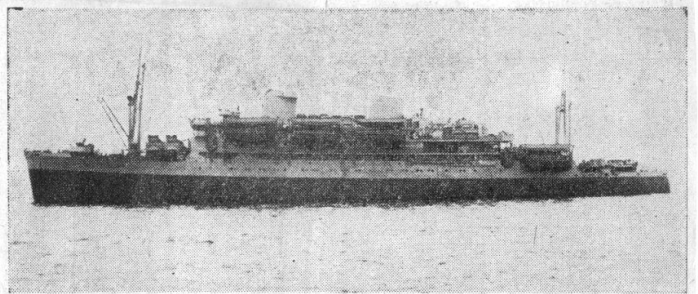
*Nov,
1942* **American Transports Sunk**

The five United States naval transports pictured here were lost early last month as a result of enemy torpedoes during the occupation of North Africa by American forces. Three other American transports, one destroyer and one tanker were damaged during the operations. (Story on Page 1)

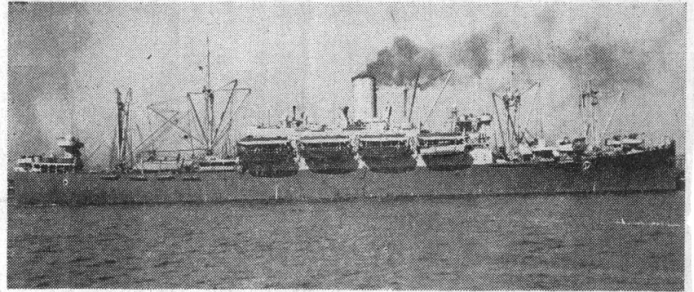
U. S. Navy Photos



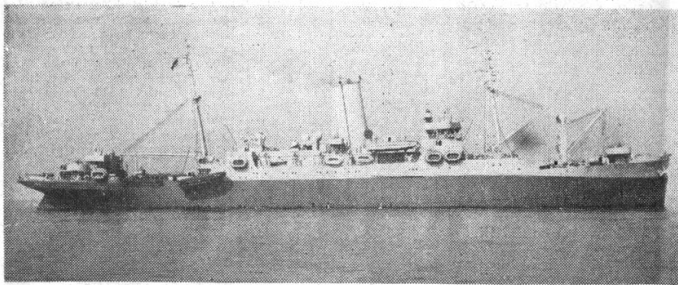
THE JOSEPH HEWES, THE FORMER EXCALIBUR—SUNK OFF RABAT



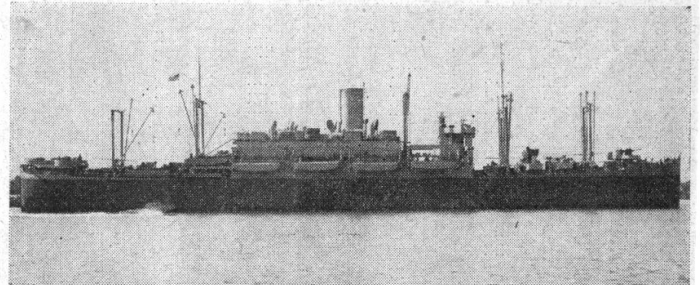
THE LEEDSTOWN, FORMERLY THE SANTA LUCIA—SUNK OFF ALGIERS



THE HUGH L. SCOTT, THE FORMER PRESIDENT PIERCE—SUNK OF CASABLANCA



THE EDWARD RUTLEDGE, THE FORMER LINER EXETER—SUNK OFF CASABLANCA



THE TASKER H. BLISS, FORMERLY THE PRESIDENT CLEVELAND—SUNK OF CASABLANCA

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served aboard a barge landing troops near Fedala, in Algeria, and who later slid down a rope from the top of the transport "Joseph Hewes," was home today on a well-earned 30-day furlough.

He is Fireman Second Class Joseph B. Meyer, son of Mrs. Margaret L. Meyer, of 1237 Woodmont avenue.

He recalled how the events of four action-filled days came so fast that even now some of it isn't entirely clear. "A person loses track of what day it is," he said. "You just know whether it's night or day, and leave it go at that. I'm not even certain just when we started home."

Meyer was serving aboard the "Joseph Hewes" as it left this country in convoy, and the trip was uneventful until Sunday night, November 8, as the ship lay off the Algerian coast, a few miles from Fedala.

"We were in our landing barges and circling around in the water," he said, "waiting for dawn to break so that we could see the coast. As soon as possible we went in—and we must have been within a hundred yards of shore when we realized that lead was flying around in earnest."

"Two of our battle cruisers were lying off shore pounding Fedala and there was at least one French 75 down the beach somewhere."

Continued on Page Two

Stores to Open Night Shopping Schedule Dec. 14

Merchants Committee Urges Customers to Shop Before 4 P. M. After 6 P. M. to Relieve Business Traffic Peak.

New Kensington stores will start their evening shopping schedule on December 14, it was announced today through the Merchants' division of the Chamber of Commerce. Stores will remain open until each evening through Christmas eve.

Shoppers using bus transportation to and from downtown New Kensington are urged by the Chamber of Commerce to do their shopping before 4 p. m., and after 6 p. m., to relieve transportation peak loads. War workers are on their way to and from work during those hours and bundle-laden shoppers will be inconvenienced.

The merchants' Santa Claus float will start making its rounds on Monday, December 14. This year Santa too must abide by ODT rulings so he's "gone back to 'old Dobbin.'" Instead of using wires and batteries for the lighting effect, old-fashioned lanterns will guide him on his tours.

Oscar Silverman is chairman of the Christmas promotion program with S. F. Pollack, Harry Sternfeld, L. A. MacKinnon and Eli Levy as his aides.

...PART OF NORTH AFRICA by AMERICAN forces in the early part of November.

In addition, five other American vessels, three transports, a destroyer and a tanker—were damaged during the operation, the navy announced today.

Text of Navy Communique 209 announcing the losses follows:

"Africa:
"1. The following U. S. Naval transports were lost during the early part of November as a result of enemy submarine torpedoes during the occupation of North Africa by U. S. forces:

"(A) The Tasker H. Bliss, Hugh L. Scott and the Edward Rutledge were sunk off Casablanca.

"(B) The Joseph Hewes was sunk off Rabat.

"(C) The Leedstown was sunk off Algiers.

"2. Three other U. S. transports, one U. S. destroyer and one U. S. tanker were damaged during the operation.

"3. The next of kin of personnel killed, wounded or missing are being notified by telegram as soon as information is received."

The Navy's announcement of these losses was the first it has made of its part in the occupation of North Africa.

Largest of the sunken vessels was the Hugh L. Scott, the former liner President Pierce. This vessel had been serving the army in recent years but was transferred to the naval service. The Scott had a gross tonnage of 12,546 and was built in 1921.

The Bliss, the former liner President Cleveland, also was approximately the same tonnage. As merchant ships, each carried a crew of about 240 men.

The Scott was placed in commission in the Navy on September 7 this year and the Bliss on Sept. 15.

The Leedstown was formerly the Santa Lucia. A vessel of 9,135 gross tons, it was placed in commission for the Navy also in September.

The Rutledge was formerly the Exeter. With a gross tonnage of 9,360, this vessel normally carried a crew of 104.

The tonnage of the lost ships aggregated 52,946. The sinkings raised the total of U. S. naval losses in the Atlantic and Pacific in this war to 74 ships.

The vessels were the first U. S. transports sunk in European waters. Two small Army transports were sunk in the Pacific early in the war, however, with a loss of 64 lives. In addition, four transports have been sunk in the Solomons area.

Curtisville License Rejection Appealed

Representatives of six private clubs whose applications for liquor licenses have been rejected by the State Liquor Control Board will contest the board's decision at a hearing in Quarter Sessions court.

The rejections were reportedly based on the fact that Allegheny county's quota of liquor licenses had been filled. Appealing the Liquor Board's decisions will be the St. Nicholas Russian Brotherhood, Curtisville, and other-

...small aircraft carrier Avenger, an anti-aircraft escort ship, two destroyers, a corvette, two cutters, a sloop, a depot ship and a minesweeper, A. V. Alexander, first lord of the admiralty, told the house of commons today.

The Netherlands navy lost one destroyer.

"Our naval losses were considerably less than had been expected and with regard to the scale of the operations, are considered light," Alexander said. "They are far less than the enemy claimed."

Alexander said British submarines had destroyed three tankers, seven supply ships and two destroyers. In addition, he said, they inflicted heavy damage on a six-inch gun cruiser, two destroyers and four supply ships.

The admiralty announced simultaneously that a British light naval formation had sunk four Axis supply-transport ships and two destroyers taking supplies and reinforcements to the enemy troops in Tunisia.

Alexander told the house that Axis air losses to naval gunnery also had been heavy.

"In the air, up to the last assessment," he said, "20 enemy aircraft had been destroyed by anti-aircraft fire from our ships and 15 more had been damaged and probably destroyed. Eight other aircraft were destroyed by naval aircraft operating from carriers and two further also probably were destroyed, while a further 39 are known to have been damaged either by gunfire or by carrier-borne fighter aircraft."

Alexander disclosed that H.M.S. Valney and Hartland, "two former American Coast Guard cutters, were lost in a gallant attempt to prevent the scuttling of block ships in the harbor of Oran and broke through the boom and although afire, penetrated to the inner harbor and landed troops at the west end of Bassin Gueybin before they were sunk."

He said a destroyer burst the boom at Algiers, enabling the Allied forces to enter, but the vessel was severely damaged and sank.

The British destroyers lost were the 1,920 ton Martin and the Broke. The corvette was the Guardiania and the sloop was the Ibis, 1,250 tons. The depot ship lost was the Helca. The anti-aircraft escort ship was the Tynwald and the Netherlands destroyer was the Isaac Sweers."

He went on to explain that the Allied North African force sailed in three parts.

One sailed from the United States for Casablanca, on the Atlantic coast. Two sailed from Great Britain for Algeria and Oran.

"The convoys contained not only British and American merchantmen

Continued on Page Two

Conference Delayed

Pittsburgh, Dec. 3.—(U.P.)—Negotiations for the six-day work week in commercial coal mines of Western Pennsylvania have been delayed pending an anticipated increase of coal prices by agencies of the government.