

HEADQUARTERS
Harbor Defenses of New York
Ft Hancock, NJ

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 117 (Key Points in History)

20 May 1943
LJM/vob

1. Home Front Situation:

The Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC was dedicated on 13 April.

Office of Price Administration (OPA) distributes Ration Book #3 via Post Office. Previously, ration books were distributed via public school system with many delays and errors. The idea was the brainchild of Philip Holzen, a 24-year old \$3,200 per year clerk. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 23)
War Production Board (WPB) authorized the production of more baby carriages - twice the prewar average. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 24)

The Yankees continue to lead the American League by one game over the Cleveland Indians while in the National League the Brooklyn Dodgers lead the Boston Braves by three games.

The United Mine Workers, lead by John L. Lewis, returned to work after a nation-wide strike reduced coal reserves to less than one week for all war industries. John Lewis agreed to deal with Harold Ickes (Solid Fuels Coordinator) on Sunday, 2 May to return to work on Tuesday, 4 May less than two hours before President Roosevelt delivered a Fireside Chat where he begged the miners to return to work on Monday, a significant public relations defeat for FDR. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 19-20)

Novelist John Steinbeck (*The Grapes of Wrath*) joins the New York Herald Tribune to go overseas as a war correspondent. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 49)

Steel for civilian use drops to 5% - shipbuilding rises from 2% in 1939 to 18% in 1942; for automobiles it drops from 25% in 1935 to 2% in 1942; Miscellaneous military use rises from 15% in 1929 to 35% in 1942. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 79)

Henry Fonda and Harry Morgan star in the "Ox Bow Incident" - a dark western drama about a lynching. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 94)

The movie "*Lady of Burlesque*", starring Barbara Stanwyck and Micheal O'Shea, debuts in theaters in May. It is the screen version of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee's novel, "The G-String Murders" - all are surprised that the term "G-String" survives the movie censor's decency standards. Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter star in the Technicolor film "*Crash Dive*". (*TIME*, 17 May, page 96-97)

The Hollywood movie "*Mission to Moscow*" receives praise from Communist newspapers and condemnation in the US press. John Dewey and Suzanne La Follette wrote "The whole effort is to discredit Congress and at the same time represent the Soviet Dictatorship as an advanced democracy...it is a major defeat for the Democratic cause." (*TIME*, 17 May, page 19)

Casualties from accidents in industry are 40% greater than casualties in the Armed Forces. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 81)

War Production Board announces a ceiling on the number of fountain pens that can be produced in order to conserve defense materials. (*TIME*, 17 May, inside cover)

Actor Wallace Beery and about 20 fellow ranchers in Wyoming, angry at the Presidential Executive Order turning Jackson Hole, Wyoming into a National Monument, escort their cattle for summer grazing carrying their guns. Harold Ickes (Secretary of the Interior) stated that they could continue to graze their cattle there for the rest of their lives, regardless of the National Monument designation, deflating this act of civil disobedience. (*TIME*, 17 May, page 21)

German High Command admits that April submarine sinkings of merchant ships were less than half of March's 926,000 tons of shipping sunk. (*TIME*, 17 May, page 30)

Senator Vandenberg (R-Michigan) begins recommending LTG Douglas MacArthur run for President on the Republican ticket. MacArthur declines stating he must retake Corregidor and the Philippines. (*TIME*, 17 May, page 22-23)

Orson Wells, 28, attempted to enlist by tearing up his 2-B "Essential" classification card and reporting to an Army induction center. The Army then classified him as 4-F and sent him home. (*NEWSWEEK*, 17 May, page 8)

Mr. and Mrs. Benny Goodman announce the birth of their first child, Rachel, on 3 May. (*NEWSWEEK*, 17 May, page 8)

Inflation is hitting the US economy very hard and the Office of Price Administration (OPA) issued orders reducing food costs by 2½% and instituting price ceilings. Inflation was exacerbated by wage increases and the new 48-hour work-week mandated for miners and steel workers. (*NEWSWEEK*, 17 May, page 54)

2. General military news:

No United States news outlet broadcasts weather forecasts as it is considered militarily sensitive information.

The Army Staff began moving into the Pentagon in January.

Lieutenant General Brehon Somervell stated before Congress that the US Army won't be fully equipped until late 1944. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 22)

Railroads play a big role in moving forces. In WWI, the average soldier moved 3 times by rail. In WWII, he moves an average of 8 times. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 85)

US severs diplomatic relationships with French Martinique (Caribbean), where the aircraft carrier *Bearn* and the cruiser *Emile Bertin* are anchored. Secretary of State Cordell Hull told French Admiral George Robert that he was a tool of Hitler. (*TIME*, 3 May, page 21)

Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the US Maritime Commission, stated that US Shipyards had built 8 million tons of ships in 1942, and were on track to build 19 million tons in 1943. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 30)

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) will be 1 year old as of the week of 17 May 1943. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 55)

US and Canadian Doctors have perfected treatment for frozen feet and other appendages that resulted in a much greater reduction in amputations for soldiers and sailors injured by frost wounds received by being in the water from ship sinkings in the North Atlantic. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 75)

Selective Service Director MG Lewis Hershey, announces that beginning in August, fathers will be drafted to help the military reach its target of 11 million men. (*TIME*, 17 May, page 68)

MG(ret) Stephen Fuqua of NEWSWEEK dies at age 68 just prior to traveling overseas as a war correspondent. (*NEWSWEEK*, 24 May, page 29)

By May 1943, Film Comedian Joe E. Brown has traveled 32,000 miles entertaining soldiers on his own money as a tribute to his son, Captain Don Brown, killed in a bomber crash in October, 1942. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 56)

3. Fort Hancock and HDNY Specific:

A Chemical Decontamination unit (Men from Mars) is formed at Fort Hancock to enable decontamination from a major chemical attack on the fortifications. (*SandyHook Foghorn*, 2 Apr 1943, page 1)

New York Yankees and New York Giants baseball teams play against Fort Hancock's baseball team. The Yankees go easy, but the Giants clobber Fort Hancock. BG Gage and Yankee's manager Joe McCarthy are on the cover of the *Foghorn* as BG Gage throws the first pitch (*SandyHook Foghorn*, 9 Apr 1943, page 1 & 3)

Dentists at Fort Hancock have seen 3,000 "sittings" per month in a significant effort to improve dental health. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 9 Apr 1943, page 4*)

Soldiers who are classified "1B" are conducting exercise classes to build strength to be classified "1A" to enable promotions and stationing overseas. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 16 Apr 1943, page 4*)

The movie "Slightly Dangerous" costarring Robert Young and Lana Turner will be shown in the Post Theater. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 16 Apr 1943, page 4*)

LTG Hugh Drum visits Fort Hancock and inspects fortifications and soldiers. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 22 Apr 1943, page 1*)

Gasoline consumption by Army vehicles at Fort Hancock has been cut 20% in the past six months. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 22 Apr 1943, page 1*)

Wife of COL Haw recognized for bravery in putting out a grease fire that badly burned both her cook (Mrs. McGonegel) and herself. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 29 Apr 1943, page 1*)

Fort Hancock boxers beat Royal (British) Navy and Marine boxers. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 29 Apr 1943, page 1*)

LT Urmay has overseen Fort Hancock's scrap (recycle) drive and 1.4 million pounds of scrap materials since 1942. 20-inch Rodman shells are part of the scrap drive. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 29 Apr 1943, page 4*)

Administrative soldiers spend a few days working Gas Masks, conducting their jobs and learning how to communicate effectively wearing the masks. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 6 May 1943, page 1*)

Wool yarn is distributed to officer's wives to knit gloves, sweaters and scarves for soldiers overseas. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 9 May 1943, page 4*)

62 soldiers are sent to college course to prepare for Officer Candidate School. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 6 May 1943, page 1*)

\$5,000 worth of Coffee and Doughnuts served to soldiers at Fort Hancock fortifications during the winter by the Red Cross canteen mobile. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 9 May 1943, page 4*)

Detachment of 60 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) soldiers to arrive soon at Fort Hancock. They will work in the Harbor Defense and Post Headquarters, Post Quarter Master Office, Ordnance Office, and Hospital. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 13 May 1943, page 1*)

CPL Andrew Lawson, selected for Officer Candidate School, saves child from drowning in Harlem River. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 20 May 1943, page 1*)

Metropolitan Opera Stars Gladys Swarthout, Lawrence Tibbett and Lily Pons will perform at Fort Hancock. (*Sandy Hook Foghorn, 20 May 1943, page 4*)

4. Overseas War News:

Seventeen months ago the United States Declared War on Japan (8 Dec 1941). Germany declared war on the US on 11 Dec 1941.

Japanese Prime Minister Tojo appoints Ambassador Mamoru Shigemitsu, reportedly a moderate, as new Foreign Minister to Japan. (*TIME, 3 May, page 36*)

Of American merchant ships total of 1,150 at the start of the war, 700 are unofficially reported sunk. (*TIME, 10 May, page 30*)

Nazi Germany's U-Boat fleet commander, Admiral Karl Doenitz, is on the cover of the 10 May edition of TIME Magazine. Admiral King stated in the first week of May that "The submarine menace...is being dealt with...we expect to bring it under control in four to six months." April's losses were the lowest of the year so far (*TIME, 10 May, page 30*)

Germany's surface fleet has one major battleship (*Tirpitz*), two battle cruisers (*Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*), two pocket battleships (*Admiral Scheer* and *Lutzow*), about ten light and heavy cruisers, and about 30 destroyers. All of Germany's capital ships are in either home or Norwegian waters. They could break out into the Atlantic at any time. (*TIME, 10 May, page 28-30*) (The modern fast battleships *USS South Dakota* and *USS Alabama* are stationed with the British Home Fleet to guard against Nazi surface ships. The oldest US battleships, *USS Texas*, *USS*

New York and USS Arkansas escort Allied forces to Europe and the Mediterranean theaters.)

- The British and US Armies are, for the first time, combining Infantry and Armor in the same units. Tank Divisions were getting organic assigned infantry units as a result of lessons learned in North Africa. (*TIME*, 10 May, page 55)
- First major Nazi surrender in North Africa is brokered by Nazi Major General Fritz Krause, commander of the German sector near Bizerte. (*TIME*, 17 May, page 26)
- By 7 May, Tunis and Bizerte had fallen as German troops retreated to the Cape Bon Peninsula in Tunisia. (*NEWSWEEK*, 17 May, page 20)
- On 11 May the US began to recapture the Aleutian Islands in Alaska from Japan by announcing that it had occupied Amchitka Island in the Aleutians - 70 miles from Japanese held Kiska Island - beginning the American drive to recapture the Aleutian Islands in Alaska from Japan. (*NEWSWEEK*, 17 May, page 27)
- At 7:52 PM on 12 May, Allied HQ North Africa announced the end of all organized Axis resistance in North Africa. Over 175,000 Axis Prisoners of War were captured. (*NEWSWEEK*, 24 May, page 23)

By order of BG Gage:

(signed)
George A. Crocker
Lieutenant Colonel, GSC
Ass't Chief of Staff (G-3)

OFFICIAL:

David R. Sutherland,
Lieutenant Colonel, GSC
Ass't Chief of Staff, (G-2)