

THE FOURTH CHIME

# THE FOURTH CHIME



NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY

1944

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*WHEN the title "The Fourth Chime" was chosen for this book there was no question as to its fitness.*

*The Fourth Chime, a note added to the familiar NBC three-chime signal, is the exclusive property of the Newsroom of the National Broadcasting Company; rings out from the NBC Newsroom only when events of major historical importance occur.*

*Contrived originally as a confidential "alert" to effect the immediate gathering of those members of the NBC news staffs, engineers and other operating personnel responsible for broadcasting the news to the people, NBC's Fourth Chime has come to be significantly identified with every major news break of the past seven years.*

*The Fourth Chime was first used by NBC News and Special Events in 1937, when the Hindenburg exploded at Lakehurst; again in 1938, when it became apparent that the political artifices leading to the Munich crisis were making news affecting the future of every American citizen. Its dramatic notes were sounded the day news came of the Pearl Harbor attack. They were heard again that early D Day morning when word flashed that the first wave of the Allied assault had beached on the Normandy coast of France.*

*The Fourth Chime will ring out again and again from the NBC Newsroom in New York whenever events of utmost significance demand the intensive nationwide coverage of the news the American people have come to expect from the National Broadcasting Company.*



# CONTENTS

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	PAGE
Introduction	8
NBC Newsroom Calling	11
The Door That Is Never Closed	12
Prelude to War, 1931-1937	14
NBC News and Special Events, 1931-1937	16
Peace at Any Price, 1938	26
NBC News and Special Events, 1938	28
War, 1939-1941	48
NBC News and Special Events, 1939-1941	50
America at War, 1942-1943	83
America at War on the Home Front, 1942-1943	110
Prelude to Victory, January 1—May 31, 1944	118
NBC Stands By for Invasion	135
NBC at the Battle Fronts, 1942-1944	140
NBC on the Home Front, 1942-1944	160
Conclusion	170

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The above telegram was dispatched to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on December 7, 1941, a few minutes after the nation's radios had flashed the bulletin:

# "THE JAPS HAVE ATTACKED PEARL HAR

On that day, when the United States was plunged into global war, NBC shifted overnight from peacetime to wartime broadcasting.

It was no accident that NBC was ready. Months before, anticipating such a crisis,

NBC had prepared and drawn up plans to operate under war conditions.

First to be placed on a war basis was NBC's News and Special Events Division, which immediately began operating on a 24-hour-a-day schedule.



**OR, HAWAII!"**

This book tells the story of that newsroom from 1931 through June 7, 1944 — the story of its contribution to a democratic society in peace and in war — a story that only a free radio operating in the interests of a free people can tell.



DAVID SARNOFF



# NBC NEWSROOM CALLING

*Come in* LONDON . . .

*Go Ahead* MOSCOW . . .

*Take it Away* NAPLES . . .

*NBC Newsroom calls . . . familiar calls . . .* symbols of the brilliant role played by NBC's News and Special Events Division during the bloodiest, most treacherous thirteen years in all history, 1931-1944.

Thirteen years in which two diametric systems of government and ways of life locked in a death struggle . . .

Thirteen years in which the Democracies — individually willful and indifferent — awoke to stand side by side in their greatest hour of danger . . .

Thirteen years in which the democratic individual, pitted against the ideologies of the Totalitarian State, struggled with his indifference, his occasional awareness of danger, doubts and fears, tragic alarm, to develop a stern determination, a will to victory, an unswerving devotion to the ideals of Democracy . . .

Thirteen years in which the Balcony Caesars and Beer Hall Napoleons, founding their dream empires on the suppression of the individual and the supremacy of the State, had their moments of triumph only to discover that history repeats itself.

During those thirteen fateful years, the National Broadcasting Company brought to the American people a day-by-day global account of the events which were shaping their destiny; did much to prepare them for the role they are so splendidly playing today.



## THE DOOR THAT

**D**OMINATING the prodigious gray limestone buildings that extend above Radio City's twelve teeming acres is the thin, slab-like pile of the RCA Building. On the fourth floor, opening off one of NBC's long corridors, is an ordinary door sandwiched between bustling offices. It bears the simple identification "404—News and Special Events."



# IS NEVER CLOSED

*This door is never locked, not even closed.* Behind it is a small, unpretentious office whose lights are always on — Room 404, headquarters of NBC's efficient News and Special Events Department. Over this room, more compact than a trailer kitchen, hangs a kind of restless but disciplined din; phone bells cut short with quick responses, the metallic tattoo of typewriters, the incessant chatter of teletype machines that hammer out an agitated world's hopes and fears.

By trans-ocean phone, radiogram and telegram, seasoned NBC correspondents on duty at the world's strategic centers send eye-witness reports to Room 404; supplementing these swift channels of information are the endless yards of factual wire copy from the teletypes of The Associated Press, United Press and International News Service.

At sixty words a minute, 24 hours a day, this deluge of news reports spills into Room 404 — a harvest of words that must be sifted, separated and bound into five- and fifteen-minute bundles of radio news before it goes out over NBC microphones. This is done by a staff of writers and editors who have developed a style of writing that is inimitably "radio." These men, numbering less than a dozen, turn out *daily* more than two-score network and local news programs.

Buttressed against a nearby wall are two glass-enclosed "speaker" studios. From here NBC home-front commentators broadcast the news "while it is happening"; from here trained technicians sitting at a monitoring board no larger than a child's desk push tiny buttons that bring to millions of Americans the voices of NBC correspondents scattered throughout the world.

From this "Room 404," the home of the Fourth Chime, NBC news broadcasts, accepted by millions as unbiased, unprejudiced and truthful, in themselves give purpose and substance to radio as a vigorous instrument of Democracy.

# PRELUDE TO WAR . . .

---

## 1931

Japan invades Manchuria.

## 1932

Conference at Geneva to limit and reduce armaments.

Roosevelt elected for first time.

## 1933

Hitler comes to power.

Japan gives notice of intention to withdraw from League of Nations.

Germany withdraws from Disarmament Conference and begins to rearm.

21 American Republics meet at Montevideo, agree upon principles for peaceful international relations.

United States and Soviet Russia renew normal diplomatic relations.

## 1934

Japan and United States confer to determine Japan's ambitions in East.

## 1935

Italy invades and conquers Ethiopia.

Saar Basin transferred to Germany.

Hitler reinstates universal military service.

## 1936

Civil War in Spain.

Hitler occupies and fortifies the demilitarized Rhineland.

Japan joins Germany in Anti-Comintern Pact.

Second year of London Naval Conference.

Japan protests 5-5-3 ratio—withdraws.

Inter-American Peace Conference of the 21 American Republics at Buenos Aires.

Roosevelt elected for second time.

## 1937

Japan invades China in "undeclared war".

Japanese shells sink U. S. gunboat Panay in Yangtze River. Two American lives lost.

Italy joins Germany and Japan in Anti-Comintern Pact.

# 1931-1937

**T**HE seven years before Munich — seven years in which Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito perfected their plans to plunge the entire world into the most destructive war of all time . . .

The seven years in which these leaders of the three robber nations practiced and perfected the art of blitzkrieg on helpless, weaker nations: Japan on Manchuria and China, Italy on Ethiopia, Italy and Germany on Spain . . .

The seven years in which the Democracies of the world—the United States, England, France and the South American Republics — shut their eyes against the truth; refused to take a decisive stand against the aggressors; tried to stem through peaceful means the onrushing tide of blood . . .

The seven years in which the masses of people in the United States varied their daily conversations with accounts of bread lines and the Lindbergh kidnapping; New Deal, apple vendors, the fall of the mighty Insull empire, the disappearance of Amelia Earhart; Federal dole, the birth of the Dionne quintuplets, PWA, NRA, CCC, the capture of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker; TVA, sit-down strikes, crime; the Bonus March on Washington, the assassination of Huey Long, the repeal of prohibition . . .

Seven years of uneasy peace for the Democracies that witnessed the 6,000-mile air flight led by General Italo Balbo from Rome to the Century of Progress Exhibition at Chicago; the Paris and British Expositions, Picard's flight into the stratosphere, the assassination of Dollfuss, the death of King George V of England, the accession and abdication of King Edward VIII, the coronation of King Leopold, the maiden voyages of the Hindenburg, Queen Mary and the Normandie, the kidnapping of Chiang Kai-shek, the Olympics in Berlin, the Hindenburg disaster, Wimbledon tennis matches, eclipse of the sun.



## NBC NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

**D**URING those seven years, the National Broadcasting Company, only five years old in 1931, sent reporters far afield to gather both national and international news. These men and women, scattered throughout Europe, Asia, North and South America, broadcast to the American people firsthand, eye-witness accounts of the succession of world events which led to Pearl Harbor.

From NBC's headquarters in New York, two men, who combined reportorial with executive skill, were sent to Europe with instructions to establish offices, to report the growing unrest on

the Continent, to watch the politicians, dictators and statesmen who held the destiny of the world in their hands.

Max Jordan, as NBC's Central and Eastern European representative, established his office in Basle; Fred Bate, as NBC's Western European representative, maintained his first office in Paris, moved in 1933 to London.

The combined skill of these two men, of the men directing activities from NBC's Newsroom in New York, and of the trained reporters stationed throughout the world, revealed to the American people as never before the intricacies



## 1931-1937

of European and Asiatic diplomacy; the social, political and economic conditions in their own country.

The American people, avid for this new and instructive method of reporting the news, sat down to 14 million radio sets in 1931—33 million in 1937—59 million in 1943.

### PLACES

During those seven years before Munich, NBC News and Special Events, *then operating for both the Red and Blue Networks*, broadcast direct from England, Vatican City, France,

Germany, Australia, Italy, Japan, Poland, Holland, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, Austria, Manchuria, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Eritrea, Finland, Spain, India, China, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, and Hungary; from Palestine, Portugal, Ethiopia, Java, Hawaii, Scotland, Siam, Fiji Islands, British Guiana, Dutch East Indies, Philippines, Canton Island; from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Honduras, South Africa, Iceland, Alaska, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bermuda, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, Salvador, Cook Islands.



*A Queen—Wilhelmina of Holland*



*An Austrian Housepainter and a Prussian Aristocrat—  
Hitler and von Hindenburg*



*A King—Albert of Belgium*



*A Traitor—Pierre Laval of France*



*A Chancellor—von Schuschnigg of Austria*



*A Patriot—Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia*

## PEOPLE

During those seven years, NBC microphones carried to America the voices of the men and women who were then shaping the destiny of the world—David Lloyd George, Pope Pius XI, Neville Chamberlain, General Pershing, Paul Reynaud, H. G. Wells, Ramsay MacDonald, Pierre Laval, Lord Robert Cecil, Marconi, Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, Mahatma

Gandhi, Mussolini, Prince of Wales, von Hindenburg, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph of Sweden, Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, Captain Hugo Eckener, Winston Churchill, King Albert of Belgium, Pierre Flandin, Franz von Papen, Stanley Baldwin, Josef Goebbels, Rudolph Hess, President Roosevelt, Anthony Eden, Queen Wilhelmina, Italo Balbo, Adolf Hitler, Kurt



*A Premier—Leon Blum of France*



*A President and an Aeronaut—Roosevelt of the United States and Hugo Eckener of Germany*



*A Rabble-Rouser—Mussolini*



*A General—Pershing of the U. S. Army*



*An Ambassador—von Papen of Germany*



*A Leader—Mohandus K. Gandhi of India*

*A Foreign Minister—Anthony Eden of Great Britain*

Sehusehnigg, Chancellor Dollfuss, Count Ciano, Mme. Litvinoff, Haile Selassie and his Empress Menen, General Weygand, Edouard Benes, King Edward VIII, King Haakon, King Christian, King Gustav, the Presidents of the South American Republics, Sumner Welles, Crown Prince Olaf of Norway, Leon Blum, President LeBrun, Jan Masaryk, Dr. Wellington Koo, George V of England, Manuel Quezon.





1931. Jap invaders approach Manchurian coast



1935. Haile Selassie's poorly equipped troops prove no match for invading Italians



1932. The New Jap Order in Manchuria



1937. Japs bomb and sink U. S. gunboat Panay in Yangtze River, China

1933. Adolph Hitler greets Rudolph Hess as Goering and Goebbels look on



## EVENTS • 1931-1937

During those seven years, NBC News and Special Events took the American people to the battle fronts in Manchuria with Floyd Gibbons... carried them to the Disarmament Conference with forty-two broadcasts direct from Geneva... gave them Hitler, Goebbels and Goering in person... sat with them at two Inter-American Peace



1932. 43 nations meet at Geneva to discuss reduction of armaments



1933. 21 American republics discuss peaceful relations at Montevideo



1936. Civil-war-torn Spain provides Axis opportunity to test new type of warfare



1936. First goose-step to world conquest sounds in the streets of Saarbrücken

Conferences at Montevideo and Buenos Aires...

brought into their homes the Ethiopian invasion and the Spanish Civil War through the voice of Floyd Gibbons direct from those war zones . . .

introduced them to Mussolini and Ciano . . .

reported Hitler's occupation of the demilitarized Rhineland and the stalemate at the London Naval Conference . . .

invited them to Berlin for the first meeting of Hitler and Mussolini . . .

1933. Franklin D. Roosevelt takes oath of office in Washington, D. C.





1936. Death ends the 26-year reign of Britain's beloved monarch, George V of England



1936. King Edward VIII abdicates



1934. Dillinger's career ends



1932. Veterans of World War I demand bonus payment



1934. End of U. S. Army's balloon flight

1936. Fifty-three nations send top athletes to 11th Olympic Games at Berlin



carried them to the World Economic Conference in a "two-way" broadcast between John Maynard Keynes (now Lord Keynes) from London and Walter Lippmann in New York.

On the more peaceful side of the news, NBC, in cooperation with the British Broadcasting Corporation, followed and reported to America the destinies of the Royal House of Windsor; the jubilee events celebrating the twenty-five year reign of King George V, the funeral of that monarch so soon after; the proclamation of the Prince of Wales as King Edward VIII, his



1937. George VI is crowned King and Emperor



1937. Amelia Earhart Putnam before her last flight



1935. Hauptmann is found guilty



1933. A 13-year drought ends with the repeal of prohibition



1934. Labor unrest comes to violent head

abdication "for the woman I love"; the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth . . .

NBC microphones were there at the wedding of Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard . . .

at Canton Island for the eclipse of the sun . . .

at the Wimbledon tennis matches, the Olympics in Berlin, the winter Olympics at Garmisch . . .

NBC microphones were hauled 13,669 feet to the top of the Jungfrau; dropped into the heat of Vesuvius . . .

1934. Mrs. Dionne and the five little girls whose birth electrified the world





1935. The Lion of Judah and Her Majesty Kaiserin Elge Menen talk to America during the first broadcasts ever made from Ethiopia



1935. NBC covers the maiden voyage of France's majestic Normandie

1936. NBC's Max Jordan's broadcast from the Hindenburg is the first of its kind



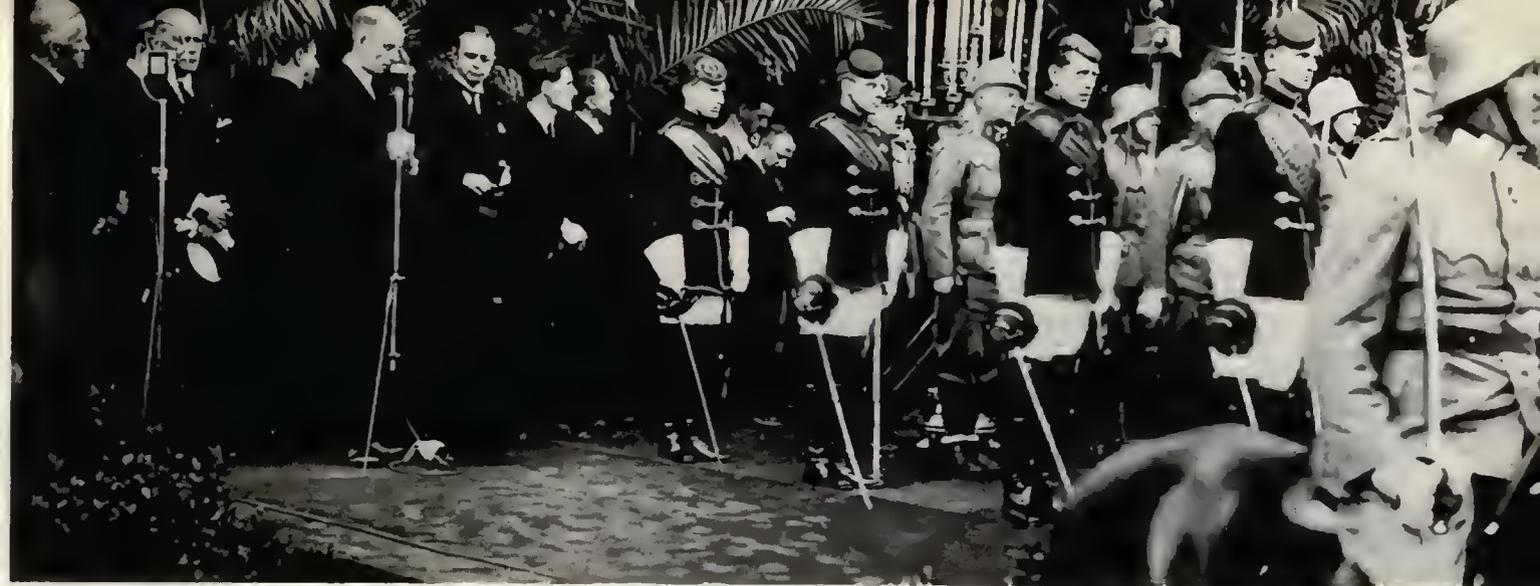
travelled on the Graf Zeppelin; recorded the stratosphere flight of Professor August Picard at Zurich, Switzerland . . .

were aboard the Queen Mary and Normandie on their maiden voyages to New York City . . .

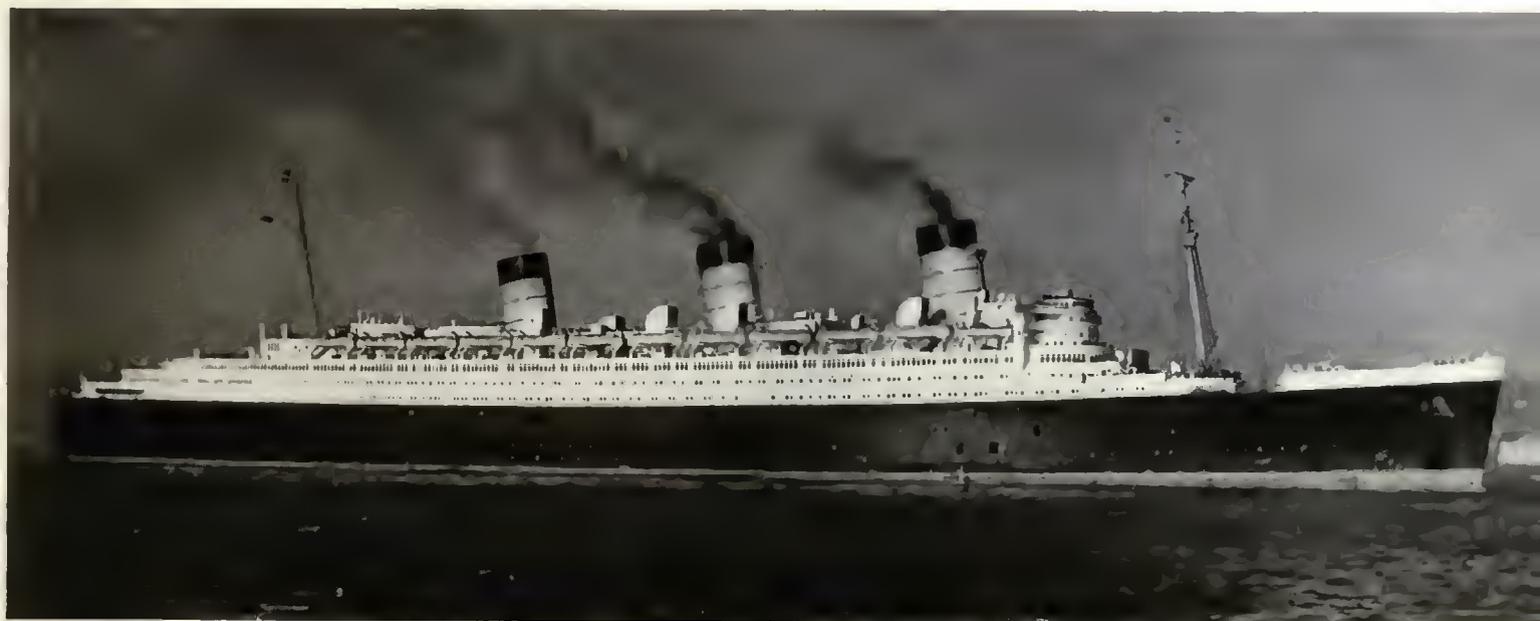
gave to America the only broadcast at the bier of Chancellor Dollfuss . . .

the first broadcasts from Ethiopia when Emperor Haile Selassie and his empress spoke to America with Count Ciano an unwitting participant . . .

the first broadcast from the Hindenburg, the



1934. From the bier of Dollfuss, NBC's Max Jordan gives exclusive eye-witness account of the funeral of the assassinated Austrian Chancellor



1936. NBC covers the record breaking maiden voyage to America of England's Queen Mary

first of its kind in radio history . . .

the first broadcast to America from Bulgaria . . .

the first eye-witness account of the Hindenburg disaster.

These were the seven years, ending in 1937, in which NBC News and Special Events established its reputation for getting *all the news where it was happening, when it was happening*; set a standard of radio news reporting that has won the loyalty and enthusiastic acceptance of the American people.

1937. NBC's account of the Hindenburg's lost flight makes history



# PEACE AT

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## **MARCH 11**

German troops cross the frontier into Austria

## **SEPTEMBER 12**

Hitler speaks at Nuremberg; threatens Czechoslovakia

## **SEPTEMBER 29**

Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier and Chamberlain meet at Munich;  
Great Britain and France hand over Sudetenland to Germany

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# ANY PRICE • 1938

**A** YEAR of three significant dates: March 11, September 12, September 29 . . .  
A year in which Hitler, arming at a feverish pace, showed his hand to the world by annexing Austria, by demanding and getting the Sudetenland . . .

A year in which, against all precedent, a British Prime Minister travelled twice to Germany to plead personally for world peace . . .

A year in which a brave little Democracy, Czechoslovakia, was forced to give over much of its lands, industries and freedom to Germany . . .

A year in which Mussolini made a definite stand by the side of Germany preparatory to his invasion of Albania and Greece and his “stab in the back” of France . . .

A year in which America and the South American Republics met for the third time in seven years to perpetuate Inter-American peace and solidarity . . .

A year in which the American people talked about the growing menace of Germany and Italy, 10,000,000 jobless men and women, the New England hurricane, Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men,” night baseball, the Yanks’ defeat of the Cubs in the World Series, “Wrong Way” Corrigan, the Donald Coster (Philip Musica) hoax, a bigger Army and Navy, Joe Louis’ defeat of Max Schmeling in 2 minutes 4 seconds of the first round.

# NBC NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS 1938

“**B**E there and get the news!” This was NBC’s blanket order sent by radiogram and trans-ocean phone to the seasoned NBC correspondents on the continent and in England. These men and women responded by bringing to the American people the most comprehensive radio news coverage of that decisive year.



*A frontier barrier is lifted as German troops march into Austria*

## HITLER INVADES AUSTRIA

ON March 11, 1938, Hitler's armies invaded Austria. Twenty-four hours later Hitler made his triumphant entry into Linz. Max Jordan, NBC's European representative, was the first to flash the story to the world. Jordan, located in Vienna, with the aid of a Viennese radio engineer linked Linz and Vienna to New York. The American people heard the ovation given Hitler; heard his speech which sealed the fate of Austria.

Again on March 14 Jordan gave to America

an eye-witness, running account of Hitler's entry into Vienna. From March 12 through March 15, NBC in nine broadcasts gave the story of Austria's annexation . . . and America heard this momentous change take place.

During those four eventful days, NBC reported England's reaction to the Austria coup with nine broadcasts; from France NBC was heard in five broadcasts; from Germany, three; from Italy, one—a total of 27 broadcasts direct from the countries most involved.



# NUREMBERG TO MUNICH • 1938

NUREMBERG, *September 12* — MUNICH, *September 29*

**T**HE eighteen most critical days of the century, during which the American people received more news from NBC than from any other radio news service in the world...

Eighteen days in which America heard over NBC the voices of the leading figures in this drama of betrayal: Dr. Edouard Benes, Adolf Hitler, Neville Chamberlain, Benito Mussolini, Premier Hodza of Czechoslovakia, Maxim Litvinoff, Queen Elizabeth of England, Edouard Daladier, Pope Pius XI . . .

Eighteen days in which NBC broadcast to America from Prague, Nuremberg, Berlin, London, Paris, Munich, Trieste, Godesberg, Geneva, Udine, Cologne, Rome, Padua, Heston Airport, Croydon Airport, Budapest, Glasgow, Brussels, Warsaw, Vatican City.

## SCENE BY SCENE

NBC microphones, set up in every important capital and conference center, carried to the American people, scene by scene, act by act, the greatest political drama of modern times. To the final curtain at Munich, NBC correspondents made radio history by reporting, explaining and analyzing the swiftly-moving events which led to a peace broken a short six months later by Hitler's move on Czechoslovakia.



*Sept. 12. At Nuremberg the Reichsfuehrer makes known his demands on Czechoslovakia*

*President Benes pledges his people will fight for freedom*



### **SEPTEMBER 10**

From Prague, NBC listeners hear the voice of President Edouard Benes plead for European unity . . .

### **SEPTEMBER 12**

The voice of Hitler at Nuremberg is carried by NBC microphones to millions of Americans yet unaware of the portent of this speech. During the applause by 100,000 Nazi Party chiefs, NBC's Max Jordan summarizes his words and gives an eye-witness account of the spectacular scene . . .



*Prague, 1938. The charming old city drowns peacefully in the calm before the storm*

From Prague, a broadcast telling of the reception of Hitler's speech by the Czech Cabinet and by the man-in-the-street . . .

**SEPTEMBER 13**

America hears over NBC the British reaction to Hitler's speech . . .

**SEPTEMBER 14**

Martial law declared in Czechoslovakia. Mobilization considered in England and in France. NBC broadcasts these stories from Prague, Paris and London . . .

*Czechs read declaration of martial law*





Sept. 15. England's Prime Minister en route to meeting with Hitler to try for peaceful solution of Czech problem

Berchtesgarden—where Chamberlain and Hitler met



## SEPTEMBER 15

Chamberlain flies to Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgarden, pauses at Munich Airport where he gives an *exclusive* NBC broadcast to America . . .

From Prague, NBC broadcasts border clashes between Czechs and Sudetens . . .

## SEPTEMBER 16

Chamberlain back in England. At Heston Airport, he gives *another exclusive* NBC interview in which he tells of his meeting with Hitler . . .

From Prague, America hears how the Czechs sum up the Hitler-Chamberlain meeting . . .



*Enforced enthusiasm—Italian style—as Mussolini speaks from balconies at Trieste, Udino, Padua*

From London, the Englishman's reactions, and speculation on results of the midnight meeting of the Cabinet . . .

**SEPTEMBER 17**

From Prague: "The Czechs would rather fight alone than lose without a fight" . . .

**SEPTEMBER 18**

Mussolini at Trieste: "Italy's place is already chosen." Premier Hodza of Czechoslovakia refuses to permit a plebiscite in Sudeten Germany. Daladier and Bonnet arrive at Croydon Airport to confer with Chamberlain. And NBC is there . . .

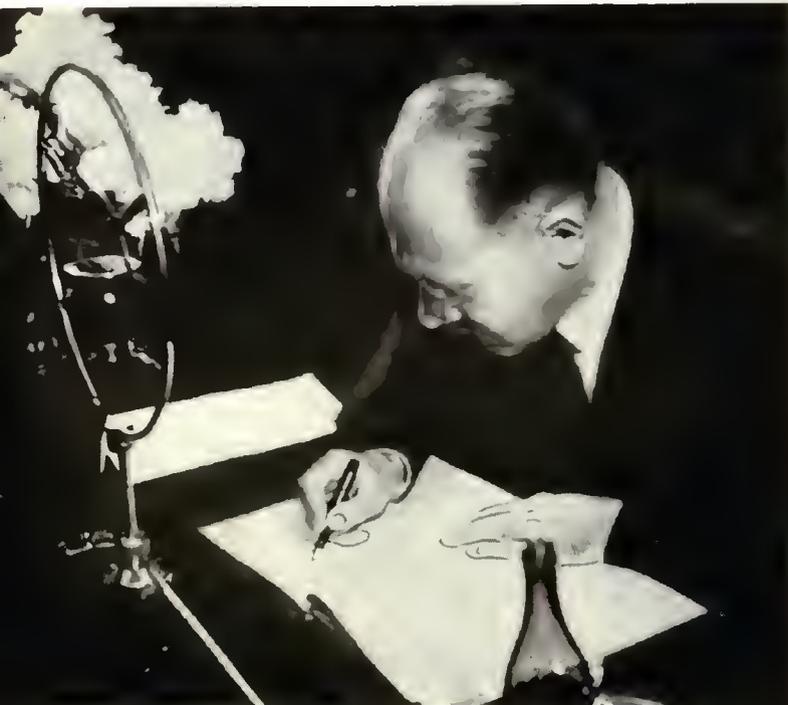
*200,000 Czech citizens pledge their support to their government and democracy*





*Sept. 21. League of Nations hears Russian delegate Maxim Litvinoff express Soviet sympathy for Czech cause*

*Sept. 22. Czech Prime Minister Dr. Milan Hodza, resigns*



### **SEPTEMBER 19**

Britain and France in complete agreement on Czech situation. Germany preparing for war. Second conference between Hitler and Chamberlain proposed. From Prague, to London, to Paris, to Berlin and back to Prague, NBC reports these fast-moving events as they affect each country.

### **SEPTEMBER 20**

Premier Mussolini again speaks to the Italian people at Udine; says that Italy is ready for war. Czechoslovakia stalls for time in a



*An unhappy Czech youngster sees his smiling father leave for the front*

*The Czechs call up army; mobilize on the German frontier*

reply to Great Britain and France. And NBC is there . . .

From Godesberg, Max Jordan, ready for the arrival of Chamberlain, speaks about the importance of the second Hitler-Chamberlain conference. Fred Bate gives the British picture. Demaree Bess of the Saturday Evening Post summarizes the reactions to the situation in a League of Nations meeting at Geneva. G. Ward Price of the London Daily Mail tells of an exclusive interview with Hitler, who says he will invade Czechoslovakia October 1 unless the Sudetenland is ceded . . .





*Sept. 26. To a huge throng at the Sportspalast in Berlin and to the world listening at its radios, Hitler repeats his threat to invade Czechoslovakia if demand for Sudetenland is not met*

### SEPTEMBER 21

Chamberlain takes off for Godesberg. Maxim Litvinoff at Geneva states that Russia is in sympathy with the Czechs. Mussolini speaks again from Treviso. Prague crowds shout for war. And NBC microphones relay the news direct to America . . .

### SEPTEMBER 22

"Hodza government resigns" heard over NBC. And from Godesberg NBC carries a discussion by UP's Edward Beattie on the second Hitler-Chamberlain meeting . . .

### SEPTEMBER 23

Negotiations between Chamberlain and Hitler are abruptly terminated. From Godesberg, Max Jordan predicts the collapse of the conference and reads the official German Government statement on the conference . . .

From London, NBC listeners learn of the bitter reaction in England . . .

From Prague comes a vivid description of the war-darkened city and the Czech mobilizations . . .

### SEPTEMBER 24

Chamberlain returns from Godesberg and



*Sept. 25. Bonnet and Daladier arrive in London, confer with Chamberlain, decide to accept Hitler's invitation to Munich*



*Bomb shelters become common sights in Britain's towns and countryside, as England, hoping for peace, prepares for war*

voices his hope of peace over NBC microphones at Heston Airport . . .

Mussolini speaks before a huge crowd at Padua and is heard in America over NBC . . .

From Geneva, London, Paris, Berlin and Prague, NBC carries hour-by-hour reports of the events that are leading to a crisis . . .

### **SEPTEMBER 25**

From Berlin, Croydon Airport, Budapest, Prague, London and back to Prague, NBC microphones are set up to report the arrival of Daladier and Bonnet in England, the reactions of the London man-in-the-street, the "black-out" of Prague . . .

*Anti-aircraft emplacements near the cherished beauty of English parks*





*Sept. 29. The British Cabinet accompanies Neville Chamberlain to Heston airport as he leaves England to attend 4-Power conference at Munich*

### **SEPTEMBER 26**

Hitler's final demands in his speech at the Sportspalast in Berlin are heard in America and are translated by Max Jordan. Jordan also gives an eye-witness account of the colorful setting. Dr. Paul Josef Goebbels introduces Der Fuehrer . . .

From Paris, America hears from NBC that the city is subdued and blacked out; men are joining their regiments . . .

From London, NBC reports British preparations to resist enemy air attacks, the digging of bombproof shelters in Hyde Park, the mounting of anti-aircraft guns . . .

### **SEPTEMBER 27**

NBC reports: the evacuation of civilians from Paris; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth christening a new liner named in her honor; Neville Chamberlain from 10 Downing Street telling the world his every move for peace in his two visits to Hitler; Prague grimly digging in for an imminent war; Dr. Lowrie in Paris warning American students to be ready to leave Paris; Belgium calling 275,000 to the colors . . .

### **SEPTEMBER 28**

The historic war-or-peace sessions of Parliament are described in detail over NBC micro-



*Sept. 29. Ribbentrop and von Epp greet Chamberlain at Munich*

phones as Neville Chamberlain joyfully announces the news that Hitler has invited him to a conference in Munich to which Mussolini and Daladier are also invited. Wild cheers from the staid members of the House . . .

Premier Daladier is heard from Paris telling Frenchmen of his invitation to the Four Power Conference . . .

A Czech commentator is heard in a summary of events during the past 24 hours . . .

Karl von Wiegand of INS comments on the feeling of relief throughout Germany . . .

NBC's Fred Bate describes the relief of the London populace at the announcement of the Munich Conference . . .



*Sept. 29. Ribbentrop and guard of honor greet arrival of Edouard Daladier at Munich*



Sept. 29. Munich arrival of Benito Mussolini is personally supervised by Adolf Hitler, who escorts him along crowd-lined streets

The "Brown House." Historic scene of the Munich crisis



## SEPTEMBER 29

Munich. At six o'clock in the morning, Max Jordan at an NBC microphone describes the arrival of Daladier and Chamberlain from England, Hitler and Mussolini from the Brenner Pass; again Jordan with a description of the mood of the Munich people . . .

From London, newspaper editorials are read warning the people not to be over-confident . . .

Jordan again relating the smiling demeanor of the four leaders on their departure for luncheon. Twelve noon, Jordan predicts an agreement has been reached . . .

From Vatican City, Pope Pius XI appeals to the world to join in a prayer of peace. English translation follows immediately . . .

Max Jordan reports arrival of two Czech



Sept. 29. *Men of Good Will* (reading from left to right): Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daladier, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Count Ciano

diplomats and forecasts the evacuation of Sudetenland by the Czechs. Jordan announces the arrival of Jan Masaryk . . .

**7:44 P.M.**

*“Stand by for the full text and results of the conference!”*

With these words, Max Jordan from the “Brown House” in Munich gives the “alert” to NBC in New York. A few moments later Jordan reads the text of the *official communiqué*—46 minutes before it was given over any other American network—before it had reached the press—“before it was known in official quarters in London, Paris, or even Berlin!”

Here is Jordan’s own account of what he calls a “lucky break.” “When the dramatic

*NBC’s Max Jordan, who capped his superlative coverage of the Munich crisis by “scooping” press, radio and officialdom—broadcasting to NBC listeners the complete text of the 4-Power conference short minutes after agreement was reached*





*Sept. 30. Neville Chamberlain returns to England, triumphantly waves the "No War" Pact he signed with Hitler*

*Sept. 30. Daladier returns to France with Munich agreement*



hour came and the final protocol was to be signed, I strolled down the main lobby which leads up to Hitler's private study. I noticed a group of British diplomats leaning against the staircase railing. A friend pointed out to me Sir William Strang of the London Foreign Office. I approached him asking for his help to secure the official English text of the statement which was to be released. This he agreed to do, warning me that the conference was about to come to a close.

"I dashed upstairs where the microphone was installed under the roof and frantically called New York to stand by for an important broadcast.

"When I got back to the lobby, the Italian delegation was just rushing out of the building. My British friend seemed to have disappeared



*Oct. 1. Adolf Hitler triumphantly returns to Berlin after the historic peace parley at Munich*

entirely. Somehow, my instinct led me to take the elevator downstairs, and true enough, there were the British . . . and there was my new-found friend, Sir William Strang.

“‘Hey,’ I shouted. (What a way to address a diplomat!) He was standing next to Sir Horace Wilson, who was carrying a bunch of press releases under his arm, ready to distribute them among the correspondents who were waiting at the British delegation’s hotel.

“Strang explained the proposition to Sir Horace, who turned around and handed me the first copy of the conference protocol which up to that moment nobody had seen. I dashed up to my microphone in record time.”

*And five minutes later, one of radio’s most brilliant “scoops” was being broadcast by Jordan to NBC listeners in America.*

*NBC’s Fred Bale covered the 18 days of crisis from England.*



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# NBC MUNICH LOG

*September 9 — September 30*

## 1938

From London, Prague, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Nuremberg, Trieste,  
Godesberg, Geneva, Udine, Cologne, Padua, Budapest, Glasgow,  
Brussels, Warsaw, Vatican City, Rome . . . . . 117 broadcasts

Bulletins, News Flashes, Special Talks, Analyses, and Summaries  
from New York . . . . . 351 broadcasts

**Total 468 broadcasts**

**Total number of broadcast hours . . . . . 46 hours, 37 minutes**

---

WHILE keeping America informed on these world-important crises, NBC News and Special Events adhered to its traditions of broadcasting from abroad all other news of special interest to the American people. During 1938, *from 52 countries, for a total of 589 broadcasts*, NBC reported sports events, music and religious festivals, and many other special programs which helped America to understand and appreciate the culture of Europe, Asia and South America.

## THE WAY OF THE AMERICAS

While the Four Powers were playing with fire at Munich, twenty American Republics at Lima, Peru, sat down together for the third time in seven years to draw up plans to perpetuate a real and lasting peace in the Western Hemisphere. From December 5—December 27, NBC microphones carried for a total of *35 broadcasts* the discussions and results of this conference. America also heard Alfred M. Landon, Secretary Hull, and the leaders of the South American Republics express their views of this historic meeting.

# WAR...

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## 1939

- Mar. 14* Germany attacks and seizes what is left of Czechoslovakia.
- Mar. 22* German troops enter Memel.
- Apr. 7* Italy invades Albania.
- Aug. 24* Russia and Germany sign Non-Aggression Pact.
- Sept. 1* Germany invades Poland.
- Sept. 3* England and France declare war on Germany.
- Sept. 19* Hitler enters Danzig.
- Sept. 28* Russia seizes Estonia.
- Oct. 5* Russia seizes Latvia.
- Oct. 10* Russia seizes Lithuania.
- Nov. 30* Russia invades Finland.
- Dec. 17* Graf Spee is scuttled at Montevideo.

## 1940

- Apr. 9* Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
- May 10* Germany invades Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland. Neville Chamberlain resigns and is succeeded by Winston Churchill.
- Last week of May.* Withdrawal from Dunkerque.
- June 10* Italy declares war on England and France.
- June 17* Petain asks for terms of Armistice.
- June 22* French-German Armistice is signed at Compiègne Forest.
- Aug. 8* Germany begins air blitz of England.
- Sept. 3* Great Britain and the United States agree to exchange Atlantic base sites for fifty U. S. destroyers.
- Sept. 13* First Axis Libyan offensive.
- Sept. 16* U. S. Selective Service Act passed by Congress.

- Sept. 23* Inter-American Conference at Havana.
- Sept. 27* Japan joins Rome-Berlin Axis.
- Oct. 28* Italy invades Greece.
- Nov. 5* Roosevelt elected for third term.

## 1941

- Jan. 7* Siege of Italian-held Tobruk begins.
  - Jan. 22* British take Tobruk.
  - Mar. 9* Italians begin retreat in Ethiopia.
  - Mar. 11* U. S. passes lend-lease legislation.
  - Mar. 13* British and German planes cross Channel in reciprocal bombing missions.
  - Apr. 6* Germany attacks Yugoslavia and Greece.
  - Apr. 13* Japan and Russia sign five-year neutrality pact.
  - Apr. 23* Greece defeated and army disbanded.
  - May 5* Haile Selassie sits again on throne at Addis Ababa.
  - May 12* Rudolf Hess lands in Scotland.
  - May 21* Germany invades Crete.
  - June 1* Britain withdraws from Crete.
  - June 22* Germany invades Russia. U. S. troops occupy British Guiana.
  - Aug. 14* Churchill and Roosevelt meet at sea to draw up Atlantic Charter.
  - Nov. 27* Ethiopia cleared of Italian forces.
  - Dec. 7* Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.
  - Dec. 8* United States and Great Britain declare war on Japan.
  - Dec. 11* United States declares war on Germany and Italy.
  - Dec. 13* Guam captured by Japanese.
  - Dec. 24* Japs capture Wake Island.
  - Dec. 25* British Crown Colony of Hongkong surrendered to Japs.
-

# 1939-1941

**T**HE three years before America's entry into the war. Three years in which the Axis appeared invincible. Three black years in which Germany overran all Europe; sank an alarming amount of allied shipping with her submarine wolf packs; betrayed her Russian ally by invading the Soviet Union without warning . . .

Three black years in which France capitulated; Greece went down in honorable defeat; England lost her arms but saved her army at Dunkirk; retreated from Crete; endured and fought off Germany's air blitz; began reprisal raids on Germany with the help of increasing numbers of United States bombers; fought back and forth in the African desert . . .

Three black years in which Mussolini, watching his opportunities, stabbed France in the back; invaded helpless Albania; found the Greeks more than he could handle alone; saw his first empire conquest, Ethiopia, returned to its emperor, Haile Selassie. . .

Three black years in which Russia played for time against her future enemy, Germany, by signing a Non-Aggression Pact with Hitler; strengthened her frontiers by seizing Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; found Finnish warriors equal to her own; entered into a five-year neutrality pact with Japan; retreated toward Moscow against the superior fighting ability of the German armies . . .

Three black years in which Japan played diplomatic cat-and-mouse with the United States, culminating in her treacherous attack at Pearl Harbor.

# NBC NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS 1939-1941

Conscious of its obligation to the American people, NBC News and Special Events dispatched correspondents to every quarter of the globe, to every important world capital, to every war front, to the battlefields of the belligerents. These men and women, with great personal daring and devotion to their cause, reported to America, hour by hour, day by day, the story of a world at war.

For these three years, NBC kept America constantly aware of the shifting tide of events . . . *from 49 countries, for a total of 4,818 broadcasts*, NBC microphones carried the war into American homes . . . schooled the American people in global thinking which did much to condition and prepare a peace-loving nation for its inevitable role as a fighting ally of the then-warring Democracies.

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These are the nineteen men and women who in 4,818 vivid broadcasts from 26 European capitals during the three-year period—1939-1941—gave American listeners, tuned to both NBC networks, an accurate, on-the-spot, eyewitness accounting of a Europe divided against itself for the second time in a single generation.



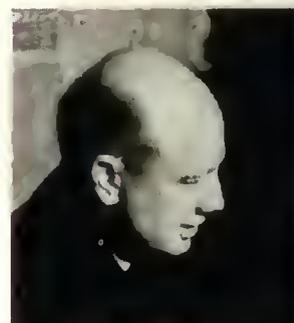
*John MacVane  
from London*



*Dorothy Thompson  
from Paris and London*



*John Gunther  
from Paris and London*



*Warren Irvin  
from Helsinki and Berlin*



*Paul Archinard  
from Paris, Bordeaux, Vichy*



*Alex Dreier  
from Berlin*



*H. R. Baukhage  
from Paris and Berlin*



*Theodore W. Knauth  
from Berlin*



*Max Jordan, NBC's Central and  
Eastern European representative*



*Fred Bate, NBC's Western  
European representative*



*Helen Hiell  
from Paris and Bordeaux*



*Pierre van Paassen  
from Paris*



*Grant Parr  
from Berlin*



*Quentin Reynolds  
from Paris*



*Phillip R. MacKenzie  
from Rome*



*Charles Lanius  
from Rome*



*William Kerker  
from Berlin*



*Margaret Rupli  
from Holland*



*Edward Stevens  
from Helsinki*



*Six months after Munich, Nazi mechanized units thunder through Prague streets as Hitler seizes what is left of Czechoslovakia*

*Memel turns out to greet Adolf Hitler*



## NBC IN CZECHO MEMEL, POLAND,

From March 14 to September 19, 1939, Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, entered Memel, attacked Poland, occupied Danzig.

Over NBC microphones, America heard, together with daily running accounts of the occupation of Prague, Joachim von Ribbentrop speaking on the German plans for Czechoslovakia . . . as Hitler entered Memel, his speech and his welcome were broadcast over NBC to America . . .



*One year after Munich, Nazi bombs blast the streets of Warsaw as Hitler invades and conquers Poland*

*Danzig Nazis welcome their hero*

## SLOVAKIA, DANZIG • 1939

NBC's Max Jordan from Berlin gave America the first word of Hitler's official demands on Poland over NBC microphones . . .

from Danzig, August 20, Max Jordan warned America that Hitler would occupy Danzig, a prediction confirmed on September 19 when NBC microphones carried Hitler's speech at Danzig and a description of his reception.





*General Winter slows down the Russian offensive on the Suonassalmi front in Finland*

## **NBC IN FINLAND • 1939-1940**

Finland was invaded by Russia on November 30, 1939. For nearly five months Finland held out, only to sue for peace on March 12, 1940. During those five months, NBC's Warren Irvin and Edmund Stevens broadcast from Helsinki and the Mannerheim Line *40 eye-witness accounts* of the struggle. It was Warren Irvin

who, setting up his NBC microphone at the front lines, broadcast to America for the first time in the history of radio the sound of actual battle-front gunfire. America also heard the voices of Premier Risto Ryti and Vaino Tanner, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that Finland could hold out no longer.



*Finnish soldier stalking the enemy in forest of snow-covered Karezien Isthmus in vicinity of the Mannerheim line*

*Camouflaged Soviet infantry attacking during the fighting in Finland*





*A surprised Denmark is forced to submit to the Nazi horde*

## NBC IN DENMARK, NORWAY, BELGIUM,

On April 9, 1940, Hitler invaded Denmark and Norway. Denmark capitulated, Norway fought valiantly for a month. On May 10, Hitler invaded Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland. Belgium and Holland, fighting desperately, finally laid down their arms. A year before Hitler struck, Max Jordan went to the Low Countries to report back to America the reactions of these threatened people; told of their general dis-

quiet, their fear of invasion, their desire to remain neutral at all costs. Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and King Leopold of Belgium also were heard in America over NBC microphones.

During the short month that it took Hitler to overrun these countries, Max Jordan from Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Holland, Margaret Rupli from Holland, Louis Quievercaux from Belgium, Sven Carstensen from Norway



*Norway fights heroically for a month—but Quislings have done their work well*

## LUXEMBOURG, HOLLAND • 1940

related to America a blow-by-blow description of the fall of these countries.

“This is Louise Wight of NBC speaking to you from Amsterdam. The air raid warnings are sounding. Just listen to them. And now I’ve got to clear out of here! Goodbye!”

“Batting” for Margaret Rupli, who had been forced to flee the country, Louise Wight, in her

*Tiny Duchy of Luxembourg is no match for Nazi swarms*





*Belgium fights desperately, but Nazi might and Fifth Column force capitulation*

first appearance before a microphone, sent this story to America—the first to come out of Holland after Hitler's armies had struck that country—the first broadcast to carry the shrieking sound of air raid sirens to America.

Jordan of the Seven League Boots again "scooped" his radio colleagues with his broadcast of the Nazi capture of the American cargo vessel, *City of Flint*. Jordan, several jumps ahead of rival radio reporters who had the same

idea, flew to Moscow but the vessel had gone; flew next, 1,500 miles across the Baltic Sea to Stockholm; journeyed by train to Oslo, where he learned that the skipper was leaving for Bergen. Blizzards and military restrictions prevented Jordan from flying to Bergen. He got his story to America by hooking up Oslo with Bergen by telephone, relaying his interview with the skipper by air from Oslo to the high-powered transmitters of Geneva, Switzerland.



*The brave Dutch are bombed and blitzed into submission*

*The City of Flint leaving Bergen after NBC's dramatic broadcast to America by the skipper of this famous ship*





*Anti-aircraft gun emplacements are the last word in Paris fashions in 1939*

## NBC IN FRANCE • 1939-1941

From Paris to the Maginot Line, to Bordeaux, to Tours, to Compiègne Forest, to Vichy—this was the itinerary of NBC correspondents who watched and reported the fall of France in 438 broadcasts directly to America.

In 1939, the year of the “phoney” war, NBC microphones, set up on the Maginot Line on Christmas Eve, carried to America a mass con-

ducted for the poilus; from Paris, Paul Archinard, in charge of NBC’s office there, broadcast daily to America . . .

John Gunther, Dorothy Thompson, Quentin Reynolds, Pierre van Paassen, Baukhage left America in no doubt as to conditions in France . . .

Daladier, Reynaud, Leon Blum, Flandin, Petain,



*Valiant Frenchmen fight. But horse-drawn artillery, poilus on bikes, antiquated motorized equipment are no match for the might of a well-ordered, mechanized, modern German war machine*



*Bristling guns in the Maginot Line could be aimed and fired in one direction only.*

Duke of Windsor, Paderewski spoke to America in a total of 23 broadcasts . . .

NBC's Max Jordan was the first to broadcast from Paris under German rule . . .

Helen Hiatt, leaving Paris after the NBC office had been wrecked by bombs, moved on to Bordeaux, slept in the fields under dropping bombs





*Hitler exacts full measure in the same historic railroad car in Compiègne Forest in which terms for German surrender were concluded in 1918*

*The tired hero of Verdun assumes the helm of Vichy France*



until a new NBC office could be established in a former coalbin . . .

Archinard, leaving Helen Hiett in Bordeaux, was the first radio correspondent to reach Vichy and broadcast from the new seat of the French Government; the first to relay to America the news of Premier Reynaud's resignation, "scooping" even the French radio and press . . .

and at Compiègne Forest, NBC together with CBS, relayed to America an eye-witness account of the historic meeting between Petain and Hitler which took France out of the war.



*Nazi troops in parade formation goose-step through the Arc de Triomphe*

*Adolf Hitler looks across the channel toward the "light little isle," next scheduled stop per the Nazi timetable*





*Britain loses her arms but saves her army. Troops heroically rescued from the beach at Dunkerque arrive at a British port*



## NBC IN ENGLAND

Under the dynamic guidance of Fred Bate, NBC's representative in the British Isles, France, Belgium and Spain, America heard from the British capital 1,636 broadcasts on the war alone.

During these three years, America heard the voice of Prime Minister Chamberlain ten times; heard him declare war on Germany; heard him



*The "softening up" begins. Day and night raids by the Luftwaffe reduce much of England to rubble—but the British dig out and carry on*

## • 1939-1941

encourage his people; resign his office . . .

Winston Churchill, in twenty-two NBC broadcasts from England became a household name throughout America . . .

the royal family—King George, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth—broke tradition to broadcast ten times over NBC . . .



*Nazi air-borne troops, dropped behind the lines, blast the British and Greeks from the tiny Mediterranean island, Crete*



*The morning after Nazi raiders visited Coventry. Thousands were killed, the fabled city reduced to ruin and rubble*

America learned how England was fighting the war from Anthony Eden, Alfred Duff Cooper, Viscount Halifax, Lloyd George, Lord Beaverbrook, Herbert Morrison, Clement Atlee, Lord Woolton, the man-in-the-street . . .

learned Britain's reaction to Dunkerque, Crete, Blitz, the Anglo-American Destroyer-Base Deal, the Atlantic Charter, the arrival in Scotland of Rudolf ("I come to save humanity") Hess . . . heard Fred Bate in London, on the very day war

was declared between Great Britain and Germany, flash to the world the first report of the sinking of the British ship, Athenia . . .

knew how governments in exile carried on through broadcasts from Queen Wilhelmina, King Haakon, Queen Maric of Yugoslavia . . .

heard and understood more about England because such correspondents as Kaltenborn, Dorothy Thompson, Fred Bate, John Gunther, John MacVane were there reporting for NBC.



*The Union Jack being hoisted on 3 of 50 over-age destroyers traded to Great Britain in exchange for 99-year leases on 8 airplane and warship bases in the Atlantic*



*Wreckage of ME-110 in which Rudolph Hess made his dramatic flight from Germany to Scotland*

*First of the historic Roosevelt-Churchill conferences was the dramatic meeting at sea which produced the Atlantic Charter, an Anglo-American plan for the post-victory world*





*The Night Before Christmas, 1939. Max Jordan, NBC European representative, visits the German Westwall preparatory to the historic Christmas broadcast from a pill-box in the Siegfried Line, during which German soldiers sang carols to America*

## NBC IN GERMANY • 1939-1941

Max Jordan, Baukhage, Warren Irvin, William Kerker, Theodore Knauth, Alex Dreier, Grant Parr, John McCutcheon Raleigh—these were the men who for three years gave NBC listeners in America a daily running account of Germany at War.

On August 31, 1939, Max Jordan was the

first radio commentator to broadcast Hitler's demands for a settlement of Danzig and the Polish Corridor . . .

on September 3, 1939, two hours after Germany and Great Britain had severed diplomatic relations, Max Jordan, though all telephone and cable communications to and from Berlin had



*Japan joins the Axis as delegates from Rome, Berlin, and Tokyo sign 10-year economic, political and military pact*

*Yugoslavia becomes the 13th victim of the German blitz machine*

been cut off, got through to America with the only broadcast of the complete English text of the official German statement . . .

on Christmas Eve, 1939, a peaceful America heard Jordan on the Siegfried Line describe the scene there, interview a German officer and persuade the German soldiers to sing Christmas





*1939. Stalin and von Ribbentrop look on as Molotov signs Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact*

*Historic Greek resistance is unavailing when German armies add their strength to badly fiascoed Italian invasion of Greece*





1941. Von Ribbentrop reads text of German Declaration of War on Russia to newspaper correspondents

earls to America from a pill-box . . .

in millions of American homes, the growling voices of Hitler and Goering became unpleasantly commonplace as NBC microphones were set up wherever these men addressed the German people . . .

the Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact, the invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece, the Tokyo-

Rome-Berlin Pact, the German declaration of war on Russia were also reported to America by NBC . . .

During these three years, NBC brought to the American people, direct from Germany, a total of 1,031 broadcasts on the war alone, interrupted only by America's declaration of war against the Third Reich on December 11, 1941.



*Guerilla warfare is employed by Albanian Army which retreats to the mountains when tiny kingdom falls to Italian invaders*

*Modern weapons and British aid drive Italy from Ethiopia*



## NBC IN ITALY

In the last week of May, 1940, England had begun to withdraw from Dunkerque; Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland had been conquered; the French legions were scattered; and Mussolini declared war on Great Britain and France.

Observing the wily political maneuvers of Mussolini as he watched and waited for the total



*The Greeks fight on in the plains and from snow-covered mountain lairs*



*Italian African triumph is short-lived. Italian dead litter the desert as British open drive in Libya*

# • 1939-1941

collapse of France under Hitler's blitzkrieg, NBC correspondents Charles Lanius and Phillip R. MacKenzie reported from Italy in 156 broadcasts: her invasion of Albania and Greece; her retreat from Ethiopia; her short-lived triumphs in Libya. On June 10, 1940, America heard over NBC the voice of Mussolini declare war against Great Britain and France.

*Italian students shout for war*





*NBC's James Bowen's graphic eye-witness account of the scuttling of the German pocket battleship Graf Spee*

"We have just seen the Graf Spee explode five miles from the coast. The ship has been scuttled!" It was the voice of NBC's James Bowen from Montevideo. A few minutes before this startling announcement, Bowen, connected with the NBC Newsroom in New York by short-wave line, had shouted, "Give me the air! Quick! The ship has exploded!"

175 stations of the Red and Blue networks were immediately cleared and Bowen's description of the ship's sinking was heard by millions of radio listeners throughout the United States.

The Graf Spee was scuttled on Sunday, De-

## NBC AT MONTEVIDEO

cember 17, 1939. Several days before, NBC News and Special Events, aware of the world-wide interest in the destiny of this German pocket battleship, had laid plans to cover the story. An observer had been stationed in a lighthouse "borrowed" for the occasion; four Uruguayan radio men were assigned to positions along the shore line. These men, armed with powerful binoculars, were connected by telephone with Bowen, who had taken up his position on a handy scaffolding.

Bowen, also armed with powerful binoculars, did some of the fastest thinking in the



...akes radio history

## • 1939

history of radio "scoops," for the Uruguayans could not speak English. As Bowen relayed his own eye-witness account to America, he supplemented it with rapid translations of the Uruguayans' observations up the shore.

Bowen covered the story in eleven broadcasts to the United States from the time the Graf Spee limped into port for repairs to the final throwing of the electric switch by Captain Hans Lanzdorf which blew up the battleship.

NBC News and Special Events also scored by flashing the story to Europe before routine cable communications got through.

# NBC AROUND THE WORLD 1939-1941

Convinced that global war was inevitable, NBC dispatched correspondents to forty-eight other countries throughout the world. America followed the march of Mussolini's and Hitler's troops in Greece and Yugoslavia . . .

the see-saw battle in the African desert . . .

heard over NBC the first announcement of the Nazi invasion of the Balkans on April 6, 1941, at 11:18 P.M. New York time . . .

caught the internal unrest and violence of the German satellite nations, Rumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria . . .

learned how Egypt, Spain, Switzerland, Vatican City, Portugal, Turkey, Sweden and Ireland maintained their neutrality . . .

received the first report of the Nazi invasion of Russia, flashed by NBC June 21, 1941, at 11:32 P.M. New York time . . .

in the Western Hemisphere sat again with the American Republics at the Pan-American Conferences in Havana . . .

followed the destinies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Peru, Venezuela, Bahamas, Panama, Dutch Guiana, Cuba, Iceland, Newfoundland, Antarctica . . .

turned its NBC dials to the Pacific to hear Mme. Chiang Kai-shek plead for China; picked up NBC commentators in Hawaii, Japan, Philippine Islands, Australia, Dutch East Indies, Fiji Islands, India, New Zealand, the Orkneys, Suva, Batavia, French Morocco, Belgian Congo.



*Dec. 7, 1941. "The Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from the air"*

*Bombs burst on Pearl Harbor as Japanese envoys talk peace*



## DAY OF

1:25 Sunday afternoon, December 7, 1941. The tragedy of Pearl Harbor was happening. The Japanese were loosing their bombs simultaneously on Hawaii and the Philippines. At 6:05 P.M. NBC News and Special Events chalked up a radio "scoop" by putting Manila on the air



*The "open city" of Manila is open to Japanese bomber attack*

*President Quezon, Philippines. General MacArthur, United States*

## INFAMY

with an on-the-spot report by NBC's Bert Silen. The following day, against a background of droning planes and bursting shells, Silen and Don Bell, also of NBC, scored one of radio's most brilliant "scoops" when they gave an eye-witness running account of the Japanese





*Hickam Field in the Hawaiian Islands after Jap bombers dropped their "eggs"*

bombing of Nichols Field and Fort McKinley.

Silen is now a prisoner in a Japanese concentration camp in the Philippines. Bell was first reported missing, then killed; is now known to be sharing the fate of Silen in a Philippine concentration camp.

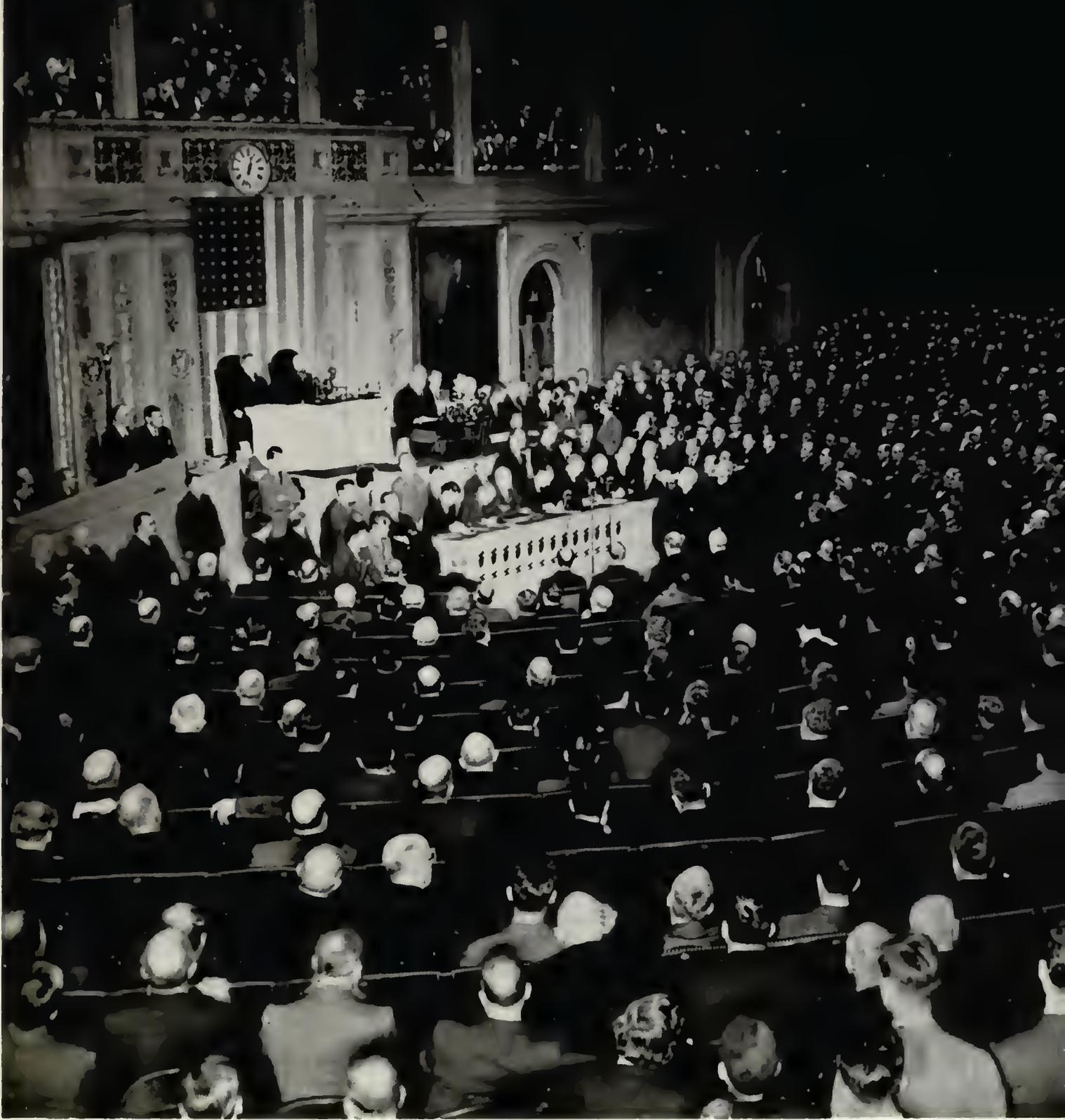
From that "date that will live in infamy," NBC News and Special Events went to war beside those Americans who, individually and collectively, gave and are giving their best on the battlefields, in government, in industry and business, in the factories, on the farms, in the homes.

## NBC LOG

1939-1941

**Total number of pick-ups . . . 4,818**

**Number of countries . . . . . 66**



*President Roosevelt asks for an immediate Declaration of War against the Japanese Empire*

**"WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST"**

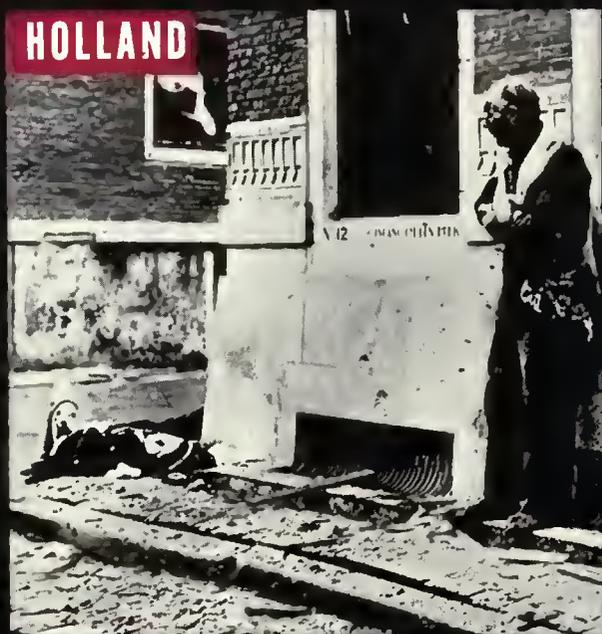
**CHINA**



**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**



**HOLLAND**



**ENGLAND**



**RUSSIA**



**POLAND**



**BELGIUM**



**COVENTRY**



**FRANCE**



**YUGOSLAVIA**



**GREECE**





# AMERICA AT WAR . . . 1942-1943

The people of America, reared in the tradition of peace, finding their way of life suddenly imperiled, take up arms for the second time in a generation; join with other free peoples to determine whether aggression and oppression shall dominate the earth.

The young men of America—called “soft” by dictators, torn from their farms, factories, offices, homes, taught the unfamiliar art of modern warfare—demonstrated in actual combat their individual superiority over the regimented youth indoctrinated with the Nazi, Fascist, Bushido ways of life.

The story of these young American warriors, fighting shoulder to shoulder with their Allies on the battle fronts of the world, is told on the following pages. It is the story of these young men of America, who, driven southward to Australia, fought from atoll to atoll, from the decks of battleships and cruisers, from the cockpits of airplanes, to within striking distance of Tokyo; who, opening up a new front in North Africa, helped to drive Rommel’s Afrika Korps into the sea; who, shuttling from North African airfields, defeated the Axis forces defending Pantelleria and Sicily; landing on the shores of Italy, captured Naples; who, swarming across the English Channel in Flying Fortresses, escort planes and fighters, gave Nazi Germany a taste of its own methods of warfare; who, in two years, turned the tide of battle, wrested the offensive from Germany and Japan; paved the way for final Victory.



*British troops surrender to Japanese invaders on the Malayan Peninsula*



*Gigantic tank battle at Zluc immobilizes Nazi drive*



*Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrives at Melbourne, Australia*



*Start of the Doolittle bombing mission to Tokyo*

## AMERICA AT WAR • 1942-1943

### 1942 • January

Japan occupies Wake and Guam; enters Manila, besieges MacArthur's troops on Bataan; pushes the British back to within eighteen miles of Singapore; overruns Burma; drives into the Dutch East Indies; lands troops on New Guinea, New Ireland and the Solomons; controls the

sea and air lanes . . . Russia on a 2,000-mile front counter-attacks and pushes the Germans back . . . Britain takes the offensive in Libya only to be driven back by Rommel.

### February, March, April, May

Singapore, Java, Rangoon, Bataan and Corregidor are surrendered to Japan . . . General



*British offensive in Libya is nullified by Rommel counter-attack*



*Weary, hungry heroes of Corregidor surrender to superior Jap strength*



*British seize and occupy strategic Vichy-controlled Madagascar*



*Despite loss of carrier Lexington, Allies are victors in Coral Sea*

*Navy fliers score a direct hit on this Jap carrier in Coral Sea engagement*

MacArthur arrives in Australia . . . Japanese troops start drive toward Port Moresby, New Guinea . . . Allies lose most of their battleships in the Java Sea . . . General Doolittle's bombers raid Tokyo . . . British troops land on Madagascar . . . Japanese navy is routed in the Coral Sea . . . Russia is driven out of the Kereh Peninsula . . . U. S. troops land in Curacao, Aruba and Surinam, West Indies.





*Telling blows delivered by British fliers in attacks on French and German industrial cities slow down the Axis war machine*



*U. S. Naval forces score again in Midway battle*



*Flak beats off Jap torpedo planes during Midway engagement*

*Nazi Field Marshal Rommel advances to El Alamein in drive towards Egypt*



### 1942 • June, July

Britain begins mass air attacks on industrial cities of Germany and France . . . Germany begins offensive in the Caucasus . . . Japan lands on Kiska and Attu in the Aleutians . . . Japanese navy routed in Midway battle . . . British forces surrender Tobruk, flee into Egypt, Alexandria threatened . . . British stop Rommel's advance at El Alamein . . . greatest loss of Allied shipping since the beginning of the war.



*Disabled Russian tanks line the road as German motorized units hammer at Stalin line in Caucasus offensive*



*British-held Tobruk surrenders after bloody defense netted Axis 33,000 British prisoners*

*Allied shipping losses are heaviest since war's beginning as Nazi submarines prowl Atlantic at will*





*General Sir Bernard Montgomery takes command of British armies in Africa, out-fozes The Fox*

### **1942 - August, September**

U. S. Marines land on Guadalcanal . . . General Montgomery takes command of the British armies in Africa . . . Russian armies are driven back to the outskirts of Stalingrad . . . British and Canadian Commandos and American Rangers attack and fail at Dieppe.

### **October**

General Montgomery begins his 1,500-mile chase of Rommel across North Africa.

*American "heavies" bomb Marshal Rommel's African supply lines*





*The escorting Wasp goes down, but Americans establish a toehold in the Solomons*



*Street by street, house by house, the Russians make a heroic stand at Stalingrad*

*The cost in life is high as Dieppe raid fails*

*Mined fields are cleared as Montgomery's desert offensive accelerates*

*Nazi prisoners captured by British in desert drive*





*The Second AEF opens the second front as U. S. troops swarm ashore at Algiers, Oran and Casablanca in North Africa*



*Italian soldiers at Tobruk hurry to the safety of British prison camps*



*British flag is hoisted again at recaptured Tobruk*

*"Strategic retreat" of the Nazis in Russian theatre is accelerated by sweeping Soviet offensive*





*Commander-in-chief of Allied operations, General Dwight Eisenhower, with the diplomat-soldier, Lt. Gen. Mark Clark of the fighting Fifth*

### **1942 • November, December**

U. S. troops open new front in Africa; swarm ashore at Algiers, Oran, Casablanca. Three days later all three places fall . . . Nazis occupy all of France . . . Madagascar Armistice is signed, Britain withdraws in favor of Free French . . . Tobruk retaken by British . . . Russia launches sweeping offensives which drive the Germans back . . . France scuttles her sixty warships lying at Toulon.

*French scuttle fleet at Toulon Harbor to prevent its falling into Axis hands*





*Hon. Nipponese dedicated to die for Hon. Hirohito not so honorably surrender to allied forces in Gona-Buna sector*

## AMERICA AT WAR • 1943

*Roosevelt, Churchill, De Gaulle and Giraud meet at Casablanca*



### 1943 • January, February

Australian and American troops take Buna, New Guinea . . . Red Army retakes 128 towns, destroys Nazi Army at Stalingrad . . . British forces capture Tripoli . . . Roosevelt and Churchill meet at Casablanca . . . British and Americans retreat in central Tunisia, counter-attack ten days later to smash Axis offensive . . . American troops subdue the Japs at Guadalcanal.



*Russian assault troops move in for the kill; dislodge and destroy Nazi Army holding Stalingrad*



*Montgomery's heroic Eighth Army scores a sweeping desert victory at Tripoli; drives Rommel from position at El Agheila*

*Jap dead litter the waterfront as U. S. Marine Corps gunners make successful defense of newly won positions at Guadalcanal*





*U. S. 2nd Corpsmen under Gen. Patton, and British Eighth join forces in Tunisia*



*These captured Nazi generals will sit out the rest of the war*



*Part of the bag of 50,000 Axis supermen captured in Tunisia area*



*From African bases, American airmen pound Italy and Sicily*

*Allied bombers rake Pantelleria preparatory to invasion*



### **1943 - March, April, May**

Combined American, British and French forces begin all-out attack on the Axis in Tunisia; campaign ends May 14 in complete Axis defeat . . . Allies begin air raids from Africa on Italian and Sicilian ports . . . Berlin suffers worst raid . . . Russia dissolves Communist Party . . . Eder Dam destroyed . . . Japanese execute



*Hands up and smiling, Italian warriors gladly surrender to British desert troops*



*RAF breaches Eder Dam, releasing tons of angry waters down Eder Valley*



*Yanks subdue and seize Jap-held Attu Island in Aleutian offensive*

*Allied ack-ack traces a pattern in Algerian sky during Axis raids*

U. S. Tokyo fliers . . . U. S. troops subdue the Japanese on Attu Island.

**June**

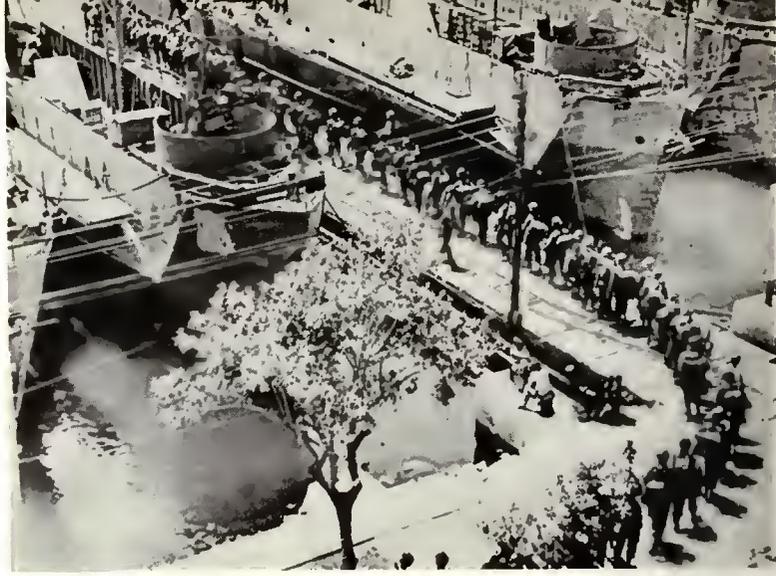
Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Linosa Islands surrender; mass bombing of Sicily and Italy begins . . . U. S. troops land in Rendova and New Georgia Islands.

2,000,000 U. S. troops are overseas.





*Yank task forces go ashore at Rendova Island; rout and destroy Japs*



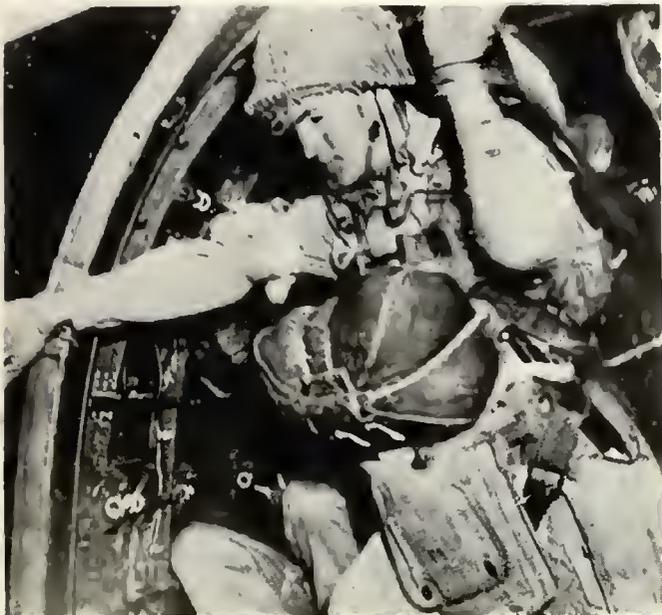
*American invasion troops file aboard Sicily-bound troopship*



*American cargo ship in Sicilian-bound convoy falls victim to Nazi dive bombers*



*The allied invasion fleet puts out from shore toward Sicily at start of first campaign aimed at the Fortress Europa*



*U. S. paratroopers drop behind the lines in Sicily*



*Yank soldiers hit the Sicilian beach to get the assault underway*

### **1943 · July, August**

Japanese are routed and slain at Rendova . . . Sicilian campaign begins, Mussolini resigns and flees, Allies bomb Rome . . . Americans occupy Munda, mop up remaining Japanese on New Georgia Island . . . Allies check Axis submarine warfare . . . Russian troops repulse twenty-five Nazi counter-attacks on Smolensk front, lift siege of Moscow, take offensive around Orel and



*Inhabitants of liberated Sicilian towns welcome the U. S. 7th Army*



*Ex-Duce Benito Mussolini dons mufti, retires from public life, flees Rome*



*U. S. task forces land and take Munda beach*



*Japs strewn on beach of New Georgia Island testify to accuracy of Marine fire*

*An Axis ship goes down as the Allies gain control of the seas*



Donets front . . . U. S. planes bomb Ploesti refineries . . . Russians capture Orel, outflank Nazis at Kharkov, open Smolensk drive . . . RAF and American Liberators shatter airfields and industrial centers in Italy, Germany, France, Netherlands, the Ruhr . . . U. S. and Canadian troops occupy Kiska . . . Sicily falls to U. S. and Great Britain.

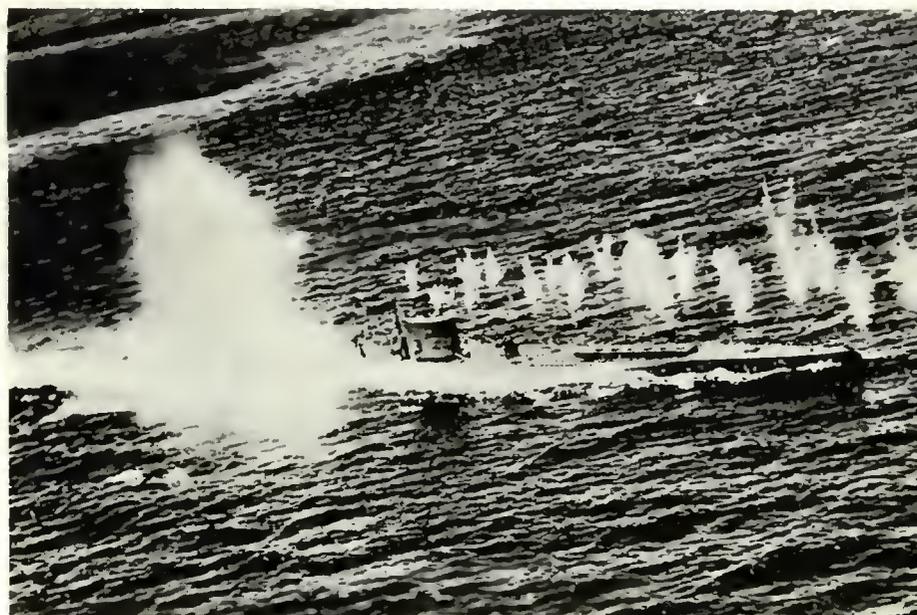


*U. S. Army fliers concentrate precision bombing on Littorio railway yards and airfield in Rome raid; spare Holy City*



*Air cover for Allied shipping checks Axis sub warfare on supply ships and merchantmen in North Atlantic sea lanes*

*U. S. Coast Guard and Navy patrol planes and U. S. Navy PC boats draw the teeth of the Axis wolf pack*





*U. S. bombers cut vital Axis oil supply line in daring low-level bombing mission that virtually wipes out huge Ploesti refineries*

*Smoke rises at Ploesti refineries as allied planes wing homeward*



*Landing barges spill out U. S. and Canadian troops on Kiska*





*The tide turns on the Russian battlefield as Soviet troops recapture Orel, outflank Nazis at Kharkov, drive on Smolensk*

*American and Canadian troops take Kiska without a battle. The Japs wouldn't fight, abandoned island base.*





*Badoglio with Victor Emmanuel*



*Salerno falls to Allies as American and British forces beat a road to Rome*



*Allied forces en route to Lae and Salamaua*



*American Liberators winging over Jap-held Nauru Island in Central Pacific offensive*

*Chennault's Flying Tigers are a potent factor in winning the China war*



### 1943 • September

Allies invade Italy, Italy surrenders . . .  
Salerno falls to Allies . . . Americans and  
Australians occupy Lae and Salamaua . . .  
Germany seizes Rome . . . Italian fleet surrenders  
to Allies . . . RAF raids Berlin 77th time . . .  
Fortresses and Marauders continue round-the-  
clock bombing of Europe . . . Russians move  
along Dnieper . . . Allied raids on Burma and  
China continue.



*U. S. Rangers land at Maiori, clear Germans from hills overlooking Naples plain*



*U. S. paratroops block escape of 20,000 Japs from Lae*



*Chinese fight back, stem Jap drive along Salween River front near Burma; inflict heavy casualties on Jap invaders on Hupeh Hunan front*

*U. S. and RAF fighters blast Jap supply lines, oil depots, railroads—in Burma and China*



# "WINGS OVER EUROPE"



MARIENBURG, GERMANY



HANOVER, GERMANY



LEGHORN, ITALY



ST. MALO, FRANCE



VAAGSO, NORWAY



AMIENS, FRANCE



TOURS, FRANCE



OVER FIGHTER BASE, GERMANY



**LE HAVRE, FRANCE**



**WILHELMSHAVEN, GERMANY**



**MONTDIDIER, FRANCE**



**HULS, GERMANY**



**HULS, GERMANY**



**HAMBURG, GERMANY**



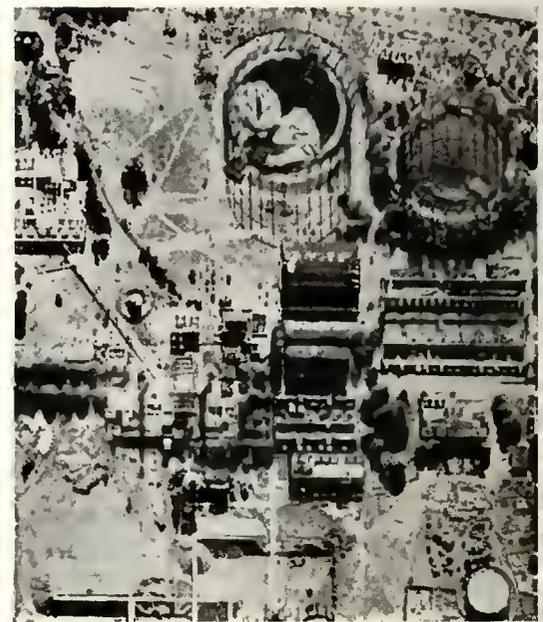
**KIEL, GERMANY**



*Spearhead of the Naples assault, Allied soldiers scampers up the beach from landing craft under heavy enemy shelling*



*These Nazi prisoners were the only live Germans left in the Russian Caucasus*



*Allies bomb Berlin in heaviest attack*

*The most costly battle in Marine Corps history—Tarawa*



**1943 · October**

Allies take Naples . . . Break Jap grip in New Guinea . . . Russians clear Nazis from east bank of Dnieper, repulse German counter-attacks, clear Caucasus of invaders . . . Italy declares war on Germany.

**November, December**

United States, Great Britain, Russia and



*Tough U. S. troops enter Naples, assault strong Nazi entrenchments, force surrender after heavy fighting*



*U. S. Marines and the Fighting 69th wade in for the kill at Makin*



*Leatherneck Jap-exterminators hard at work on Tarawa Atoll*

*U. S. Marines raise the flag they fought and died for at Tarawa*

China sign Four-Power Pact at Moscow . . .  
 Russians take Kiev . . . U. S. Army and Marines  
 capture Makin and Tarawa atolls in the Gilbert  
 Islands . . . Allies bomb Berlin in heaviest attack  
 ever made on a single target . . . Roosevelt,  
 Churchill, Chiang Kai-shek meet at Cairo . . .  
 Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin meet at Teheran . . .  
 Roosevelt, Churchill, Inonu meet at Cairo . . .  
 America at war two years.





*Moscow—Cordell Hull, Molotov, Eden and Fu Ping-Sheung affix their signatures to historic 4-power pact*

*Cairo—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Roosevelt, Churchill and Madame Chiang discuss the fate of Japan*





*Teheran—Marshal Stalin, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill discuss the destruction of the Nazi war machine*

*Cairo, sequel—President Ismet Inonu, Roosevelt, Churchill talk Turkey*



# AMERICA AT WAR ON THE HOME FRONT 1942-1943

**T**WO years in which the Allies, driven back in every quarter of the globe, finally took the offensive, turned the tide of battle, marched inexorably toward the day when the threat of Fascism against the freedom of the individual would be put down for all time . . .

Two years in which an aroused America threw her mighty strength into the conflict . . .

Two years in which American industry, science and business performed industrial miracles; converted overnight from peacetime to wartime production to swing the balance of offensive warfare away from the Axis to the British Isles, to North Africa, to Russia, to Italy, to the Pacific . . .

Two years in which the greater majority of American laborers, both men and women, stuck to their machines to produce the material necessary for the prosecution of the war . . .

Two years in which the American farmer, with inadequate help, worked from dawn to dark to produce food for the peoples of the world . . .

Two years in which forces of the American Army, Navy and Marines landed over two million strong on the battle fronts of the world . . .

Two years in which the women of America heard the call to arms; donned G.I.; took their places behind the men behind the guns at home and at the battle front . . .

Two years in which the seven oceans and the skies were once again controlled by the Allies . . .

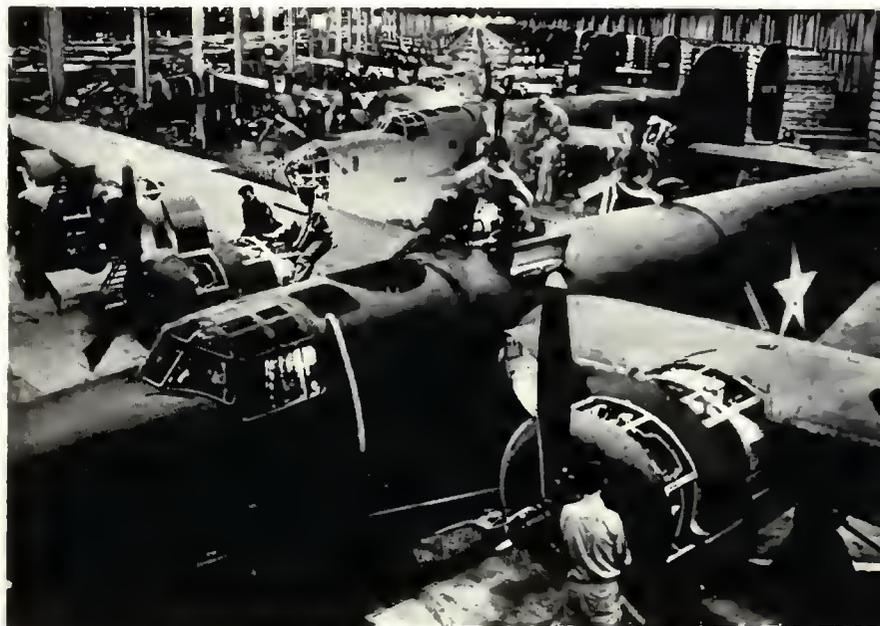
Two years in which the unsung American civilian cheerfully accepted and supported the home requirements for waging total war: food and gas rationing, blackouts, civilian defense, blood donations, high taxes, meatless days, cold homes . . .



*Engineers of an airplane factory turn out the blueprints that "turn out" Flying Fortresses, pursuit ships and fighters*



*American scientists go to war*



*Airplanes take their place on the automobile assembly lines*

*A record launching*



*Tankers in 90 days*



*Tanks, tanks and more tanks*





*The American farmer working from dawn to dark produces the food for America and her allies*



*Port Moresby greets American troops*



*The British Isles get their quota*

*Tough U.S. troops land in North Africa*



*Enroute to Australia*





*Volunteer "farmers" harvest precious crops*



*American GI's land in Iceland*



*Yanks and Army nurses leave U.S.*



*Seabees build landing fields on muddy wastes*

*Escorting U.S. troops overseas, these guns of the U.S. Navy are respected by the Army*





*Wacs and Waves join up by the thousands to release men far fighting*



*Flying Wasps ferry planes to airfields*



*Army nurses in Australia trained to heal*

*Army nurse at Naples*

*Red Cross workers in front lines in Italy*





*Spars train to become officers*



*Lady Leathernecks stand inspection*



*Navy medical nurses graduate to take up their duties as angels-of-mercy*

*The seven oceans and the skies are once more controlled by the Allies*





*Food and gas rationing bring the war closer to Americans on the home front*



*Airplane spotters scan the skies*



*The AWVS learn first aid*

*The American Red Cross serves hot coffee and assembles prisoner-of-war packages*





*Residents of New York and other East and West Coast cities grope about in enforced blackouts*

*Tens of thousands of blood donors "give"*



*The Stage Door Canteen is popular*



# PRELUDE TO VICTORY

**T**HIS is the story of the Allied armies in 1944; the story of the softening up of Europe in preparation for the invasion of the continent; the story of the inexorable march of the Democracies toward the day when the armies of Hitler and Hirohito are defeated, disarmed, disbanded.

# • JANUARY 1 - MAY 31, 1944

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**JANUARY** • Russians drive toward Rumania, penetrate deep into Pripet Marshes, smash beyond old Polish border, capture Leningrad . . . U. S. troops land on Roi and Kwajalein Islands in the Marshalls . . . Allies capture Minturno, Italy, enter Cassino, establish Anzio-Nettuno beachhead south of Rome . . . Japanese atrocities against American and Filipino captives of Corregidor and Bataan revealed.

**FEBRUARY** • Allies gain full control of Huon Peninsula in New Guinea; occupy Green Islands, concluding Solomons campaign . . . American warships shell Paramushiro . . . U. S. forces take Eniwetok Atoll in Marshalls; land on Los Negros Island in the Admiralties . . . Carrier-based planes of Pacific task forces attack strong Jap positions in Marianas . . . Russians penetrate into Estonia, drive toward Latvian frontier, take Krivoi Rog in south.

**MARCH** • Chinese, American and British Empire forces accelerate operations in China-Burma-India theater . . . Allied air attack levels Cassino . . . Russians drive within twenty-four miles of Latvia, cross into Bessarabia, push Germans back to 1941 invasion line at Rumanian border . . . Allied armies and navies move north and west toward Philippines . . . bomb Marshall Islands, Truk in the Carolines, Hollandia and Wewak on New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland, Wake, Kuriles . . . Pacific fleet attacks Palau Islands.

**APRIL** • Russian armies cross into Rumania, reach Czech border, capture Odessa, clear Kerch Peninsula, take Crimean capital, tighten siege on Sevastopol . . . Allies complete occupation of fourteen islands in the Marshalls, control major portion of New Britain, land and seize airports at Hollandia, rout Japs on Bougainville . . . Italian-based Allied bombers blast cities in Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia.

**MAY** • U. S. Pacific forces seize control of Wakde Islands; establish beachhead on Biak . . . Russians capture Sevastopol . . . Combined British-American forces end Italian stalemate: crush Cassino defenses, break through at Anzio to link forces near Borga Grappa, push on to Rome . . . Air attacks blast vital areas in Germany, Yugoslavia, Austria, Rumania, Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

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## CHIEFS OF STAFF (U.S.)



*Gen. George C. Marshall  
Army Chief of Staff*



*Admiral Ernest J. King  
Commander-in-Chief and  
Chief of Naval Operations*



*General Henry H. Arnold  
Commander-in-Chief of  
U. S. Army Air Forces*

## ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN GREAT BRITAIN



★ *Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Commander-in-Chief*



*Gen.  
Sir Bernard L. Montgomery  
Commander of British Armies*



*Air Chief Marshal  
Sir Arthur Tedder  
Deputy Commander-in-Chief*



*Lt. Gen. Bedell Smith  
Chief of Staff*



*Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee  
Deputy Commander-in-Chief  
ETOUSA*



*Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay  
Allied Naval  
Commander-in-Chief*



*Lt. Gen. H. D. G. Crerar  
First Canadian Army*



*Lt. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz:  
Commander of the  
U. S. Strategic Air Forces  
against Germany*



*Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle  
Commander of  
Eighth U. S. AAF*



*Air Marshal L. S. Breadner  
RCAF, Canada*



*Air Marshal  
Sir Arthur Coningham  
Commander of Second  
BAF Tactical Air Force*



*Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley  
Commander of  
U. S. Army in the Field*



*Air Chief Marshal  
Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory  
Allied Air  
Commander-in-Chief*



*Air Marshal  
Sir Arthur T. Harris  
Commander of the  
RAF Strategic Air Force*



*Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton  
Commander of  
Ninth U. S. AAF*

## MEDITERRANEAN COMMAND



★ Gen. Sir Henry Mailland Wilson  
Allied Commander



Lt. Gen. James A. H. Gammell  
Chief of Staff



Gen. Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander  
Commander-in-Chief of Allied Central Mediterranean Force (15th Army Group)



Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark  
Commanding General of Fifth Army



Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers  
Deputy Supreme Commander and Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Forces



Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker  
Allied Air Commander



Lt. Gen. Sir Oliver Leese  
Commander of Eighth Army



Admiral Sir John Cunningham  
Commander-in-Chief of Allied Naval Forces

## SOUTH PACIFIC AREA



★ Admiral Chester Nimitz  
Commander-in-Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas



Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harman  
Commanding General of Army Forces



Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Criswell  
Commander of Ground Forces

## SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND



★ Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten  
Allied Commander



Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Pownall  
Chief of Staff



Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault  
Commander Fourteenth Air Force (China)



Maj. Gen. Frank Merrill  
Commanding General of Merrill's Marauders



Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell  
Deputy Commander and Commander U. S. Forces in India, Burma and China



Admiral Sir James F. Somerville  
Commander-in-Chief of Eastern Fleet

## ALASKA



★ Lt. Gen. Simon Buckner  
Commanding General

## SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA



★ Gen. Douglas MacArthur  
Allied Commander



Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey  
Commander-in-Chief of Allied Land Forces



Maj. Gen. George C. Kenney  
Commander-in-Chief Allied Air Forces



Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid  
Commander Southwest Pacific Naval Force



*New Guinea. American infantrymen "wade in" after Japs during jungle advance*



*Eniwetok. Marines hit the surf going ashore on Engebi Island*



*Namur. Marine flamethrowers make it hot for Nips*



*Kwajalein. After the fierce air and naval bombardment hit Jap-held Roi Island*

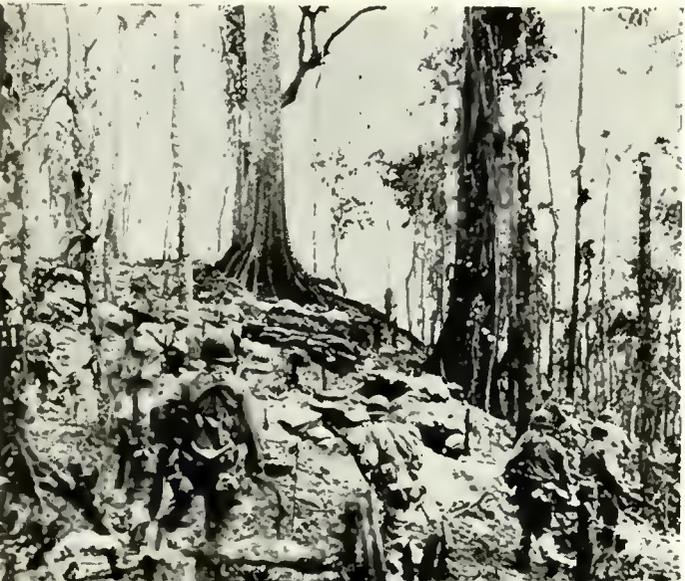


*Admiralties. MacArthur commands surprise invasion of Los Negros Islands*



*New Britain. Marine patrols search for enemy snipers and stragglers*

*Bougainville. U. S. infantrymen wipe out last Jap resistance*



*Pacific Fleet concentrates for blows that smash Jap island positions*



# TOEHOLD ON THE ITALIAN BOOT



*Record-breaking air attacks level Nazi bastion at Cassino during desperate see-saw battle*

*Nature adds her fury; Vesuvius erupts*



*Amphibious craft ferry supplies to Allies at Anzio*





*New Zealand infantrymen hunt Cassino ruins for enemy snipers; hang on to Nazi prisoners*



*German bombs score during raid on Nettuno beachhead*



*British Tommies street-fighting for Nocelleto*

*Allied air force wrecks strategic Axis rail artery of Arezzo*



*Allies break Anzio-Cassino stalemate; drive on Rome*



# C-B-I SQUEEZE



*Over the Hump of the Himalayas, Army transports fly supplies to Chinese-British-American forces*



*Naga bearers "service" U. S. Army outpost*



*Japs try stab at Imphal supply route*

*On the alert for Jap snipers and ambush parties in Hukwang Valley region, North Burma*





*Army trucks roll along Burma road*



*Air Commandos pound Jap stores and supply depots*



*"Flying freights" maintain aerial supply line*



*Yank-trained Chinese assault Naga Hills area*

*Chinese and American troops go back for rest behind North Burma lines*



*Merrill's Marauders plow through Burmese jungle*



# RUSSIAN LULLABY



*Kuban Cossack guardsmen charge the enemy on Ukrainian front, as Reds recapture Odessa*



*Russian fliers talk over Ukraine strafing mission*



*Soviet infantrymen stalk retreating Nazis during Estonia drive*

*Aerosteds carry troops to assignments in Pskov sector*



*Tanks advance to fighting lines near Leningrad*





*Soviet artillery blasts at enemy in Pripet Marshes action*



*German tank and German dead after heavy fighting in Ukraine*

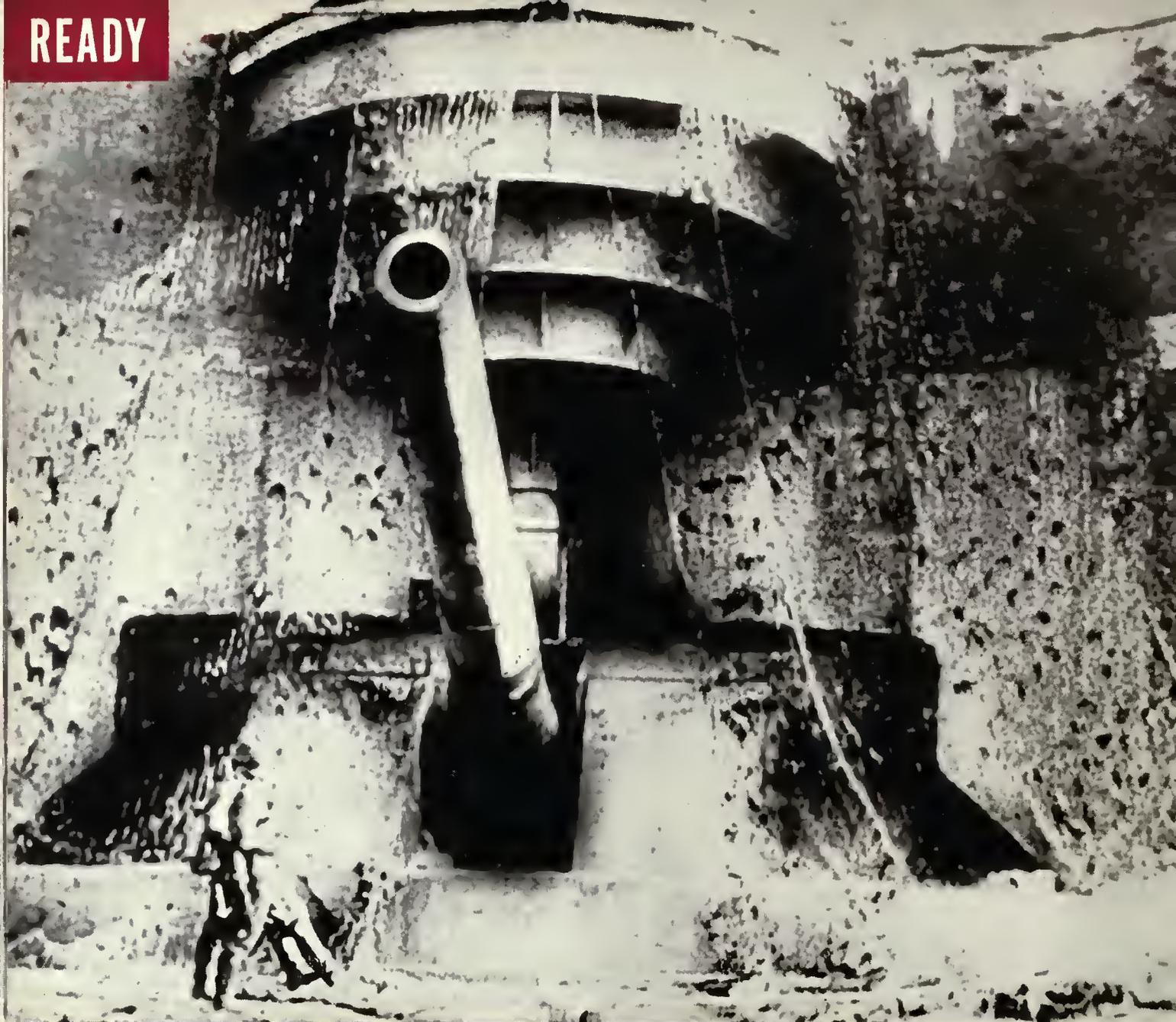


*Moscow salutes liberators of Kiev*

*Some of thousands of German prisoners taken during Crimean offensive*



READY



*Captured German films reveal extent of Axis preparations intended to repel Allied invasion of Hitler's Fortress Europa . . .*

*Huge coastal guns, street-corner turrets and crack loops form an "impregnable" Atlantic wall*





*Nazi labor battalions construct invasion barriers and tank traps in French harbor towns*



*Shells for Nazi heavy coast defense guns are stored against Allied attack; civilians searched for arms and subversive literature*

*Part of elaborate system of tank traps, obstacles and gun emplacements that dot West Europe coast*



READY



*Allied preparations for the Continental assault are everywhere in evidence throughout the British Isles...*

*Army personnel rehearse aerial food and munitions re-supply exercises; "human torpedoes" and Allied invasion craft drill off Dover coast*





*American-built tank cars ready to roll from United Kingdom railroad yards; Sherman tanks and tank destroyers jam ordnance depots*



*Half-tracks and cargo-carrying gliders as far as eye can see*

*Flying Forts and long-range fighters; Medical Corps units—on the mark, poised for the channel-crossing.*



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# NBC NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

*January 1 — May 31*

## 1944

FROM England, Ireland and Spain; from Italy, Stockholm and Switzerland; from Algiers, Cairo, Ankara, Teheran, Moscow and Chungking; from Hawaii, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, New Guinea and Australia; from Argentina, Peru, Puerto Rico and Iceland . . .

*From these nerve centers of world news, for a total of 771 broadcasts, NBC reporters, during the first five months of 1944, told America how the growing might of the Allied offensives in the East and West meant the inevitable reconquest of the Philippines, the destruction of the Japanese Empire, the liberation of the conquered people of Europe as Hitler, the Beer Hall Napoleon, faces the fate of the Balcony Caesar, Mussolini.*

During this period NBC newsmen, journeying back and forth from their headquarters in Naples, broadcast to America from hospitals in the front lines, from the dockside of a great Italian port, from a garage of the Army Motor Transport, from a Liberty ship at anchor in an Italian port . . .

From Central Pacific Headquarters, from Pearl Harbor and Honolulu, from a jungle trail and a tropical grass shack, from Guadalcanal and Munda, from a pillbox on the firing line at Bougainville, from an airplane flying over that battlefield, NBC reporters relayed to America the story of our soldiers, sailors and marines in combat . . .

From London, from G. I. studios of the armed forces network, from field bases and American Red Cross centers, from an ordnance depot of the U. S. Army and a hangar base of the Eighth Air Force, NBC newsmen told America how General Eisenhower and his staff were preparing for the greatest invasion in all history.

These NBC newsmen, scattered about the world, trained in the traditions of reporting the news while it is happening, of presenting the news truthfully and without bias, have kept America abreast of those events which are leading to the final downfall of all nations who believe that might alone makes right.

# NBC STANDS BY FOR INVASION

**F**OLLOWING and reporting daily to America the rapid movement of the Allied armies in every quarter of the globe is a tremendous task in itself, requiring quick action, split-second decisions. To William F. Brooks, Director of NBC News and Special Events, fell the additional responsibility of overseeing the allocation of technical equipment and NBC personnel to cover and report the Allied assault on the European continent. Early in January, 1944, Brooks marshaled his forces.

“Standing by” in Moscow were Robert Magidoff and Henry Cassidy; in Cairo, Grant Parr and Guthrie Janssen; William King and Frank O’Brien in Ankara; Max Hill and Ralph Howard at Naples; Paul Archinard in neutral Berne; Chester Morrison at Algiers; Charles Foltz in Spain; Bjorn Bjornson at the top of the world in Iceland; David Anderson at Stockholm; Stanley Richardson, Manager of the Bureau, John MacVane and Wright Bryan in London.

In order that NBC listeners in America might hear the full and complete story of the greatest military operation in history, Brooks shifted and concentrated in the British Isles and at strategic points of observation around the perimeter of Europe, crack NBC newsmen from the Newsroom in New York, trained NBC reporters from all parts of the world.

To augment the London staff he dispatched from New York ace newsmen Ed Haaker, George Wheeler, W.W. Chaplin and Merrill Mueller; sent Frank McCall, Manager of NBC News and Special Events to help Richardson oversee the London operation; and Engineer F.D. Frutchey to supervise the technical details; brought reporter David Anderson on from Stockholm; pulled Max Hill out of Naples and sent him to Ankara; shifted Bjorn Bjornson from his post in Iceland to cover for Anderson. From New York also, he detailed John W. Vandercook to the British capital, detouring him first to Algiers to cover the story of the accelerated Allied operation in the Mediterranean area. Vandercook arrived in London just three short days before D Day . . .



Ankara

Frank O'Brien  
William King

Moscow

Henry Cassidy  
Robert Magidoff

Stockholm

David Anderson

Stanley Richardson  
John MacVane  
Wright Bryan

From Iceland  
Bjorn Bjornson



Cairo

Grant Parr  
Guthrie Janssen

Max Hill

Naples

Ralph Howard

Bern

Paul Archinard

Algiers

Chester Morrison

London

Madrid

Charles Foltz

From  
New York

John W. Vandercook

Edwin Haaker  
George Wheeler  
Merrill Mueller  
W. W. Chaplin  
Frank McCall  
F. D. Frutchey

How NBC concentrated its facilities and personnel to assure American listeners the most complete word picture of the most exciting moment in world history.

## 3:32:09 A.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1944

*“Under the command of General Eisenhower Allied naval forces supported by strong air forces began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France . . .”*

It was 37 minutes past midnight, two and a half hours before network sign-off time. At his post in the fourth floor newsroom, the NBC monitor was listening to a news broadcast in English, from Berlin, via the monitoring service supplied NBC by RCA Communications, Inc. He yawned, stretched, lit a fresh cigarette—and suddenly snapped to attention.

The Oxford-accented DNB voice repeated the message: “The Allied invasion of Europe has begun from the West . . .”

An instant later one of the nine news service teletypes in the corner wall bulletined the identical message credited to the same DNB source, added the warning that there was no Allied confirmation.

An announcer rushed to the newsroom microphone. It was exactly 12:41 a.m., EWT.

Several minutes later came another bulletin, then another, then a fourth—all with the same report. For almost three hours the rumor persisted unconfirmed. But in the newsroom the feeling began to grow: *this was it . . .*

At 2:30 a.m. the network was put on “flash” basis; the NBC four-chime-alert calling all newsmen and commentators to their microphones, key operating personnel to their stations, sounded from the newsroom control room.

At 3:15 a.m., the bulletins, still credited to the German source, continued to pour in. There was still no Allied confirmation.

But at 3:18 a.m., again, the four chimes were sounded . . . followed a second later by the familiar throb of the coded V for Victory . . . the prearranged H Hour cue.

London called at 3:30: “*Stand by for an important broadcast . . .*” Two breathless minutes later: “*The text of Communiqué No. 1 of the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces will be released to press and radio of the United Nations ten seconds from now . . .*”

*At 9 seconds past 3:32, it hit the air . . .*

# NBC NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## D DAY • 1944

At 3:33:37 a.m. Robert St. John, speaking from the New York newsroom, made the announcement that began the most exciting twenty-four hours of news coverage in the history of broadcasting:

*“Men and women of the United States, this is a momentous hour in world history. This is the invasion of Hitler’s Europe—the zero hour . . .”*

For the next hectic twenty-four hours . . .

NBC newsmen, “alerted” since early January, stood by at microphones in London and along the English coast . . . spoke into portable wire recorders carried along on torpedo boats and in landing barges, aboard paratroop transports, onto the French beaches, and into advance Allied command posts . . . reported the event-by-event account of the most gigantic military operation ever attempted . . .

NBC reporters and commentators from the NBC Newsroom in New York virtually ad libbed a vivid word picture of the events across the sea, pieced together from the terse bulletins that continued to pour into the newsroom . . .

NBC microphones were opened from coast to coast for prayer, for public reaction, for timely ceremonies and specially prepared D Day programs.

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N.B.: *In order that a prayerful America listening at its radios might hear, uninterrupted, a full and comprehensive account of the historic action, the National Broadcasting Company cleared the network, cancelled all commercial programs for twenty-four hours. The story of those first unforgettable twenty-four hours, as NBC listeners heard it—in 163 stirring broadcasts from all over the world, and all over the United States—has been told in detail in NBC’s “H Hour—1944.”*



## NBC AT THE BATTLE FRONTS • 1942-1944

During 1942, 1943 and early 1944, NBC News and Special Events sent reporters to every part of the globe to broadcast to America an account of the day-by-day struggle between the warring nations.

NBC is now represented in more than fifty capitals and military headquarters; along the military roads of the world as well. The microphones shown on the map indicate only the location of NBC general



headquarters in Europe and South America and the extent of NBC's news coverage in the Pacific, operating out of NBC headquarters in Australia.

Some idea of the magnitude of NBC's global coverage of the news may perhaps be best illustrated by the following figures: during one typical month in 1942,

NBC News and Special Events carried the American people on a journey of 626,845 miles in its overseas broadcasts—25 times around the equator!

*During 1942-1943 and through May 1944, NBC News and Special Events relayed to America the story of a world at war in a total of 4,139 separate pickups.*

# NO LOUD TALKING *PLEASE*



TOKIO  
1 DAY LATER



G.M.T.



NEW YORK



MOSCOW  
CAIRO



LONDON-PARIS  
BERLIN-ROME



# NBC NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS SINCE PEARL HARBOR 1942-1944

America at war—guns in the hands of American troops—NBC news in the homes of America.

The story of NBC News and Special Events is the story of the men in charge of the NBC Newsroom in New York, of the NBC reporters and correspondents stationed at every vital area of combat throughout the world, of the NBC reporters on the home front.

## SOLDIERS WITH MICROPHONES

The story of NBC's newsmen on the fighting fronts of the world is one of great personal devotion to their profession, of physical courage, of practical experience in warfare, logistics and international politics.

As the United Nations cleared the Axis out of the Mediterranean, landed on European soil by way of Sicily, Italy and France, moved northward in the Pacific, bombed Fortress Europa from the British Isles, these NBC newsmen, armed only with typewriters and microphones, relayed and continue to report daily to America the story of the Allied offensives, the maturing intricacies of European, African and Asiatic diplomacy.

Tramping with Allied soldiers over muddy, bomb-pocked roads, bedding down on laden troop transports, leaping ashore from shallow landing barges, peering from the bellies of Flying Fortresses, these men have combined to make the well-known words "From the NBC Newsroom in New York" synonymous with accurate, reliable, authentic reporting possible only from the lips of men who saw it happen.

# FOUR MEN

These are the men who direct and control the operations of Room 404, nerve center of NBC's vast international news organization. They are charged with heavy responsibilities—to get the news, to supervise the writing of NBC news broadcasts, to assign the duties of more than forty NBC correspondents scattered throughout the world, of more than 60 NBC reporters and commentators in the United States.

These men, students of history, with long years of practical reportorial experience behind them, reveal by their directives and instructions which go out daily from New York to NBC newsmen, an uncanny accuracy for predicting the course of the war.

As America turns its dials to NBC news, the student, the housewife, the soldier and sailor, the politician, the laborer, the business man listen, believe, become an articulate nation.

This is the contribution of NBC's News and Special Events to the country, to the Allied war effort, to the America of tomorrow.

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## WILLIAM F. BROOKS

*Director of NBC News and Special Events*

INTO his span of 41 years, has crammed a background of a quarter century of journalism as reporter, editor and news executive. He started his impressive news career on his home town (Sedalia, Missouri) paper in 1917; attended the University of Missouri; worked on several Midwestern papers, including the Kansas City Star, and in 1926 began his long and outstanding career with The Associated Press. The following fourteen years brought him diverse experiences, unusual advancements and wide acquaintance with newsmen shared by few in the business. A year after he joined the AP in Kansas City, he was transferred to the Washington staff to help organize the AP's new feature division. Two years later, at the age of 26, he was appointed Executive Editor—up to that time AP's youngest executive. Visiting AP bureaus here and abroad he traveled to every state in the Union and journeyed extensively through South America and Europe. As Executive Assistant to Kent Cooper, he helped organize AP's Membership Department. Later he became Executive News Editor. He went abroad in 1937 as Managing Director of AP in England and Germany; organized the first AP Service distribution in Europe, and traveled tirelessly to set up an enlarged bureau at Amsterdam, which in



the early phase of the war remained a neutral center of news. With the invasion of the Lowlands and the fall of France, Brooks returned in 1940 to the United States; engaged in magazine and radio work until 1942, when NBC sought his expert services to direct the operations of the reorganized war-expanded News and Special Events Division.



## FRANCIS C. McCALL

*Manager of Operations of NBC News and Special Events Department*

TEXAS born and educated. Came to New York in 1927 to serve in Foreign Department of UP. In 1936 transferred to New York offices of the Chicago Tribune. Later that same year joined NBC as a writer and editor. Appointed NBC News Editor in 1941, in 1942 Manager of Operations of NBC's new News and Special Events Department under William F. Brooks. McCall supervises the writing of the NBC commentators' news scripts, schedules all domestic and overseas broadcasts, arranges for NBC Special Events pick-ups. McCall has assisted in enlarging the news coverage of the NBC Newsroom to its present worldwide scope.



## ADOLPH J. SCHNEIDER

*Assistant Manager in Charge of News*

AN avid student of history since boyhood, he now watches it being made in news reports that pass across his desk. At the age of 18, became a reporter for the Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald. Over a ten-year period, he sat at the copy desk, wrote sports, theatre reviews, made up the paper, put five editions to bed daily. Schneider joined NBC in 1938 when the Munich crisis broke. He has written more network news reports than any other NBC staff member. During numerous "crisis" periods he turned out a volume of 8,000 words daily. Schneider now supervises NBC's writers and news editors.



## JOSEPH O. MEYERS

*Assistant Manager in Charge of Special Events*

BORN at Henry, Illinois, he attended University of Illinois and worked on Detroit News. Was Assistant City Editor with St. Paul Daily News until 1934, when he took his first radio job—with KSTP in St. Paul. He set up the KSTP news bureau which grew to a staff of eight men. While Meyers was News Editor and head of Special Events at KSTP, the station won a number of citations for public service. Meyers joined NBC in 1942. In August 1943 he became daytime News Supervisor, and in April 1944, Assistant Manager of NBC Special Events in charge of technical details on domestic and overseas pickups. Meyers did a 103-hour stretch of unrelieved duty during NBC's invasion coverage.

# NBC REPORTERS IN THE BRITISH ISLES 1942-1944

ON December 8, 1940, a 2,000-pound German parachute bomb exploded sixty feet from NBC's London Office, completely wrecking it.

In the office was NBC's Western European representative, Fred Bate, who with his two assistants, Mildred Boutwood and Florence Peart, was preparing the script for his 11 P.M. broadcast. They were working by candlelight, an earlier bomb having put out the electric lights.

Bate had just looked up to greet Geoffrey Toye (British announcer who has since died) when, in his own words, "all hell broke loose."

An explosion, "like a sudden tornado, a mixture of high wind and grinding noises, of air filled with rushing stuff" shook the building.

Bate went down, badly cut about the face, head, arms, and shoulders. He recalls that his first thought was, "I'm an awful long way from my family." His next, "I mustn't pass out." Another jar shook some plaster loose from the ceiling. To the prostrate Bate, pinned under debris, the next eight or nine seconds while he waited for the rest of the room to cave in on him, were "an interminable interval." But the beams held.

By some miraculous circumstance, except for a bad shaking up and minor bruises, Boutwood, Peart and Toye all escaped injury. The three dug Bate out from under the wreckage and helped him to the dressing station of the BBC offices across the street.

Bate was so seriously injured, he was invalided home after many days of hospitalization. Returning to London a few months later, he

saw the second NBC office bombed and wrecked on April 16, 1941.

Fred Bate has been with NBC for twelve years, joining the company in 1932 as Western European representative with offices in Paris. In January, 1933, Bate moved his bureau to London. He made radio history with his coverage of the British reactions to the Munich crisis, his several-times-daily broadcasts to America during England's darkest years, 1939-1941.

NBC records reveal that Bate could hardly have slept during that period. In a total of 635 broadcasts, he told America how England reacted to the German blitz, the fall of France, the evacuation of Dunkerque, the withdrawal from Crete, the African campaign, the resignation of Chamberlain, the arrival of Hess, the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During the Munich crisis alone, Bate broadcast nine times in one day, continuing to cover the story from London until Czechoslovakia was partitioned on September 29, 1938.

It was Bate who, standing before his microphone on September 3, 1939, scooped the story of the sinking of the British ship, Athenia, by a German submarine.

## NBC BRITISH ISLES LOG

1942-1944

Number of pick-ups . . . . 1,681

*From: England, Ireland and Scotland.*

Not content with sitting at his desk, Bate's success was due to his own "leg work." He covered London from the docks to the barrage balloon stations; made many trips to Dover and other coastal points; witnessed the return of the Dunkerque fleet; sailed on mine sweepers; went out with the London Fire Brigade; visited navy yards, bomber stations, night-fighter stations; climbed up control towers, down into air-raid shelters; plunged from the sky in dive bombers.

Back from London in 1942, Bate was appointed head of NBC's International Division in New York. Under his guidance this division, in cooperation with Government agencies, during 1943 broadcast in nine languages more than 25,000 programs to Europe, Asia, and South America; shortwaved thousands of "live" programs, recordings, and news broadcasts to our forces throughout the world.

ONCE again, an NBC reporter was first on the scene of action. Stanley Richardson, successor to Fred Bate as director of NBC's London office, was the first radio reporter to be taken along on an RAF bomber raid over Berlin. Dodging a heavy concentration of flak, the crew loosed tons of bombs over the German capital; returned safely to England where Richardson recounted the story for NBC listeners in America—the first broadcast of its kind by a radio reporter from the European theatre of war.

A short eight weeks later, Richardson scored another beat when he relayed to America a recording made in a plane during a bombing attack on Stettin, Germany.

For the first time in radio history, NBC listeners heard the voices of the pilot, bombardier and navigator as they sighted the target, got their bombs away, made a direct hit.

On August 19, 1942, an armada struck out from England toward France. The Commando-Ranger raid on Dieppe had started. On one of the invasion barges was NBC's John MacVane,

the only American radio reporter to witness the raid. Under steady shellfire and bombing attacks, MacVane got back to London where he broadcast to America the first story of the disastrous attempt to storm the fortress of Europe.

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*Reporting from the British Isles during 1942-1943-1944, these NBC newsmen were the eyes and ears in Europe for NBC listeners in America.*

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**FRED BATE**

BORN in Chicago, he attended the University of Chicago. In 1912 he went to Paris to study drawing with Jean Paul Laurens. In 1914 he designed and helped to build the first Ford ambulance used in the war. Later that year he joined the American Ambulance in Paris, and assisted in the formation of the American Field Service. Bate lived in Europe for twenty years before joining NBC in 1932 as Western European Representative. In 1919 he became associated with the Reparations Commission, serving in Vienna as General Secretary of the Austrian Section until 1921. Returning to Paris, he served with the United States unofficial delegation of the Reparations Commission. In 1924 he was appointed to the United States Citizen Members delegation created by the London Conference where he remained until the dissolution of the Reparations Commission in 1930. He was secretary of the Young Committee in 1929. During the crucial years from 1938 through 1941, Bate standing by his NBC microphone in London, reported regularly to network listeners in a succession of the most dramatic and historic broadcasts in radio annals. Early in 1942, he returned to New York and became manager of NBC's International Division.



### STANLEY P. RICHARDSON

VIRGINIA born, was educated in North Carolina and Georgia. He began his news career in 1920 as a reporter in Atlanta, moving on to other mid-South and Texas cities before joining The Associated Press in 1922 as night editor in Dallas. Joining The Associated Press, he served for sixteen years as correspondent and editorial desk man in Oklahoma City, Atlanta, Chicago, Washington, New York and Moscow. For three years he was chief of the AP bureau in Moscow. On Richardson's return to the United States for a second assignment in Washington, Ambassador Davies persuaded him to leave his AP Washington desk to become his aide and confidential secretary in Moscow. When Davies was transferred to Belgium, Richardson went with him, both returning to America four months after the outbreak of the war in Europe. Back in Washington again, Richardson was assigned to the Department of State as special assistant to the Secretary. He resigned to become Coordinator of International Broadcasting, serving as liaison between the government and the short-wave broadcasters in the United States. In September, 1942, he accepted his present post as head of the NBC London Bureau. Chief among Richardson's important functions as director of the busy London office is the coordination and maintenance of this bureau's operations with those of the British Broadcasting Corporation. His also is the responsibility for the assignment and direction of the NBC newsmen covering the European war from this important news center for NBC listeners in America.



### ELMER PETERSON

THIS veteran correspondent and radio commentator was born in Duluth, Minnesota; graduated in 1927 from Carlton College in Northfield, Minn.; immediately began his news career on the staff of the Duluth News Tribune, and subsequently the Minneapolis Morning Tribune. His foreign service was begun in 1931 when he took up residence in Stockholm, Sweden, and became a correspondent for The Associated Press. In 1934, after a period of service in London, Peterson joined the Berlin staff of AP, just in time to cover Hitler's "blood purge" that year. Returned to Stockholm in '35, he was appointed AP Bureau Chief. In 1936 he arrived at San Sebastian, Spain, the day civil war broke out; stayed on for seven months covering the war until illness forced his return to London and then Washington. Recovered, Peterson headed for the Far East; became the first American newsman to visit the Japanese Army in action. The early months of 1939 found Peterson covering the Palestine riots and events in the Near East. In June, he was assigned to Warsaw as Chief of AP's bureau there, remaining until a week after the Nazi invasion. Sent next to Copenhagen, he covered the Finnish-Russian War for AP; then in 1940 returned to Budapest. In 1941 Peterson returned to the United States to devote himself to magazine writing, lecturing and radio work. He joined NBC in 1942 and was sent to London. Back in New York in March 1944, Peterson's background of personal knowledge of practically every major power competing in this war, gave added impact to his invasion day broadcasts.

# NBC REPORTERS IN AFRICA

## 1942-1944

**J**OHN MacVane, Merrill Mueller, Ralph Howard, Grant Parr, Don Hollenbeck, Chester Morrison—these are the NBC newsmen who, during the desperate struggle for the supremacy of the African desert, the Mediterranean, Sicily and Italy, kept America constantly aware of the importance of those campaigns. Riding in jeeps with the Allied armies during their victorious conquest of Africa, leapfrogging in planes from landing fields in Africa and Italy, these men shared the hazards of our combat troops; often struck down by illness, stayed at their microphones to relay the news back home.

On November 7, 1942, when American forces made their historic landing in North Africa to turn the tide of that campaign, John MacVane, assigned at that time to London, could not be located by the NBC Newsroom in New York.

MacVane was aboard a transport bound for Africa. Landing with the first wave of American troops, MacVane started to oil the machinery that one week later brought his well-known voice from Algiers to NBC listeners in America.

That was the beginning of a brilliant record of radio reporting which ended only with the final fall of Tunis, where MacVane chalked up another radio "first" by broadcasting to America the first eye-witness account of the last stand of the Axis in the African desert. MacVane got his "scoop" by taking a short cut outside Tunis, driving his jeep into the city while the Germans were still in control.

Alternating between the battle front and Allied General Headquarters in Algiers, MacVane relayed almost daily to America the story

of that desperate struggle for the control of the vital African desert. He was the first to radio the account of the Axis assault which checked the Allies' abortive attempt to smash into Tunisia; broadcast the Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Casablanca.

Wearer of the Purple Heart for gallantry under fire; three times hospitalized for injuries sustained on battle fronts; the "most blitzed" American war correspondent of World War II, surviving more than one thousand air raids . . .

This is Merrill Mueller who reported for NBC during 1942-1943 from Africa, Sicily, Italy.

Pearl Harbor found Mueller aboard a British destroyer bound for Gibraltar. He witnessed General Ritchie's breathless sweep across Northern Libya; streaked for Singapore, escaped to Java whence he fled to Australia. Assigned to cover General MacArthur, he roamed Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands; then back to North Africa where he reported to NBC listeners the final stages of that campaign.

On June 11, when the Allies started to soften up Sicily and the adjoining islands, Mueller, riding in the nose of an American Flying Fortress, "The Red Gremlin," witnessed the raid on Pantelleria; returned to Africa to send his exclusive story over NBC microphones to America.

On July 11, 1943, Mueller landed on Sicily with the first wave of United States troops. Strafed by enemy planes, Mueller was forced to sink under water holding his typewriter over his head. Returning to Allied headquarters five days later, Mueller broadcast to America the first eye-witness account of the invasion. "The official

communiques," Mueller told America, "are an understatement of our progress on this second-front island."

As our troops swept over Sicily, crossed the Strait of Messina, got a toe-hold on the Italian boot and battled their way inland, Mueller, though suffering from a sinus infection, stayed in the field with them, continued his vivid day-by-day, blow-by-blow, eye-witness report on their progress.

As the Fifth Army continued its stubborn struggle to dislodge the Germans from their mountain strongholds in Italy, Merrill Mueller, shuttling between the Italian front and Algiers, continued to relay to the American people his history-making accounts of the battle for the supremacy of Italy.

A one-kilowatt NBC transmitter with a round-the-world history of travel, a sporting toss of a coin between rival radio correspondents, marked an historic occasion—the first time since the outbreak of World War II that free speech was heard from the continent of Europe.

Ten years ago, NBC engineers put this transmitter together to act as a stand-by unit for Station WMAQ in Chicago. Later, installed in the schooner "Seth Parker," it was salvaged and shipped back to New York when the ship, badly damaged in a Pacific hurricane, was abandoned near Samoa. Its next jaunt was to Canton Island in the South Pacific, where an NBC crew again put it to use to cover the 1937 eclipse of the sun.

Came the American invasion of North Africa. A former NBC engineer, serving with the armed forces there, knew that the army was looking for a transmitter, had it requisitioned from a musty warehouse in Chicago, sent it to an undisclosed destination.

Saturday, November 15, 1943, in Naples, Italy, correspondents from the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System, The Blue Network and The British Broadcasting Corporation lined up before this NBC transmitter. In the order of the coin toss, NBC's Don Hollenbeck was the second to report to America the activities of the Fifth Army in the field. Forty-five minutes later, over this same transmitter, Merrill Mueller's voice came through clear to America.

Now operated by the U. S. Signal Corps, this transmitter, located in a private dwelling, carried to millions of Americans and British the first report direct from the Italian front by four rival commentators—men who voluntarily relinquished the coveted radio "scoop" to get the news to the people back home.

## NBC NORTH AFRICAN LOG

1942-1944

Number of pick-ups . . . . 702

*From: Algeria, Belgian Congo, Free French Africa, East Africa, Libya, South Africa, North Africa, Italy.*

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*From Africa, Italy and England, these NBC reporters, in 1942-1943-1944, broadcast to America the struggle for the vital African desert, the conquest of Italy, and the invasion of France*

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**MERRILL MUELLER**

ONE of those rara avis—a native New Yorker—has crammed the adventures of a lifetime into his 27 years. When he was fourteen he started to collect news and learn the news business. Before he was ready for college he was sports and county reporter for two Connecticut dailies. He earned a university scholarship, but left college in his first term and went to a Buffalo paper as city news reporter. When he was eighteen he joined King Features Syndicate, and at twenty he was labor and aviation specialist for International News Service in New York City. At twenty-one he was Washington correspondent on the INS staff. Given a roving assignment, he covered Europe, missing only Czechoslovakia and Russia. When war broke out he was sent to the French front. Then came a quick tour of the Balkans and Italy, after which he returned to France just as Mussolini entered the war. He left Paris the night before the Germans occupied it; evacuated to Tours, thence to Bordeaux. By British cruiser and Dutch freighter he arrived in England where he remained until November, 1941; lived through the Battle of Britain, lost two apartments and was hospitalized by one bomb blast. Joining NBC in time to cover the North African campaign, his life since has been a kaleidoscope of frenzied action in the European, African, Far Eastern, and South Pacific theaters. The only radio reporter assigned to General Eisenhower's Headquarters Staff, his broadcasts on D Day, June 6, 1944, were made from an Advance Allied Command Post.



**JOHN V. MacVANE**

WAS born in Portland, Maine; attended Portland public schools and the Portland High School; studied at Phillips Exeter Academy; was graduated from Williams College with a B.A., and from Oxford University with a B.Litt. In 1935, returning to the United States, he went to work for the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. A year later, he joined the staff of the New York Sun. Back in London in 1938, he became sub-editor of the London Daily Express. The following two years he spent, respectively, with the Paris Bureaus of the Daily Express and the International News Service. Hired by NBC's Western European Representative Fred Bate shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, he was assigned to the NBC London staff. He was the only radio reporter to accompany United States troops during the Dieppe raid in 1942—a dramatic eye-witness account of which he broadcast to NBC listeners in America. He was on the scene also for the African invasion; accompanied the troops across the Mediterranean. Stationed at Allied General Headquarters, he remained with the Allied forces until the successful completion of that campaign, and then returned to London. His book, "A Journey Into War," in which he has detailed his various experiences as an ace war correspondent, hit the bookstands last fall. Manuscript for a second book, tentatively titled "First Offensive," is now in the hands of his publishers. MacVane's invasion assignment landed him with the first assault troops to reach the north coast of France.



**DON HOLLENBECK**

BEGAN his impressive journalistic career while still a student at the University of Nebraska. He worked for nine years on the Omaha (Neb.) News-Bee before joining the staff of The Associated Press in 1937. In the course of the next three years he worked successively in AP bureaus in San Francisco and New York City. In 1940 he joined NBC's News Department in New York. But shortly after the declaration of war, he transferred his activities to the Office of War Information's Overseas branch; was assigned to the OWI's London news staff. In March of 1943 he left the OWI to rejoin NBC, reporting from London to NBC listeners in America. Early in August, Hollenbeck was assigned to cover American Field Headquarters in Algiers from which important news center he was heard in a series of history-making NBC broadcasts. When the Allies hurled their forces at the Italian mainland, Hollenbeck made the Mediterranean crossing with our troops. He covered the Salerno landing—was, in fact, on the first boat to face the terrific fire of the German shore batteries. He stayed with our troops as they battled their way northward, reporting to America the day-by-day activities of the Fifth Army. After the Allies had secured Naples, Hollenbeck's was one of the four voices of American radio correspondents participating in the first demonstration of free speech heard from Europe since the Axis conquest began. On hand in New York at H Hour, Hollenbeck was one of the ace NBC newsmen whose broadcasts from the NBC newsroom filled in the picture of the gigantic military operation for American listeners.



**RALPH HOWARD**

WAS born Ralph Peterson, at Caspar, Wyoming. Moved with his family to Washington, D. C., when still a boy. He got his first taste of the newspaper business while a student at George Washington University, when he went to work as secretary to the Managing Editor of the Washington Times-Herald. Some time later he joined the Washington Bureau of the International News Service, and after two years took on the additional task of writing speeches for a congressman. In 1941 he joined the NBC news staff and had his name changed from Peterson to Howard. This was done to avoid confusion in the minds of NBC listeners who were already so familiar with the name of Elmer Peterson, himself a well-known NBC correspondent. Howard's first NBC assignment was the exciting one of covering the presidential train. During those first critical weeks following the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, he was assigned by NBC to cover the news emanating from the White House and the War and Navy Departments. A short while later, he left NBC to take a job as news editor of the Information Division of the Board of Economic Warfare. But the excitement of news reporting was in his blood. So back to the National Broadcasting Company came Ralph Howard; was immediately dispatched to the North African theatre of operations where he reported the see-saw battle between Germany, Italy and the Allies; the invasion of Sicily and Italy. With the Allied armies during the Rome drive, Howard was in Naples when word came of the European assault; broadcast to America the first account of Italian reaction to the new offensive.

# NBC REPORTERS IN THE PACIFIC

## 1942-1944

**T**AKING up where Silen and Bell left off at Manila, NBC's Dick Tennyly from Tokyo, Martin Agronsky from Singapore, Sydney Allbright from Batavia stuck to their job of broadcasting the news to America until their capture was imminent.

Tennyly was captured as he entered his office in Tokyo; spent wretched months in a Tokyo prison before being repatriated.

Allbright escaped capture by minutes when he fled before the Japanese forces in Java to a new post in Australia; Agronsky got to Australia after weeks of hardship and danger.

As Americans and Australians fought it out in Australia and New Guinea, NBC's Martin Agronsky and Mervin K. Slosberg told America how General MacArthur and his outnumbered troops threw the Japanese back at Port Moresby; how, reinforced, they broke Japanese control of New Guinea, cleaned out enemy forces on Lae and Salamaua, recaptured Guadalcanal; told how Australian and American troops, beating the Japanese at their own game of jungle warfare, were regaining hard-lost positions in hard-fought battles; how the American Pacific Fleet, challenging the Japanese to combat, were gaining control of the South Pacific seas.

As General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz continue their joint offensives, NBC's three Pacific-wise reporters—Ed Wallace, George Folster, Jim Wahl—are revealing to America, step by step, MacArthur's progress toward his promised recapture of the Philippines; Admiral Nimitz' drive northward toward Tokyo.

Ed Wallace, returning to Australia after a tour of the Solomons, broadcast to America

vivid accounts of the fighting in that area; was the first on the air to broadcast the news of the smashing United States Air Force victory over the Japs in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea.

George Folster, between island-hopping from Australia to New Caledonia, gave the first radio news broadcast from the Marine base on recaptured Guadalcanal; called the turn on the Allied landings on Bougainville Island. It was Folster, flying in a supporting bomber, who witnessed and reported the capture of Lae by American and Australian paratroopers led by General MacArthur from the leading bomber.

Jim Wahl from Honolulu, scanning that part of the Pacific that the Japanese covet beyond all else, scored a radio "beat" when he flashed to America the official communique of the Pacific Fleet on the capture of Makin Island; together with NBC's Mervin K. Slosberg from Australia and New Zealand, reported to America the Allied occupation of the Russell Islands, the Allied drive in New Guinea, the increasing fury of Allied air attacks against Rabaul, Gasmata, Cape Blasa, Wewak; the courageous assault of our soldiers, sailors and marines against the Japanese-held Gilbert Islands.

### NBC PACIFIC LOG

#### 1942-1944

Number of pick-ups . . . . 767

*From: Australia, Hawaii, Java, Malay Straits, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, New Georgia, New Guinea.*

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*These NBC reporters broadcast to America the early Japanese conquests of the Pacific from Tokyo to Australia; are continuing to report the course of the Pacific war as it moves northward.*

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**EDWARD E. WALLACE**

HAS been a part of every important news break of this war. From the Munich crisis to the invasion of the lowlands and the fall of France; from Pearl Harbor to North Africa to Australia—Wallace has handled them all. Began his career in 1926 as a cub reporter on the Minneapolis Journal. Working from seven in the morning until five at night, Wallace had only started his day which ended at three o'clock the next morning. Covering all the news, he helped to smash a gang of racketeers; destroyed a ring of political grafters. Then came a position as staff member with the San Francisco Examiner. Three years later, he joined The Associated Press, handling the difficult task of interpreting political trends. In 1935 he went to Fargo, North Dakota, to run the Forum, a morning newspaper from that city. 1936 found him back in New York again with The Associated Press as general editor and South American editor. Wallace joined NBC in 1942 as night news editor. A year later, he was appointed chief of the NBC newsmen covering the South Pacific. Stationed at General MacArthur's headquarters in Australia, Wallace and the NBC newsmen under his direction covered the immense South Pacific territory by plane and transport, hopping from island to island, reporting almost daily the progress of our armed forces in the Pacific. Wallace, now back in the States, did his invasion day broadcasts from the NBC newsroom in Cleveland.



**GEORGE THOMAS FOLSTER**

BORN, Cape Cod, Massachusetts; educated, Harvard Business School. After brief merchandising career, joined second Fahnstock Expedition to South Seas in 1940. In Australia in 1941, was news broadcaster to U. S. for Australian Broadcasting Commission when war came. Armed with his NBC microphone, Folster is realizing his ambition—to broadcast to NBC listeners in America reports of the conquest of the Pacific directly from the Allied battlefields.



**JIM McDONALD WAHL**

CALIFORNIA born, received his education at Eureka in California and at Phoenix Junior College, Phoenix, Arizona. He worked for several years as a news reporter for stations KOY in Phoenix and KGU in Honolulu. Now stationed at Honolulu for NBC, Wahl's keen news sense and expert knowledge of radio reporting have resulted in many outstanding NBC broadcasts from this part of the Pacific.

# NBC REPORTERS

## AT THE WORLD'S CROSSROADS

### 1942-1944

As Russia continues to retake her lands, farms and cities, as American, Australian and New Zealand troops push the Japanese back to Tokyo, as the Allies and Germans struggle for the possession of Italy, NBC reporters, traveling with the Allied armies and navies, broadcast to America the daily outcome of the battles.

Reporting global war, however, a war that affects every country, every individual in the world, is a twofold task. It is not enough that America know from the lips of NBC reporters the results of battles; NBC believes that America must also know what world-wide political, economic and social repercussions develop from total war.

Stationed at listening posts in every part of the world are NBC reporters who broadcast to America the effects of global war on belligerents and non-belligerents alike.

Ranging along the 2,000-mile Russo-German battle front, NBC's Robert Magidoff, the only American radio commentator to cover the whole Russian war, reported almost daily to America the struggle between these two mighty foes.

In nine journeys to the front, more trips than any other radio correspondent, Magidoff told America about the Russian retreat early in 1942, the 1943 Russian counter-attacks which threw the Germans back along the entire front.

Two trips to Stalingrad, while the fight was raging around that city, gave Magidoff material for exclusive NBC broadcasts: his personal interview with General Rodim Malinovski, the man

who defeated the army of General von Kleist; his interview with the 21-year-old Russian lieutenant who captured General von Paulus.

Magidoff also came through for NBC listeners with a vivid account of the evacuation to Kuibeshev; the first eye-witness description of lend-lease supplies to Russia arriving at the Persian Gulf Service Command.

On November 22, when Churchill, Roosevelt, and Chiang Kai-shek met at Cairo; again on November 28 when Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met at Teheran, NBC's Newsroom in New York instructed Chester Morrison and Grant Parr to be there.

These two NBC reporters responded by being the first to broadcast to America the official releases of those two historic conferences.

#### NBC LOG FROM THE WORLD'S CROSSROADS • 1942-1944

Number of pick-ups . . . . 1,065

*From: Russia, Turkey, Palestine, India, China, Egypt, Aleutian Islands, Argentina, Brazil, British West Indies, Columbia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iceland, Netherlands West Indies, Panama, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela, Peru, Alaska, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, France.*

From neutral Sweden, Switzerland and Spain, the melting pots of news from conquered Europe, America heard and understood more about international affairs through the analytical comments of David Anderson, Paul Archinard, Charles Foltz.

From Iceland, at the top of the world, NBC's Bjorn Bjornson watched and reported events; early in 1944, replaced David Anderson (transferred to the London Bureau) in the Swedish capital; Peter Brennan "keeps watch" over the

Suez of the Western Hemisphere, the Panama Canal; from Puerto Rico, Chile, and Argentina, Harwood Hull, Jr., Reece Hatchett, Stanley Ross relay to America the thoughts and hopes of our neighbors to the South.

Realizing that the East would become an increasingly important theatre of news, NBC News and Special Events, early in November, 1943, added two experienced reporters to its staff; assigned the Tokyo-repatriated Max Hill to Turkey, Roy Porter to Burma and China.

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*Ranging from Iceland to Argentina, from Sweden to Spain, from the Russian battlefields to Cairo and Teheran, from Turkey to China, these NBC reporters in 1942-1943-1944 revealed to America the story of the Russian war, the complexities of international relations.*

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**DAVID M. ANDERSON**

A NATIVE Californian, was graduated from the University of California in 1938 with an A.B. in Public Speaking. The following year he went to Sweden, where, during the Finnish and Norwegian wars, he translated the articles of Sweden's foremost war correspondent for the local bureau of a large American news agency. He also broadcast nightly a short-wave broadcast to America for the Swedish Broadcasting Company. Appointed NBC Stockholm correspondent, he was sent to Rome for a short time, and then returned to the neutral Swedish capital. Early in 1944 Anderson was transferred to London, where he reports to America the gathering might of the Allies.



**CHESTER MORRISON**

BORN in Philadelphia, served in the United States Navy during the years 1917 to 1919. Back to school after the war, he received his degree from Rutgers College in 1923. He has been a newsman for fifteen years as a reporter for The Associated Press, the Boston Transcript, the Boston Herald. His last assignment prior to joining the staff of NBC war correspondents was with the Chicago Sun. Morrison is an NBC veteran of the African campaign, having covered every major action from Cairo, and from advance points on the field, through the final expulsion of the Germans and Italians from Africa. He is currently stationed in Algiers.



**ROBERT MAGIDOFF**

Russian born, came to this country in 1922 when he was 16 years old. Although he had no knowledge of the English language when he arrived, he attended the New York City schools, was speaking like a "native" by the time he reached the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1935. Upon completion of his schooling he returned to Russia, and immediately embarked on what has become a brilliant newspaper and radio career. He worked for the Exchange Telegraph of Great Britain until 1939, when he became a member of the Moscow office of The Associated Press. In July 1941 he joined the National Broadcasting Company as its Russian correspondent; earned for himself the distinction of being the only American radio correspondent to cover the entire Russian war. Reporting his experiences regularly to America, Magidoff's vivid eyewitness accounts of the Russo-German conflict have been a highlight of the round-up program. A friend of Dimitri Shostakovitch, it was Magidoff who obtained for the NBC Symphony Orchestra the rights to the composer's Seventh Symphony, played for the first time in America by that orchestra on July 19, 1942. Late in 1943, Magidoff returned to New York for a well-earned rest. While in America, he toured the country lecturing on Russia and the Russian people for whom he has great admiration and respect. Magidoff is now back in Russia, where he is continuing to report to America the great Russian drive to the West. With his Russian heritage and his American education, Magidoff is ideally fitted to interpret Russian news and bring to the American people a sympathetic estimate of the Russian character.



**HENRY C. CASSIDY**

HARVARD graduate, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He started what was to be an impressive newspaper career in 1931, when he landed a job as reporter for the Boston Traveller. Two years later, he joined The Associated Press staff in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1935, he was sent abroad to the AP Paris Bureau. In 1936, at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, he journeyed into Spain to cover hostilities from the scene of that holocaust. Returning to Paris during the spring of 1940, he witnessed the German break through the Maginot defenses, the overrunning of France, the occupation of the French capital city. After France capitulated, The Associated Press assigned him to Moscow to head up their bureau in that important news center. "In" on practically every important news story originating in the Russian capital, Cassidy capped a thrilling news record when he obtained the now famous Stalin letters. This occurred in 1942, when stalemated—as were all foreign correspondents who attempted personally to interview the Marshal—Cassidy hit on the idea of writing his questions in a letter he addressed to Stalin. The unexpected replies he received enabled him to score what was easily the most impressive news beat of the year. When in September, 1943, Robert Magidoff, NBC's regular Moscow correspondent, was called back to the United States to take a well-deserved vacation, and it was necessary to find an equally able commentator to substitute for him in the coverage of the Russian theatre for NBC listeners, Cassidy's splendid record made him a natural selection. Since, he has been heard regularly from Moscow, on the NBC World News program.



**PAUL ARCHINARD**

WAS born in Paris, France, in April, 1899, but shortly before his fifth birthday emigrated with his family to the United States. He lived in this country for more than twenty years, receiving his education in Cleveland, Ohio, before he returned to France in 1918 as representative for an American firm. From 1920 to 1926 he was connected with the Paris purchasing offices of Montgomery Ward. The nature of his work necessitated extensive travelling throughout France, Belgium and Switzerland, experience which was later to stand him in excellent stead. In 1927 he married and returned to the United States, living in New York City for several years, where both his daughters were born. Back on the other side of the Atlantic again, in 1934 he joined NBC as assistant to Fred Bate in the London bureau. The following year, Bate sent him to Paris to head up the NBC office in the French capital. From that vantage point he watched as war came to Europe; as the Nazi hordc overflowed into Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Low Countries and finally into France. He stuck to his post covering the scene for NBC listeners in America almost to the hour the German Army entered Paris, then fled south to Bordeaux literally one jump ahead of the invaders. It was Archinard who, standing before his NBC microphone at Compiegne Forest, gave to America an eyewitness account of the meeting in the railroad car between Hitler and Petain which started the Vichy Government on its pro-Axis career. Archinard is now stationed at NBC's offices in neutral Berne, Switzerland. His years of intimate association with the peoples of Europe bring him close to the pulse of the news as it flows through the underground; make him eminently qualified for his job.



**GRANT PARR**

A NATIVE of the Lone Star State, William Grant Parr was born in Palacios, Texas. At the age of three he moved with his family to Minden, Nebraska. There, went through his grade and high schooling, after which he attended Nebraska-Wesleyan University for two years; received his B.A. and Certificate of Journalism for another two years study at Nehraska University. While still a college student, he worked as a reporter and night city editor on the Nebraska State Journal in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1938 he came to New York. The following year he received his Master's Degree in Journalism from Columbia University. Upon completion of his studies he crossed the Atlantic, began what was to be an extensive tour of the European Continent. Arriving finally in Cairo, Egypt, he settled there; got himself a post at the American University to teach Journalism, History and English. During that time he became a frequent contributor to various United States newspapers including among others the New York Herald Tribune, and a number of periodicals. Appointed NBC correspondent, he covered the war from Cairo; accompanied the British Eighth Army as it rolled the Nazis back across the North African desert and converged to meet with the American forces. Parr then returned to Cairo in time to give the news to America and NBC listeners of such important events in the land of the Sphinx and the Pyramids, as the Cairo meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-shek; of the second Cairo meeting, in which President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churehill conferred with President Inonu of Turkey. Parr, with NBC's Chester Morrison, is credited with being the first radio reporter to release the official accounts of both meetings.



**PETER BRENNAN**

BOSTON born, began his news career in 1928 as editor of the Panama American. Since 1931 has been with the Panama Star and Herald, is currently Panama correspondent for both Time Magazine and the New York Herald Tribune. As NBC's Panama reporter, Brennan brings to the microphone the authority and knowledge of years of experience in reporting and interpreting affairs of this Central American republic.



**ROY PORTER**

CHICAGO born; graduated University of Iowa School of Journalism. First job with Los Angeles Herald, 1927. Began foreign service in Paris in 1937. Covered Spanish Civil War, and Nazi menace from its beginning, prior to Munich. Covered Memel occupation, invasion of Poland and Low Countries. In November, 1943, became NBC's Burma-China-India correspondent.



**BJORN BJORNSON**

NATIVE of Minnesota; graduate of University of Minnesota, 1933. Served four years as editor of a weekly paper in his home state; two years as head of the Department of Journalism in Grand Forks (N. D.) University; also editorial writer on the Minneapolis Tribune. Did first broadcasting on KFJM, Grand Forks, N. D., and WTCN and WDGY in Minneapolis. Joining NBC, he was sent to Iceland to report from that important operational base. Early in 1944, was sent to Sweden to cover the invasion.



**MAX HILL**

BORN in Colorado Springs; graduated University of Colorado, 1927. Early newspaper training with Denver Post. In 1934, joined New York staff of The Associated Press. Sent to AP Washington Bureau, but returned to New York in 1939 as bureau chief. In 1940, was assigned to Tokyo to direct the bureau there. Arrested day after Pearl Harbor, spent a year and five months in a Japanese prison camp. Repatriated in June, 1942, he joined NBC; is currently assigned to Turkey.

# NBC ON THE HOME FRONT

## 1942-1944

During 1942-1943, and in the first six months of 1944, millions of Americans in forty-eight united states turned their dials to the 140 independently-owned affiliated stations, the six operated stations of the National Broadcasting Company; kept hourly pace with history through the broadcasts of the newswise NBC correspondents stationed throughout the world, of the reporters speaking from the NBC newsrooms in New York, Chicago, Washington, Hollywood, Denver, Cleveland and San Francisco.

These men, through their accurate, unbiased interpretation of the news at home and abroad, told Americans how events were affecting their lives, shaping their destiny.





# THESE NAMES MAKE NEWS

## IN NEW YORK



**H. V. KALTENBORN**

THE DEAN of American newscasters. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he started his career in his father's building materials business, but ran away at the age of twenty to enlist in the Spanish-American War. He was a war correspondent in those days too, covering regimental activities for three Wisconsin papers, including the Milwaukee Journal. Discharged as a first sergeant he took a cattle boat trip to Europe. After these first tastes of adventure, he returned home and took a job on the Merrill (Wis.) Advocate. A year later he was city editor of the paper when the travel lure called again and he went to France as a traveling salesman. In 1902 he was back in the United States, working as a reporter on the Brooklyn Eagle. In 1907 he went to Berlin as secretary of the Harvard Professional Exchange. He attended Harvard while working on the Eagle, graduating cum laude in 1909 with the Boylston Prize for Public Speaking and the Coolidge Prize for debating. John Jacob Astor hired him as traveling tutor for his son, Vincent, during a yacht trip to Europe, the West Indies and South America. Kaltenhorn returned to the Eagle, where he remained until 1930, advancing from drama editor to associate editor. His radio

career began in the dawn-days of broadcasting, when he addressed the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce on April 21, 1921. Since then he has broadcast interviews with many of the world's famous and infamous, including Mussolini, Hitler, Gandhi and Chiang Kai-shek. He has been captured and held for ransom by Chinese bandits; and was the first to cover a battle—the attack upon Irun, Spain—with a microphone. Late in 1943 Kaltenborn donned the official Navy war correspondent's uniform and embarked on an inspection trip of Pacific fighting fronts, traveling a route which no war correspondent had ever followed before. Journeying for NBC under the auspices of the United States Navy, he was escorted by the SCATS and NATS (South Pacific Combat Air Transport Service and Navy Air Transport Service). It was the NATS who arranged for him to go out on a night mission in Empress Augusta Bay in a PT boat. At Bougainville he moved directly into the front line. He visited every important island in the Solomons and shared the hardships of the troops. He waded through hip-deep muck and dived into fox holes during two air raids. He spoke to every important commanding officer in the Southwest Pacific, including General Douglas MacArthur, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Admiral William F. Halsey. This latest trip was Kaltenborn's fourth journey through key war areas in fifteen months. In February, 1943, he went for a trip as guest of the Army Air Transport Command to Cuba, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Trinidad, the Canal Zone and Mexico. At Natal he suddenly decided to take a quick look at the African scene. He flew to the African Gold Coast, spent about twelve hours there, speaking to Lord Swinton and American and British commanding officers, and returned by plane to continue his scheduled journey. In August, 1943, he broadcast on Sunday from New York and turned up in the BBC studios in London the next day. Thus, this veteran news commentator, while constantly drawing on his enormous wealth of experience and background material, is able at the same time, by means of these periodic jaunts to the fighting fronts, to extend and freshen his outlook and to bring new experiences, new impressions and first hand knowledge of the progress of the war to his NBC listeners.

# ON THE HOME FRONT



**LOWELL THOMAS**

ONE of radio's great. Has been a printer, pressman, gold miner, cowpuncher, farmer, police reporter, official U. S. historian, explorer, lecturer, war correspondent, author, college professor, special European emissary of Woodrow Wilson and friend and companion of the mighty and the meek of all the world. Born in the village of Woodington, a few miles north of Dayton, Ohio, he moved with his family to western Iowa and later to Nebraska, but spent most of his boyhood in the raw roughness of a Colorado mining camp. He worked his way through Valparaiso University in Indiana, as a janitor, a salesman and a night cook in a short-order restaurant. He took his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at the University of Denver, working as a reporter, punching cows and pitching alfalfa on the Ute Indian reservation. He studied law in Chicago and became a Professor at the Chicago Kent College of Law. He did Post Graduate work in Constitutional Law at Princeton University, and for two years was a faculty member at Princeton in the Department of English Literature. With the entry of the United States into World War I, Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, had him assigned to record a history of the conflict. He was attached to all the Allied Armies from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf. During this wartime odyssey he met the fabulous Colonel T. E. Lawrence, young Oxford archaeologist, who became the uncrowned King of Arabia and a legendary figure in world history. Thomas journeyed with Lawrence into adven-

ture; nights filled with danger; days of hiding from and fighting the Turk. And under the desert stars Thomas came to know this beardless, blue-eyed "Prince of Mecca" as no other did. From the Near East he made an adventurous dash into revolution-torn Germany; witnessed the German turmoil from Kiel to the mountains of Bavaria; made a special report to the Peace Conference on conditions as he saw them. Following the war, he toured the British Empire. He accompanied the Prince of Wales on a trip through India. He explored the wilds of Malaya and Upper Burma. To top it all, an invitation came to visit the Forbidden Land of Afghanistan. He penetrated to Waziristan, the wild Khyber Pass, and on into the land of the fierce Afghans, where he was entertained by King Amunullah in his palace at Kabul. He made the first motion pictures of this hidden land. After his return to the United States, Thomas was appointed by the War Department to act as historian of man's first flight around the world on that memorable air voyage in 1924 when four United States Army planes set out to circle the globe and two of them made it. All of these adventures furnished the material for the shelf full of books Thomas has written—nearly forty in all—and inevitably led him to the NBC microphones in 1930. As a speaker, before his radio days, he probably appeared in person before more people than any other man in the history of the platform. To date, he has spoken in almost every town of over 5,000 population in the United States and Canada. As a traveler he has led expeditions into the far north, into the tropics, and across remote sections of Central Asia. He is the most widely known of screen commentators, and for the past seven years has been the Voice of Twentieth Century-Fox Movietone. For eleven years now he has been the leading radio news commentator; his broadcasts, by short wave and by broad wave, circling the globe. (Thomas', incidentally, was the first televised commercial program.) In these times when world-shaping events are occurring at home and abroad, Lowell Thomas is pre-eminently capable of bringing to his listeners the picture as it unfolds. His clear cut, dramatic delivery, ready wit and easy style make his daily talks "musts" in America's radio homes.



**ROBERT ST. JOHN**

Is probably the only man in the world with scars on one leg from Chicago's gangster, Capone, and a bullet in the other leg from Germany's gangster, Hitler. The Nazi bullet is a memento of Germany's invasion of Greece. In 1917, he left St. Albans School in Illinois to enlist in the Navy. He returned from France and attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut; entered the newspaper world by way of the Hartford Courant. In 1931 he joined The Associated Press in New York and was made city editor. In the summer of 1939, scenting war, he rejoined AP to be sent abroad. He arrived in Paris the day before war began, immediately went on to Budapest, and then to the Balkans. He saw the partition of Rumania, the abdication of King Carol, two Iron Guard revolutions, the entrance of Nazi troops into Bucharest and Bulgaria, the fall of Yugoslavia, the bombing of Belgrade, the fall of Greece and Crete, the new drive in the Middle East, and the arrival of the Robin Moor survivors at Cape Town, South Africa. He lived for months under German occupation; studied at close hand the Nazi Army which was soon to fight in Russia; fled from Yugoslavia in a twenty-foot sardine boat; was bombed and machine-gunned in Greece and was in Corfu during the terrific blitzing of that island. Thence to London, where he took two jobs—one with NBC, the other a full-time shift in a munitions factory. Recalled to the United States in 1942 because of poor health due to overwork, he is now heard from the NBC Newsroom in New York. His book, "From the Land of Silent People," has been called by critics: "The best book to come out of World War II." The first NBC reporter to reach the newsroom the morning of June 6, 1944, St. John made radio news history; did 33 separate broadcasts during the first 24 hours of NBC's round-the-clock invasion coverage.



**JOHN W. VANDERCOOK**

WRITER, explorer and radio news commentator. Born in London, England, in 1902, began travelling three weeks later when he came to the United States. The Vandercook family had lived in the United States for the past century and a half, but since his father, John F., was European Manager of the Scripps-McRae Publishers Press Association, and had his headquarters in London, John W. was born there. Upon his arrival in the United States, son John was immediately registered as an American citizen. He spent four years at St. Paul's School for Boys in Garden City, Long Island. He then entered Yale, staying only one year. The next years were spent none too successfully in pursuit of a dramatic career. Tossing his theatrical ambitions overboard, he took a job with the Columbus (O.) Citizen. From there he followed his newspaper career successively through Washington, Baltimore and New York. His last newspaper job was as feature editor of the shortlived New York Graphic where he gave Walter Winchell his start. The next few years he spent exploring and writing about such remote places as Dutch Guiana in northern South America, Liberia in West Africa, Haiti, the Central African plateau. At the beginning of the present war he was in Germany, leaving the day before the march on Poland. He was in France when war was declared and left about a month later, returning to the United States. In September, 1940, he joined the staff of the National Broadcasting Company as a war news commentator. Dispatched to London via Algiers early in 1944, Vandercook made it to the British capital with only days to spare. His D Day commentaries broadcast from London gave background and color; were an important factor in making comprehensible to American listeners, the scope of the military operation.



**WILLIAM W. CHAPLIN**

BORN in New York City, attended Hackley School, Tarrytown, New York, and graduated from Brown University, class of 1918. He left Brown University shortly before the United States entered the war to volunteer in a local National Guard battery which became part of the 103rd Field Artillery, 26th (Yankee) Division. He fought two years in France, reaching the rank of battalion sergeant major, was gassed, and received two citations. His first job was house organ editor for Brentano's. His first newspaper connection, advertising manager for the Kingston (N.Y.) Leader, after which he became a reporter on the Syracuse (N.Y.) Journal. Next came eleven years with The Associated Press in New York and London, during which time he covered the transatlantic take-offs of Lindbergh, Chamberlain, Byrd, and others; interviewed the Kaiser at Doorn. He was AP's city editor in New York when he resigned to join the International News Service in 1932. Assigned first to Washington, he later became chief of bureaus in Rome and Paris. During the Ethiopian war he covered the activities of the Italian armies. At the outbreak of World War II and until Dunkerque, was at the western front in France. Returning to the United States, he took off on a spectacular flying survey of the Pacific theaters of war. In April, 1942, he covered the Gandhi uprisings in Delhi, the Nationalist Congress at Bombay; flew over the Himalayas. From India he went to the Russian front; remained until November, 1942. Chaplin is the author of three books: "Blood and Ink," "When War Comes" and "Seventy Thousand Miles of War." He joined NBC in January, 1943. In London to cover invasion news, Chaplin's recent experiences in France gave added impact and authority to his interpretation and comments on the progress of the Allied action.



**DON GODDARD**

BORN in Binghamton, New York. Goddard, descended on both sides of his family from several generations of farmers, was also brought up on a farm in upstate New York. By working on a neighbor's farm and singing in a church choir, Goddard earned his way through high school and Princeton University. His news career began on the old New York World, cradle of many an outstanding journalist. He stayed with The World for seven years as rewrite and make-up man, assistant night city editor, reporter and editor of special sections. During those years, he went to Europe to round out his experiences. Returning to America, he made his first broadcasts (over WEAF) as commentator for the New York World in a human interest feature called "This World We Live In." When the New York World was sold, Goddard went with the new World-Telegram; then, yielding to every newsman's dream, he tackled the job of running his own newspaper. Returning to the scene of his childhood, he raised the necessary capital for presses and equipment and started the Homer (N.Y.) Post, a weekly devoted to helping farmers and improving farming conditions. Goddard admits that writing, editing, setting up, addressing and delivering the Homer Post taught him the business of news. The paper flourished, with a circulation of nearly six thousand weekly for his rural readers. Then he saw the important role radio was playing in the lives of farmers and his interest grew as he realized the increasing field of opportunity it offered. So, in 1936, Goddard sold his paper and came to New York; accepted a job with the expanding NBC News and Special Events Department. He has been with that department ever since. His fan mail is impressive; his appeal to his many listeners is in his modesty, sense of humor and unbiased news interpretations.

# IN WASHINGTON



**MORGAN BEATTY**

FROM Little Rock, Arkansas, became a newspaper reporter while still attending high school, working for the home town paper. After building his experience in various papers in nearby towns, he joined The Associated Press in 1927 and almost immediately established for himself a reputation for being a "Calamity Jane" by covering the Mississippi flood that same year—a job he did from an airplane, flying ten hours a day. A succession of such "trouble" assignments firmly typed him as a disaster reporter. The harrowing accounts he wrote of the Florida hurricane of 1928; the San Juan hurricane of 1930; the Ohio bank runs of 1932; and the New York floods of 1935 also served to establish his reputation as an ace newspaper man. When war came, Beatty demonstrated another remarkable aptitude, this time by making a number of uncannily accurate predictions regarding the course the war would take. As a result he became The Associated Press military expert. One of his most remarkable achievements was to draw up a set of maps that circulated to a fifty million total. Now on exhibition in the Library of Congress, these maps accurately predicted when and where Hitler's armies in Russia would be stopped. In 1939 Beatty joined the National Broadcasting Company's Washington bureau, serving as military analyst there. Two years later he was assigned to NBC's London office. Returned to the United States and NBC's Washington Newsroom in August, 1943, Beatty astutely reports the news and interprets world events for NBC listeners; is still exercising the same uncanny ability to judge the effect of current events on the future.



**RICHARD HARKNESS**

BORN in Artesian, South Dakota. Educated at the University of Kansas. He began covering newspaper assignments for the United Press in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1928. Started chasing fire engines, and wound up following Roosevelt and Willkie around the country in the last presidential campaign. He was the first press association correspondent to recognize the T. J. Pendergast political machine as a national story. After several years spent in various UP offices in the Southwest, including Oklahoma City, Dallas and Jefferson City, Harkness was appointed White House correspondent for the United Press in 1936. But a year later, left UP to join the Philadelphia Inquirer's Washington bureau. It was at this time he began to establish his amazing record of "firsts." Among the stories he broke during the following three years was his release of the Senate Military Affairs Committee's investigation of President Roosevelt's order in the spring of 1940 permitting the French to purchase our then-secret Douglas bomber. He scored another scoop with President Roosevelt's decision to ask Congress for a repeal of the arms embargo clause in the old Neutrality Act. He climaxed his coverage of the nation's foreign policy by covering President Roosevelt's Declaration of War message to Congress on December 8, 1941. Since then, he has stressed coverage of the War and Navy Departments. He came to NBC in 1942, and is heard from Washington. His decade reporting and observing the Washington scene has earned for Harkness the reputation of being one of the keenest and most incisive minds among the Capital's younger news veterans.



**LEIF EID**

IDAHO born; attended Washington State College, Columbia, and the Sorbonne in Paris. Traveled through Spain, Italy, Central Europe, the Lowlands, Britain and Scandinavia, emerging with extensive knowledge of European politics and economics. Back in the States, served as reporter on the N. Y. Herald Tribune, and on several West Coast papers. Joined NBC Washington in 1942 as chief of news bureau; since January 1943 assigned to cover the White House, State Department and Capitol Hill.



**ROBERT McCORMICK**

NATIVE of Danville, Kentucky; attended George Washington University, Washington, D. C. Began news career as copy boy on Washington Daily News. Before joining NBC, was in turn, reporter, sports editor, assistant city editor, news editor and columnist, also Washington correspondent for Collier's. Sent to Honolulu early in 1944, McCormick's vivid D Day broadcasts told American listeners of the effect of the invasion news on the people of Hawaii.

## IN CHICAGO



**ALEX DREIER**

BORN in Honolulu, T. H.; high-schooled in San Francisco; graduated from Leland Stanford University as a major in Political Science, a minor in Chemistry, and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Was a husky member of track, field and football teams. While at Stanford, wrote political articles. Went to work the day after graduation for the United Press in San Francisco. In three months time was appointed editor of UP Illustrated, then transferred to New York City where he alternately filled day and night cable desk assignments. Dispatched to Berlin early in 1940, he went through Belgium, Holland and France following close on the heels of the Wehrmacht, arriving in Paris a few days after the Nazis, continuing on up to the Channel Coast. He went to work for NBC in Berlin in 1941, leaving the day before Pearl Harbor at the request of the Reich authorities who deemed his broadcasts "much too venomous." Arrived back in the United States in January, 1942, after a four-continent Clipper Ship hop, Dreier was invited to dinner at the White House to make a personal report to President Roosevelt. Sent back to Europe by NBC in September, 1942, this time to London, Dreier reported to NBC listeners via the News of the World broadcasts, and in addition handled numerous broadcast assignments for the British Broadcasting Corporation and NBC's Army Hour. He returned to the United States in December, 1943, and is currently heard from Chicago. Has the distinction of being the first reporter to cover the conflict from the capitals of two nations at war with each other.

# IN HOLLYWOOD



**LOUIS P. LOCHNER**

WAS born in Springfield, Illinois; graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1909 with Phi Beta Kappa honors. En route to a peace conference in Vienna when World War I began, he was the only American to see the first British expeditionary forces when they arrived in France on their way to Belgium. In 1924 he joined The Associated Press in Berlin, and four years later was named Chief of Bureau, a post he held until 1941, when the United States' entry into the second World War brought about his internment in a German prison camp. His coverage of the Rhineland for nearly a score of years was highlighted by many world-famous news beats, among them: an exclusive interview with General von Hindenburg in 1925; the first authentic story of Marshal Pilsudski's 1926 coup in Warsaw; the dirigible Hindenburg's first flight to the United States; interviews with the Kaiser; and an exclusive interview with Adolf Hitler in 1932. For his distinguished service as a foreign correspondent he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1939. His reporting of World War II from his post inside Germany prior to the entry of the United States into the war, established his name and by-line as a household phrase. After Pearl Harbor he was interned for six months, but was repatriated in May, 1942, through exchange negotiations. Lochner joined the National Broadcasting Company the following May, and has been broadcasting regularly since. from Hollywood.



**UPTON CLOSE**

NOTED as a lecturer, writer and historian for more than twenty years, was born Josef Washington Hall in Kelso, Washington. Took his air name from his code identification phrase, "up close." When Upton Close analyzes the trend of the war in the Far East on his regular NBC broadcasts, he speaks with the authority of many years experience in the Orient. Made his first trip there soon after his graduation from George Washington University in 1915. Remained to become a newspaper correspondent in China, Japan and Siberia. Not only did he send correspondence to American newspapers, but he edited Chinese and English language newspapers in the Orient as well. He was an investigating officer for the United States Government in Shantung during the Japanese invasion from 1916 to 1919. In 1922 he acted as chief of foreign affairs in the regime of Wu Pei-Fu. He was an explorer for the National Geographic Society in Asia and an investigator for the League of Nations. Upon his return to the United States, he lectured on Oriental life and literature at the University of Washington from 1922 to 1926; then resumed his travels, spending the next four years, 1927 to 1931, touring India, Russia and Syria. He made a brief trip to Europe, then continued his Oriental travels until 1935, when he returned again to this country, but stayed only long enough to pack his bags and depart for Mexico. Close made his first broadcast in 1924 with Lowell Thomas, establishing himself and Thomas as radio's first lecturers. Currently heard from Hollywood, Close's NBC broadcasts are notable for their authentic interpretation of events in the Orient.

# CARE AND FEEDING OF RADIO NEWS

THE technique of radio news writing is unlike that for any other news medium. To the dozen or more radio news specialists who make up the writing staff of NBC's News and Special Events Division—speed is the first essential factor.

Particularly is this true today when events that make news follow each other in such rapid succession that "hot" copy at one hour is very often no longer "news" the next.

As news pours into Room 404 these writers, seasoned by national and international news experience, quickly select what is timely, reject what is dubious, eliminate news conceivably hurtful to young listeners, or offensive to any racial or religious group. Theirs is a heavy responsibility.

But the practice of speed and good taste is not the whole story of the writing and broadcasting of radio news.

Radio news is written in script form, rigidly limited in length to fit to the split second the 5 to 15 minute broadcast for which it is intended. This means that the tens of thousands of words ticking from the teletypes daily must first be studied for essential news items which in turn are wrung dry of all but the essential facts.

Tailoring these facts to fit the broadcast period—not a syllable too many, not a word too few for the arbitrarily-set time limit—NBC's news writers phrase their stories in terms of sound. Conversational and informal in character, the radio news script carries words of everyday speech much as one would tell a story to a friend.

News writing of this sort is a relatively new art, yet it is so highly developed that the average listener to a 15-minute news broadcast is unaware of the amount of news he is being fed. These scripts, turned out daily by NBC's news writers, will contain in a little more than 1,500

words the essential facts of every lead story on the front page of a metropolitan newspaper; stories that often carry over to inside pages.

Dominating this compact, streamlined writing is a psychological factor—holding for these 15 minutes the interest of the immense and varied audience that habitually turns to radio for its news.

As an example, the writer of a 15-minute script for an 11 p.m. NBC news broadcast has an audience—numbering perhaps in the millions—that may roughly be classified as: those who have heard one or more broadcasts during the day; those who have read a newspaper; those who have neither heard a news broadcast nor read a paper. The writer's problem is to fashion his script in a way that will meet the news requirements *of each individual in every group*.

That he does it successfully is one of the miracles of modern journalism. His method is one that combines straight factual reporting with descriptive narrative. Variety of news items is imperative to satisfy the varied tastes of his audience; change of pace, suspense and drama built to a logical climax keep the millions of dials tuned in.

When the radio news writer hands his script to a commentator or newscaster for broadcasting (often he broadcasts his own script) he knows that his writing is given additional importance by the art of this trained speaker. This man or woman is endowed, like a sensitive actor, with a highly developed instinct for timing. Like the feature writer for a newspaper, his personality dominates his audience. By his use of inflection, by his employment of pause, so subtle that his skill escapes many, the commentator has brought to millions of radio listeners a new form of news reporting that has played a great part in making radio reporting first choice with Americans.



THIS record of the achievement of NBC News and Special Events ends on June 7, 1944. It is a record of achievement beginning in 1931, when the Japanese invasion of Manchuria gave the signal for aggression against peace-loving people. It is a record of NBC reporters at home and abroad who, lock-stepping with history, revealed to America, step by step, the whole panorama of diplomacy and violence of a world at war. It is a record of accomplishment climaxed—during the first 24 hours following 3:32:09 a.m., Tuesday, June 6, 1944—by the most intensive radio coverage ever accorded any single news event.

This record is the end of a chapter—but not of a story.

The war is not over. As victorious Allied armies move from one liberated nation to another in the march to Berlin, as each battle-scarred island in the Pacific becomes a



stepping stone to Tokyo, the National Broadcasting Company, fully aware of the grave responsibilities vested in leadership, will continue to reveal to America the quickening pace of the Allied conquests. When peace comes, NBC microphones will nudge the elbows of the representatives of all nations seated together to plot the course for a brighter world.

That NBC microphones *will* be there was the principal objective of the trip taken toward the close of 1943 by Niles Trammell, President of NBC, and John Royal, Vice President in Charge of International Relations.

Boarding a Pan-American Clipper at New York early in October, 1943, the two men flew to London on the first leg of a journey which was to take them on a tour of the Mediterranean theater of operations, to the Italian battle fronts.

On their return to America, arrangements had been concluded to reopen former NBC bureaus in the Nazi-dominated cities of Paris, Berlin, Rome, Vienna, the Hague, Brussels, and cities of other countries reconquered by the Allied armies; the first steps toward the construction of a vast world-wide NBC international broadcasting service, designed to keep America fully informed of the postwar readjustments and compromises that will affect the lives of the American people even more than the war itself.

The American people will demand to know every step taken in planning for a peaceful world; will be satisfied with nothing less than a seat at every conference for economic security and peace. They will want to know what is happening in every world capital; what the people of every nation are thinking; what is being done with Germany, Italy, Japan. They will want constant proof from every world power that all are working for the common welfare, that war or plans for war are unthinkable.

NBC News and Special Events will bring these reports to the American people; will continue in peace to be as vital a service to the people as it now is in war. It will follow the established policy of the National Broadcasting Company to increase and improve its service for the common good of the greatest number of people—will continue to operate as an instrument of Democracy when peace returns.

## APPRECIATION

THIS story of thirteen years of radio reporting by the National Broadcasting Company would be but half told were not grateful acknowledgment made to the correspondents and writers of the great American, British and European newspapers and magazines who were heard innumerable times over NBC microphones; to the three great American press associations—The Associated Press, the United Press, the International News Service—which so consistently and brilliantly relayed their news over the teletypes of the NBC newsrooms in New York, Chicago, Denver, Cleveland, San Francisco, Washington and Hollywood.

NBC is directly indebted to RCA Communications, Inc., for providing the skilled personnel and the technical facilities for coordinating signals from all over the world through the three RCAC terminals in New York, San Francisco, Honolulu, Hawaii (and until January, 1942, Manila), that make possible its overseas pickups.

NBC also wishes to thank the personnel of the United States and Allied armed forces for their technical assistance in making available facilities for many of these broadcasts; to express its indebtedness as well, to the foreign radio systems for their cooperation with NBC and RCAC, without which many broadcasts from their nations would never have been heard in America: British Broadcasting Corporation, London, England; Broadcasting Organizations of Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa; Swiss Broadcasting Company, Berne, Switzerland; Emissora Nacional, Lisbon, Portu-

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Grateful mention is also due the stations affiliated with the National Broadcasting Company, their newsmen, technicians, engineers and other operating personnel. Without their loyal support and cooperation, the achievements recorded in this book would not have been possible. Recognizing their individual responsibility to the American people, these NBC stations cheerfully and repeatedly interrupted their established schedules to make way for the news.

And a word of thanks to the great American businesses whose sponsorship of their NBC programs makes it possible for the National Broadcasting Company to broadcast the news of the world to the people of America.

This is the American way: a free radio, independently supported by advertisers, successfully operating under the banner of free enterprise to make the American people the best informed in the world.

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# NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY

*America's No. 1 Network*

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