

bases. Over 3,600,000 men are housed, fed, clothed, trained, and transported in this gigantic enterprise. Material crosses three thousand miles in one ocean and seven thousand miles in the other.

The fleet is mobile because of floating repair facilities, supply vessels, and advance bases, all on a basis never approached in prewar days.

During the year the Secretary reported that industry had achieved "the remarkable record" of completing nearly three warships every two days. This does not include landing and lesser craft.

For the fiscal years 1940 to 1944 Congress has authorized the Navy to spend \$118,200,000,000, and to date \$86,800,000,000 has been committed.

In an epilogue the Secretary said that the Navy is not "manned and run by robots . . . ." "There is still a spiritual factor in war. One cannot fly in a plane operated by naval airmen, one cannot sail in a ship of the Navy, without being aware that the spiritual force which pervades all our history is still the real foundation for the success of our arm. . . No man can stand in the presence of these young men on the eve of battle without a deep humility, nor can he, without being presumptuous, undertake to describe their heroism, their sacrifice and their service."

He concludes that the men of the Navy "are the affirmation of our American faith and of the willingness of men to lay down their lives for each other. They truly exemplify that definition of courage--grace under pressure".

#### LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE NAVY:

Expansion of the Naval ROTC from its previously authorized strength of 7,200 to 24,000 officer candidates until one year after the war and 14,000 thereafter is provided for by Public Law 1, 79th Congress, signed by the President on 13 February 1945.

In carrying out the new legislation, the Navy plans to transfer to the NROTC by 1 July 1945 a large proportion of V-12 officer students, including most of those in deck officer training. The shift of approximately 17,000 V-12s to NROTC, combined with the present 5,503 candidates in the latter, will bring NROTC enrollment to a point near its newly authorized strength on that date.

The place and precedence of NROTC graduates on active duty, along with that of other reserve and temporary officers who desire to transfer to the regular Navy, will be determined by legislation covering the personnel of the future Navy. Proposals for this legislation are still in the planning state and will not be disclosed until definite recommendations are made to Congress.

All of this means a shift in plans for the selection and training of naval officers. Civilian commissions, except for specialists, are now rare. Officer indoctrination schools are closing and so also are some of the midshipmen schools.

#### MECHANICAL COW FOR USS PHILADELPHIA:

A luncheon recently was held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia at which the Navy League presented a "mechanical cow" to the cruiser USS PHILADELPHIA.

The mechanical cow is a machine which is being used extensively in the services. It makes real milk, cream, and ice cream mix which contain all the nutrients and vitamins of the fresh dairy products. It does this by recombining skim milk powder, butter, and water by an ingenious process which also pasteurizes and homogenizes the finished products.