

On this 170th Anniversary - there is nothing more fitting that we could do - than pay tribute to the Officers - the men - and the ships of the greatest Navy that ever sailed the seas.

It is easy enough for us to feel happy tonight - but all of us are stricken with an overpowering sense of awe when we contemplate the magnitude of the job which our Navy has done. A feeling of genuine humility is ours when we think of the days immediately following Pearl Harbor. How we feared the next blow that might fall.

Then up from the depths rose the power and the glory of the great Pacific fleet to strike down the Nipponese thrust at Midway. That was indeed a great day - a day that made our hearts sing for we knew that once more the great guardian of our shores - the United States Navy - was abroad on all the sea lanes of the Pacific.

We began at that Battle of Midway to experience a feeling of safety for our homes. We began to know we would win through - for our indomitable Navy was back on the sea - with its fangs bared - its eagles screaming defiance of all the enemies of the republic.

We were heartened too - in those days of blackness - by the knowledge that our Navy plied the cold waters of the North Atlantic. The hopes of all freedom loving people were kept alive - while Nazi Germany stood on the shore of the channel - by the knowledge that the great men of our Navy were shepherding the ships that carried supplies ~~to us~~ which kept our friends in the fight.

Through the perils of storms and subs and planes our Navy stuck to its task and though many brave men sleep forever beneath the waves of the Atlantic/- ^{the Navy did the job} To our Navy is due no small part of the credit for the fact that our fighting men stormed the beaches of Africa, Italy and France on the road to victory in Berlin.

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No where in America today is there a heart without pride in our great Navy. In the hearts of Americans - everywhere - there is tonight the firm determination that our Navy shall remain forever the greatest Navy afloat.



forever
that our Navy shall remain the greatest afloat.

Quite naturally, as a Member of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, I have been deeply interested in the ~~present~~ ^{present} activities ~~and future~~ of our Navy. As a son of a little State which is mighty proud of its Naval Tradition, I am at this moment, more concerned than ever in the plans for our ~~future~~ Navy's future.

I ~~know~~ am concerned because there is great talk of Naval bases in far off places. I know ~~that~~ ^{this} must be so - but there should be also more talk of bases at home which are ~~surely~~ in need of attention.

I know you men of the Navy are familiar with the great love we of Rhode Island have for the Navy. I know you are aware of the great Naval tradition of our little state. I hope you will become champions of the great facilities we have ~~here~~ ^{to offer} - that you will help us in our efforts to develop those facilities - that they may serve the Navy to the greatest possible extent.

Here, in Narragansett Bay we have the grandest Naval Base in all the Country. Since it has sheltered and serviced - in all our country's wars - the ships of the greatest Navy afloat - I am almost bold enough to say we possess the greatest potential Naval Base in all the world.

Before our Nation had its birth, Narragansett Bay had been recognized as the most important Naval Base on the Atlantic Coast. Admiral Esek Hopkins, Rhode Island's own, drove the British out of Narragansett Bay, recognizing as he did that who controlled this magnificent anchorage determined the future of the Colonies.

Later, when the British had amassed more strength ~~they sought~~ in America, their Navy sought to cling to this Bay - but they made one mistake in ~~that~~ ^{the effects of} Revolutionary war from which they were never able to recover.

Against ~~the~~ wishes ~~of the~~ General Clinton ordered the British fleet to New York where the ships of the line were forced to run to sea with every falling tide. The fleet, as a consequence, was ineffective at New York - and their absence ~~at Newport~~ ^{From Newport} permitted the French to bring in ~~a~~ ^{the} convoy of 36 transports, ~~this~~ ^{which} convoy had consumed two months in the voyage from Brest. That mistake of Clinton resulted in the fall of Yorktown and the rise of this great Republic, so there is no wonder ^{that in R.I.} we are so powerfully proud of Narragansett Bay.

~~Since the days~~ From the days when yankee privateers sailed out of this bay to harass British shipping in the Atlantic - to the day when the first escort assembled to protect the first daring convoy in the Second World War - this magnificent body of water has played a vital role in the protection of America's interests.

Consider what this bay of ours offers to the navy.- What things are important to a powerful base for the fleet? - Position? Where on the Eastern Seaboard is there a point for the fleet's base or rendezvous that can compare with Narragansett Bay?

In this day of Rocket and Jet propulsion - of Radio and Radar - of lightening like blows with atomic weapons - we may never get the opportunity to start to prepare - should war come ^{again}. Consider the possible targets for any enemy seeking to paralyze our arms? Yes - you are correct - the blow will fall in the Industrial North-east with its teeming mills and factories its ovens, and machines and furnaces. Consider the position of Narragansett Bay affording to our first line of defense all the strategic advantages that go with that position. On the job and well prepared to intercept any blow that might head this way.

What else is important - Strength? Here, sheltered from the storms

of the North Atlantic - but right on the door-step of trouble should any occur ~~our~~ our fleet is ever ready to meet the aggressor's challenge. A moment's sail from the ~~high~~ sea - ~~Not~~ tortuous channels to navigate, no dangerous shoals to be avoided - the High Sea at our door step we welcome the Navy to ~~anchorage~~ ^{the} shores of Rhode Island to an anchorage that can be made impregnable with a minimum expenditure of money and effort ~~would be conquered~~

One other thing Admiral Mahan thought was important in the choosing of a Naval Base - resources. There we have the clinching argument.

Deep fresh water - free from storms of the sea - ~~I confess will~~ ^{opportunities} look inviting to some men of the Navy - but the Navy has won its stripes at sea - not in land locked ponds. The ~~ships~~ ^{men} of the Navy - the ships & the tools of a real fighting Navy must be the ships and the tools and the men that are trained in the ways of the sea. They must be ~~the~~ made of the stuff that will stand up under the rigors of the sea - and here in Narragansett Bay we offer the opportunity to ~~gain~~ ^{benefit} prove our men and our ships and our equipment can take it.

~~Where~~ Does the Navy want fighting equipment? Does it want guns - does it want munitions - does it want food - clothing steel - iron - lumber - ~~machinery~~ tools ~~or~~ or what not -- all the Navy needs - all the Navy can need or will ever need - is within a stone's throw of Newport. Out of the great vaults of industrial wealth that exist here in the Industrial Northeast will come all the means for the maintenance of our fleet of our Navy - the great Navy we want based here in Narragansett Bay.

^{New England}
The people of New York and ~~Connecticut~~ - of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois - they all have a stake in the ~~establishing~~ development

of our bay for the Navy. There is no other cite available that will afford to the people of ~~these~~^{this} great industrial region the protection they will have ~~in the Navy~~ when the Navy has developed Narragansett Bay as it should be developed.

Already there is recognition of what we can do for the Navy. We have the great Naval Air Station at Quonset Point where next Spring the Line Officer(s) Post Graduate School will be set up - at least temporarily. With 600 men in the first class and twelve hundred in the classes there after - we will have more men of the Navy who ^{will} have learned the beauties and the military importance of our great body of water.

When the Command and Staff School is set up in Newport to operate in conjunction with the War College there will be additional officers, learning at first hand the advantages to be gained by basing the Atlantic fleet at Newport.

In addition we have Davisville and Camp Endicott, bases built by the Navy - bases which should become the service and supply centres for all the Naval operations in the North Atlantic.

Ashore we have all of Rhode Island's beauty and comfort and friendliness for the most vital part of the Navy - the men who sail her ships.

Mention any need of the Navy - we can supply it at a moment's notice. Mention any advantage the Navy seeks - we have it here in abundance.

In all the Country, there is no section more proud of the Navy - more willing to help the Navy - better equipped and situated to serve the Navy than our own little State of Rhode Island.

Consider too the fact that ~~just~~ just a week ago the United Nations Organization became an actual fact. With its ratification by Russia this great hope of all men received a specific authorization to undertake the formation of policies which would provide a peaceful ordering

of the world. We understand that it is generally conceded that the headquarters of the United Nations Organization should be located in the United States. The question is where, in our country, will this organization which represents the hope of so many people - have its home.

Let me tell you where it should be - where the greatest Navy in all the world can afford it the greatest of inspiration and protection; where tradition and history - where conviction and purpose-help to demonstrate that all the people of all lands can have permanent peace - can live as brothers under God - - here on the Island of Rhode Island.

Think of the hope the United Nations Organization offers to the men and women of all Nations - the men and women who are sick at the prospect of another war. Think of the promise offered by the United Nations Organization - that the men of various races and creeds can arrive at a peaceful settlement of their differences. Think, too, of the history of Rhode Island

Inspired by God himself - a man arrived on the shores of this island over three hundred years ago and promised the men of his day that genuine freedom was possible - that the brotherhood of man could be achieved.

Here on these green shores was founded by Roger Williams the 1st organization in the world dedicated to Religious liberty and freedom. Here there was established a society diametrically opposed to the dictatorship of its day - the dictatorship that existed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

At the peak of our State Capitol there stand our symbol - the independent man; and here in our little state the men and women of all races and creeds have found a haven of complete freedom.

There is no nationality that is not represented in our State,

every ~~and here~~ ~~its~~ ~~finds~~ ~~protection~~ ~~for~~ ~~them~~ ~~right~~ ~~to~~ ~~worship~~ ~~God~~
and here ~~its~~ ~~finds~~ ~~protection~~ ~~for~~ ~~them~~ ~~right~~ ~~to~~ ~~worship~~ ~~God~~
according to the ~~dictates~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~own~~ ~~conscience~~.

Here is a State with a history of freedom unique even in America.

Here is a State which has traditionally guaranteed to all men the right to think and say what they please.

Here is a State boastful of its proud tradition - yet ~~refusing~~ ~~evr~~ refusing to be a slave to that tradition.

Here is a State older in independence than the United States of America - yet constantly on the laert to ~~provide~~ ~~to~~ ~~chart~~ the path of progress and social development.

Here on the shores of Narragansett Bay is the ideal home ~~for~~ ~~of~~ the United Nations Organization. Closest ^{to Europe} by all means of transportation and communication ~~to~~ ~~Europe~~ ^{Rhode Island} offering the greatest possibilities for service, tradition and cooperation.

I have already advised our Secretary of State that the Island of Rhode Island is the ideal spot in America for the Headquarters for humanity's great hope. I shall ~~never~~ ~~not~~ ~~stop~~ cease my efforts until that Headquarters is established here.

The smallest state - the proudest state in America - offers the hand of welcome to the two greatest instrumentalities for peace that the world has ever known - the United Nations Organization - and the United States Navy.