

## MILITARY SCIENCE

# Navy Growing Fast

Increase in the U. S. fleet since Pearl Harbor is impressive, says "Jane's Fighting Ships." Gun-power of new battleships is terrific.

► THE IMPRESSIVE growth of the U. S. Navy since Pearl Harbor is strikingly shown in the 1943 American edition of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, standard British reference work, newly issued in this country. (Macmillan)

Topping the list are eight massive battleships and 11 new fleet plane carriers, with a dozen or more additional carriers on the way. At the "little end" are veritable swarms of the craft that make U-boats submerge—permanently: 200 destroyer escorts, 600 sub-chasers. Along with them are listed 200 of another kind of aquatic wasps—motor torpedo boats.

The list of fleet plane carriers does not include the numerous "aircraft escort vessels" created by the conversion of uncompleted 17,600-ton merchant ships, which have done much to win the Battle of the Atlantic from the U-boat packs.

Thirteen of these are listed by name, besides "others of which names have not been reported."

*Jane's* lists all six of the battleships of the 35,000-ton North Carolina class as now in service, together with two of the later 45,000-tonners, the Iowa and the New Jersey. These eight new ships pack more power in their 72 main-battery guns than the ten battleships of Japan's pre-war navy had in the 94 heavy-caliber guns they mounted. A little rapid pencil-and-paper work indicates that the American array of new 16-inch weapons can throw more than one and one-half million pounds of steel at one discharge; the combined batteries of the Jap ships, consisting principally of 14-inch guns, fire a total broadside only a little over one and one-third million pounds. Or in terms of destructive power loosed per broadside, the American guns develop

somewhat more than eight million foot-tons, as against only seven million for their Jap opposites.

The section on war losses shows some impressive box scores against the enemy. *Jane's* credits American fighting ships with the destruction of two battleships of the Kongo class off Guadalcanal, but does not admit as substantiated the Army's claim to the destruction of the Haruna in the first days of the Philippine fighting. Jap carriers sunk are listed as five certain and two "possibles." Between 30 and 35 cruisers, and 70 and 75 destroyers, are set down as the Allied toll of the Japanese lighter ships, though with the cautionary note that in these categories accurate tallies are difficult to make under battle conditions.

Among the photographs of warships customary in naval publications there is one of rather unconventional type. It is the only known photograph of the Japanese carrier *Syokaku*, and was supplied by the U. S. Navy. It shows the big craft staggering through a giant geyser of spray and smoke thrown up by a big bomb that scored a near-miss.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

## Drinking Water Should Be Kept Pure to Avoid Typhoid

► A GENERATION ago, fall was the big typhoid fever season. Today typhoid fever cases are rare, due chiefly to the fact that water supplies in our cities and towns are carefully protected from pollution. In small towns and on farms, most families have their own water supply, and must be careful of it or the family, and the neighbors too, will be in danger of typhoid and of other diseases spread by polluted water, such as dysentery.

If you have always lived on the farm and had a good well, you are probably proud of its cold, clear water and sure that it is safe. You may even boast that no one ever got sick from drinking water from your well. Remember, however, that the walls of the well may crack, and if they do, polluted water, perhaps from the privy, can seep in. The U. S. Public Health Service calls attention to this danger in a new pamphlet on safe water.

Play safe by having your health department inspect the well from time to time. The wall of a cistern should be inspected every time the cistern is cleaned, the health service advises.

City people who have moved to the



**WINGED CARGO**—Here is an interior view of one of the new "cargoliners" with which United Airlines recently inaugurated a coast-to-coast all-cargo schedule for essential wartime mail and express. The Douglas DC-3 planes, stripped of passenger furnishings, carry three tons of freight, as compared with the average 1,400 pounds transported aboard one of the regular passenger planes.