



- Rommel's 489 and 675 respectively; 300 of those Shermans are Lend-Lease. U.S. Marines fight off desperate enemy in a 4-day campaign to take Henderson airfield. Convoy bound for North African invasion departs from America. Eleanore Roosevelt visits the United Kingdom.
- Oct 24—Two British sailors give their lives in retrieving a super secret 4-rotor Enigma machine from a sinking U-559; an RAF B-24 Liberator bomber from No. 224 Squadron hits U-599, the third U-boat sunk by the RAF in four days.
- Oct 25—Clark back in London with no possible assurance what Vichy French would do, but he believes little resistance would be offered. Escort carriers **Santee**, **Sangamon**, **Suwanee** sail from Bermuda for North Africa. Only one U.S. carrier left in the Pacific Fleet after Sea Battle of Santa Cruz when aircraft carrier **Hornet** plunges beneath the waves [Oct 26 because of the international date line.] Only 29 U.S. airplanes left on Guadalcanal, but Japan has a hundred aircraft shot down.
- Oct 28—U.S. carriers rendezvous with transport convoy from the States in the Atlantic, forming the largest convoy in Atlantic to date: 25 miles long, 25 miles wide. Target: Africa. *Thunder Birds* in Technicolor premieres in N.Y.
- Oct 29—The Alaska Highway covering 1523 miles over mountains and forests is opened. Sixty thousand Germans open a new attack at Stalingrad.
- Oct 30—Front page news in America: Eisenhower will return to Washington for consultation; many in U.S. think a U.S. invasion is Norway bound.
- Nov 3—Liberty ship **George Thatcher** sinks off Africa in the S. Atlantic; U.S. merchant **Hahira** sinks in the N. Atlantic.
- Nov 4—Liberty ship **William Clark** sinks north of Iceland; 31 men lost.
- Nov 5—Musical composer George M. Cohan is dead at 64. His famous songs included *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *Only 55 Minutes from Broadway*, and *Over There*, for which he was given a Congressional Medal in 1936.
- Nov 6—Gen. MacArthur arrives in Port Moresby to command the New Guinea campaign. Allies control Madagascar. Torrential rains over N. Africa.
- Nov 7—Torpedoed some 300 miles south of South Africa, merchant **La Salle** explodes in a fireball several hundred yards high and is sunk by U-boat 159;



Secret Ascension Island airfield.



Total active strength for the year of the U.S. Armed Forces: Army: 3,075,608; Navy: 640,570; Marine Corps: 142,613.

Source: World War II Informational Fact Sheets, 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee 1994



"I hear they don't seem to get along"

out of 60, no survivors; terrifying explosion heard 300 miles away. Liberty ship **Nathaniel Hawthorne** is sunk in Caribbean Sea by a U-boat; out of 52, there are 14 survivors.

- Nov 8—Invasion of North Africa under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower at three points in Morocco and Algeria, protected by five carriers. The invasion, Operation Torch, is a product of successful interservice planning. Merchantship **West Humhaw** is sunk off West Africa by a U-boat; 50 survivors. Troopship **USS Leedstow** is attacked and hit by German Luftwaffe off Algeria.
- Nov 9—Near Cape Matifou, Algeria, **Leedstow** is sunk after attacked by a U-boat and Luftwaffe; 59 dead. Vichy announces by radio that its African airfields will be made available to the German Luftwaffe. Vichy France and the United States sever diplomatic relations. Torrential rains over New Guinea.
- Nov 10—F.D.R. announces breaking diplomatic relations with Vichy France. U.S. troops capture Oran. Hollywood movie *Road to Morocco* starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, and Anthony Quinn premieres in N.Y. N.Y. Harbor goes crazy when the military closes it due to the finding of many mines laid by U-boats.
- Nov 11—Lend-Lease extended to the Free French Forces under Gen. de Gaulle. After 3-day operation in North Africa, U.S. Naval Task Force aircraft down 15 enemy planes in air combat and destroy over 700 enemy planes on ground. Axis occupy all France and Corsica. Milk cans rationed in the U.S. U.S. troops capture Casablanca. Off North Africa, U-boat sinks U.S. transport, the **Joseph Hewes** (over 100 killed). North of Oran, a U-boat sinks the **Viceroy of India** (4 killed). Search for the marooned Rickenbacker given up.
- Nov 12-13—Instability in the Solomons: Naval Battle off Guadalcanal begins, U.S. lost 9 warships and 8 damaged; the Japanese lost 4 with 7 transports damaged. U.S. troop transports **Edward Rutledge**, **Hugh L. Scott**, and **Tasker H. Bliss** are hit by torpedoes of U-boat 130 in heavily guarded Fedhala Roads, Morocco; the first two sink on the

- 12th; the **Bliss** sinks next day. British secure Tobruk.
- Nov 13—*Seven Days's Leave* musical comedy released when the country sorely needed morale to be lifted, starring Victor Mature, Lucille Ball, Harold Peary (Gildersleeve), Mapy Cortes, and Les Brown and His Band of Renown. Tipped-off from a German spy living in Portugal, who had told Germans with a secret radio transmitter on the interned merchant **Ehrenfels** stuck in Portugal, U-boat 181 finds USS **Excello**, torpedoes it, and sinks it off Africa.
- Nov 14—Rickenbacker is found alive in a life raft 600 miles n. of Samoa after his bomber ran out of gas. Allied liner **Narkunda** sunk off North Africa.
- Nov 15—Naval Battle off Guadalcanal: Japan lost 1 warship; U.S. 5 ships damaged; cruiser **Juneau** is sunk. Over 500 British seamen lost in the torpedoed carrier **Avenger** off North Africa, a high list for an escort carrier. Radio signal from Africa: northern Africa is connected by direct radio communications to America, via relay through central Africa and South America. The 54th Troop Carrier Squadron arrives at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.
- Nov 16—TOKYO EXPRESS lands 2000 Japanese troops on Guadalcanal. Rescued by British from the **Durando**, 17 survivors from the torpedoed merchant **East India** are found alive in a lifeboat 13 days at sea.
- Nov 17—During the last 7 days, seven Axis subs noted sunk in Western Basin of Mediterranean, with two more sunk west of Gibraltar by Allied forces.
- Nov 20—British Eighth Army captures Benghazi. Liberty ship **Pierce Butler** is torpedoed by U-boat 177 and sunk off Mozambique.
- Nov 21—Cpl. Otto Gronke and Pfc. Robert Rowe are the first to drive from Dawson Creek to Fairbanks, Alaska, on the Alcan Highway. 40% of nations's butter supply frozen for military and Lend-Lease purchase.
- Nov 22—Merchant **Alcoa Pathfinder** is sunk off South Africa by a U-boat; 55 survivors aided by Zulu guides make it to Maputo airfield.
- Nov 23—Public Law 773 signed by F.D.R. created Women's Reserve (SPARS) as a branch of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve to serve in continental shore establishments only. Oil tanker **Caddo** sinks in N. Atlantic; 2 survivors cap-

- tured by U-boat, 1 dies in POW camp; 8 survive in 1 lifeboat and are rescued by a Spanish ship 15 days later, 650 miles southward; 40 others were never seen again. Darwin, Australia, is bombed by air by Japanese bombers.
- Nov 25—Trapped German forces around Stalingrad are dropped supplies by the first giant airlift of 320 aircraft.
- Nov 26—Hollywood movie *Casablanca* premieres in N.Y. City (won three Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay.) Bangkok oil installations fall to Allied bombardment. Paramount releases *Eleventh Hour*, Technicolor cartoon where Superman rescues Lois in Yokohama, Imperial Japan.
- Nov 27—French fleet is scuttled at Toulon.
- Nov 28—Navy beats Army 14-0 in Annapolis. Notre Dame “Fighting Irish” beats USC 13-0 before 95,100 in Los Angeles Coliseum. Some 600 miles from Ascension Is. U-boat 172 sinks USS *Alaskan*.
- Nov 29—Coffee is rationed in the U.S, limited to 1 lb every 5 weeks. In many places, no one under 16 could purchase coffee. Troopship *West Point* arrives in Bombay, India, via the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean.
- Nov 30—Some 330,000 Germans at Stalingrad are encircled, with a 100-mile gap to the rest of the German Army. U.S. Navy loses 4 cruisers in the Sea Battle of Tassafaronga, but sink a Japanese destroyer.
- Dec 1—Gas rationing goes nationwide across America. As of date, German-Italian troops total some 15,000 in Tunisia; U.S. troops about 7,000 in Tunisia; British troops about 18,000. Off Guadalcanal, Japan loses a destroyer; U.S. loses the cruiser *Northampton*.
- Dec 2—“Variety” reports most popular songs in America are: (1) “White Christmas”, (2) “Praise the Lord, and Pass the Ammunition”, (3) “When the Lights Go On Again”. U.S. 1st Army is within 21 miles of Tunis, capital of Tunisia. First time Enrico Fermi and U.S. scientists conduct secret test of self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction of atoms, in Chicago; in other words, the first time Man splits the Atom. Transport *Coamo* sunk in the North Atlantic by U-boat; no survivors. German resupply convoy of 5 ships sunk by Royal Navy in the Mediterranean.