

THURSDAY.

133 American, British Vessels Under Halsey

GUAM, Aug. 16 (INS)—Fleet Adm. Nimitz today disclosed that the mighty U.S.-British armada which lashed Japan in the closing days of the war was composed of 133 warships.

Nimitz revealed that during the last month 8 U. S. battleships, 16 aircraft carriers, 19 cruisers, and 62 destroyers composed the 3d fleet as it ranged the Jap coast.

Operating with Adm. Halsey's 3d fleet was a British carrier task force of 1 battleship, 4 carriers, 6 cruisers, and 17 destroyers.

Search Missions and Rescues

In addition to these two striking forces, Nimitz announced that the service fleets of both forces contained numerous unnamed tankers, ammunition ships, escort carriers, ~~destroyers, destroyer es-~~corts, and miscellaneous supply ships.

The admiral disclosed also that submarines operated in close support of the fleet, carrying out vital search missions and rescue operations.

The massive naval force aggregated a total of more than a million tons of warships comprising the famous A, B, C, D lineup—aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers—which was thrown against reeling Nippon in 33 days of operations up to August 15.

American battleships in the force included the 45,000-ton Iowa, Wisconsin, and Missouri and the 35,000-ton Massachusetts, Indiana, and South Dakota.

Carrier Shangri-La Included

American carriers not previously announced in action included the Bataan, the Shangri-La, Bonhomme Richard and Belleau Wood.

American warships alone in this unprecedented naval force totaled 956,200 tons. British warships aggregated 203,000 tons to make up the combined total of 1,159,200 tons of naval striking power.

The lone British battleship mentioned by Nimitz was the King George V.

Presence of two of the eight American battleships with the Pacific forces had not previously been announced. These are the North Carolina and Alabama.

The North Carolina was the only one in the lengthy list which was part of the U. S. fleet before the war.

All the rest of the American ships in action from July 10 to August 15 were built, launched and commissioned to bulwark America's navy after the infamous December 7 Pearl Harbor attack had left most of the U. S. fleet on the bottom of the Pacific.

Many New Names

The numerous vessels of the American and British service fleets which participated in the operations by enabling the warships to remain at sea were not enumerated by Nimitz.

These service ships included tankers, ammunition ships, escort carriers, destroyer escorts, and supply ships which brought oil, gasoline, equipment and food thousands of miles across the Pacific for frequent replenishment of the striking force.

The indestructible masterpiece. Extraordinary survival of Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" from the holocaust of war described by Thomas Craven, noted author and art critic, in The American Weekly.