

1941

- May 1, Washington announced that 50 large tankers were being made ready to carry oil to Britain. vessels in U.S. harbours into protective custody. Fifteenth raid on *Schärnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in Brest Harbour.
- May 6, U.S. Secretary of the Navy advocated immediate use of U.S. Navy to make the seas secure for delivery of munitions to Britain.
- May 10, Shipping losses for April, 106 vessels, 488,124 tons: 60 British, 293,089 tons; 43 Allied, 189,473 tons; 3 neutral, 5,562 tons. (Total later revised to 581,251 tons.)
- May 15, U.S. Senate passed Administration Bill empowering the President to requisition alien vessels in U.S. harbours and use them in national defence or aid-Britain programs. U.S. Coast Guard took French
- May 24, H.M.S. *Hood*, battle cruiser of 42,100 tons, sunk in Strait of Denmark by German battleship *Bismarck*.
- May 27, German battleship *Bismarck* sunk by British warships 400 miles west of Brest, after a 1,750-mile chase: British destroyer *Mashona* lost in the operation.
- May 30, Reported from New York 4 British ships, totalling 18,248 tons, sunk 450 miles east of Greenland by mass submarine attack.