

World War II Unit: Lend-Lease Primary Source Document Analysis

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
HER MAJESTY WILHELMINA, QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS
BROADCAST NATIONALLY
AT THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRANSFER
OF A SHIP
UNDER THE LEND-LEASE ACT,
AUGUST 6, 1942, at about 1.15 P.M., E.W.T.

The President spoke as follows:

YOUR MAJESTY:

From the earliest days of history, the people of The Netherlands -- your people -- have been willing to fight for their freedom and independence. They have won out in the face of great odds.

Once more they are fighting for that independence. Once more they will win and maintain it.

We, too, in the United States are fighting for our freedom and it is natural and right that The Netherlands and the United States have joined hands in the common struggle.

The gallant exploits of your countrymen have won the admiration of all the other peoples of the world -- first, in The Netherlands itself and later in the Netherlands' Indies where, in the face of overwhelming (numbers) odds, your sons and our sons went down fighting to the bitter end on land and sea and in the air. Their memory inspires us to redouble our efforts for the cause for which they gave their lives.

The Netherlands' Navy is today adding fresh laurels to those already won in battle from the North Sea to the Java Straits. We Americans can know no better cause than to assist your gallant Navy.

It is, therefore, as a tangible expression of our admiration for all that the Netherlands' Navy has done, and is doing, that I have the

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great pleasure of turning over to you, under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act, this ship.

Built by American workers in American yards, she will hereafter fly the brave Ensign of The Netherlands.

And she will bear the name of one who has come to stand in the eyes of the world as a symbol, a symbol of Netherlands' courage and Netherlands' determination.

For it is as the "QUEEN WILHELMINA" that she will embark upon her new career.

And so I ask Your Majesty to receive this ship as a symbol of the friendship and the admiration of the people of the United States.

The response of Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, was as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I am very happy that the transfer of this vessel under the provisions of the lend-lease agreement takes place during my presence in Washington. This enables me to thank you personally for your gracious initiative and for your continued personal interest.

I see in this ceremony fresh evidence of the excellent spirit of friendship which ever since the days of John Paul Jones has existed between our two navies.

This admirable vessel, replete with the most modern technical devices, is a valuable addition to our naval forces.

It will operate in close (collaboration) cooperation with the United States Navy against our common enemies. The officers and crew will do all they can to live up to the friendly thought to which we owe this new unit of our Navy.

World War II Unit: Lend-Lease Act
Primary Source Document Analysis

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

1. Describe the general characteristics of the primary source document. Who is Involved? What is it? Where did it occur? Why would this document be important? (DOK 1)

2. Why would this document be important? (DOK 2) _____

2. Based on your reading, what was the Lend-Lease Act? (DOK 2) _____

3. Identify the specific evidence from the text that supports your answer to question 2. (DOK 2/3)

4. In the document, the president states “And so I ask Your Majesty to receive this ship as a symbol of the friendship and the admiration of the people of the United States”. However, the President did not ask for anything in return. Did the United States benefit from this “transfer”? If so, explain your reasoning. (DOK 3)

5. In the document, the Queen states “it will operate...against our common enemies”. Who do you think were the common enemies of the United States and the Netherlands? (DOK 2)
