

## TOY TRAINS GO TO WAR

Most of us older guys who have read books and articles about World War II, are aware of many unrelated companies switching their product lines to war materials. Some examples include Remington Rand, Singer Sewing Machines and Union Switch and Signal who produced thousands of 45 Cal. M1911A1 semi-automatic pistols. Ford Motor Company built nearly seven thousand B-24 Liberator bombers at their Willow Run aircraft plant in Michigan. Several thousand M4 and M4A1-6 Sherman Medium tanks were built by Baldwin, American, Montreal and Lima Locomotive companies as well as Pullman Standard and Pressed Steel railway car companies.

By now you're probably wondering what all this has to do with *toy trains*. Well, a lesser known war necessitated item called a **Pelorus**, a navigational instrument used to obtain relative bearings on U. S. Naval Vessels. The example pictured here was made by none other than **LIONEL CORPORATION** who relinquished their toy train production to help the war effort by producing various navigational instruments and bomb sights.

This particular item was removed by me, with permission, while surveying a converted navy auxiliary vessel that ultimately went to scrap.