

FRENCH FLEET IN ACTION.

573

Even in these days of aeroplanes, a nation's life-blood flows through the channels of the sea. If her ports are blockaded the strongest must eventually bow to the invader. We have shown how France is protected by her natural mountain ranges, and her man-made Maginot Line --- but these steel guardians of her shores must be competent in war-time to ensure food and other supplies from abroad. These are her Dreadnoughts --- the floating fortresses that will keep open her lanes of commerce. Two quadruple gun-turrets forward --- Dunkerque is the only battle-cruiser in the world so armed. How does France protect her shipping? How does she keep open her ports and preserve communication with her colonies? Algeria, Senegal, Madagascar? Watch her Fleet at exercises --- Atlantic and Mediterranean squadrons march out to sea.

The French Navy includes 30 submarines of 92 metres and forty smaller. They dive in forty seconds --- they could travel from Havre to New York and back and back again without taking on fresh supplies. Their wonder ship is the Surcouf --- armed with torpedo tubes and twin surface guns --- the only submarine cruiser in the world that carries an aeroplane. Watch the spectacular action of the giant underwater craft going into ~~action~~ attack with her torpedoes.

She comes to the surface --- and as the waters receded from her shiny back she changes from submarine to surface ~~torpedo~~ <sup>fighter</sup> boat.

Aircraft-Carrier Bearn --- a floating aerodrome that acts as Mother-Ship to part of the Navy's Air Arm. From the ~~xxx~~ water, a seaplane squadron takes off in formation. And above the coastline the Air Arm plays its part --- the eye of the Fleet in the sky.

*Start Start*  
 Fifteen years ago the French Navy was re-organized and reconstructed. ~~France does not need so great a Navy as Gt. Britain~~, but her 1938 programme lays down more battleships --- more aircraft carriers --- more cruisers and torpedo-boats.

In the open sea those men-o'-war press on the pace --- ~~xxx~~ destroyers crash through the water at a speed of 45 knots --- ~~xxxxxx~~ the grey steel Fleet of France is going into action. Action stations!

Dignified and terrible those ~~xxxx~~ gunsturrets are swinging into the ~~xxxx~~ the attack.

With her big guns she matches a four-barrel anti-aircraft gun --- her crews are working at full pressure and the ocean echoes to the mighty voice of battle.

Gaumont British news will show in later issues more exclusive pictures of French Defence --- more secrets will be revealed by Government permission --- watch for the next issue ----- the Defence of France!

*France is ready to play her part as the ally of Great Britain.*

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