

CONTRABAND CONTROL, ETC

This is another angle on the story of contraband control.... ~~The blockade is still on; very much so. These days there aren't very many ships flying an enemy flag on the high seas and Britain. Ships of the world's merchant navies who wish to enter British ports are liable to challenge by the Navy. If necessary they are boarded & searched. The object is to prevent spies or other enemy agents from entering this country.~~

This ~~will.~~ ~~Contraband control~~ is a trying job; very seldom is it rewarded with any of the glory that may fall to the lot of other departments of the Navy, but it is carried on in a spirit of good fellowship --- and if there are letters from home it becomes a pleasure to all concerned.

Another side of the war at sea --- the sea that is still proving a firm friend to Great Britain and the Empire. The German warship Derrflinger was scuttled after the last war, and here she is nearly ready for breaking up. After twenty years she has been reclaimed from the ocean at Scapa. Scrap iron from Germany --- soon to become munitions to help beat Germany for the second time.

Going east --- the Navy takes up the war in the Mediterranean. In the harbour at Alexandria there are ships of the French Fleet. After the signing of the armistice they were demilitarised and rendered unfit for service. ~~...~~ Italian bombers have made some attempts to demilitarise the British Fleet, but they have met with no success. On the contrary, some of the excursions

made by Mussolini's Air Force have ended in severe losses to themselves. On shore ~~there is~~ ^{there is} a sort of bargain basement; these are just a few of the odds and ends captured from the Italians.

Yes --- despite these raids and despite the fact that Italian and German propaganda has already sunk the entire Navy at least once, the Royal Navy refuses to stay sunk. ~~at a speed~~ ^a Libyan port ~~is~~ comes under heavy shell-fire from destroyers and light cruisers. There was no opposition from shore batteries. Possibly the first salvos from the Navy's guns put them out of action. Possibly the Italian gunners were unable to be present.