

TRIBUTE TO A GALLANT SHIP.

Let us pay tribute to a gallant ship. His Majesty's Aircraft Carrier Ark Royal: many times sunk by rumour; now she has gone down in action, ~~in the Mediterranean.~~

Ark Royal was first attacked by German bombers in September 1939. They claimed she was sunk; but since then ~~she's~~ ^{she's} ~~been~~ been hitting Britain's enemies and hitting them hard.

Torpedoes got her in the end --- ~~and while we feel her loss deeply~~ ^{but} --- look at the balance sheet and see who comes off best. Ark Royal destroyed or damaged over 100 German and Italian warplanes; off Sardinia, her aircraft destroyed a battleship and 4 destroyers. She ~~was~~ ^{was} in the bombardment of Genoa. She played a big part in the slaughter of the Bismarck. Wherever there's been trouble ~~for~~ ~~there's~~, there's been Ark Royal causing it.

Of her 1,500-odd complement, the great majority were saved; to find another ship and go on with the work they began so well.

No use denying that her loss is a blow to us; but she made them pay ten-fold to get her.

So in the Mediterranean that knew your glory in war, you rest in peace. Sleep well, Ark Royal. We give you our grateful thanks.