

THE WORLD AT WAR --- THE BATTLE OF THE SEAS. (2)

On all seas the submarine menace grows, and we have to fight it tooth and nail. In the Battle of the Seas, Britain cannot retreat or withdraw, and Britain doesn't intend to. One method by which we are fighting the U-Boats is the mass production of motor launches by an ingenious system of using the hundreds of small boat-yards in the United Kingdom. From a central organization and from many large factories, separate parts of these patrol boats are built to Admiralty specification. They are sent out to the small boat-builders whose job it is to assemble them; by this means a perfect Navy boatbuilding job can be carried out without complicated machine tools, and largely with unskilled labour. ~~So this kind of picturesque~~
~~boatyard can build warships. The framework is covered with~~
~~planking which is bent to the shape of the boat and secured by~~
~~copper rivets.~~

The engines, naturally, are the most costly and delicate part of the M.L. Usually the central organization sends a team of skilled engineers to the boat-yard to fit them. ^{There are the y}
 2 fuel tanks — sealed & tested.
 And so another of His Majesty's motor launches takes the water. Figures are secret, but several are launched every week of the year.

~~Crews have been trained specially for these craft;~~ this is a class on the handling of ^{the} engines.

And ^{now we're on} ~~this is an~~ acceptance trial, the M.L. undergoes hours of testing at full speed while Admiralty experts check performance and look for faults.

Our M.L. has been passed out for active service and now forms one of a patrol flotilla; a plane coming over the horizon may be a Jerry and ack-ack gets ready.

They've driven him off but he's coming back and another ~~small~~ ack-ack goes into action.

That's one less Nazi to hunt our convoys.

Look out --- U-Boat. [^] Another plane --- no --- it's ours; he's on the radio about that U-Boat.

Anti-submarine action stations. ^{aw}

The Captain forms his flotilla.

The flag signals "let go depth charge" and the little fleet roars into the attack. And that's another sub that ~~it~~ won't return from patrol. ^{Thanks to the M.L.}

That's the story of the M.L...or, rather, that's part of it; for it's a story that unfolds day and night for 365 days in the year.

Now by contrast, our cameraman is out with one of the greatest ships of the Royal Navy H.M.S. Duke of York. The past few months have taken heavy toll of our capital ships; the loss of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse, and ^{the} escape of the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau indicate that capital ships must always have fighter protection: *to preserve their great fire power for great occasions.* The Duke of York has new-type fourteen-inch guns --- the most powerful guns in the world; ~~and here they go.~~

And now the camera takes us right into the front line with a convoy of troopships. They're in dangerous waters; and it's good to see that there's an aircraft carrier forming part of the escort. Protection, and also part of the eyes of the fleet which must never fail in its look out. ~~A Catalina flying boat is sleeping sound.~~

Through 2,000 miles the convoy of troops ploughs on; every mile is danger; ~~and it is the kind of danger the Navy faces cheerfully, and with superb efficiency.~~

Even when there's no enemy to shoot at they keep in ~~their~~ trim with target practice.

More miles have been safely left behind; this convoy is well on the way to reinforcing our troops in operations overseas.

Now planes begin to return from U-boat patrol to land on the aircraft carrier: it looks easy, but that's a dangerous job even in peace time.

Right on the appointed time another escort of warships is sighted; for this escort, the job is safely done. The guardianship of this large troop-reinforcement is handed over to another unit of the Royal Navy. It's done without fuss and without hitch; and the convoy sails on.

1942 sees the continuation of the ocean struggle that has raged without pause since September 1939. However, well or ill may go the Battle on other fronts, this is the front that we must hold to the end. The Navy is sorely strained and tested; but an island race can only be as strong as the strength of her ships and sailors; we owe every day of life to the Royal Navy.