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5.40 PM M. H. 28/8/42

ARRIVAL IN PORT OF THE MALTA CONVOY.

This is the second part of the story of the great air attack on the Convoy to Malta --- the cameras go right through to the gallant Island fortress --- and you will see the unloading of supplies. But first --- observe how great a fleet was the escort --- no underestimate here of the hazards that <sup>were</sup> likely to be encountered. Capital ships --- in case of attack by Axis surface vessels --- and several aircraft carriers. ~~You will recall that one of them --- H.M.S. Eagle --- was sunk.~~

The most important object was to get those reinforcements off to Malta --- ~~and to meet the great needs of that garrison.~~ therefore, at a certain point, aircraft left the mother ship to fly the rest of the journey. And then the attacks began --- attacks which continued almost incessantly to the end of the voyage. A severe attack followed in the evening; no damage was done --- but some enemy planes were shot down and when you see the barrage you don't wonder.

The following day the struggle was renewed with awful intensity. ~~Some of the convoy had gone astray and had to be marshalled afresh.~~ It is hardly possible to imagine the fearful strain of sailing under such a continuous bombardment. It is hardly possible to imagine how men can endure such a test and come through it ready for the next job. It's as well to remember now that such experiences must eventually tell their tale; after the war, only the best must be good enough for them. Let's decide that now --- while they're right in the picture.

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No --- you can't come through this kind of thing and stay the same; there'll be many faces with deep lines in them after the war --- there'll be young men with eyes that look as if they've seen too much. <sup>Nearby</sup> ~~Being~~ the destination at Malta the convoy was met by M.L.'s ~~who~~ <sup>that</sup> came out to assist in the escort work; these little ships did a wonderful job --- ~~with~~ both against air attacks and in anti-submarine patrol.

A hit was scored by torpedo on the tanker Ohio --- a ship full of oil --- most precious, and most vulnerable. She was next hit by a Stuka. ~~Great columns of smoke went up and as the hands fought to put out the flames she became a special target for the bombers to finish off.~~ Incredible it sounds --- but the crew ~~just~~ put those flames out and brought her into Malta.

Always there was the danger from under the sea ~~as well~~ ~~as~~ --- but those M.L.'s rolled off their depth charges and shook the ocean bed.

In the brief lulls between attacks, the crews grabbed a quick meal; for hours on end they had no rest; but they kept going on good old British ~~duff~~ <sup>duff</sup>.

The cameraman who took most of this ~~material~~ <sup>story</sup> was Douglas Hardy; ~~he~~ ~~changed~~ ~~ships~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~Eagle~~ ~~before~~ ~~she~~ ~~was~~ ~~attacked~~ ~~and~~ ~~sunk~~.

At another unspecified point the big ships of the escort went back to Gibraltar. Enemy seaplanes and E-boats made some attacks during the night, <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ the following day continuous attacks resumed. Nineteen waves in six hours --- five, six, twelve or twenty planes in a wave.

In the meantime, under protection of the light forces, the convoy came slowly towards Malta; their ranks were sadly thinned out. This island can only be kept going at <sup>immense</sup> ~~tremendous~~ sacrifice in men and material; but the reinforcements and supplies that got through were sorely needed.

Watch these ships come into harbour at Valetta; picture in your mind the feelings of those brave people on this indomitable rock as they see the relief come in. Precious food to sustain them; ammunition to help them hit back as they have done for more than two years; never has there been such a story of ~~maritime~~ heroism and dogged endurance. It almost makes the whole terrible war seem worth while, just to learn that there are people with this kind of courage.