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EXERCISE "SLEEPING BEAUTY".

In reserve for two years at Barrow-in-Furness, her guns protected with plastic "cocoon-sealing", H.M.S. Dainty awaits the arrival of her advance commissioning party from Portsmouth. They are to carry out Exercise Sleeping Beauty, which will test how quickly a warship in reserve can be got ready to action. Inside the cocoon-sealing, bags of silica gel have kept the air dry, winter and summer.

The Dainty is one of the new Daring Class warships, halfway between a destroyer and a cruiser. Six 4.5-inch guns with fully automatic turrets, and ten 21-inch torpedo tubes, are among her armament. While they are being got ready, other ratings are laying in the provisions. There's quite a lot of painting to be done, as well.

You too can have a body like mine!

And most essential of all - the Dainty's supply of rum.

Her commissioning complete, she weighs anchor for her sea trials - and then it's home to Portsmouth!