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REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 1940.

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1940 was born, the first pictures were shown of the great victory over Germany's Pocket-Battleship Graf Spee in the engagement of the River Plate. After a fight lasting 14 hours, the Graf Spee fled for the shelter of Montevideo and was scuttled by the command of Hitler. In the icy seas of mid-winter, our warships hunt out every Nazi vessel afloat. So battle-sky the runs, that "Scuttling" became the order of the day. The German luxury liner COLUMBUS was soaked in benzine and sank in flames, also at Hitler's behest.

Meanwhile, the victorious AJAX returned to her home port and added yet another distinction to her battle honours. After two and a half years on Foreign Service, she shared with H.M.S. EXETER and ACHILLES the acclamations of a grateful country — Britain echoed with cheers for the returned heroes of the drama of River Plate. Still bearing honourable battle scars, EXETER berthed at Plymouth.

In London's Guildhall a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor to the conquerors of the inglorious Graf Spee. Mr. Churchill - then First Lord of the Admiralty - paid a great tribute to the Officers and men.

On that glorious day at Josing Fiord when men of H.M.S COSSACK, with drawn cutlasses, and cries of "The Navy is here" boarded the ALTMARK and rescued 300 British prisoners. These men, from the Nazi Hellship, later recounted their experiences to the King and Queen.

It was an historic moment for Pathe's microphone when it captured the voice of Her Majesty in conversation.

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The Royal visit to Scotland further afforded Glydesiders and opportunity to give Their Majesties one of the most enthusiastic welcomes of their tour. At one famous Shipbuilding yard they could hardly move for the crowds of oh, say, Scots.

Speaking of Clydeside, ten days following her unobtrusive departure from Clydebank, the largest vessel in the world The "Queen Elizabeth" docked in New York after the most dramatically secret maiden-voyage in history.

From the biggest ship to the biggest Race, the Grand National at Aintree when Royal Danielli, MacKoffat and a riderless horse monopolised the race up to the last jump, finally in a stupendous finish to be beaten by Bogakar.

Then, in April, Hitler experienced his first real defeat at Narvik. Captain Warburton-Lee led his Destroyer Flotilla into action, resulting in the immediate destruction of four German destroyers. Three other fled, but were pursued, engaged and destroyed. The Royal Navy, besides turning the Norwegian Fiord into a graveyard for 7 of Hitler's Warships effectively closed this door, through which the Germans obtained their supplies of Swedish Iron Ore. Drake would have cheered the men from Narvik.

Nearly ten months after the outbreak of war, came the colossal Military disaster, culminating in the blazing hell of Dunkirk. Belgium had Capitulated, the First French Army was broken, and the full force of Germany was hurled against the ever-narrowing, ever-contracting appendix within which the British and French Armies fought. Day and night we struggled through to the beaches, staving off what might have been complete annihilation. Then, by a miracle of deliverance achieved by valour, perseverance and perfect

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discipline, the enemy was held and even hurled back. The R.A.F. engaged and battered the main strength of the German Air Force, while the Navy, using nearly one thousand ships of all kinds, carried over 335,000 men, French and British, out of the jaws of death. There were none but heroes at Dunkirk. It was the most superbly heroic operation of all time and, by the Grace of God, we achieved the seemingly impossible. Let the greatest tribute of all, be paid to the men who fought and fell in the rear-guard actions. They fought their last battle from the water's edge.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1940
PART 2.

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Three weeks later France sued for an Armistice. But in her hour of defeat General de Gaulle rallied thousands of his countrymen and became the Leader of all free Frenchmen.

The whole vicious venom of Germany's war machine was then turned against the British Isles. Long range guns on the French Coast tried to smash our convoys. With shell and bomb, the Nazi's frantically attempted to cripple our shipping. But they're up against BRITISH SEAMEN, the toughest, grandest men alive.

While their shells come screeching from twenty miles away, the sky above is pock-marked by our anti-aircraft guns. Destroyers lay down smoke screens to hide our merchantmen. Well is this section of England's Coastline named 'Hell Fire Corner'.

Now Now the battle of Britain is on. The Germans fling the full weight of their Air Force against our civilian life. From dusk to dawn they rain high explosive and incendiary bombs in an attempt to terrify us into submission. In this inferno, a new-born army wins glory....the

National A. R.P Services. Hospitals are not immune in the mad, lustful orgy of indiscriminate bombing. Nothing is sacred to the Hun.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Wren's masterpiece, received a direct hit, when a bomb smashed through the East End of the Cathedral and demolished the high altar. The Mother Church of the Empire was twice made a target. The Tower of London, became a 'Military Objective' to the twisted Nazi mind, in which love of destruction is inherent. From the very commencement of the

Blitzkreig the homes of civilians were chosen for Goering's terror tactics. As long as there are historians to record it, the courage and bravery of the British Citizens will live for ever. No home was inviolate - Buckingham Palace - (as much a home as any other) was hit more than once. Our King and Queen had - not only their own worries, but shared the sorrows and dangers of their devoted subjects. Those were black days indeed in September, but it was the price we had to pay for victory in the air. By superb heroism, our Air Force inflicted smashing blows on the much vaunted Luftwaffe. In their hundreds they littered countryside from North to South, East to West. The R.A.F won immortal glory as they blasted the Air Armadas of our unprincipled enemy. Never in the history of human conflict did so many owe so much to so few.

We know now that the mass raids of September were to precede actual invasion. But the aerial vanguard of the Nazis lay a twisted mass of metal on our shores. So overwhelming were the defeats metered out by the R.A.F., that space had to be found to accommodate the tons of wrecked enemy aircraft. With superb daring, our lions with wings hit back at Germany's war industries. Sergeant John Hannah's heroism typifies the spirit of cool daring. He became the youngest V.C of the war by fighting the flames in a blazing bomber in fight.

Across the Atlantic, 50 American Destroyers make ready to sail for British Ports. In exchange for Naval Bases in the West Indies, Britain received valuable additions to her hard pressed anti-submarine ships. It is a momentous day in the history of Anglo-American relations. Hands across the sea, as well as arms across the Atlantic.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR PART 3

On the anniversary of the Fascist March on Rome Mussolini attacked Greece. On land and sea the Greeks struck hard and sent the invaders reeling back in confusion. Election fever gripped all America as Franklin Roosevelt won the country with a sweeping victory, and became President for a third term. Into the harbours of our great Dominions, came the youngsters of Britain, evacuated from the perils of Hitler's war on women and children. To the four corners of the earth they went, to be welcomed with open arms by the people of the Commonwealth of Nations. On Armistice Day a strong formation of Italian Aircraft attempted their first attack on London. They were so completely routed by the R.A.F. that those of them who were taken prisoner were the only ones to discover what had hit them. Britain's pilots are aces, high.

COVENTRY. From dusk to dawn on a November night the ancient Midland town was mercilessly bombed by wave upon wave of German planes. Again - the King went among his heroic people. +Ferciously mauled by the bestial Nazis - Coventry's head was bloody but unbowed. London's underground stations, were warly taken over as additional night shelters - thousands accepting comparative discomfort for the sake of safety.

Every Fighter Station gives birth to heroes. The Swatika decorated plane of Squadron Leader Stanford Tuck shows the friendly

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rivalry between Squadrons for the highest number of "scalps". The winners of a "kitty" to go to the first Squadron to bring down six hundred enemy planes, was shared by Flight Lieutenant Mungo Parke and Pilot Officer Stephens.

As hostilities developed in the Middle East, Italy's forces crumbled beneath the onslaught of Allied pressure; our forces in Egypt struck blow after blow at the Axis Scapegoat. Under the command of General Sir Archibald Wavell, the soldiers of the British Commonwealth of Nations and her Allies changed the whole course of the War, with their brilliant victories in the Western Desert.

The Axis gangsters are badly shaken. The tide is turning. Every man and woman, uniformed or working clothed is in the front line. Crusaders of the Home Front, the Navy, the Army, and The Air Force fight in the Battle for Civilisation.