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AUSTRALIA'S MIGHTY SHIPBUILDING EFFORT.

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Warships, food ships, munition ships to help win the crucial battle of the Atlantic. Australia is building ships. Right round the nation work goes on 24 hours in the day; a great and growing army in overalls. White hot steel girders are fashioned into ships ribs on the punctured floor of the foundry.

Coming from the furnace is a giant shaft in embryo. Under the blows from an 80 ton steam hammer, it begins to assume its desired shape. One thousand pounds pressure to the square inch behind that chap.

It needs a groove in a particular position. No trouble at all while the metal's hot. And here's the finished crankshaft, perfect to a microscopic fraction of an inch. The propeller shaft, transmitting the engine's power to the ship's screw. Every component is 100% Australian. While the great city sleeps men toil. The silence of the night is broken by the staccato chatter of pneumatic riveters and the hiss of oxy-acetylene welders. Right round the clock in every state of the Commonwealth the industrial army of Diggers is going to it. Here's an opinion of the Australian workmen by an old Tynesider.

Yes, the Aussies are making a magnificent effort. In her shipyards are being built the escort vessels, minesweepers, destroyers and freighters we need so urgently.

They are getting faster. One great yard is putting a new ship in the water every four weeks. Ships almost in mass production. But the job has only just begun. This may be a long war - and to win it we must have more and more shipyards and train more and more men everywhere.

It will take a long time to replace the appalling losses of this conflict.

As the ship goes down to her natural element, the base plate of her sister swings into position. Australians will lay down many a keel, but they'll never lay down on the job.

And so they go down to the sea - big ships, small ships, fighting ships, freighters - all of them to do their valuable bit in the Empire's titanic struggle. In the long sea lanes destroyers and corvettes will hunt down the lurking U-Boats, fight off the sky raiders. And though many more fine ships will meet their doom before the Hun is crushed, the convoys will continue to reach England with food and the necessities of war. Ships will win this war. Australia is building ships.

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