

BRITISH SUBMARINES Several Recent Successes

THE exploits of British submarines have been in the news several times in the last few weeks. They have been active since the beginning of the war, more active, indeed, than the German U-boats, but there is a very great difference between the operations of the submarines of the two navies. The U-boat's quarry is the unarmed merchantmen, which come in a steady stream to British ports from all parts of the world, says the naval correspondent of a London newspaper.

The U-boat has no need to search for targets; they are always there, and all that the U-boat commander has to do is to try to discover a weak spot in their defences, or to deliver his attack at long range from outside the ambit of the defenders.

A British submarine, on the other hand, has very few targets available, and they are to be found only in waters close to enemy territory, which are closely patrolled by enemy aircraft, destroyers, and patrol boats—all of them formidable antagonists for the submarine.

The British submarine commander's quarry are enemy warships and ships in the military service of the enemy, either as troopships or supply ships for his fighting service.

In the early months of the war none of these was to be found at sea, except German warships on their infrequent sorties; and it so happened that no

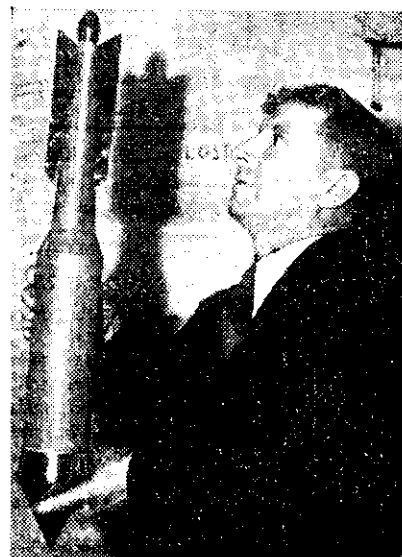
British submarine was fortunate enough to make contact with them until H.M.S. Salmon fell in with the German Fleet on December 13, 1939, and torpedoed at least two ships in it.

Since the enemy has overrun the neutral countries to the north and west of him, however, he has had more frequent occasion not only to move troops by sea but also to run a fairly frequent service of supply ships for them.

The land communications of Norway are sparse, and even before the German attack on that unfortunate country, probably well over half the normal communications of the country were carried on by sea. The German forces of occupation are just as dependent on sea transport for their support as was the civil population before there were any Germans there.

H.M.S. Sturgeon successfully attacked a heavily laden enemy transport in the Kattegat on September 2, and it was reported that some thousands of German troops were then drowned. Recently, the destruction of three enemy supply vessels, two by one of the smallest submarines of the Navy, H49, and one by one the larger, H.M.S. Tuna, was reported.

The locality of these two latter attacks was not made public, but it was stated that all those ships were being convoyed by the enemy, and it may thus be taken for granted that they were in enemy waters. That alone, indicates the high standard of skill of the British submarine commanders and the difficulties which face the enemy when he tries to make use of the sea which he does not command.



B. J. MAY, Sydney, with his brain-child, a new aerial bomb—steel capped with a casing of iron bark. His invention, he claims, halves the cost of aerial bombs

First Things First

It was a full five minutes since the wail of the sirens had given their warning, but the church congregation was still engaged in its devotions.

"Why haven't you told them?" The question was addressed to the churchwarden standing outside the building, who was indeed posted there for that very purpose.

"Well, you see, the bishop's preaching this morning, and, besides—we haven't taken the collection yet!"

Woman in North London at height of raid: "I liked last night's searchlights better. These patterns aren't so good."

During one night's raid Welsh soldiers who entered a shelter near the Haymarket delighted other inmates by singing "Sweet and Low."

When the manager of a London cinema announced the raid from the stage on a recent night, he began: "I suppose you know why I am here . . ." The audience roared with laughter.

A newspaper contents bill seen in the City: To-day's Menu! Siren Soup, Heinkel Hot-pot, Jaguar Jelly.

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Noel Coward's Itinerary

The Department of Internal Affairs announces the following itinerary for Noel Coward's tour of New Zealand:

January 4—Arrives Auckland and broadcasts at 7.45 p.m. from 1YA. Main stations will relay this talk.

January 5—Leaves for Rotorua.

January 9—Arrives Dunedin and gives a patriotic concert which 4YA and 4YZ will broadcast.

January 10—Gives a broadcast from 4YA at 7.45 p.m.

January 11—Arrives Christchurch and gives a patriotic concert which 3YA will broadcast.

January 12—National Service talk from 3YA at 8.45 p.m. Relayed from main stations.

January 13—Arrives Wellington and gives a talk from 2YA at 7.45 p.m.

January 14—Will be given a reception by the Government and will give a patriotic concert which 2YA will broadcast.

January 15—Gives a talk from 2YA at 7.45 p.m.

January 16—Arrives Auckland, gives a patriotic concert. 1YA will broadcast.

January 17—Gives a farewell talk from 1YA which will be relayed at 7.45 p.m. through the main stations.

January 18—Departs for America.

As opportunity offers Mr. Coward will visit military camps.

"THE BLUE LIGHT" Unique Troop Journal

ALTHOUGH New Zealand has more newspapers to the square mile than any other country, the N.Z. troops overseas promptly carry on this tradition by producing a local newspaper for themselves wherever they find themselves—in camp, air force station, troopship, or overseas depot.

These bright journals are of all shapes, sizes and values, but they capture the very life of camp comradeship, and should be well worth collecting now, while they are available, as the raw material of the great stories that will be written of these exciting days.

One of the more ambitious of these troop journals, called "The Blue Light, the Unofficial Organ of the -th Field Ambulance," is produced by a former member of the staff of *The Listener* who enlisted as a private in the Medical Corps, Eric de Mauny, together with three other unit members, all ex-newspapermen. It is published fortnightly and makes a profit for Regimental Funds.

"The Blue Light," is in fact a newspaper—not a mimeographed journal. It publishes all the local news for and about the boys, dates of concerts, camp meetings and church notices, plenty of jokes, a General Knowledge Quiz, general news, good strong editorials on their faith in their cause and against rumour mongers, and, most ambitious of all, plenty of paid advertising from the local merchants.

By wartime necessity, nowhere in the journal is there stated the name of the locality, not even in the advertisements or imprint. So this journal without a placename must be unique in newspaperdom.

"BLITZ" HUMOUR

A Third Refusal

Somewhere in the North-west an enemy bomb fell close to the cottage of an old lady who lived by herself. The bomb did not explode and the A.R.P. wardens went to tell her she must leave the cottage. "Oh, aye," she said. "Will you tell me why?" "Hitler's dropped a time bomb outside your doorway," replied a wag among the wardens. "It may go off any minute and blow you up."

"Well, look you here," said the old dame. "I've refused to leave this house for t'landlord; I've refused to leave for t'bailliffs; and I'll be hanged if I'll leave it for Hitler."

Nothing to Bite On

Overheard on the bus: "That was a very short air raid the other night, wasn't it?"

"Yes—hardly worth putting my teeth in for."

Why Worry?

On a wayside pulpit outside a church in a heavily bombed London area: "Don't worry. Your mountain to-day may be a molehill to-morrow."

"Next Please"

A South London barber who has had the upper part of his shop blown away has put up this notice on his door: "I have had a close shave. What about you?"

Members of a London chess club are annoyed at having to stop playing when the sirens sound. "Chess," said one, "requires concentration, and while playing we can't really spare attention for things going on outside."