



The Hectic Story of the Kelly

DURING the evacuation of Crete in 1941, German dive-bombers swooped on one of the British Navy's most famous "maids of all work," the destroyer Kelly, and ended her short but hectic career. Among those left struggling in the water was the man who had commanded her from the time she was commissioned, Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten, now Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

The story of the Kelly is one of two BBC programmes dealing with widely different theatres of war which are to be broadcast soon by National stations. They are entitled *Destroyer* and *Letter from Korea*.

The Kelly was built at Hebburn-on-Tyne and commissioned just in time to take her share in the fighting and routine drudgery of the opening months of World War II. All the hazards of the war at sea came, her way, and in one North Sea battle she was nearly sunk by E-boats. Kenneth Poolman, who wrote and produced the programme, tells the Kelly's story mainly in episodes from the ship's life as it was seen from the lower deck, building up the narration from personal reminiscences of ex-members of the ship's company. He found himself in familiar surroundings, as he himself served as a naval rating during the war. The feature closes with a per-



EARL MOUNTBATTEN and (above) his famous wartime command H.M.S. Kelly, photographed just after being disabled off the German coast in 1940. She got back safely that time, after being 91 hours hove-to or in tow

sonal message by Lord Mountbatten. Nigel Patrick, the well-known stage and film actor, is the narrator.

The Kelly, incidentally, has been in the public eye before. She is generally accepted as being the original heroine of Noel Coward's wartime movie *In Which We Serve*. The film was greeted with favour by the critics and with glee by the public, much of the latter's reaction being provoked in part by the unselfconscious use of a familiar term of abuse.

Much of the dramatic effect of *Letter from Korea*, by Conrad Voss-Bark, comes from what the characters think as well as what they say and do. Five soldiers are sent to hold a mountain pass and cover the withdrawal of an army. One of them, a boy of 18, is drafting a letter to his mother; another, a Scot, sends his mind back to the hills and streams of home; another thinks he hears his wife's voice speaking to the children. The play is performed by members of the BBC Drama Repertory Company, with Raymond Raikes as producer.

Destroyer plays first from 2YA at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, January 24. *Letter from Korea*, which has already been heard from 1XN, plays from 1YC at 7.50 p.m. on Sunday, January 17. Both will be heard later from other National stations.

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of farmers of my type is to contribute to the gaiety of their neighbours, I went stubbornly on. It was perhaps in my favour that the

DECEMBER 26 six pints I poured in slowly from the tail to the top-knot were then kept moving by heavy rain. I don't know what course the fluid took when it left the centre of the back, because the wool was then three or four inches long. But it found the ticks or was found by them, and remained effective long enough to destroy what hatched afterwards.

I am not going to patent this method, or ask for any kind of protection for it. It is not fast, or cheap, or good for rheumatism in the operator. But the first 25 were the worst. I was then so wet that another mugful inside the top of my trousers made very little difference to my discomfort.

(To be continued)



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