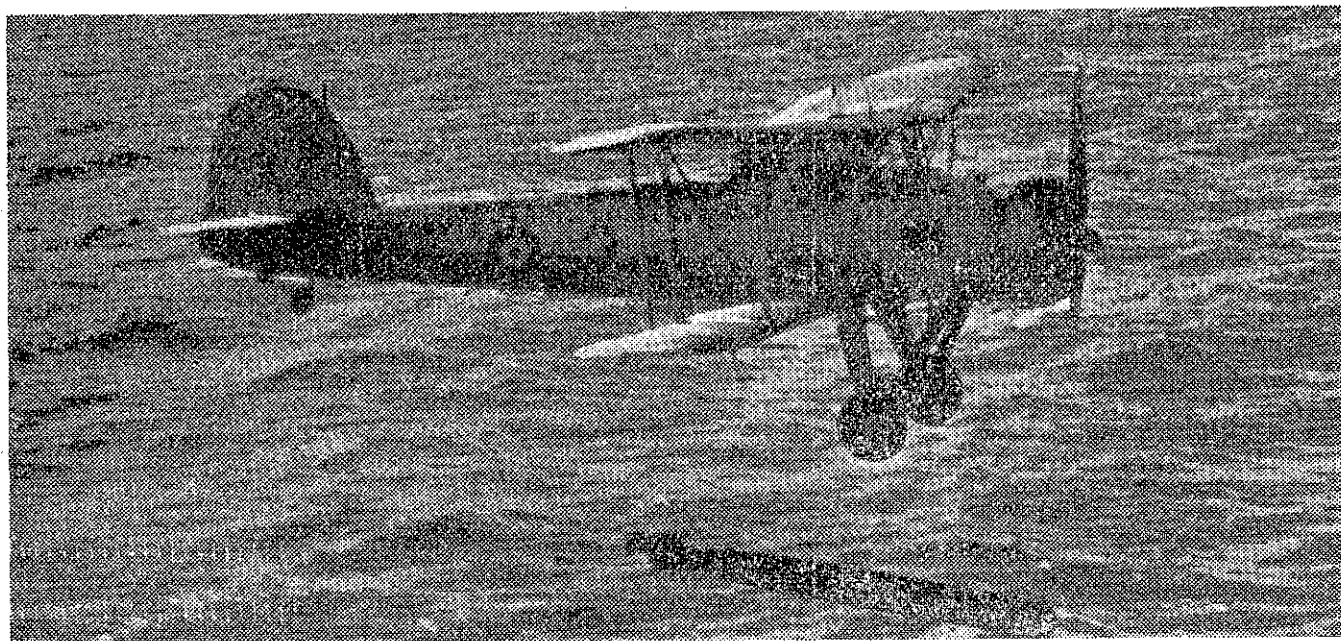


# SHAPE OF THINGS



## THE AEROPLANE DROPS ITS TORPEDO

**T**HE sea was perfectly calm as the three ships of the navy—the Leander, the Leith and the Wellington—lay at anchor by Wellington's Clyde Quay.

There was sunshine on the oily water of the harbour, and the yachts, bare of sail, moved lightly in the yacht harbour. Across to the far hills stretched a faint blue haze.

It was all very peaceful.

**T**HE warships were as much at peace as the scenery. It seemed fantastic that at any moment in an unsettled world those ships might be stealing out of port on their hazardous business of defence.

And when they set sail radio would play a big part in this business. To-day radio is the ears and the eyes of the navy.

**A**T first when the fleet to-day sets sail to meet the enemy, radio is dumb. No radio messages are transmitted. At this moment it is very much the Silent Service.

Radio brings messages back from the aeroplane scouts, but nothing comes over the ether from the ships themselves.

They are keeping themselves hidden. If their radio sets spoke, the direction-finders of enemy ships would pick up the waves, plot the fleet's position.

### Radio Starts to Speak

**A**LL manoeuvring of the fleet until the enemy is sighted is done by sight signals. But as soon as the advance light forces make contact with the enemy, the radio starts to speak.

Once they find out the position of the enemy fleet, it is the job of the scouts and light forces to find out the disposition of the enemy's heavy battleships.

**I**N his flagship far back in the line of attack, the Admiral of the Fleet gathers together the data that

**F**OR the Admiral of the Fleet, spinning his tactical web in his charthouse, plotting positions of enemy ships and his own, radio will be the ears and eyes of the Navy. Accurate radio reports will give him a complete picture of the chess-board of battle. But, at the same time, there will be a fiercer battle of the air—the outcome of which no man yet knows.

radio brings him. From this data he spins the web of his manoeuvring.

If the radio reports are accurate and thorough, he will have a complete picture before

him of the enemy forces. Once he knows exactly where they are, he can plan to lead them into his trap.

At the same time as he makes his picture of the enemy fleet, the Admiral has the picture before him of his own fleet. He plans his strategy from the two.

**P**ERHAPS there are details still wanting for his picture of the enemy fleet. "I am not sure," he says, "where the enemy aircraft are. I want their position." Out goes his message by radio to his ships. Back comes the reply and the Admiral fills in the missing detail of his picture. He plans his strategy.

### Battle of the Future

**"I**F I attack with aircraft," he says, "I can force the enemy into a certain position. I can drive them here, where I want them." Out goes the message to his aircraft by radio.

No one can yet predict the outcome of the naval battle of the future in which radio, aircraft and ships will all play their part. It is possible only to imagine it. . . .

**T**HE Admiral has had word from his scouts both in the air and in the sea that the enemy fleet is steaming eastward in the Pacific. He orders his carrier squadrons to engage the enemy as soon as possible after daybreak. How and where is left to the navy's air arm.

After a brief consultation, it is decided to send off two squadrons of nine planes each. There will be a squadron of dive-bombers and a squadron of big torpedo-bombers.

But contact has been lost with the scouts since the first report, so the carrier air staff decide to send three long-range scouting planes to accompany the dive-bombers and torpedo-bombers.