

combat the submarine menace evil, and one important one—the D.A.M.S. Department—took over the arming of merchant ships. Each boat was given a gun of the 4.7 Jap. or 4-inch B.L. type, generally mounted on the poop or stern, two ten-inch bomb-throwers, depth charges and smoke boxes for smoke screens. The gun in charge of a gun crew lent from the Naval Reserve.

The ships' officers in turn were then given a course in gunnery, and zig-zag convoy work—in this course they were taken in hand by a capable naval instructor and taught convoy control with the aid of miniature ships. Later they were taken out in a gunboat and given practical experience in firing at a moving target; from this they were shown the working of a submarine and made thoroughly familiar with the surface and under-water movements of these crafts, and so back to their jobs with a sound knowledge of how to work their ships, and many are the wonderful scraps they have put up when coming in contact with the enemy. No wonder H.R.H. the Prince of Wales said he was proud and honoured to be the Admiral of the Merchant Navy.

How does the Secret Service help the Navy? But first I must tell you that there are many departments, each specialising in its own activities. Here I will mention a few: The watching of coast lines in conjunction with the Coast Guards for submarines and unauthorised landings, interception of enemy wireless messages and decoding of same, the movements of enemy craft, the boarding of neutral ships passing through British war zones, de-

tecting contrabands and the arresting of enemy subjects, as well as a close watch of neutral subjects moving in England and foreign countries. It may interest you to know that much useful information was gleaned from the logs of German submarines that had been sunk. The method used was to take divers to the spot where the submarine went down, and recover the papers and logs—these were rushed to the proper department and decoded. Much helpful information as to the commanders' instructions and personal observations was disclosed.

The British Navy used special methods for the disposal of their code books and documents—these books were heavily weighted with lead, and when the ship or boat became a casualty, or in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, were thrown overboard, and in some cases located afterwards.

Wireless also played an important part, and our men became very clever in plotting out the longitude and latitude of the sender, as well as decoding the messages. In fact, there was hardly a movement that the enemy made that we were not wide awake to.

In the early days of the submarine menace mystery ships, or "Q" boats, played an important part. Many of you have heard of their famous skipper, Captain Campbell, Grenfell, Wilson, Austin, and many others. Wilson is very well known in Australian waters. I believe he was captain of a boat trading on the Australian coast for many years. It would take me too long to tell you all about these mysterious boats and their operations.

Now to get back to myself. I had

received instructions to proceed to Alexandria, Egypt, and from there to Grecian Macedonia, so I packed up my kit and sailed in the troopship "Nestor." The boat was crowded with troops, and very uncomfortable, one could hardly move. It was a tedious voyage, and the only thing that kept us alive was the fact that we might sight an enemy submarine at any moment, and what with about four thousand troops on board and not enough lifeboats to go round a quarter, you can be sure we kept a very good look-out.

To relieve the monotony our O. C. Troopship (the Officer in Charge of Troops) suggested that I give a lecture to the men, and they were duly marshalled for the occasion. I stood facing them without the slightest idea of what I was going to talk about. At the best of times I have a holy dread of speeches—then I struck an idea, and as I had been to Egypt before, I told them all about the evils of the place, and its many shady quarters, emphasising the fact that it would pay them to keep away from them. The officers and men took it all in, open-mouth awe, for I told them in strong language what was to be expected if they mingled with the natives in this area.

Well, we reached our destination without sighting any "tin fishes," and the next night general leave was given for a night in town. I was button-holed by several officers who asked me to show them round the area in question as they would like to have first-hand knowledge of the evil I had spoken about. Imagine my dismay, for on arrival at

these quarters I also found the troops inspecting for themselves. I made a quick get-away.

Next morning there was a general parade as the troops were to be handed over to a new O.C. Imagine my horror when the adjutant came up and told me that the troops were grieved and surprised that I should be the first person to be seen in those evil places after warning them.

My time was very short in Alexandria, for two days later I embarked to Salonica on a dirty little packet of a steamer, which was swarming with cockroaches, and everything one ate and drank tasted of them. Even in the cabins they swarmed all over you while you were sleeping, and you can be sure I was mighty glad to reach our destination, Salonica.

A word or two here about Salonica would not come amiss, as one looks at it from the harbour. At first glance it rather has the appearance of Wellington, New Zealand; it is built at the base of a rather large hill, and from the distance it is extremely beautiful. The houses shining white in the sunlight, and the water-front sparkling with activity. This is all camouflage, however, as the town itself is extremely dirty when one gets behind the scenes.

Salonica has always been famous in Balkan history as the hot-bed of intrigue, revolutions and battles, fought by Turks, Greeks, Serbs and Bulgarians in their never-ending squabbles. Its population is a mixture of all of them; and its sanitary arrangements very bad.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST FORMS OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION IS COMING INTO BEING AGAIN IN THE BROADCASTING STUDIOS—THAT IS, THE SIGN LANGUAGE—IN BROADCASTING CIRCLES



THIS MEANS "PLAY MORE LOUDLY"



THIS MEANS "PROGRAMME RUNNING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE"



AND THIS MEANS "PROGRAMME IS LAGGING"—AND SO ON

OF COURSE IT ISN'T ONLY AT THE MICROPHONE END OF THE RADIO THAT WE FIND THE SIGN LANGUAGE

WE FIND IT AT THE LOUD SPEAKER END TOO



THIS MEANS "TURN IT OFF—I'M BORED STIFF"



THIS MEANS "DUNNO WHY THEY LET HER BROADCAST"



THIS MEANS "IF YOU DON'T STOP TRYING TO GET JAPAN I'LL HOP RIGHT AT YOU"



AND THIS MEANS "WRESTLING COMING OVER GOOD-OH"

