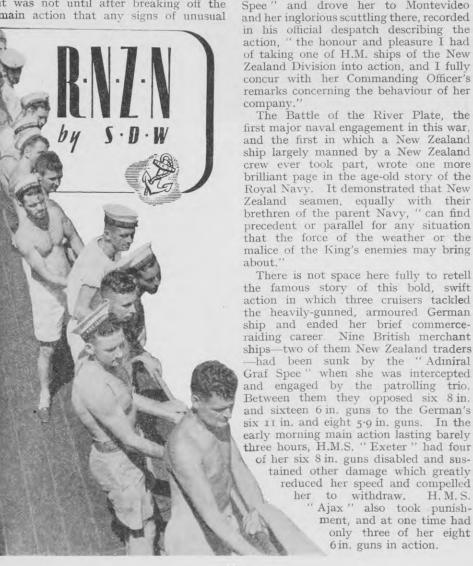
CANNOT SPEAK too highly of the behaviour of officers and ship's company," wrote Captain W. E. Parry, C.B., R.N., Commanding Officer of H.M.N.Z.S. "Achilles," in his official report on that ship's proceedings in the memorable Battle of the River Plate, fought on December 13, 1939. "Very few people in the ship had been under fire before. Yet every one carried out his duty with complete unconcern; and it was not until after breaking off the main action that any signs of unusual



excitement appeared. This took the

form of a souvenir hunt amongst those

who were fortunate enough to be detailed

to clear up the debris . . . I can

only add that New Zealand has every

reason to be proud of her seamen during

manded the division of three cruisers-

"Exeter," "Ajax," and "Achilles"-

that boldly fought the "Admiral Graf

Sir Henry Harwood, R.N., who com-

their baptism of fire."