

NAVY FOIL NAZIS, SAVE DESTROYER.

Issue No. 1020...9..12..1940.
Title: Surprise Attack.
Track: The Fight.
Discs: 529.314.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: do.

The flotilla-leader Kelly was nearly sinking, torpedoed amidships, boilers gone, hopelessly adrift off the Danish coast. Other destroyers raced to her help. Fury lowered a boat with surgeons, medical supplies and emergency gear. At dusk on the previous night a motor torpedo-boat had dealt Kelly well-nigh a mortal blow. Survivors now faced air attack. Nazi planes swooped towards her, low as they dared, and showered bombs round the stricken ship.

Kelly's captain sent all but 18 of his crew on to other ships. There seemed practically no hope she would get home, but Never say did! is the motto of the Navy and Kelly was taken in tow by Bulldog. It would be an epic tow if it came off, right across the North Sea, waterlogged, bombers still in pursuit.

Yes, right across the North Sea, Bulldog kept her in tow. Kelly somehow kept afloat nearly four days and nights, till at last she made port.

It was a badly smashed Kelly that came home, but she made it and by this time she is repaired and at sea again. The workmen have been worthy of the sailors since she did the impossible and got home. Kelly's captain was Lord Louis Mountbatten. Another destroyer he was on, Javelin, has been torpedoed since. In the Navy, men and ships come up smiling.

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