

BISMARCK SUNK.  
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Discs: 314.232.  
Lines: Stagg.  
Voice: DO.

The German Navy has suffered another major defeat. Apart from its pocket-battleships, which show no eagerness to risk the fate of the Graf Spee, Hitler's fleet now has only three capital ships afloat, of which the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau are locked up in Brest.

The launching of Bismarck - incidentally only seven months before the war - was declared by Hitler to be the dawn of a new era of German naval glory. Bismarck's grand-daughter named the battleship, and to the wild cheers of fifty-thousand people the long hull slid down to the water. When completed she was the fastest, best-gunned battleship in the world. She was so honeycombed with watertight compartments, the Nazis said she was unsinkable. The Royal Navy thought otherwise, and to-day so does Germany.

Hood, world's largest man-of-war, and Prince of Wales, the new battleship shown in this picture, intercepted Bismarck between Greenland and Iceland. They damaged the Nazi before a shell striking a magazine sent Hood to the bottom.

Admiral Sir John Tovey, Home Fleet Commander-in-Chief, took up the chase.

On routine patrol an American-built Catalina flying-boat located the Bismarck after she had eluded her pursuers. The Nazi was then five hundred miles off Land's End. Immediately the Navy leaped to the chase again. One hundred vessels took part in the hunt between the Friday evening when Bismarck and her attendant cruiser were sighted and the Tuesday morning when she was sunk.

From Gibraltar a force under Admiral Somerville came up to head off the fugitive. The gallant Admiral's command included Ark Royal. Take a good look, Lord Haw Haw, and ask yourself again 'Where is the Ark Royal?'

(AND PLANES OFF) Aircraft of this famous ship three times took off to attack, and at least once scored a damaging hit. Admiral Lutjens radioed that Bismarck would no longer steer, her speed was gone, the end not far off. Like every vessel yet made the Nazi was vulnerable below the waterline.

For the Navy, still with sixteen capital ships in service, this is the biggest triumph of the war. Britain salutes her truly Royal Navy.

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