

BISMARCK'S END: ACTUAL SHELLING

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Title: Escape From Yesterday.
Track: Ditto.
Discs: 529.535.533.527.343.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Do.

Some of the conquerors of the German battleship Bismarck are back in port. It was appropriate that the first victorious man-o'-war to catch the camera's eye was the now Victorious herself - one of the aircraft-carriers that played a glorious part in the battle. Some of her planes are scarred, but the ship's cat's nine lives are all intact. The first of Paramount's interviews with heroes of the engagement was accorded by a naval airman, Lieutenant Ennever.

speech
The cruiser Norfolk skilfully shadowed Bismarck throughout the chase and repeatedly hit her with eight-inch salvos. Hear Captain Phillips

speech
The first man of the Norfolk's crew to spot the Bismarck was Leading-Signalman White.

speech
The long, low Rodney played a big part in ending the Bismarck's career. Back in port her sailors were busy hauling the giant sixteen-inch armour-piercers aboard, replacing the ones she had fired. What chance had the poor Bismarck's crew - with no Anderson shelter, either.

Blistered paint shows that Rodney's guns got pretty hot. One of the ship's ratings described the action that raised the temperature.

speech
So, without losing any time, the name Bismarck is added to the battle honours won by ships which have borne the honoured name Rodney.

The cruiser Dorsetshire gave Bismarck the coup de grace. Admiral Wellwood-Maxwell congratulated Captain Marten and his crew on earning that distinction.....And so say all of us.

Cruisers and battleships raced towards the Bismarck when she was sighted on the last morning. The enemy hoped to escape into Brest. King George V, newest but one of our battleships led the chase. Bismarck was outmanoeuvred, but full of fight. Very soon we came within range and Rodney and the King George opened fire.

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This picture was taken by a naval officer at the height of the action. On the horizon you see shells from the Bismarck bursting in the water.

The enemy could still fire with all her great guns, but her shots fell wide.

(Seven Scenes Here Without Voice)

Continued on back...

BISMARCK'S END...continued.

(GV) The last of these actual pictures of the battle shows the Bismarck a smoking ruin.

Nearly a hundred Germans were saved and brought back to Britain. Most of them were very young. Of the two-thousand who had put to sea in the Bismarck they were almost the only survivors. They are fortunate to have fallen into the hands of a chivalrous foe.

To Rodney came the First Lord to convey the Admiralty's congratulations. Mr. Alexander posed between Captain Dalrymple-Hamilton and the Commander.

At the First Lord's request the assembled ship's company heard that the Admiralty and the whole nation are proud of what they did.

Speech

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Cu Commander A.C. Luce of the Norfolk:

"The Norfolk is a West country ship with men that...er...many of our families come from Plymouth and most of our wives and relations come from cities which have been blitzed one time or another and it's been awfully hard to bear listening to the accounts of how these cities have been bombed from time to time and am...and never reckoning that we were going to get the chance to hit back. I cant tell you what relish it was and with what relish we watched the destruction of this ship. We simply loved every moment of it."

SV Signal man White of HMS Norfolk:

3 ["I sighted her on the port bow and she immediately loosed ^{of} at us. ~~My~~ feelings were pretty mixed for a few seconds until I saw the bits ~~drop~~ drop about forty or fifty yards away from the ship's side and I realized then that although we had been Bismarcked we were quite unmarked." (Cheers from other sailors and signalman takes off hat)

LV Flt. Commander Ronald of HMS Victorious (in charge of flight which torpedoed Bismarck)

"At the end of that time they had found Bismarck, hide themselves in the clouds from her until in the right position and then deliver the attack. Nine aircraft left the ship to do this and I did not expect more than five or six back at the most. I nearly wept with joy on the bridge when nine appeared later on that night."

CU Flt. Commander Ronald:

"Nothing happened for two hours and then signal man came ~~in~~ with the signals from the aircraft, "have attacked Bismarck, bomb-hits observed". Very soon we were all smiles and running round and very ~~pleased~~ excited to see the aircraft coming back

However we had to wait and we waited another hour and a half and then far away we saw seven airplanes. Even then I was very pleased because I had not expected to see as many as that to return ~~in~~ from this really very risky trip. Shortly after however to our joy we saw two more and in about half an hour's time all nine had safely landed the deck at night and under the most difficult conditions in which a night landing can possibly be done with the ships steaming very fast and there was a strong wind, low clouds and spraycoming over the deck and every pilot in spite of the strain he had been through, this 240 mile journey over the sea and delivered his attack and found his way back again. Every single pilot landed on safely without the slightest damage to any aircraft."

SV Lt. ~~James~~ ~~Remover~~ of the Victorious:

1 [^{short lead} Both of us ~~have~~ done plenty practise attacks This ^{was} is the first chance we've had of going out and having a crack at the Bn. ~~Worm~~ ~~Worm~~ We were all very glad that we hit such a really good target."