

## HELIGOLAND OBLITERATED

Heligoland, menace to British seapower in both world wars, has been blown out of existence as a possible fortress of the future. Fifteen miles from the estuaries of the Elbe and <sup>the</sup> Weser Heligoland guarded the German Navy's home waters. Behind it enemy warships passed at will through the Kiel Canal. In addition, the island was invaluable to Germany in both wars as a nest of U-boats. Submarine pens tunneled into the cliffs laughed at bomb attacks, though the R.A.F. obliteration-raid of two years ago smashed the surface fortifications. Immune from any conceivable air attack were the eight miles of underground installations. These the Royal Navy planned finally to demolish by the biggest explosion of ~~its~~ <sup>more</sup> thousands of its kind in world history. ~~Torpedoes~~/torpedo-heads were among the four thousand tons of explosives packed by the Navy into the galleries below ground. Together with four-thousand tons of ammunition left behind by the Nazis they were detonated in one blast. ~~The preparations of eight months were about to be put to the test.~~

(after air) Smoke boiled and billowed thousands of feet over the shattered island. Britain gave Heligoland to the Germans fifty-seven years ago in exchange for Zanzibar - one of the costliest deals in our history.

It is no small satisfaction to know that Heligoland will never harm us again.