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THE TIRPITZ

They launched her on April Fool's Day, 1939, from the slipways at Wilhelmshaven. The day of her birth saw Reich-Chancellor Adolf Hitler indulging in one of his feasts of self-glorification. From a German newsreel of the time we hear the voice of Frau Von Hassel, daughter of Admiral Tirpitz, christening the last and most formidable of Germany's battleships.

45,000 tons of capital ship, 792 feet from bow to stern, built for a complement of sixteen hundred officers and men. Approximately four-and-a-half years after these pictures were taken, the British Navy sent in a handful of 4-man Midget Submarines to launch their torpedoes in the daring undersea attack on the battleship then stationed in Alten Fjord, Norway. The third of the eight attacks to be carried out by sea and air before the Tirpitz was finally sunk. Three solid blows were delivered by the Fleet Air Arm and an equal number by the R.A.F. in the inglorious history of the Tirpitz. She was destined to spend her life pent up in hiding places. In April and August of this year, Barracudas, the Navy's most modern torpedo-bombers, under the command of Admiral Sir Henry Moore, were flown to Alten Fjord in a series of damaging attacks. Corsairs, Hellcats, Seafires and Wildcat fighters took part.

The sorties ~~was~~ flown in the August raids met with some success but results were not seen owing to enemy smoke screens.

With a newsreel cameraman aboard a British Carrier, we see the home-coming of the Barracudas. "Landing on" can be a hazardous business. Flames from the engine which had caught alight are extinguished with foam.

Another casualty is hoisted over side. When an aircraft is assessed "written off" and is hindering the striking down of other returning planes, they dump it overboard. No room for cracked up aircraft on a busy flight deck. With a final tribute to the Fleet Air Arm pilots who made the precarious life of Tirpitz unbearable, we turn to the Lancaster bomber boys of the R.A.F., who, in September last, delivered

their first attack with twelve thousand pound bombs. Tirpitz is again heavily screened with smoke; probably the biggest smoke screen ever put down.

Flak fills the sky as attack number three is made - the last attack. The camera-carrying Lancaster we're in is piloted by Flight Lieut. Buckham, Royal Australian Air Force. The two cameramen are Flight Lt. Loftus, Royal Canadian Air Force and Flying Officer Rogers, R.A.F. For twenty minutes they remain over the target taking films at varying heights. Watch now as a plume of white vapour shoots up. Experts believe this to be from exploding boilers.

Three direct hits by "Earthquake" bombs sign the death warrant of the last big ship Hitler possessed. The ship which never fired a shot in any action at sea. This is the end, not only of the Tirpitz, but of the so-called German High Seas Fleet.

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