

'TIRPITZ' SOUVENIR COMMEMORATES R.A.F. EXPLOIT

From Norway, to the R.A.F. comes a memento of an air attack that made history. Presented to Bomber Command by the Royal Norwegian Air Force is a trophy from the German battleship 'Tirpitz' - sunk by the R.A.F. off Norway five years ago. They launched her on April Fool's Day 1939 at Wilhelmshaven. Hitler was there - with all his henchmen - to see this rebirth of the German Navy - built in defiance of the London naval agreement. Launched by Admiral Tirpitz's daughter, 45,000 tons of battleship went down the slipway.

Fate met up with the 'Tirpitz' six years later - in Tromsø Fjord. Thirty-two Lancasters flew out in daylight and, using 12,000 pound 'tallboy' bombs, sent the battleship that never fought a naval action to the bottom of the sea.

That gallant exploit is recalled anew as Wing-Commander Tait - who led the Lancaster force that day - inspects the trophy and its wording "gegen England" - "against England." The souvenir will have an honoured place at Bomber Command Headquarters.