

NAVAL EXPLOSION - SABOTAGE?

Fighting ships of the silent service ride undamaged in Portsmouth harbour (among them an aircraft carrier) following the explosion which destroyed nine lighters loading ammunition at Bedenham pier. Although damage was widespread it would have been greater but for three engine-drivers who hauled forty ammunition trucks clear. Evidence uncovered by careful search points to sabotage - culmination of fifty major and minor incidents in two years. The question now being asked is: was a thermite bomb smuggled on board? The ammunition was for British ships fighting for the United Nations in Korean waters. Severe damage was done to other vessels at anchor. Sabotage or not, Britain must safeguard all supplies for them who man her ships.