

103073-C

51/12

THE CHANNEL

HELICOPTERS FOR CONVOY

The Fort Duquesne steams into the dawn. It's danger hour. From the hangar right aft they prepare to launch the eyes of the ship to look for subs. It's a helicopter and the hangar floor is also its airfield, but the ground crew have to get out of the way when she's flying. With modern submarines an even greater menace in war, new counter-methods are being planned. From the slow-moving hover-planes it's easier to spot subs than from the fast land-based planes which have to waste so many hours going to and from their patrols.

Captain Elford watches as his scout comes in to land on. To the pilot it looks an awfully small strip; with only a rope net to check her when she lands. Astern a destroyer watches in case of trouble.

It's part of extensive tests by the Navy, but results already justify hopes. Even in quite rough weather conveyors need no longer be blind.