

This year marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar --- and brings once more to mind the story of the world's most famous sailor --- Admiral Lord Nelson. At Greenwich --- in the National Maritime Museum --- you can see such famous relics as the uniform that he wore when a bullet brought him down at last, as he stood on the deck of his flagship --- and the stirring picture that seems to echo still to the roar of cannon. The old flagship Victory is still preserved, and still afloat --- the only survivor of the old wooden warships that defeated the Fleets of Spain and France --- and made the Royal Navy, supreme upon the Seven Seas. In the years between, dry rot has done more damage than the enemy's guns ever achieved --- but men are constantly working to offset the ravages of time. This is the plaque that marks the spot where Nelson fell mortally wounded; but his story was immortal.

Yes --- his story was immortal; and so was the tradition of courage, and endurance, and devotion to duty, that he inspired. Throughout the First World War, Britain had reason to give thanks for the spirit of the men who guarded her shores. Twenty years after the First World War, came the Second; and once again the Royal Navy found men to match the hour. In the Mediterranean, commanders like Admiral Cunningham gave proof that the spirit of Trafalgar lived on; the thousands who manned the ships in those desperate days were tried to the highest; and they scaled new peaks of human courage, in the Malta convoys.

Endlessly they fought on; day and night.

And artificial night was created, now that the new kind of sea-war, meant attack not only from the sea --- but ~~xxxx~~ from above --- and below it.

Another of the names that comes to mind is Vian --- Rear-Admiral Vian who first found fame in the destroyer Cossack. ^ The destroyer H.M.S. Kelly went down under attack with guns blazing --- under the command of a promising young officer named Mountbatten; who subsequently went on to a new kind of command known as Combined Operations.

Under Rear-Admiral Burnett --- the news of the day told incredible stories of ~~xxxxxxxx~~ battles in the convoy-runs to ~~Russia~~ carry ~~xxxx~~ supplies to Russia.

Perhaps you remember the Altmark --- the Nazi prison ship that was boarded by men of the destroyer Cossack, when she took refuge in a fjord of Norway; and British captives were released, with a wonderful, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ never-to-be-forgotten phrase.

This was the end of the Graf Spee --- the pocket battleship that was cornered off Montevideo, by the cruisers Achilles, Ajax and Exeter.

The march of the cruisers' men through London was a thrill for the early days of the war; ^ many weary embattled years were to pass, before the Victory March.

To-day, the spirit of the Navy, is handed on once more to youth; and although the methods and the weapons are so different, the basic principles are unchanged. ^ Nelson's famous signal --- "England expects ....."<sup>star</sup> is a ~~xxxxxxxx~~ that shines as brightly --- ~~xxxxxx~~ as it did one hundred and fifty years ago.