

Glorious Tale Of Merchant Navy in War

Notable Tribute To Heroism And Endurance of "Our Magnificent Seamen"

By THE PRINCE OF WALES

The Prince of Wales as Master of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets contributes a foreword to Sir Archibald Hurd's latest volume on "The British Merchant Navy."

As Master of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets I welcome the opportunity offered me by Sir Archibald Hurd of contributing a few introductory remarks to the volume which completes the history based on official documents—of the momentous part played by British Merchantmen in the Great War.

It has been my fortune to go to a world-wide travel, and I have encountered the British sailor and tramp not only on every sea but in many a port I often remember. The spirit of the Red Ensign has, in those latter days, given me a thrill of a very special kind, for that familiar piece of hunting can never fail to recall the wonderful record of our merchant seamen throughout the struggle of four and a half years.

The present volume takes no certain on what I like to have been the climax of that vast drama—the enemy's plunge into unrestricted submarine warfare on our merchant shipping. Thus was provided the final test of a heroism and endurance unparalleled in history, and how magnificently our seamen responded to the test to be found chronicled in these pages. To view that record in its proper perspective it is well to recall those days at the very outbreak of war which already seem to have us to be almost lost in the mist of time.

The participation of our seamen in the struggle began with the operations of the German raiders. This was nothing surprising or unprecedented in the posthumous achievement by the English and other German cruisers and armed merchantmen in English waters and elsewhere.

Hostilities were conducted in商務戰爭, the principles laid down by international law, and though many valuable ships were sunk, the toll was no greater than might have been expected, and not a single life of the captured crews was sacrificed. The British seamen recognized that nothing more was being asked of them than to adopt the usual hazards of a naval conflict. It was a phase of the war, in short, in which the dictates of humanity were strictly regarded, and every reasonable consideration was shown to the passengers and crews of the vessels unlikely enough to be taken.

That phase, however, was shortly ended. With the arrival on the scene of the submarine and the indefinite use of the mine, the whole position of the merchant seaman was changed. He found himself faced by hazards such as he had never before experienced, or indeed had ever conceived possible.

With the intensification of the enemy's campaign, the British sailor, now separated from his ordinary peaceful occupation, saw himself directly involved in the whole frightening mechanism of war, whose glamorization, as I have said, reached its climax in the days of unrestricted submarine warfare recorded in detail in the cited volume of the history.

Let us take a look over this thing. It is the glory of our Merchant Navy, following the lead of our Auxiliary Patrol, that they have not been beaten by generations to come, that they have faced without hesitation the tremendous odds and the frequent hazard of death, dedicated in spirit to the best end. Let us not forget, also, that, had it been otherwise, the work of ours must have perished.

One might characterize the work of our Merchant Navy, described in this volume, as that covering the activities of the Auxiliary Patrol. I imagine the most striking, as it certainly was one of the most successful, of the many pieces of war-time improvisation which history will place to the credit of the British nation. It has been, as far as I recall, out of those days of constant submarine attack, and indeed infinite mine fields to which I have referred, and it gradually evolved into a vast supplementary fleet.

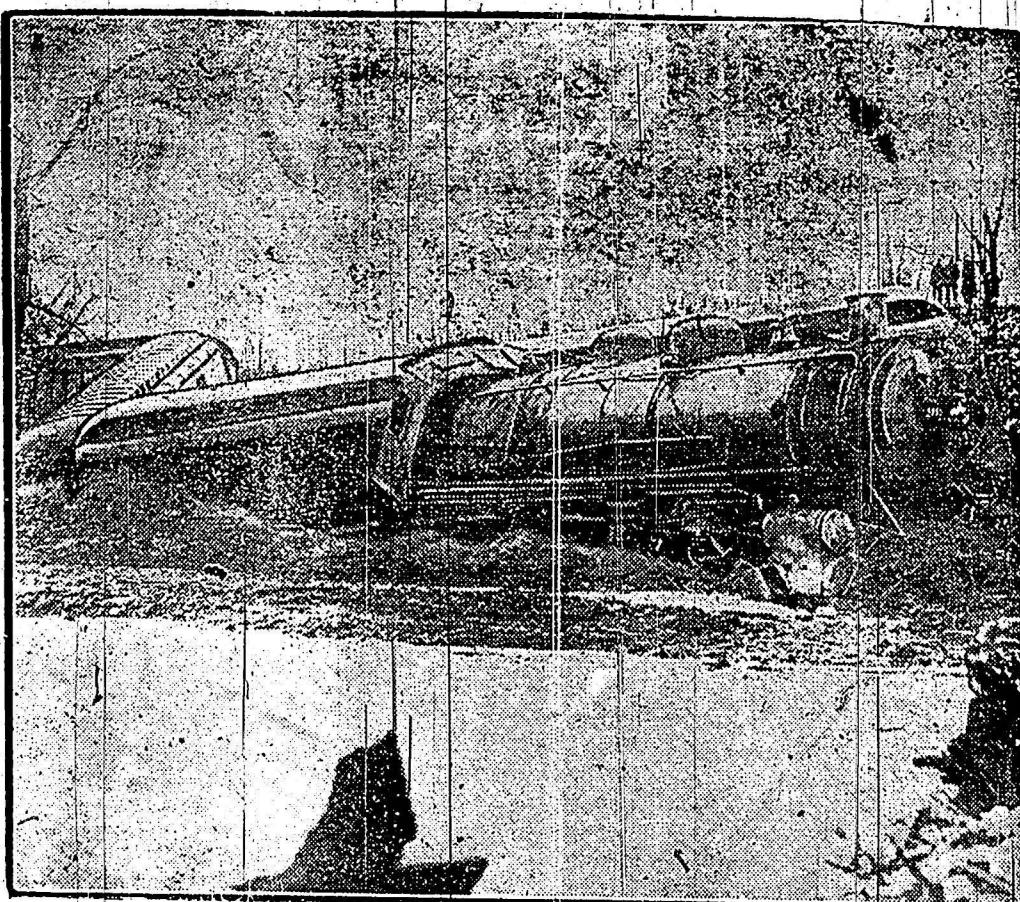
Here was indeed a medley of small vessels—trawlers, fresh from their fishing grounds, trawlers, whalers, paddle steamers, so familiar to Captain ex-surgeon, steam yachts, so well known in the Solent, motor launches and motor-boats.

Their hazardous duties were as varied as their types. In their long hours of patrol they watched for and hunted German submarines; they searched for and passed mines; they fought hostile aircraft; they controlled and examined millions of tons of shipping navigating the North Sea, and in many other ways substantially seconded the efforts of the Grand Fleet.

Varied indeed these efforts were in type, but their crews were animated by one heart and one spirit. As time went on, this collection of ships was welded into a great disciplined service of 4,000 vessels in its open ports extending as far north as the White Sea, to the Mediterranean and Aegean in the south, and westward to the West Indies. The Auxiliary Patrol was in its days of complete development manned by nearly 50,000 officers and men. The figures representative of the full war effort of the merchant service as a whole would make staggering totals. Therein it was carrying on and even bettering the tradition of centuries.

On Tower Hill a fitting and impressive memorial, bearing the names of the officers and men of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who have no grave but the sea, and who died that this country might live, was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen on December 12. It has been erected by the Government of all the peoples of the whole Empire as a tribute, to last for

A Strange Wreck With No Ill Results



NONE HURT IN SPECTACULAR TRAIN WRECK CAUSED BY HEAVY RAINS

Loosening effect of the recent heavy rains is believed to have caused a dirt slide which recently wrecked the Lehigh Valley New York-Buffalo express. The only casualties were slight bruises received by two members of the train crew.

World Flight Billed for Fall Are Throw Away

Washington Post Prints Details of Proposed Feat Hop Off from New York in September, According to Plans

Washington Post prints details of proposed flight around the world from New York on the first clear day in September, according to the Washington Post.

The names of only three of the aviators are given—Lieut. Albert D. Hulse, former army and air mail pilot; Capt. Harry W. Lyon Jr., navigator on the transpacific flight of the Southern Cross, and Lieut. L. T. O'Connell, radio officer at La Guardia Field, the commander, the newspaper said.

Although the days are past when Chinese parents throw their girl babies into the river, says "The Pathfinder," they are still very anxious that their babies should buy

and not girls.

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