



AIR- POWER AND VICTORY

THE story of the giant strides made in airmanship during the past five years reads like a romance. There has been nothing approaching it in history, though it is unlikely that we would be as far advanced as we are if peace had been maintained. It was realised more and more as time went on that the war would be won in the air, and our experts strained every nerve to make all our appliances absolutely perfect. Even before the armistice, experiments were being made of firing shells instead of bullets from aeroplanes and in another year we should probably have had an aerial Dreadnought. Of the personnel a few words must be said. They carried out a thousand and one "stunts" (this is the favourite word in their dictionary) with efficiency and superlative courage. Civilisation hung in the balance and it was largely due to these men that the scales fell in the right direction. Their various duties included the bombing of all objects of military importance, of harrassing the enemy with bombs and machine guns while in his trenches, billets, and when on the march, and of taking aerial photographs. In this we were in every way superior to the enemy, and Commanding Officers in quarters miles away were thus able to study the opposing positions daily by means of photographic maps. Had they not been able to do this the Hindenburg line might, after all, have proved impregnable.

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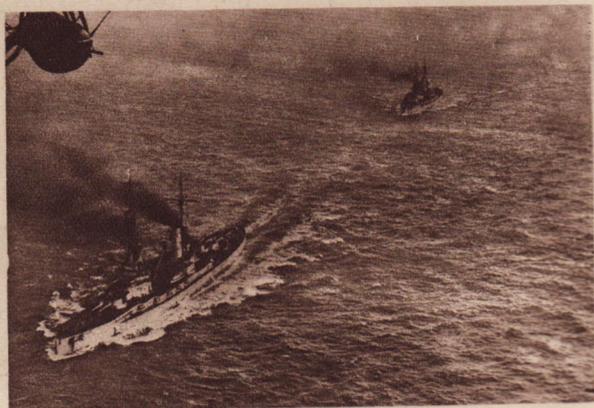
The Great Surrender



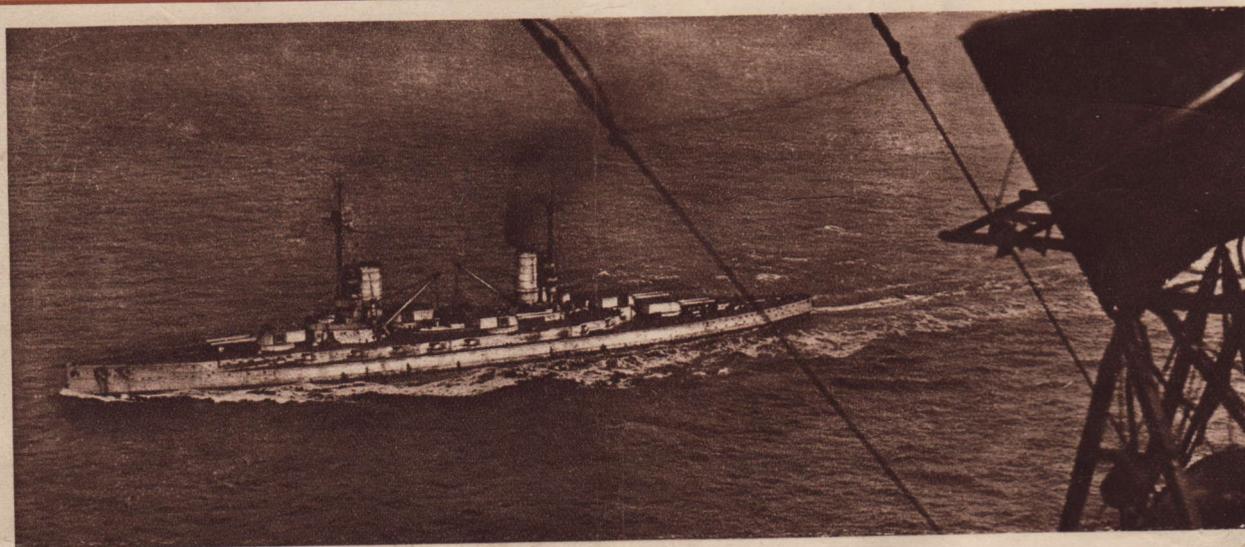
A "flock" of U boats lying in Harwich harbour.
Their "sting" has been removed.



H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, the flagship, leads her
consorts to the trysting place.

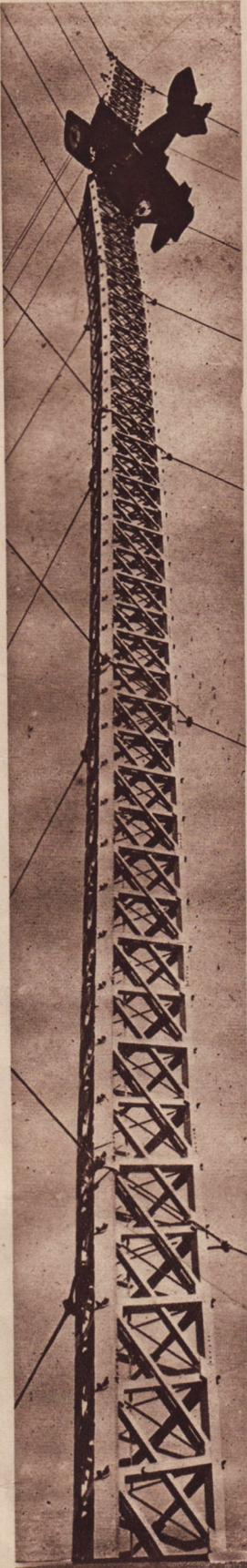


The German big ships come in at 10 knots. Owing
to bad coal they could do no more.



The "Kaiser"! The Pride of the Germans suffered the same indignity as the other giant ships and had to
surrender with them.

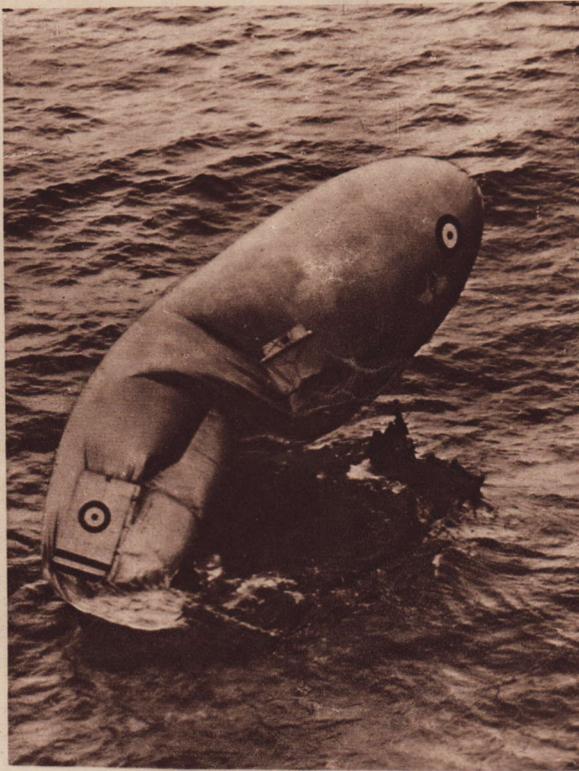
A Chapter of Accidents



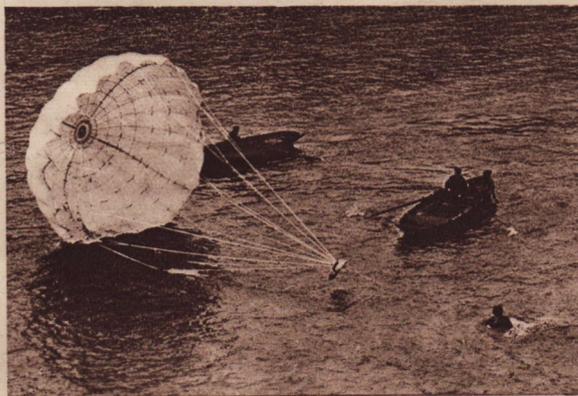
A Seaplane which collided with a wireless mast at Southampton. An R.A.F. man swarmed up and rescued the pilot.



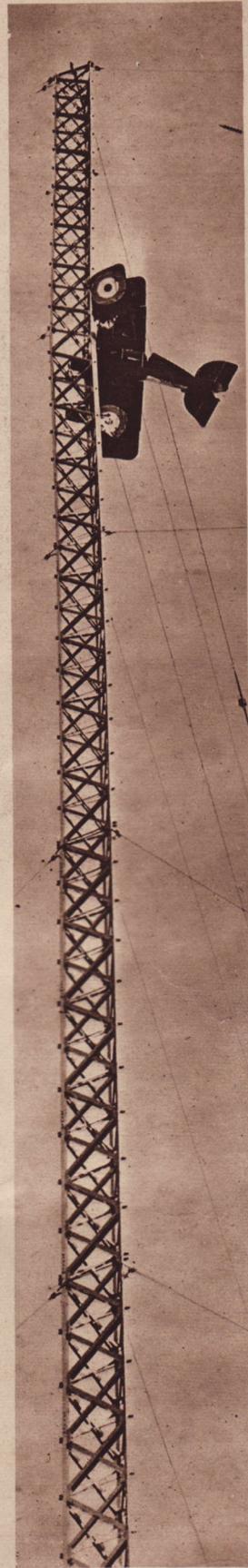
Salvaging an Aeroplane at sea. It was hauled on to a lighter built for the purpose.



Rescuing the crew of an Airship. A destroyer's small boat took them off.



A Parachute descent. Picking up the observer, who had a very damp experience.



Flew Millions of Miles



Before the war and before the advent of airships the chief scouts were light cruisers and destroyers. This made the fleet a little shortsighted, but these great craft have altered all that and enormously increased the Fleet's range of vision. Besides acting as scouts they were put to many uses such as convoying and U boat hunting.

"Good Hunting" and an Alpine Flight

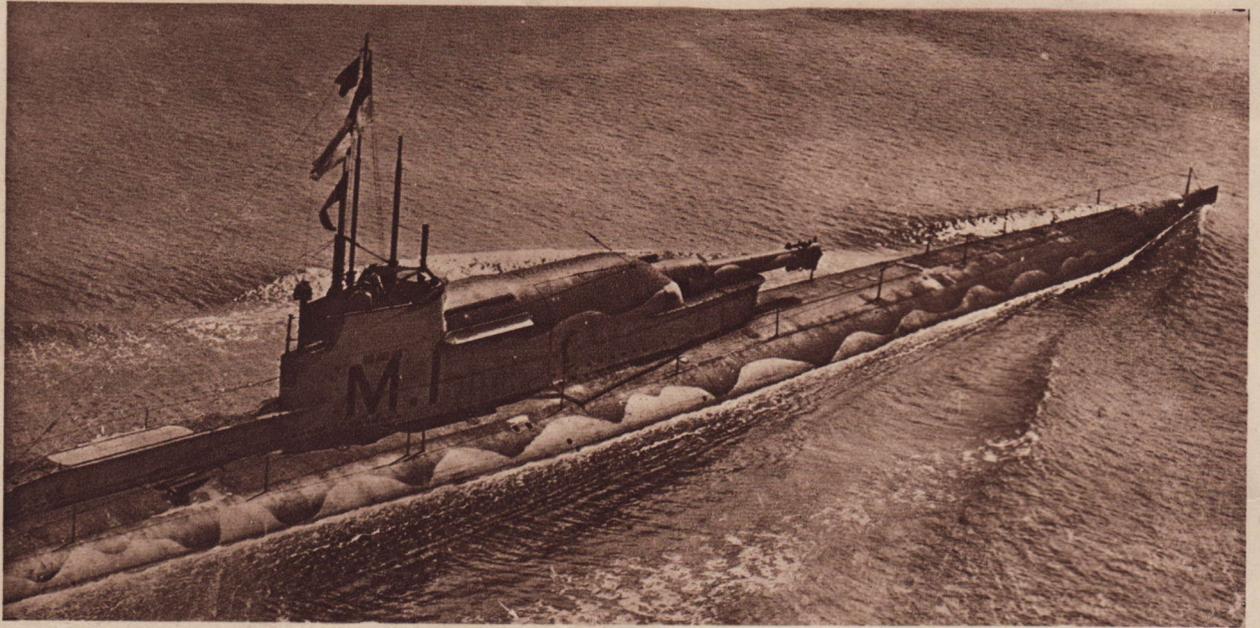


"Wind up." A British airman chasing a Bosche plane. The enemy has no inclination for battle.

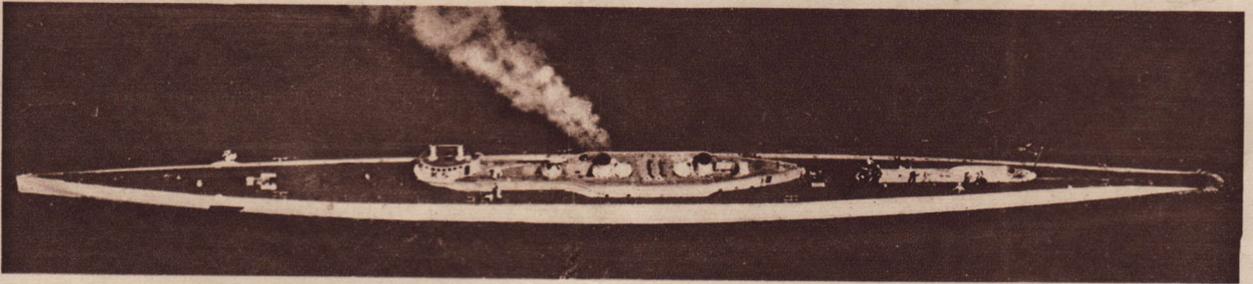


An R.A.F. Squadron flying in formation on the Italian Front.

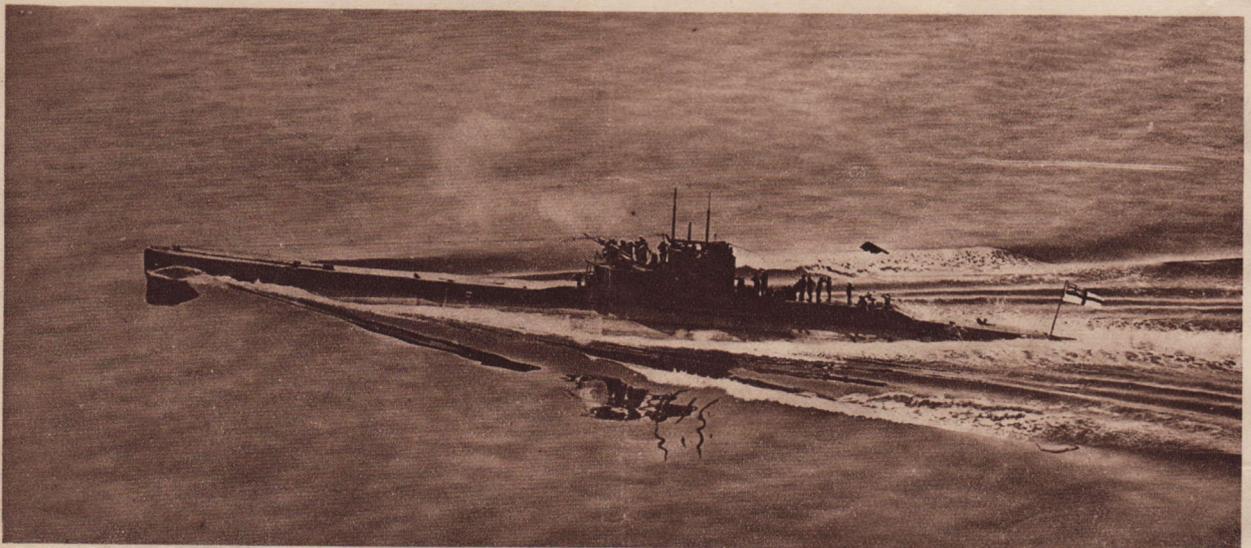
The Last Words in Submarines



The last word. M.1, a giant submarine which carries a 12' gun. A battleship of the pre-Dreadnought class did not carry a gun of larger calibre than this.

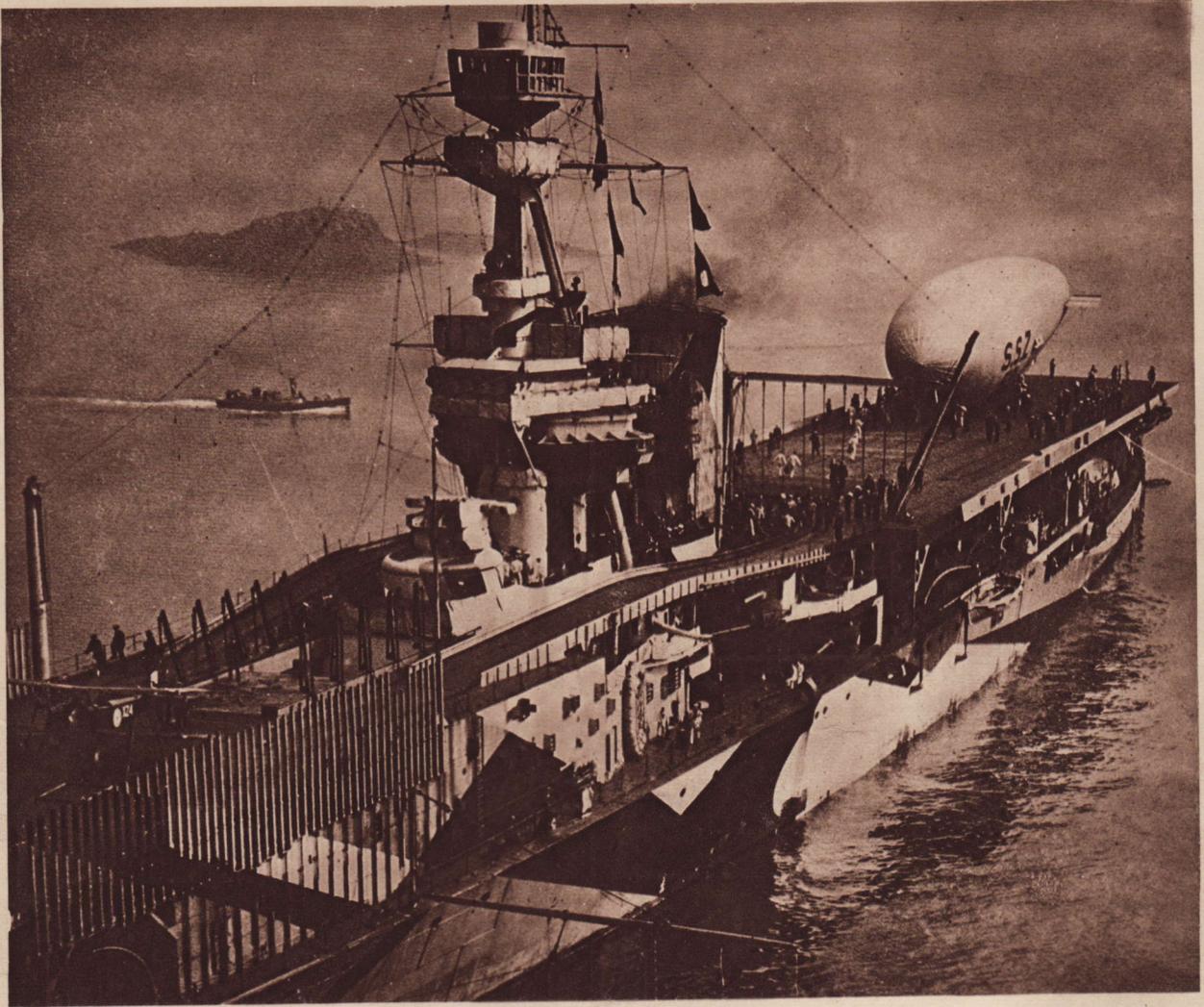


The last word but two. A submarine of the K. class which is propelled by steam when travelling on the surface. She can do 25 knots, or the same speed as our fastest battleships.



The last word but one. A submarine of the L. class. The great feature of these craft is that they are the fastest submarines when travelling under water.

The Navy's Great Floating Aerodrome



This is the "Furious," about which there were all sorts of rumours, when the Censor concealed her existence. She can carry a squadron of aeroplanes not to mention an airship.



Off to strafe the Zepps in their lair.



The first airship to land on ship's deck.

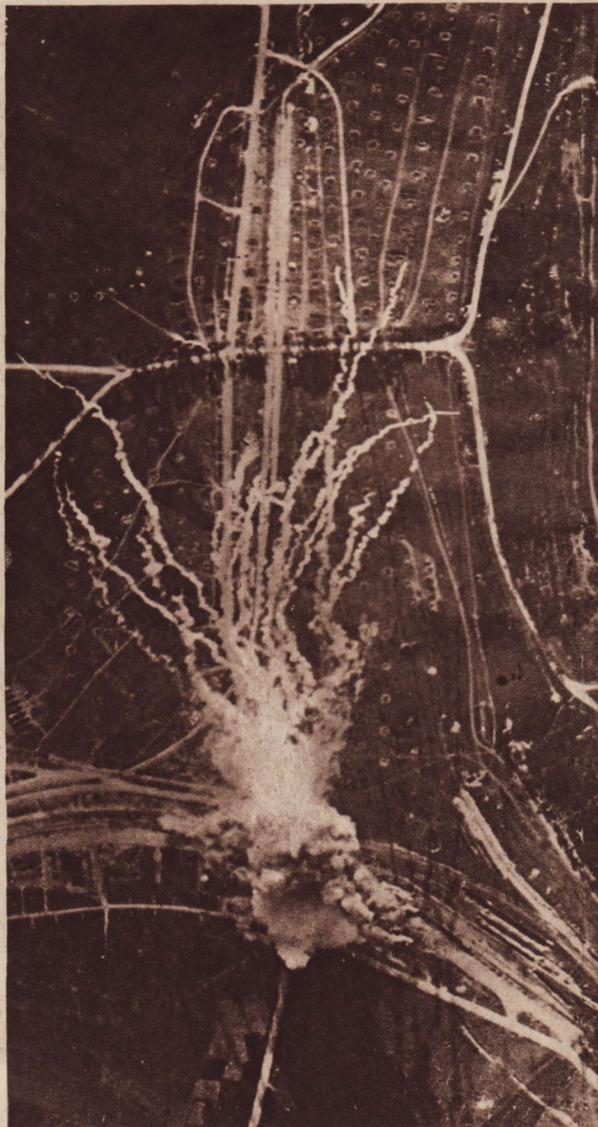
Bombers at their Deadly Trade



"That's where we will drop our 'cargo.'"



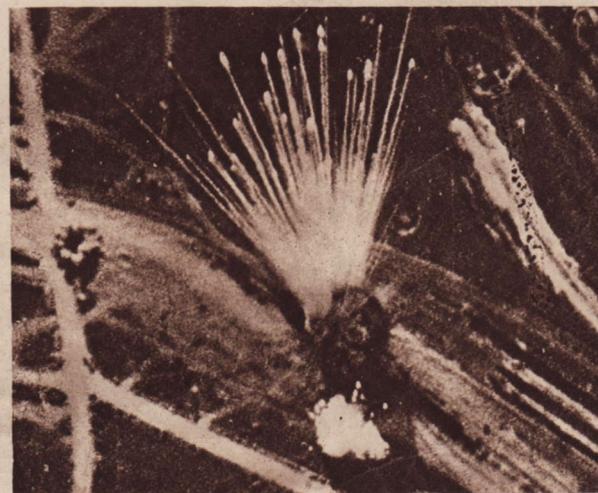
The "cargo" dropping to earth at full speed.



Result of bomb. Enemy train burning, shells bursting.

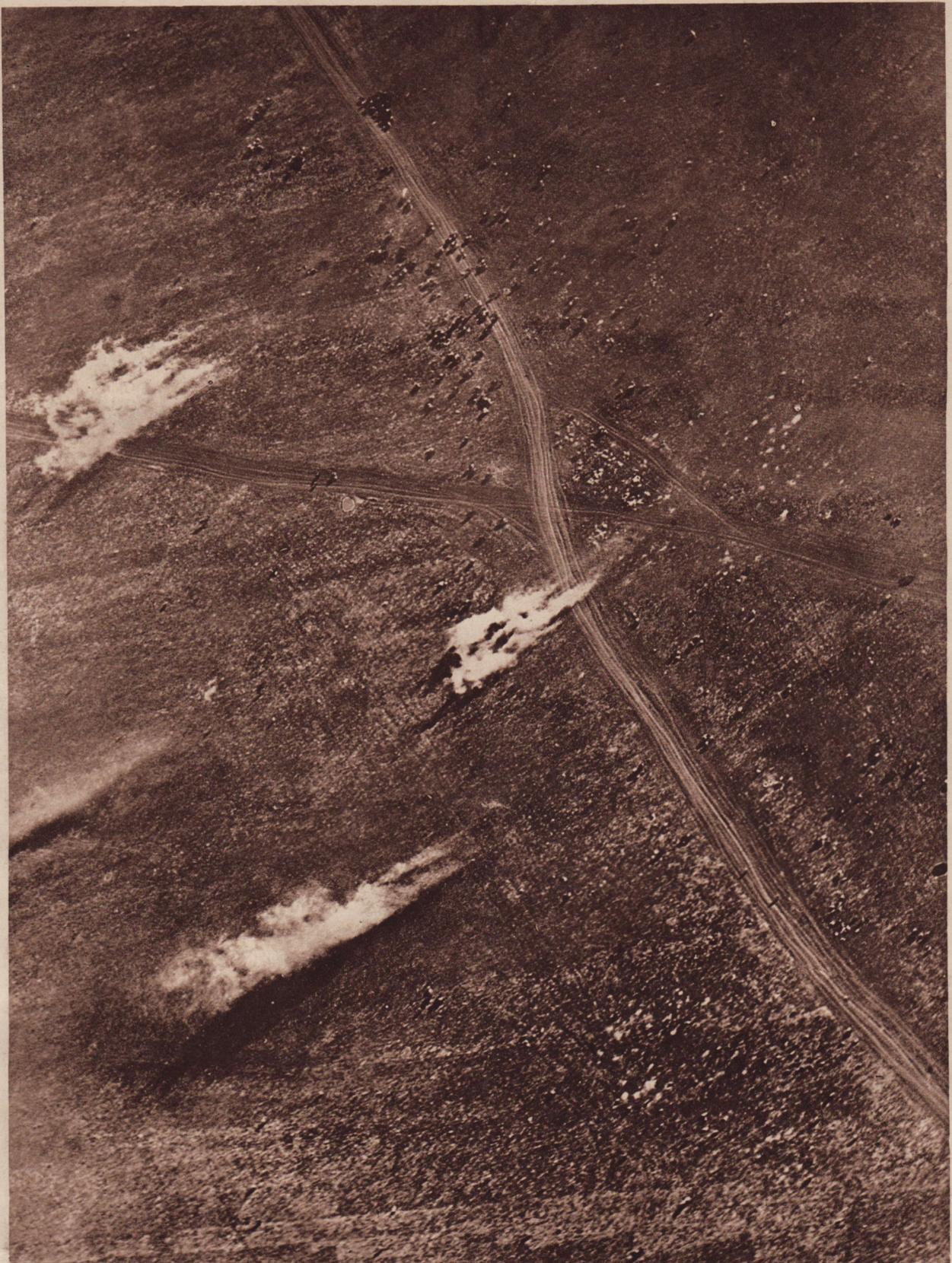


A Squadron Commander drops low to see the damage.



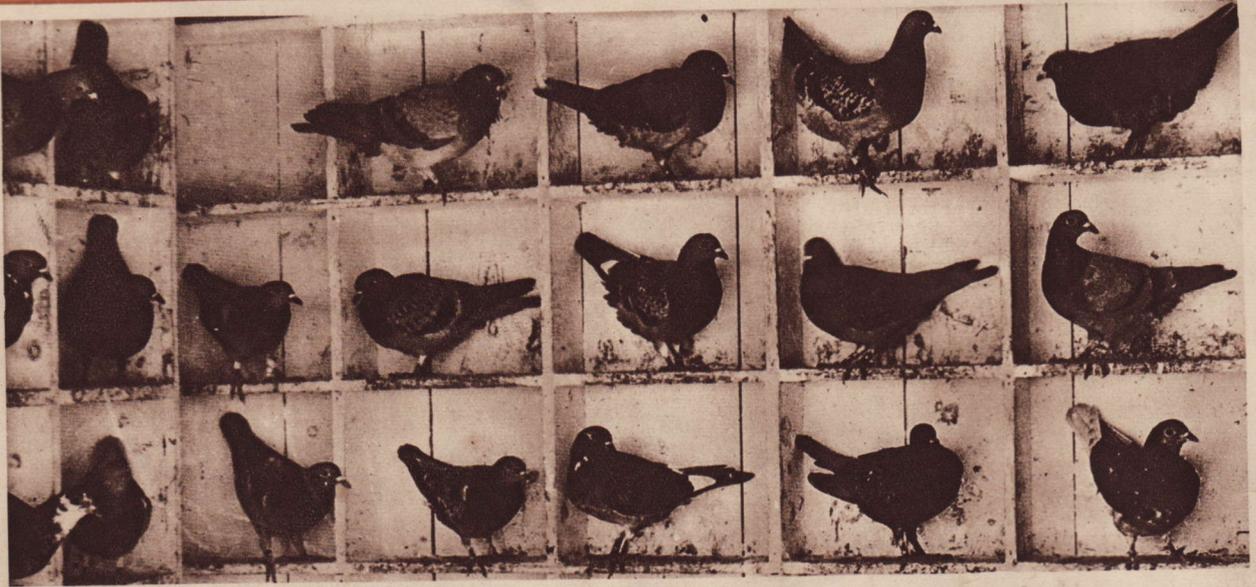
Objective found. Ammunition train hit plump. Shells bursting like Roman candles.

Airmen convert Retreat into Panic

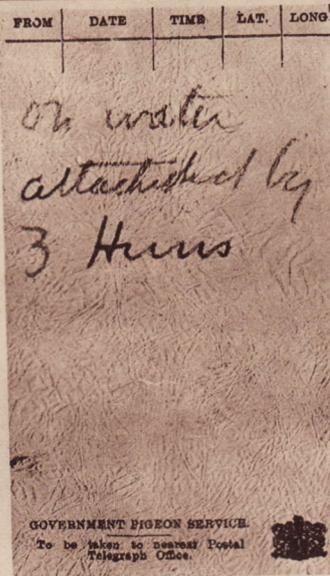


Turkish troops flying headlong before the R.A.F. bombs which were relentlessly dropped on them for four hours without cessation. The photograph was taken on the road to Damascus. The enemy left huge quantities of wrecked war material behind him.

Pigeon which deserved a V.C.



Members of H.M. Pigeon Service: "The messenger boys" of the Service—they never dallied en route like the two-legged variety

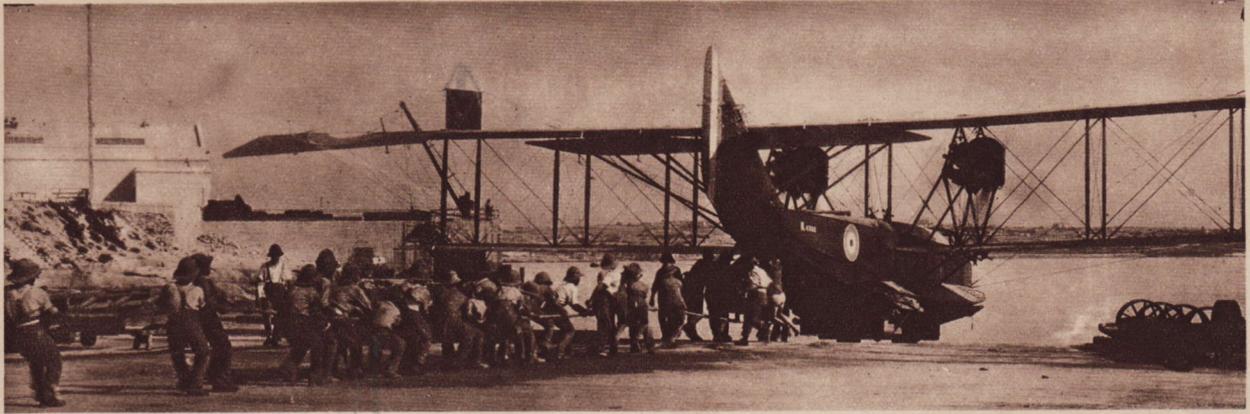


A V.C. Pigeon which, though wounded in the wing at the very start, flew 180 knots with the message, which is also reproduced. Help arrived in time. The third photograph shows pigeons on an Eastern station.

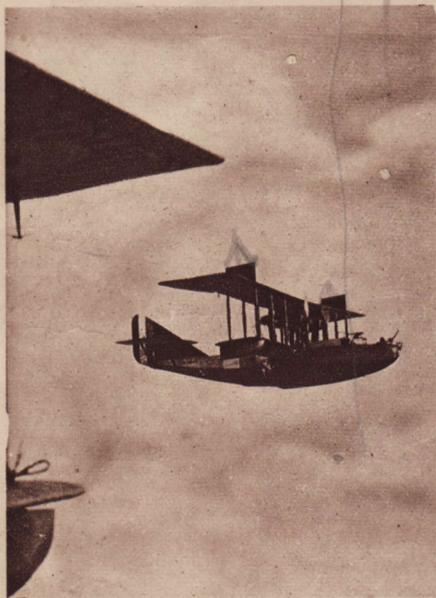


Official war babies. They will not be called up for service until they are a little stronger on the wing.

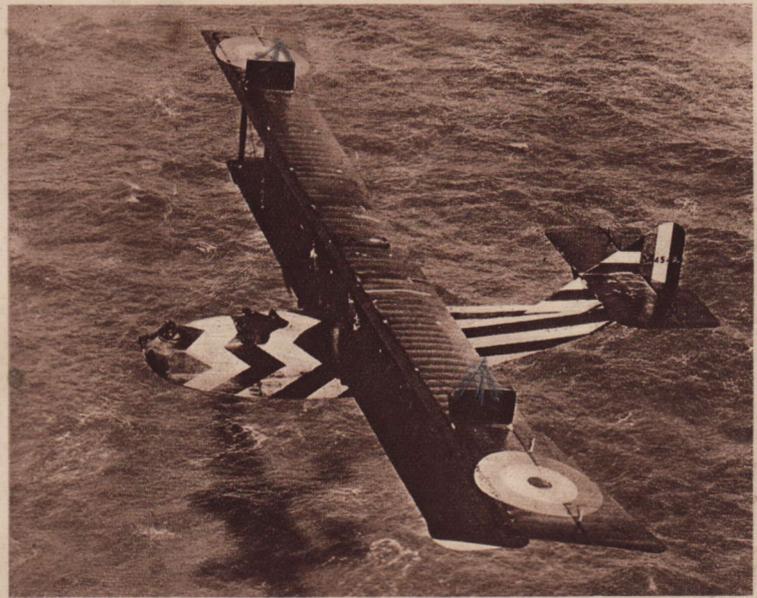
The Swallows of the Sea



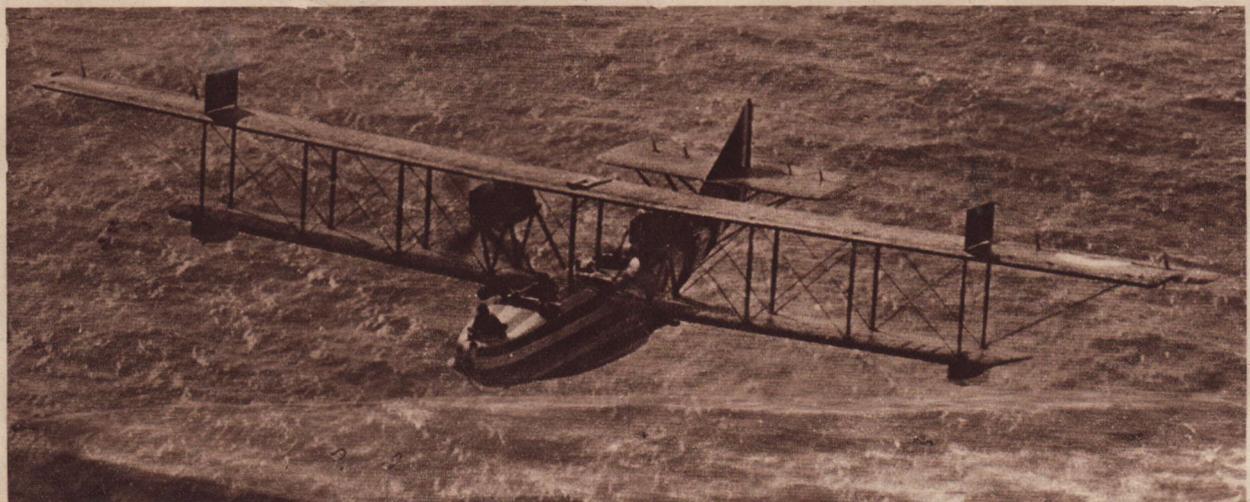
A big F2 being hauled ashore at Malta. Our great flying boats patrolled every sea where the enemy was active.



Flying boat as seen from a friend.



A dazzle painted boat, the body of which is shaped like a fish.



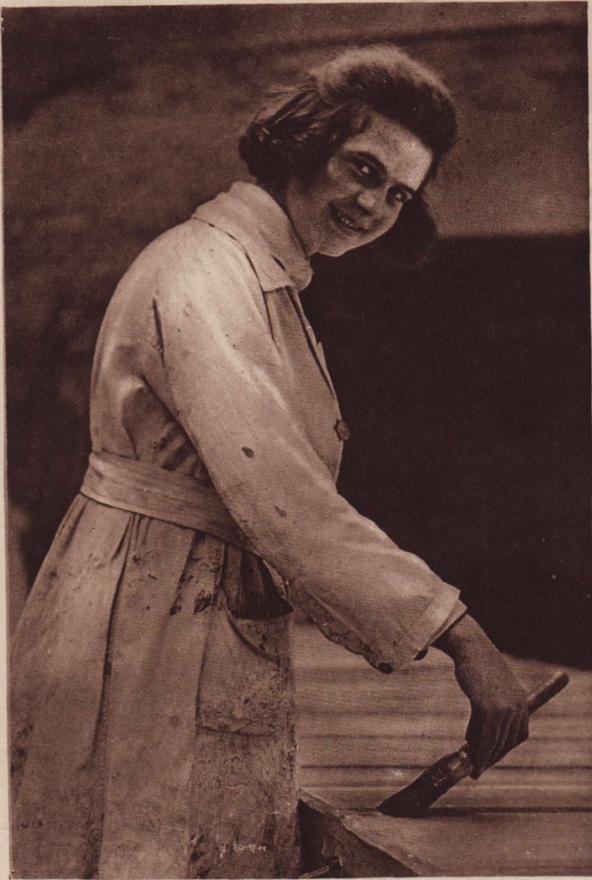
These craft were used successfully for long patrols. Two gunners sit in the cockpit of the boat, the pilot being behind.

Strictly Rationed Cake

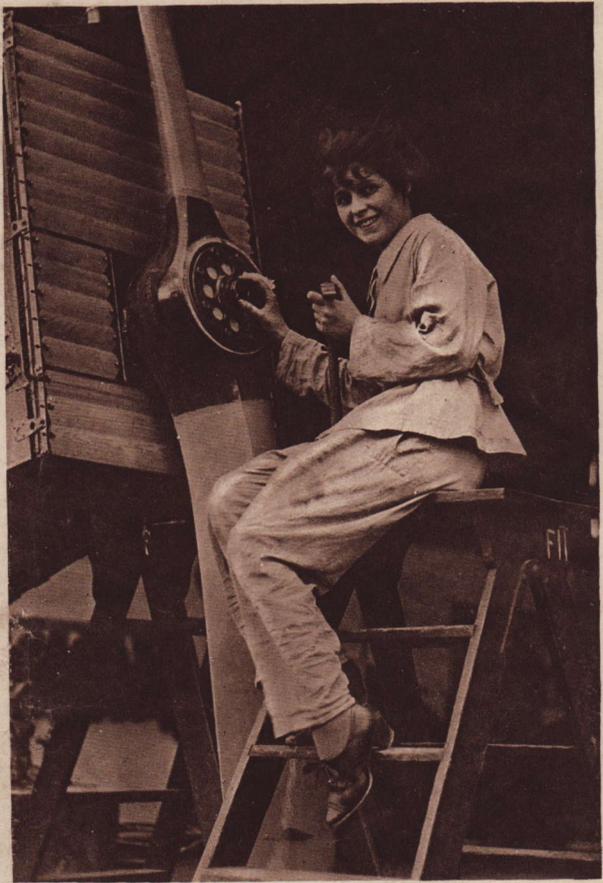


A happy W.R.A.F. seated on the cycle she drives so skilfully. There was a big war on then, and the piece of cake was the bare 2 ozs. allowed by the Food Controller.

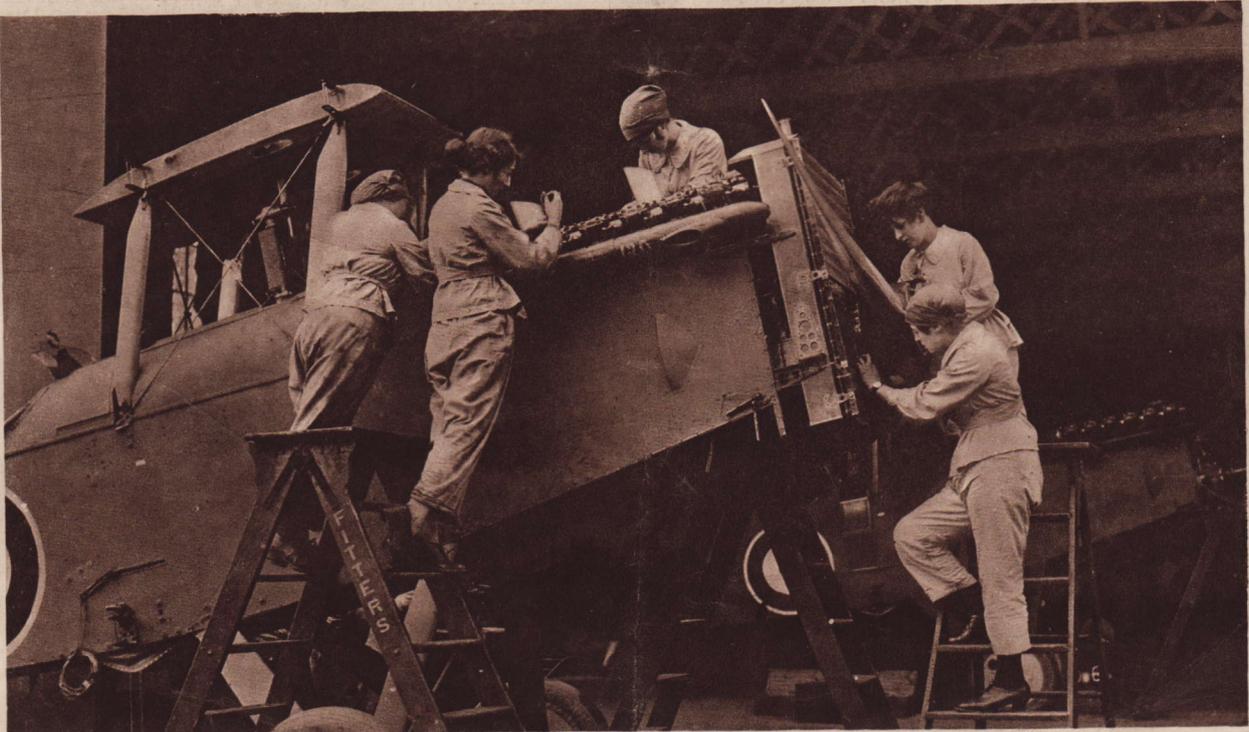
How the Women helped the R.A.F.



A W.R.A.F. "doping" an aeroplane



As skilled as the man she replaced



In all the aeroplane factories during the war the women employees far outnumbered the men, and were entrusted with very important work. They all adopted the overall and trousers.

The Turn of the Tide



This aerial photograph was taken on the day that Sir Douglas Haig launched what proved to be the final offensive of the war, and shows the smoke screen behind which our men advanced near Albert.



Another aerial photograph showing the smoke screen. The object of this artificially manufactured fog is to prevent the enemy knowing from what point the attack is coming.

The Navy's Air and Water Craft



Moonlight in the Firth of Forth. A small fraction of the Grand Fleet at anchor.
Photograph taken from airship.

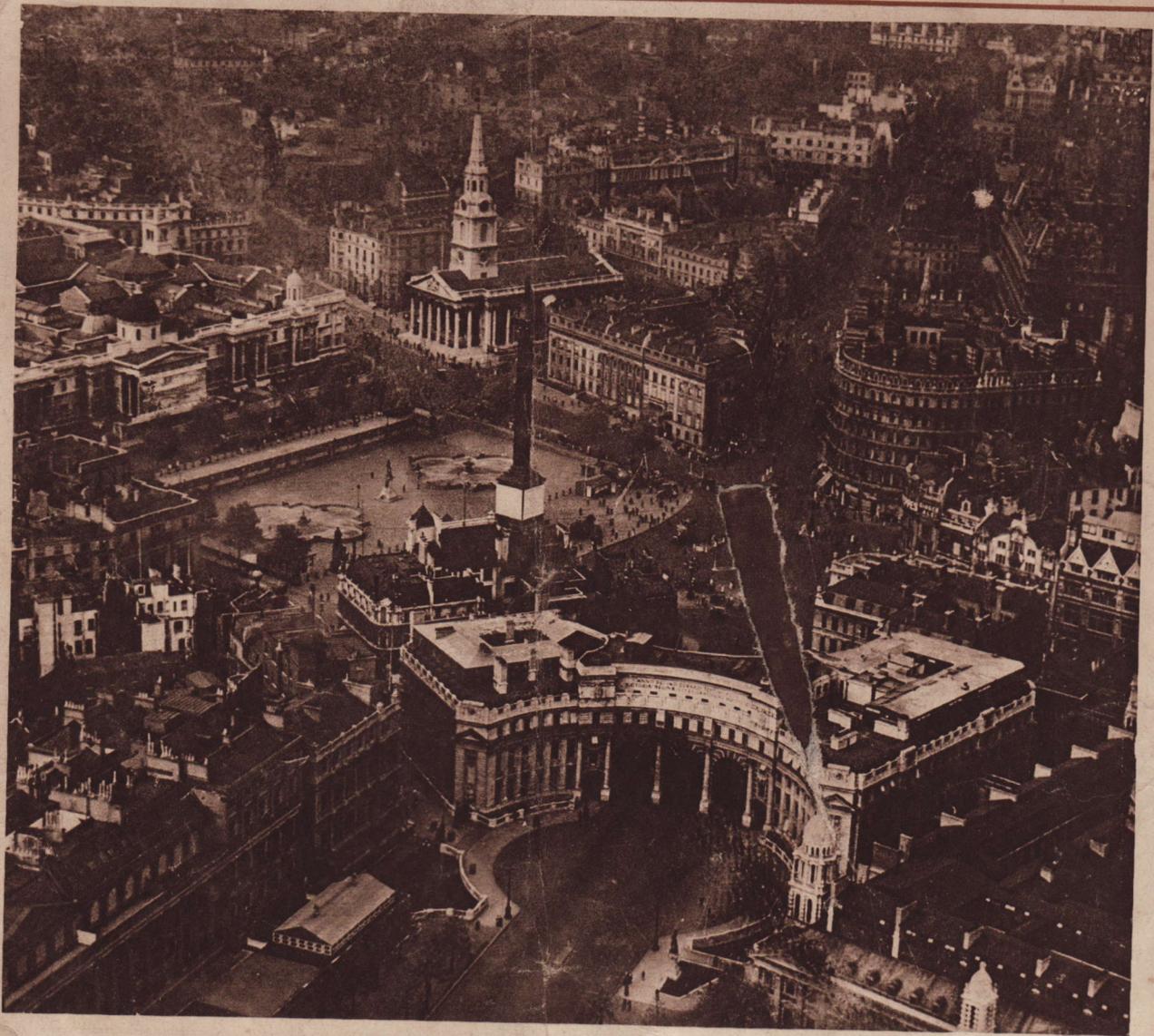


Dropping a torpedo from a seaplane. It proved a successful method of attack.



The torpedo enters the water with a great splash on its errand of destruction.

Somewhere in England



A very famous spot seen from the air. There is no prize offered for guessing where it is.



About to land on the deck of H.M.S. Argus, the Navy's latest seaplane carrier.



The Argus. She is in the foreground. In the background is a modern battle cruiser.