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BEFORE 0830 B.S.T. (i.e. FOR EVENING PAPERS) ON
FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 1943
THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

"GOOD GOING FOR AN OLD 'UN'".

In spite of her 23 years, H.M.S. KELLETT, a coal-burning fleet minesweeper, continues to give a performance comparing well with that of her more modern sisters.

In her pursuit of enemy mines she has, from March 1940 to June this year, steamed a distance of 35,000 miles.

"Good going for an old 'un", says her Chief Engineer, Warrant Engineer E. Hodges, D.S.C., R.N., " and in case there are still people who wonder why there's a coal problem, that performance is equal to 10,000 tons of coal consumed."

The KELLETT, named after the late Vice-Admiral Sir H. Kellett and adopted by the West Riding district of Colne Valley, recently completed her most dangerous and busiest operation when, along with other ships of her flotilla, she swept up 250 mines in three months.

As one of her officers puts it: "Her life in this war has been one long succession of loud bangs, and although she has had some severe shakings from near miss explosions, she's made of the stuff that can take it".

Underneath the ship's crest, which is the Cross of St. George, there is the Latin motto "Auxillium Ab Alto" (I seek help from above), but the ship's company have their own, unofficial motto. The idea was presented to them one night when their ship was engaged in a special minesweeping operation. True to the reputation which earned for this class of ship the title of "Smoky Joes", her funnel belched out an occasional spurt of flame. The Senior Officer, of the flotilla, signalled "See Exodus, Chapter 13, Verse 22."

A hurried consultation of the Bible revealed the significance of the signal. The words of the passage from Exodus were "The column of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night."

They were considered appropriate enough to be adopted as the ship's unofficial motto.

High in the Kellett's honours list stands her performance at Dunkirk, when, with other ships of her class, she made six visits to the French coast and brought off thousands of the B.E.F. There was no respite for either the ship or her crew during the days of the evacuation, and a tribute to the engine-room staff was the award of the D.S.M. to Chief Stoker Edward Double, of Colchester, while the Warrant Engineer, Mr. Hodges, was mentioned in dispatches.

Of her eight officers, five joined the Navy from peacetime occupations far removed from seafaring.

Her Commanding Officer, Commander H.E.H. Nicholls, D.S.C., R.N., is an Australian, and another Empire link is provided by Surgeon Lieutenant J.W. Clark, R.C.N.V.R., of Bethany, Ontario, formerly attached to the Civic Hospital at Ottawa.

First Lieutenant in the Kellett is Lieutenant D.A. Willis, R.N.V.R., of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, whose varied peacetime career embraced journalism, publicity, writing and acting for the films, and fighting in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

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