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THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1944.
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THE R.N.V.R. SHIP

H.M.S. SHELDRAKE, one of the famous Kingfisher class corvettes, has done most of her war-time steaming commanded almost entirely by officers of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. She has earned for herself the title, "The R.N.V.R. Ship."

From the most diverse peacetime occupations, her officers now concentrate on the one job, of shepherding convoys along the East coast or hunting for E-boats.

"All my officers have been promoted from the Lower Deck," says Lieutenant T.C. Harrison, R.N.V.R., of Streatham, Commanding Officer of the SHELDRAKE.

"I am the only exception. A keen yachtsman in peace-time, I had a commission in the R.N. Volunteer Supplementary Reserve.

"I have been escorting convoys up and down the East coast for the last four and a half years. Being a Naval sheepdog is an exacting but monotonous task these days.

"In the early years of the war, we used to be bombed and attacked by E-boats every time we put to sea. But now our Light Coastal Forces raid enemy coastal convoys and we are rarely attacked ourselves."

Lieutenant N.M. Boyd, R.N.V.R., of Poole, Dorset, the SHELDRAKE's gunnery officer, volunteered for the Navy in September, 1939 "to see the world."

"And what did I see?" he says, "I saw the sea - thousands of miles of Western Ocean from the decks of a corvette.

"Those were the days when the Atlantic wasn't romantic."

Lieutenant Boyd, was once a Physical Training Instructor, and Headmaster of Oakdale School.

Serving with this peace-time schoolmaster is the SHELDRAKE's Navigator, Sub. Lieutenant P.S. Topping, R.N.V.R., who left King's College, Wimbledon, Surrey, to join up as an Ordinary Seaman in September, 1942. He has served in a destroyer in the Mediterranean, and was torpedoed in the Atlantic. His ship was towed 800 miles to safety.

/ The SHELDRAKE's