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#### SUBMARINE'S GUN DUEL WITH TANKS

One of many lively encounters which H.M. Submarine UNSHAKEN had with the enemy during patrols in the Mediterranean was a gun duel with German tanks.

"We had noticed that a certain suspension bridge was in constant use by enemy transport", said Lieut. J. Whitton, R.N., of Towcester, Northants, the UNSHAKEN's Commanding Officer, "and one day we held up the traffic for three miles on either side of it while we had our 'party'.

"Tanks on the road endeavoured to reply, but with little effect. We obtained hits on the girders and a buttress and two hits on a factory in the background. We continued the assault until we could no longer see the target for smoke and dust."

In the course of her patrols the UNSHAKEN torpedoed an enemy supply ship of 7,000 tons and twenty hours later the submarine's crew saw the enemy ship roll over and sink. The UNSHAKEN attacked the ship as she was about to enter an Italian harbour. Through the periscope Lieutenant J. Whitton saw the torpedoed vessel stopped, on fire aft and listing heavily to port.

"I watched her until it was too dark to see any more," said Lieut. Whitton, when the UNSHAKEN recently arrived at a home port. "The next day we went in to see if she was still there. She was, and although she was beached it seemed that another torpedo would be necessary to finish her.

"Then, just as I was about to give the order to fire I saw her start to roll over. She was a fine modern ship and the ship's company watched her sink bottom up."

Lieutenant Whitton has commanded the UNSHAKEN throughout her Mediterranean commission, during which she has carried out 14 patrols.

"We had the luck to see another heartening spectacle," he said, "when an ammunition-carrying schooner, fully loaded with a deck cargo, disintegrated in a red flash as our torpedo hit her close to the Sicilian shore.

"There was a colossal cloud of smoke and we could see wreckage a hundred feet in the air."

On another occasion the UNSHAKEN encountered a long procession of enemy landing craft.

"We waited until it was dark," said Lieut. Whitton, "and then we sidled up to within 30 yards of one of the craft, which was packed with German troops.

/We sprayed them

"We sprayed them with machine-gun fire, and by the shouting we heard among them they must have had the surprise of their lives."

Considerable anxiety was felt at the flotilla base when it was known that the UNSHAKEN, returning from a patrol, was in the midst of a large Allied convoy in a thick fog. But there was no real cause for concern. Far from being in any danger the UNSHAKEN had asked the escorting destroyers if she could be of any help and was given the unusual job of leading the convoy towards port.

The UNSHAKEN, which has been adopted by Staines, Middlesex, has her own "Brains Trust," which includes two Methodist lay preachers. This discussion group met regularly during Mediterranean patrols. The submarine also produced its own magazine, called "The Klaxon Press."

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