

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES  
BEFORE 00.30 B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON SUNDAY,  
MARCH 1.

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING  
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

The following is issued by Naval Affairs to the Press for such use as  
they may wish to make of it

THE REAL ANCIENT MARINER

Meet Able Seaman Morris ('Moy') JONES. Aged 68.

He is a deck hand in a liner which has taken soldiers and airmen to reinforce the Empire's front lines in all parts of the world.

'Moy' has been doing this same job of troop-carrying in three wars -- the Boer War, in 1914-1918 and in the present war.

When his ship called at a northern port, he volunteered for a short course in gunnery arranged by the D.E.M.S. branch of the Navy which looks after defensive equipment for merchant shipping. He wanted to be able to take his place at a defensive gun with shipmates young enough to be his grand-children.

At this port a big naval launch brings defensive gunnery instruction alongside all merchantmen who call there. So when the launch came alongside his ship, 'Moy' climbed down to it with the cadets, stewards, radio operators and deck hands who were to take lessons from the officer-in-charge and his instructors in the floating class-rooms.

"In the last two wars I tried to join the Royal Navy from the Merchant Service," said 'Moy', "I'm only five feet tall, so maybe that is why they turned me down. I was mad, watching all my pals go off, but I had to be satisfied with troop-carrying.

"I didn't think it was much good volunteering for the Navy again this time."

'Moy' Jones laughed at his own little joke and bit another quid from his plug of chewing tobacco.

With his paint-splashed beret on the back of his head and hands clasped across the neatly patched knees of his trousers, he chewed stolidly behind his straggling moustache in the cabin of the launch while an instructor told his audience of merchant seamen how to defend their ships against air attack.

/Then



Then the old man was handed the "aiming-off teacher". The instructor "flew" a model of a Heinkel at him from all angles while Able Seaman Jones called out his estimate of the angle of approach and the amount of aiming off he would allow on his gun. He was correct every time.

"I'll have a go with the youngest of them," he said later, "I owe the Hun something."

When he went to Liverpool for a few days' leave after one trip, he found his house near the docks almost destroyed by a bomb.

"The front door was blown into the street," he said, "All the windows were out. We never found the back door. I had a time tramping the streets trying to find my wife, who is 67. They put me up for the night at the police station. My wife is living outside Liverpool now.

"But I've always been lucky. Right through three wars and never been a survivor yet.

"They tried to keep me ashore a few months back, but at the head office they said, if I could walk, I could sail."

"Moy" Jones has been in the Merchant Service for 52 years, having left his home village in Wales to go to sea at the age of 16. He has been 23 years in his last three ships and 39 years with the same company.

"The Germans have had several cracks at us in this war," he said, "When we were trooping off Egypt last year he came visiting night and day.

"U-boats? We had a narrow shave out of Liverpool at the start of this war. The ship next to us was torpedoed. She was carrying cargo. We had 450 women and kiddies aboard. I don't think the U-boat ever got home. Our escort saw to it with depth charges."

Able Seaman Jones is one of hundreds of pupils who have been taught gunnery aboard the D.E.M.S. floating school since last June. He is the oldest ----- in years.

NOTE: Photograph available from B.I.P.P.A. Central 8483.

-----