

NORWEGIAN SUBMARINE'S FINE RECORD

The announcement in a Norwegian Naval Communique today of recent successes by H. Nor. M. Submarine ULA brings the total tonnage of enemy shipping sunk during her nine months of operational service to at least 25,000 tons. She has also damaged many other ships.

These successes are the more outstanding by the fact that they have been achieved mostly in Northern waters, where less enemy shipping is to be found in comparison with other operational areas.

Often the ULA has penetrated close inshore behind the islands of the Norwegian coast; sometimes to within only a thousand yards of German coastal batteries.

The ULA belongs to an inter-Allied flotilla of British, Dutch, French, Norwegian and Polish submarines. Her "Jolly Roger", which is crowned with Hitler's skull with forelock and moustache over a swastika of crossbones, now carries six bars. Five of these are white, indicating the number of supply ships sunk, and one red for an armed escort vessel. Her flag also bears a dagger to mark a special operation which she carried out.

During one of her recent patrols the ULA attacked in the middle of the day an enemy convoy of eight supply ships, screened by six escort vessels and a number of aircraft. She scored torpedo hits on a 6,000-ton tanker and a 4,500-ton supply ship.

Two terrific explosions were heard a few minutes later, but the ULA could not observe the full results of her attack as three of the enemy escort vessels and the aircraft launched a counter-attack. A number of depth-charge attacks were made on the submarine, but she escaped without damage.

A few days later, in almost the same position, ULA torpedoed a 2,000-ton supply ship which sank shortly afterwards.

The ULA was handed over to the Royal Norwegian Navy shortly after H. Nor. M. Submarine UREDD was lost last year. She is named after a place on the south coast of Norway.

She was commissioned in March of last year in the presence of H.N.M. King Haakon, Admiral Corneliussen, Commander-in-Chief, of the Royal Norwegian Navy, and Admiral King, the British Naval Liaison Officer.

ULA's 31-year-old Commanding Officer was a trained submarine officer in Norway, and obtained his first fighting experience during the German invasion. He escaped to this country in November, 1940, by crossing the North Sea under sail in a 30-foot fishing smack. He belongs to a well-known Norwegian family which, for generations, has played a distinguished part in science and art.

His second-in-command, who is of the same age, and other officers and members of the crew, made their way to England by varying routes, following the occupation of Norway, some of them going almost round the world to get here.

The oldest member of the crew is the electrician who is turned fifty, and who has sailed the seas for a generation. He is known to the crew as "Grandpa", but, despite his age and occasional attacks of rheumatism, he stubbornly refuses to give up service in submarines.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

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