

SHIPS OF THE "EIGHTH"

"My ship's company would be the proudest in the Royal Navy if we could get permission to wear the Eighth Army's 'Crusader' insignia," says Lieutenant C.R. Radford, R.N.R., of Fleetwood, Commanding Officer of H.M.S. WHITING.

The WHITING and her sister trawler, H.M.S. GRAYLING, commanded by Lieutenant H. Burnham, R.N.R., of Grimsby, escorted the famous 51st Highland Division, and its supplies, from Sfax. Since then they have clung to the Eighth Army as the two most advanced naval ships assisting in General Montgomery's campaigns.

As ports northward in Sicily fell and were put into use, the first convoys into them were always under the protection of the WHITING and the GRAYLING. Their climax in that theatre was to take the first merchant ships through the Straits of Messina.

The work of the two trawlers continues as the Eighth Army batters its way up Italy's east coast. As each port has been conquered the WHITING and the GRAYLING have been quickly in through the harbour with the first ships to extend the sea-lanes of supply.

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