

DESTROYER LEAVES FOR NEWPORT, R. I.

U. S. S. Roe Ends Three-Day Visit And Continues Shakedown Cruise

The U. S. S. Roe, visiting here since Monday afternoon, left shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon for Newport, R. I., as a continuation of its shakedown cruise. The ship was docked at the Southeastern Shipping service wharf at the foot of Castle street during its three day stay here. The Roe made Wilmington its first port of call while on its shakedown cruise from the Charleston, S. C., navy yard under the auspices of the Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Wilmington. Officers of the destroyer were entertained at a dinner Monday night and a stag dinner Tuesday night at the Cape Fear Country club. Special entertainment features were also provided for members of the crew.

GERMANY CLAIMS THRUST MADE IN 'NICK OF TIME'

naval and air actions in the Skagerrak, the Kattegat and the North sea. DNB reported in a special bulletin that the German army at Bergen, Norway, had captured five British ships loaded with war supplies, including cannon, machine guns and munitions. The German press and officialdom seized upon this report as evidence of a British plan to attack Germany from Norway and complete justification for Germany's thrust to the north. "If German troops had not gone up there in the nick of time and sources said, the English would be there now and Germany would be worrying about the defense of her northern border."

The British ships were to Bergen ahead of time, DNB said, under the guise of "aid for Finland." The agency asserted the supplies were to have been used by a British expeditionary force which was supposed to occupy Bergen. Find New Planes Germans also said that soldiers who occupied Oslo found 30 new American Curtiss planes which they said would be studied closely for any possible information on construction. (American sources said between "30 and 50" Curtiss pursuit planes were shipped to Norway in the last few weeks for the Norwegian air force but were of an old design.) General little-known German silence on the air and sea was attributed to the demands on military secrecy. "To divulge all details now would be giving valuable information to the enemy," DNB observed. However, the agency earlier said German naval forces Wednesday night sank two Allied destroyers at the west fjord approach to Narvik, bringing to six the total sunk there and followed with the report that an aircraft carrier had been damaged in the North sea.

(Britain has acknowledged the loss of four destroyers in naval warfare off Norway since the beginning of the week, two of them at Narvik.) Amid the reluctance to say much on actions at sea and in the skies the Germans nevertheless declared that additional German soldiers were being transported to Norway in a movement they insisted was being carried out without hindrance by the enemy. (Swedish reports on the contrary said six or eight German transports had been sunk in the Skagerrak and one had fled into a Swedish harbor but had been turned away.) Germany has reopened the bridges over the Vistula river destroyed by bombing early in the Polish war.

Churchill's statement of British naval victories since Sunday, while not precise in details, nevertheless gave Britain this general comparison of battle results: German losses: — Four cruisers (presumably including the Bluecher and Karlsruhe, sunk by Norwegian guns, and two hit by air bombs. This is nearly half of Germany's cruiser strength.) "A number of destroyers" (one is known to have been torpedoed at Narvik.) "Several" U-boats (one, destroyed by H. M. S. Zulu, mentioned specifically.) "Nearly a dozen" troop and supply ships, sunk or captured in the Skagerrak and Kattegat passages to the Baltic, in the North Sea or in the Norwegian ore port of Narvik. Damaged: — The battleship Scharnhorst. British Losses: — Destroyer Glowworm, sunk by two German destroyers. Destroyer Gurkha, sunk by aerial bombs. Destroyers Hunter and Hardy, lost in battle of Narvik Wednesday (Churchill did not mention these, but the admiralty has conceded their loss.) Damaged: Battleship Rodney, battle cruiser Renown, cruiser Aurora, and at least two destroyers. Today Germany broadcast a claim that its bombers had badly damaged a British aircraft carrier and a cruiser in the North Sea and that two more British destroyers, or a total of six, had been sunk at Narvik. Standing against this, unconfirmed here, were radio reports that a naval battle between German and

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WAR AT SEA: PLANES FLY INTO THE PICTURE



A new—and perhaps vital—element is present in today's sea battles that naval strategists of other wars did not have to contend with. The new factor is the fighting plane, dropping bombs which may prove more deadly to battleships than the foe's gunfire. The artist's conception, above, where squadrons of bombers have been superimposed upon a painting of the World War Battle of Jutland, gives you a preview of a modern major naval engagement.

BRITISH SINK 18 GERMAN VESSELS

(Continued From Page One) of such operations. One of these reports said British warships appeared to be landing men from outer Oslofjord; others told of continued naval action at Trondheim, in the Skagerrak and elsewhere. For the time being, the reports were accepted with reserve by neutral observers. Road To "Victory" To Churchill, first lord of the admiralty and director of strategy of all the British armed services, the navy's feats of the last two days "are worthy of any in our history" and have put the Allies on the high road to "victory." This he pugnaciously proclaimed to a wildly excited house of commons today. This rejoicing nation, comparing the heavy German sea losses with a total of four sunken British destroyers, was willing to believe him. Churchill's statement of British naval victories since Sunday, while not precise in details, nevertheless gave Britain this general comparison of battle results:

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turned away and after nine minutes the Renown observed hits forward of the superstructure of the German battleship. Thereafter her whole armory stopped firing but later, after having turned, she began firing under local control. The speed which the battleship maintained was very great, and Renown had to push to 24 knots through very heavy seas breaking over her forward gun turrets, and after a further two minutes of firing, a vertical column of smoke from what they called a possible second hit was observed in the Scharnhorst, who then turned away, and retired at high speed without hampering herself by further firing. "During this period a shell passed through our vessel at about the waterline without bursting. A second shell went through the foremast and carried away the main aerial. There were no casualties in Renown. "The 10,000-ton cruiser of the Hipper class now tried to cross Scharnhorst. Scharnhorst a smokescreen to cover Scharnhorst and Renown opened fire upon Hipper, which turned away and both ships retired at high speed, Hipper dodging the fire which became intermittent. "You must imagine that all the time, snowstorms were closing the view and the sea was running very high. In the end we must regret to say that they succeeded in leaving us."

British fleet units was raging at Trondheim, Norway; that German transports forced aground during last night's battle in the Skagerrak were blazing fiercely; that 1,000 bodies were floating in the waters off Sweden, from as many as six sunken German transports. These reports likewise were not confirmed here. Neutral naval sources said tonight that four Nazi cruisers alone would have carried 2,250 men, and estimated that total German casualties might well exceed 5,000. On the other hand, British casualties were thought to be well below 1,000. When the Gurkha was sunk, for instance, all but fourteen men were rescued. Churchill's hour-long statement, packed with proud accounts of British sea glories, among them the fight of the Renown and the Scharnhorst, also told the world: Rodney In Battle That the mighty, 33,900-ton Rodney, flagship of the home fleet, although hit by a heavy bomb, suffered but little loss and seven casualties and is in line of battle tonight. That the navy has occupied the Faroe islands, about 250 miles north of the British naval base of Scapa Flow, and will give them back to Denmark when that nation is freed from its "foal thralldom." That "we shall take what we want" of Norway's coast when the fleet has accomplished its foremost object, total destruction of Nazi seapower. That the fleet's own planes, "the fleet air arm," launching flying torpedoes, and planes of the R. A. F., have returned Nazi air offensive "blow for blow," after five German bomb attacks on the British battleship fleet which Churchill admitted the Nazis pressed with "courage." Twelve Royal Air Force planes, the first Lord said, attacked two German light cruisers in Bergen harbor, hit one and "we have not seen anything of her since." A second foray, carried off by sixteen naval planes in Bergen harbor, resulted in three hits on German war vessels and later, scout planes skimming over the scene of attack found only a long streak of oil on the surface. Other fleet air arm units smashed at German warcraft in Trondheim harbor with aerial torpedoes. Norway Resists That Norway's defenders are capable of "vigorous and prolonged resistance" to the Germans, although their country and Denmark have "drawn the unlucky numbers in this sinister lottery" of "long and elaborate" preparation by Hitler. Churchill, fairly fresh and at the peak of his oratorical powers despite three sleepless days in an admiralty map room, thrilled the house, jammed with members and diplomats, with his account of the running fight between the 32,000-ton British battle cruiser Renown and the 26,000-ton German battleship Scharnhorst. The Renown, which mounts six 15-inch guns, "engaged the enemy at 18,000 yards," he said, in a blinding snowstorm. It is believed to have scored two hits, one forward of the super-structure. His tired voice rising, Churchill related how the battle cruiser pursued the slightly faster Scharnhorst, which mounts nine 11-inch guns, and he regretfully concluded that the German battleship, shielded by a smokescreen from a German cruiser, escaped in the stormy seas. "This took place on Tuesday, at daybreak, near Narvik, in the far North sea. Churchill, as if he had been on the Renown's bridge himself related: "They, (the Scharnhorst and the German cruiser of the 10,000-ton Hipper class) were seen in the distance, dimly, amidst the snowstorms of a tempestuous day. The sea was blowing very high and gales were blowing furiously, but our battle cruiser opened fire at 18,000 yards and after three minutes the enemy replied. "The enemy almost immediately

LIST OF ELECTION REGISTRARS AND JUDGES ANNOUNCED (Continued From Page One) street; Mrs. J. B. Williamson, 15 South Eighth street; Mrs. R. S. McKeithan, 13 South Eighth street; Miss Frances Elden, 609 Ann street. FOURTH WARD, Tilston school, Fifth and Ann streets; L. G. LeGwin, 419 South Fifth; P. W. Beeha, 216 South Third; S. M. Creech, 508 South Second. FIFTH WARD, first precinct, fire station, Fifth and Castle streets; Mrs. H. F. Watters, 215 Queen; K. S. Mallard, 709 South Eighth; A. E. Milburn, 416 Castle. FIFTH WARD, second precinct, William Hooper school, 410 Meares street; F. D. Steljes, 214 Meares street; H. L. Herren, 1112 South

Survivors Of British Destroyer Are Landed LONDON, April 12.—(Friday)—(AP)—Survivors of the British destroyer Gurkha, sunk in the North sea by the power-diving German bombers, were landed yesterday in a north Scottish port. Fourteen of the crew went down with the ship. The rescued crewmen said their gunners kept firing at wave upon wave of the German attackers until the decks of the ship were awash. Seventy German prisoners also were landed under strong guard.

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KING HAAKON FLEES BEFORE NAZI RAID

(Continued From Page One) of Oslo, and cannonading could be heard. A naval battle between British and German forces outside the port of Trondheim was reported by the Norwegian radio at Olesund. British planes attacked German warships in Trondheimfjord. Norwegian men in the some of them armed with nothing but shotguns, rallied to the defense of the nation. They were reported to have retaken the port of Bergen, arrested the commander of the fortress of Kongsvinger, near the Swedish border and defeated German forces before Elverum. The volunteers who arrested the Kongsvinger commander just had returned from Finland, where they fought the Russians. Elverum was bombed several times during Thursday. Two persons were killed, many hurt and numerous buildings were set afire by incendiary bombs. Three planes raided the town during the morning. In the afternoon, nine planes carried out attacks in several waves, dropping both explosive and incendiary bombs. Kongsvinger also was bombed. German and Norwegian troops were fighting at several points west of Kongsvinger, and at Eidsvold, half way between Oslo and Hammar. The Germans, however, were masters of the major portion of the railway between Oslo and Kongsvinger. Heavy detonations were heard tonight from the direction of Kongsvinger. Twenty persons were hurt at Elverum, and the population still was fleeing early today. Norwegian sources said Elverum was an "open town" without fortresses. Major Hoch-Nielsen, the commander of the Kongsvinger fortress, was seized by the Norwegian volunteers when he refused to give them arms. The volunteers then helped themselves to the equipment they needed. Earlier, Major Hoch-Nielsen had released the German prize crew taken last autumn from the American steamer, City of Flint, upon orders from the German military command. Overlaid workers, untrained

peasants, rifle club members and military school cadets responded to the government's call to join the British Allies against the Nazis. They took to the field with what weapons were at hand, hastily fortifying every possible defense point not in German hands. A late afternoon radio report from the Norwegian commander at Bergen said his forces had retaken the city from the invaders and were massing for an attempt to recapture Trondheim, farther up the west coast. Subsequent advice reaching Stockholm said Bergen was in Norwegian hands but that the harbor still were held by the German. The Bergen commander reported that invaders were massing their forces around Trondheim. From the north, Norwegian troops were advancing southward in the hope of cutting off German troops operating between Trondheim and the Swedish border. The Norwegians were reported methodically blasting bridges to make German advances difficult and to cut off Nazi advances already in possession of Norwegian territory.

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