World war, 1939 - Gt. Britain, Lac batt ot Production

A great industrial nation reorganises for Victory

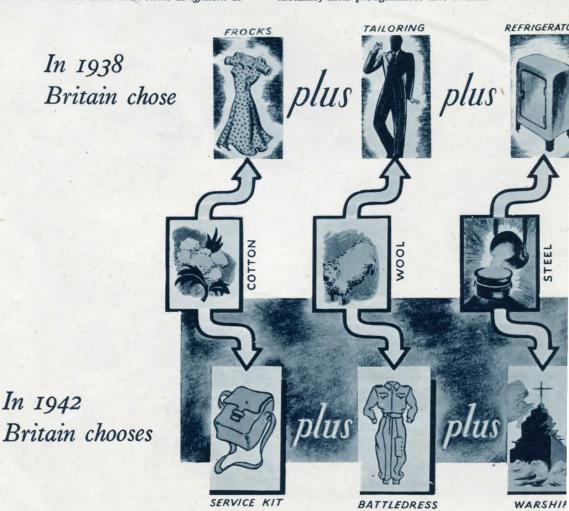
IN 1938 Britain's great industrial machine hummed a rhythm of peace. To-day, it beats out a song of battle—the Battle of Production for victory.

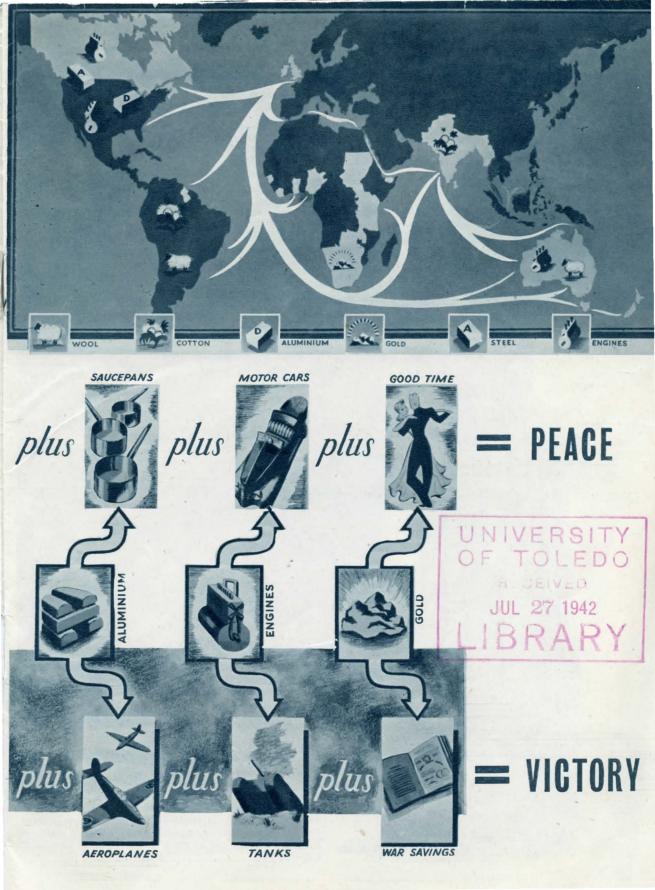
For instance, in 1938 the Government used only 20 per cent. of the nation's resources for national defence and other purposes, but by the end of 1940 the Government was spending $51\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the national income very largely for war purposes. Now the ratio has gone up still further and is probably around 60 per cent.

And this change-over has been made with truly astonishing speed. Mr. Churchill has declared that in this war it has taken less than two years to reach the stage of total-war economy reached in the four years of the last war. Britain has been twice as efficient this time.

And Britain has been more than twice as efficient as

the Nazis. In the last nine months of 1940 she diverted as much of her effort from peace to war as the Nazis diverted during the whole of 1938-40! What is the secret of Britain's great achievement? A combination of the old and the new. A combination of the traditional policy of keeping the sea lanes open for the import of raw materials (see map on right) with the new spirit of sacrifice in which the people of Britain have faced their ordeal. They have willingly gone on rations so that weapons can be made in place of peace-time luxuries. A free people, fighting for the freedom of the world, they have chosen to convert their factories into arsenals, their ploughshares into swords.







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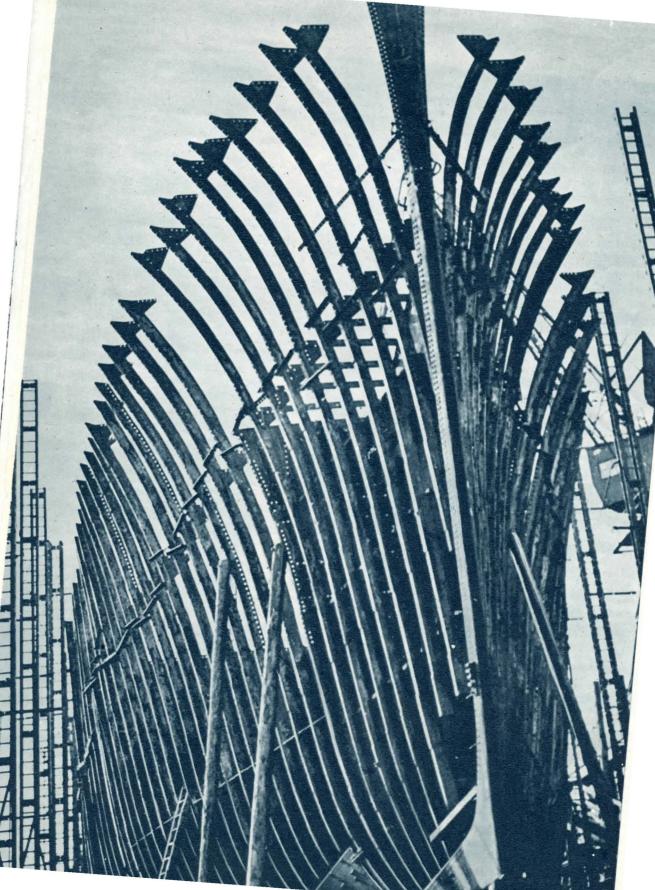




But these nine thousand miles of material are made in three colours only, khaki, and the two blues, navy and air force. In Britain to-day living gracefully has been subordinated to living in freedom.

BRITAIN'S MEN AND WOMEN ARE RATIONED FOR CLOTHES SO THAT THE KIT OF HER FIGHTING MEN CAN REMAIN THE BEST IN THE WORLD





Britain must have ships!—Faster than ever before new ships grow in the vards of the world's mightiest sea power

Britain has always built ships. But never before has she built so many or built them so fast.

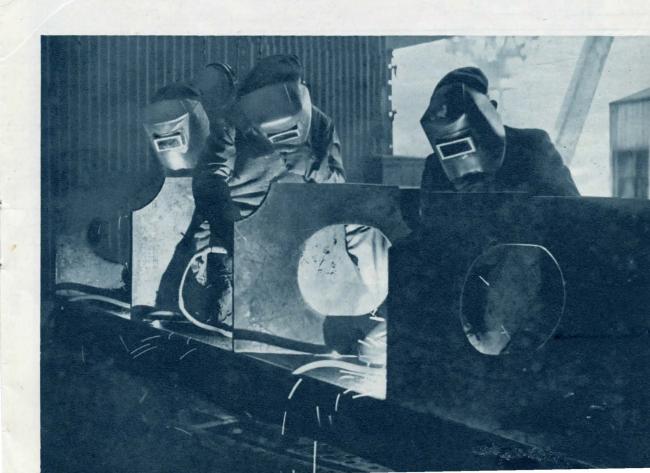
The war-time expansion of the ship-building industry has been enormous. 154 new factories, or extensions to existing factories, were completed in 1941 for the Admiralty alone. Between March 1940 and March 1941, 480 brand-new ships joined the Royal Navy alone! Merchant ship-building has been vastly increased, too. Since May 1940 the output has gone up by more than 50 per cent., and the yards are now so packed with new ships a-building that new techniques have had to be adopted. Merchant ships are now being fabricated in sections in ordinary steel works inland, and transported to assembly yards on the rivers and at the coast. At least

one-third of the components of each ship can be dealt with outside the usual ship-building

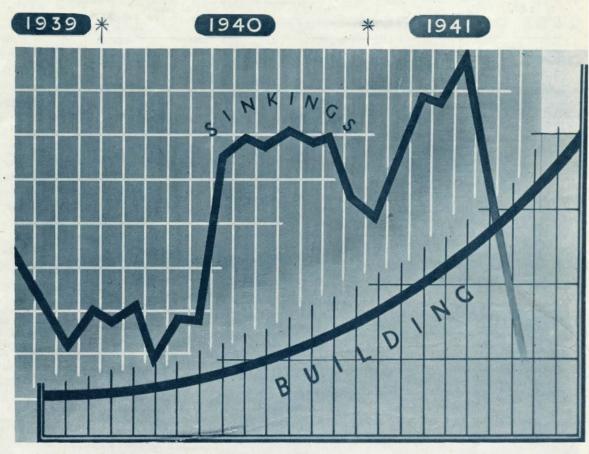
Ship-building is not the only task of British shipwrights. They have also to repair ships damaged by torpedo or bomb. It is an amazing fact that in a single week in March 1941 ships totalling more. than 1,100,000 tons were returned to service after

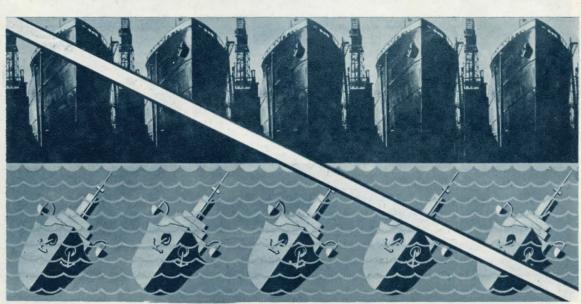
repair in British shipyards.

What is the most significant aspect of this huge endeavour? Surely it is this: that British shipbuilding is concentrating on one thing only—victory! The luxury liners, fit for millionaires, are forgotten. In Britain to-day is being launched a mighty fleet of ships to carry on the fight for freedom.



The tide of sinking has been stemmed-





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