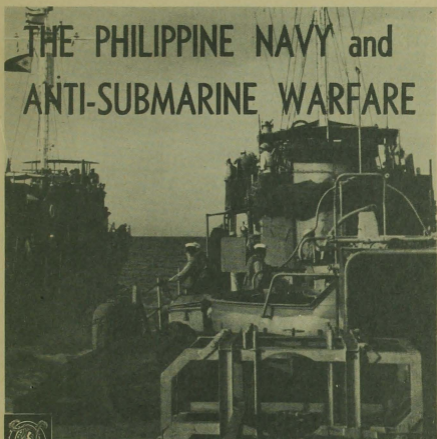
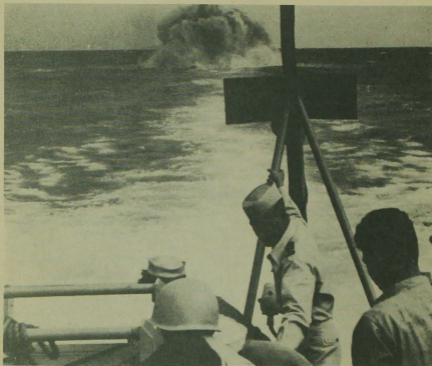


# THE PHILIPPINE NAVY and ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE



*By Lieutenant (sg) Gil Fernandez, PN*

ONE of the fields of activity that our navy still has to exploit is anti-submarine warfare. This activity, supplemented by adequate mining warfare, is of great importance in our job of maintaining command of the immediate waters around us. To safeguard our shipping and ultimately our nation against activities of hostile underwater craft, which are employed even in ferrying spies and saboteurs, we have to develop an effective anti-submarine force and a supplementary network of water mines. The importance of these activities becomes even greater when we consider our country's numerous islands and islets beside any of which an unfriendly submarine may clandestinely surface and perpetrate its acts, like conveying arms and supplies to the Red-



*Threat posed by hostile submarines to our national security demands adequate anti-submarine measures on our part. Anti-submarine measures based on local familiarity with our topography will be effective, especially if supplemented by a network of water mines.*

incited dissidents and putting enemy agents ashore, in the same manner that American submarines ferried arms and supplies to Fil-American guerrillas in the vicinity of the Tayabas coast during the Japanese occupation.

#### Accent on ASW

Facts abound that underscore the need for putting more attention on ASW (anti-submarine warfare). The build-up of submarines by the communists camp from 400 to 500 operational units with a large number

of these ocean-going may be a repetition of a cheap way of challenging freedom of the sea as Germany tried in World Wars I and II. Britain was lost if the Nazi wolf-pack were left alone to nibble the precious tonnage of ships forming her life lines. In an address to the House of Commons on November 5, 1940, Winston Churchill said that more serious than the air raids has been the recrudescence of the U-Boat sinking in the Atlantic approaches of our islands. "Dahgers

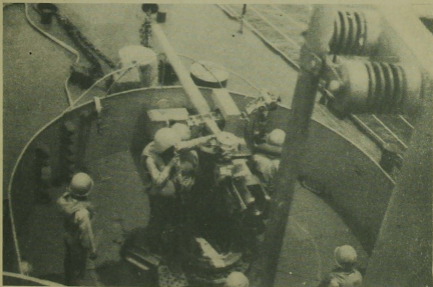
in the air are sudden and might have become catastrophic, but the dangers to seaborne traffic mature much more slowly, then are more the less formidable, however, and if any way neglected they would touch the life of the state."

Externally, the U.S. Navy can insure immediate defense of moving areas such as convoys into the Philippines but our coastwise defense presents a different problem. Local know-how and ability must be brought into play. How would the U.S. Marines or the U.S. Army come out in our topography and terrain against our dissidents with their hit-and-run tactics? A submarine is as troublesome. The intricacies of our reefs and shoals will, of course, be

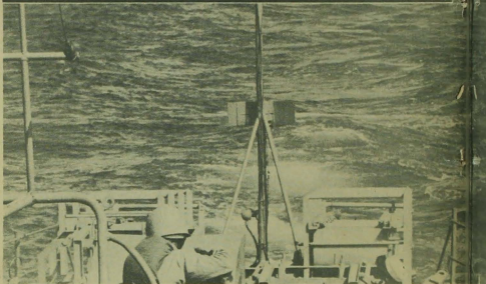
greatly our advantage over hostile submarines in their encroachment on our coastwise and internal sea lanes, but natural barriers are not sufficient. Anti-submarine measures based on local familiarity with our topography will be effective.

Kamlon demonstrated to some extent how familiarity with the coasts and terrain can help one against an enemy. He knew when to hit badly and to run on his tiny battleground with cunning, he being familiar with the exits unknown to the BCTs. A flotilla of shallow craft anti-submarine ships equipped with local knowledge of its battleground and strategically-deployed will always be quite a discouragement to any submarine. We alone can best defend our sea

*We alone can best defend our sea lanes and insure freedom of the sea. Local know-how and ability must be brought into play to ward off submarine aggressors that will endanger our life lines of maritime trade. Our national defense lies in countering them.*



*Idea behind anti-submarine warfare is to strategically outfox the "pirates" and "ambushers" of the sea by laying a pattern of anti-submarine ships that can easily detect the enemy and render him the hunted instead of the hunter.*



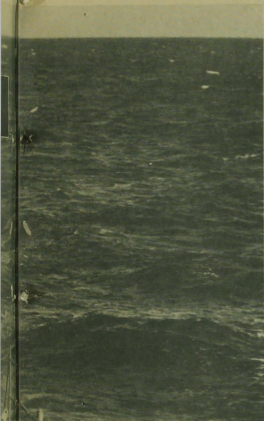
lanes and insure freedom of the sea. The Philippine Navy cannot help assuming the leadership and pursuit of the internal defense of the sea lanes if our economy and country must survive. Although the U. S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force are trying to keep air superiority which is vital in a well-rounded defense, the Philippines should not rely on them alone. We must pitch in our best.

Submarine aggressors will endanger our life lines of maritime trade with mines and torpedoes. Our na-

val defense lies in countering these basic threats. As for the missile-launching capacity of the submarine, the further we keep a hostile submarine away from our shores, the safer we will be.

#### Our Navy in This Field

The Philippine Navy was introduced to the art of anti-submarine warfare when, after the liberation, she acquired submarine chasers. These submarine chasers are the wooden-type, the Patrol Craft Small, the steel-hull Patrol Craft,



tactics in submarine warfare, we are still operating with weapons and tactics used in the period of World War II.

#### Anti-Submarine Warfare Idea

The idea behind anti-submarine warfare is to strategically outfox those "pirates" or "ambushers" at sea by stationing anti-submarine ships as "good shepherds" to ships that are gathered together into a convoy. These anti-submarine ships lay a pattern of early detection of the submarine in the path of the convoy to allow the convoy to sidestep the blows. Once the submarine, which chooses its battlefield, is discovered, she runs for cover into the depth and the anti-submarine ships search and attack to kill. Hence, the convoy is safeguarded. But the anti-submarine ships should not consider the safety of the convoy as permanent, nor should it underestimate a submarine though alone.

In answer to the question of anti-submarine ship versus submarines, Admiral Arleigh Burke, U.S. chief of naval operations, said that "not long ago we felt the anti-submarine ship was ahead of the game. Now nuclear propulsion seems to be putting submarines ahead again."

the Patrol Craft Escort, and the Auxiliary Minesweepers.

In the navies of the big powers, the art of anti-submarine warfare is given intensive impetus and extensive effectiveness by destroyers which make the unfriendly submarine the hunted instead of the hunter.

There is a need for strategic patrol systems of detecting submarines and for an effective hunter-killer team of destroyers, destroyer escort, or patrol craft.

#### Mining Warfare

Local anti-submarine warfare needs a boost. With the advancement of technological weapons and

For maximum anti-submarine warfare effectiveness, anti-submarine ships, though the most effective submarine killer, are not enough. They must be supplemented not on-

ly by anti-submarine aircraft patrol but also by mining warfare. Mining warfare involves the strategical mining of our waters. We must have mine layers and a large quantity of mines. This system fouls up submarine routes and protects our sea lanes by reducing them to narrow channels where the submarine will have little room to operate.

The aggressor submarine should be expected to lay mines in our sea lanes. There is therefore a need for a ready fleet of minesweepers to sweep daily the water highways.

the peacetime duties of patrolling our coastline against infiltrators, pirates, outlaws, and other violators of our laws in addition to training of the regulars and reserves.

Winning warfare must be supplemented to the anti-submarine endeavors. We must map out how we shall train in peace time and implement our naval defense through mining and mine sweeping our waters and shore lines in wartime. We should be realistic about the purposes and needs of maintaining the fleet in operating condition. Tech-

*Composed of numerous islands and islets beside any of which a hostile submarine may clandestinely surface and do sabotage work, Philippines needs to exploit anti-submarine warfare to protect her life lines of maritime trade and insure her national security*

#### Conclusion

In evaluating our naval defense, we look to the U.S. Navy for external protection and guidance. Nevertheless, we can best defend our own waters with local knowhow. Combat activities cannot be learned in wartime. Months of training and refresher courses at intervals will guaranty the ability of any navy in war. Like the fighter before he goes up on the arena, the navy must train hard and enthusiastically if she is to win. What we need now is enough anti-submarine ships, while carrying on

naval weapons have a special budgetary and personnel requirement for maintenance and advancement. A flotilla of Destroyers, Destroyer Escorts, Patrol Frigates, Minesweepers, and a submarine for training exercises, must be maintained to build up the muscles of our naval arm. When "doubting Thomases" question our sincerity to stand on our way of life or our loyalty to the cause of democracy is challenged, let us be ready to say as the Honorable Churchill once said, "The Navy is Here."