

slight. Had it not been for the creation of the small craft the strength of the Grand Fleet would have been rapidly dispersed, and we should have been open to the dangers of invasion.

That then is the part we play in the war; carrying-on at a job which we can do as well as the pukka navy, and that the pukka navy may remain always ready to defeat the Hun. The Movy has replaced the steam-yacht and motor-boat that was hurriedly commissioned early on in the war, but the personnel of the officers remains. The number of these volunteer yachtsmen, who are naval officers now in the R.N.V.R., is over four thousand, and there is a never-ending supply always in training to replace losses, and a very high percentage of wastage through various forms of sickness which are unavoidable in the carrying on of this particular service.

I think I have made it obvious in all that I have said, that ours is just a very unsplendid job of drudgery. We feel that if we are doing our job, it is just the most and the least we can do. It is just one of the ever necessary jobs of the war, rarely calling for any fireworks display of