

Our Worst Enemy—The U-Boat

Authentic Sketches Show the Nerve Centers of
a Captured Nazi Sub

Every American, in every city and crossroads village, is keenly aware of the Nazi U-boat menace. News pictures and movies have shown the hulk of this vicious foe.

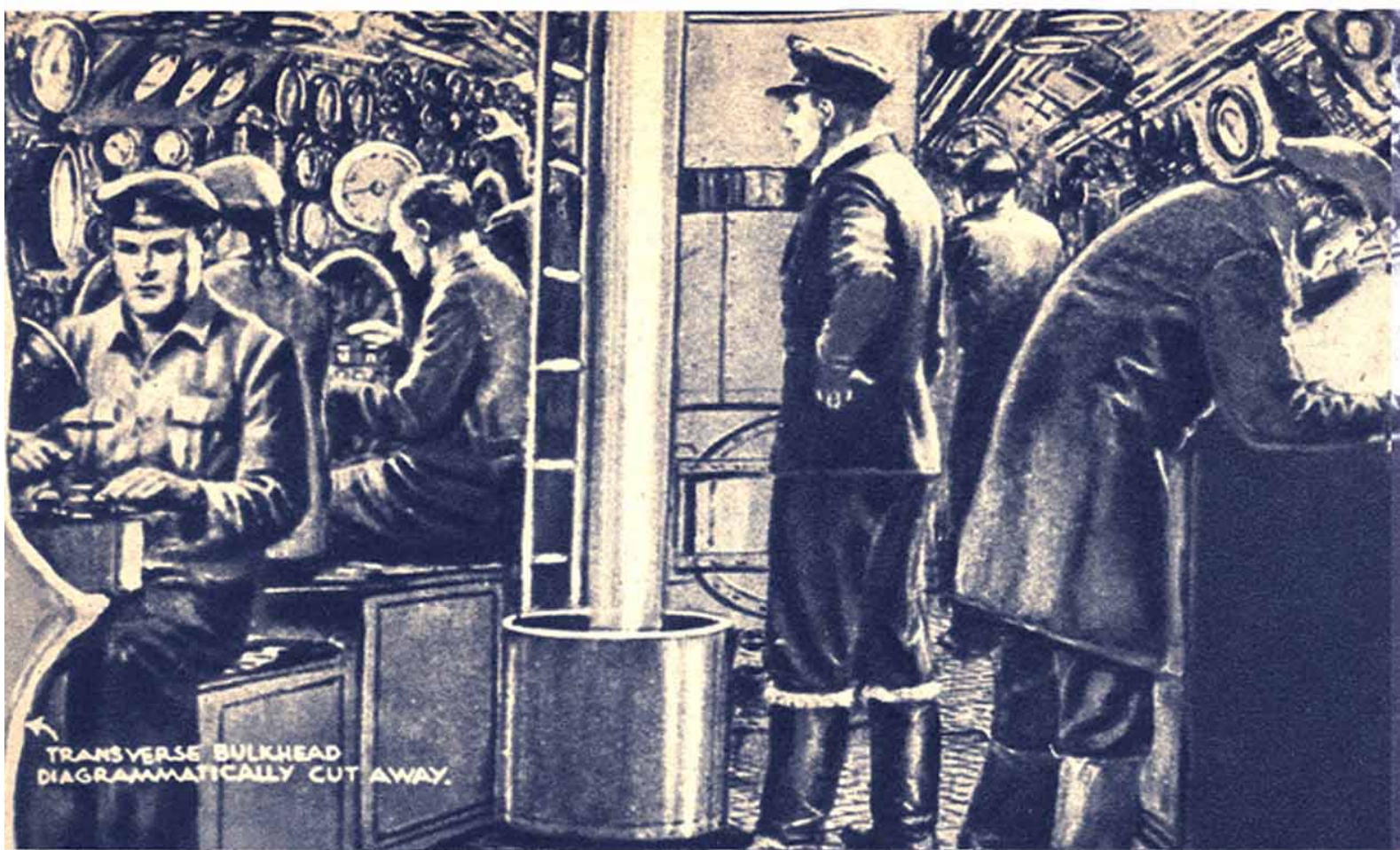
Now the unusual sketches on these pages reveal in accurate detail the interior of the Nazis' deadliest weapon. They were made in a captured sub by the English artist G. H. Davis and are published here for the first time in America. They are of particular significance at this time, for last year June gave the U-boats their best hunting. Captains of the Nazis' 600-odd subs doubtless think this summer's bag will be equally rich.

Their confidence rests in the perfection to which German technicians have brought the American invention. Every inch of a U-boat's space, every one of its 45 men, is utilized to the maximum. Each serves the sub's principal weapon, the torpedoes which speed toward an objective at 45 knots. New models have one or two guns of 3½-inch caliber or more which are effective against unarmored ships at ranges up to five miles.

Formidable on the defensive, too, the sub on the surface offers an extremely small target and can double its under-water rate of nine knots. Quick-diving, highly maneuverable when submerged, turning in a small circle, the U-boat is often successful in dodging depth-charge attacks. It can go down as deep as 500 to 700 ft.,

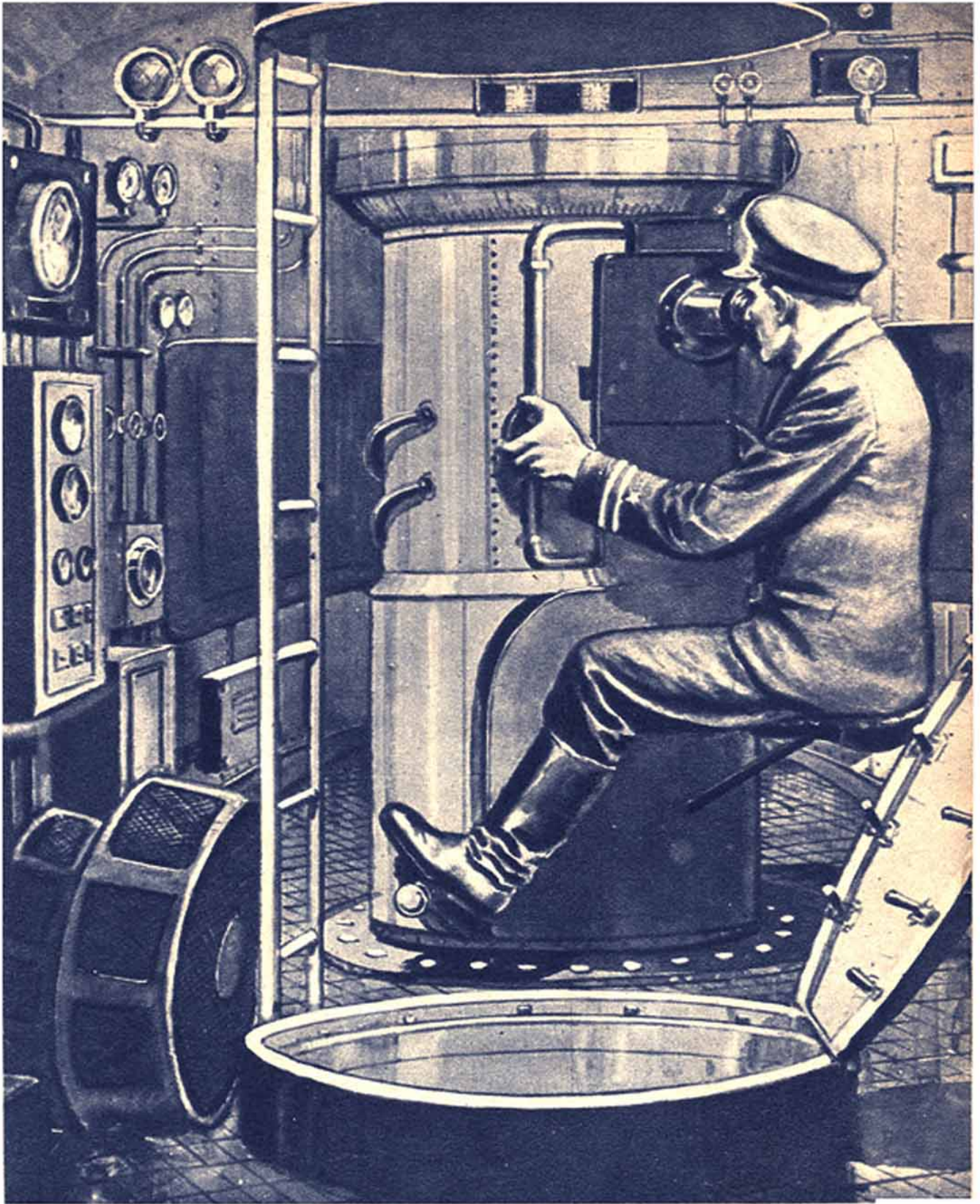
Authorities, however, know the Nazi wolf packs can be licked.

In degree, the United Nations have done so already, through convoys, through coastal patrol boats and planes, through blimps, mine layers and air transports. And as soon as we have amassed a sufficiently large number of aircraft and subchasers with special new anti-sub equipment of proved effectiveness, we'll finish the job.

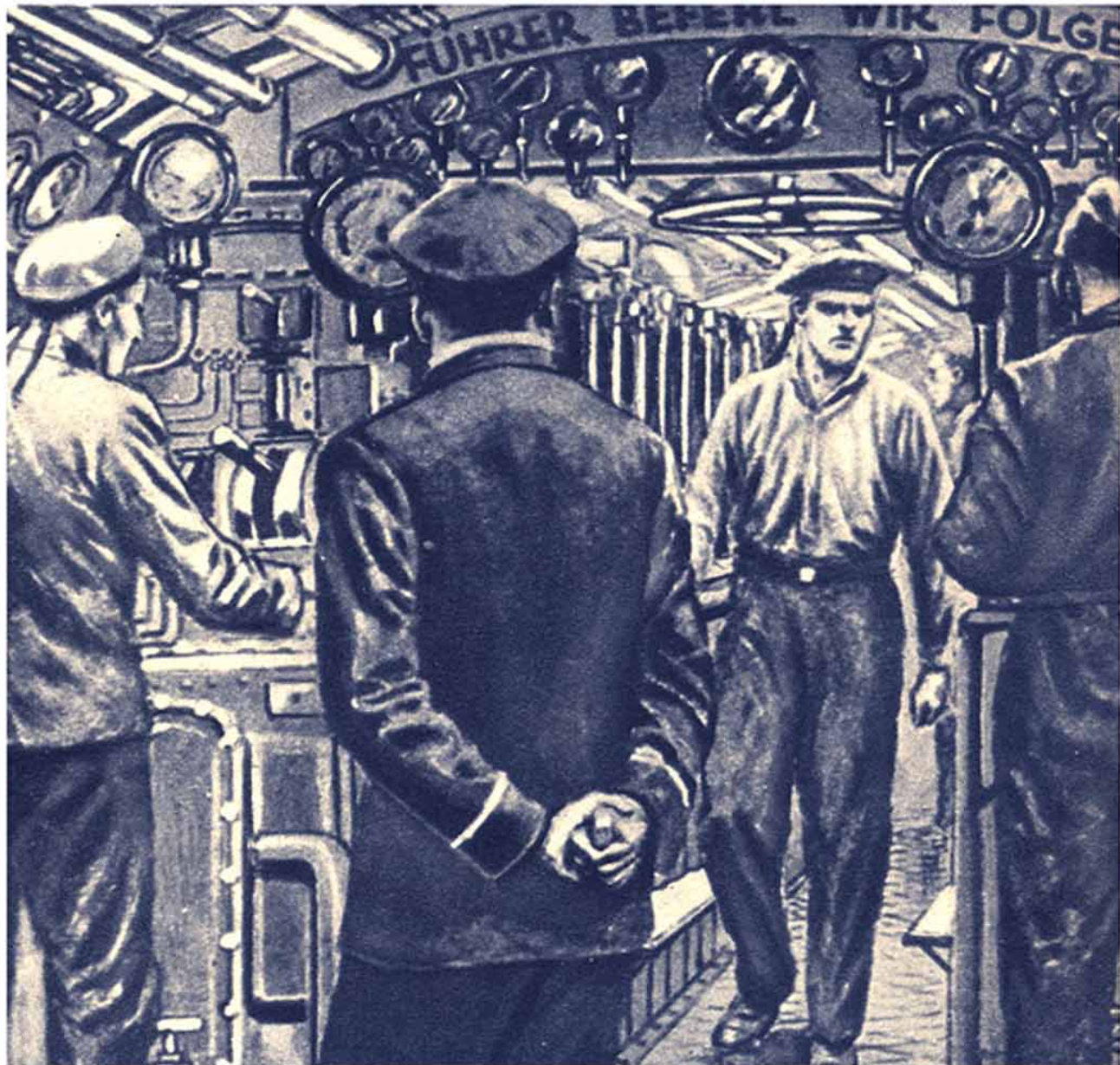


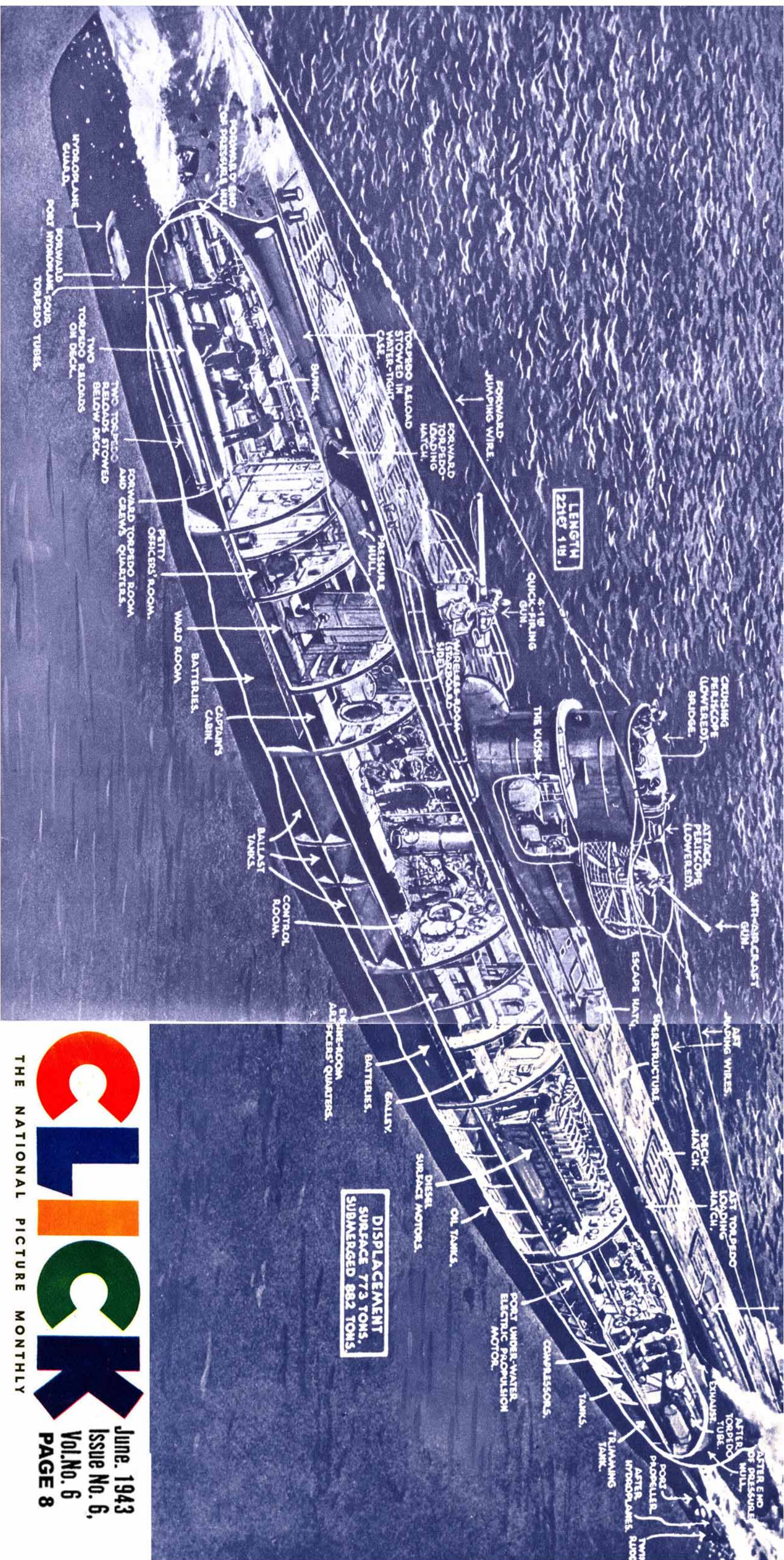
TRANSVERSE BULKHEAD
DIAGRAMMATICALLY CUT AWAY.

THE STEEL SHAFT of the cruising periscope dominates the mechanical maze of the U-boat's control room. The helmsman, left, steers by dual press-buttons. Behind him are two coxswains who handle the diving hydroplanes. Aft is casing of the attack periscope which is operated from commander's kiosk (see picture at right).



DURING ACTION, the sub's commander gets a full view of everything on the surface. He rides a full circle with the electrically-driven attack periscope. From any position the commander can read various gauges and dials, and direct the crew via voice tubes.







 THE NATIONAL PICTURE MONTHLY

June, 1943
 Issue No. 6,
 Vol. No. 6
 PAGE 8