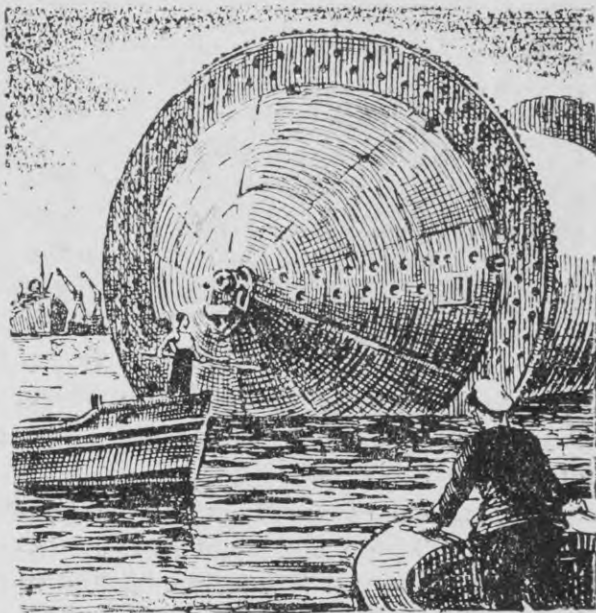


A few weeks after D-day, as soon as the mines had been swept from the approaches to the tip of the Cherbourg peninsula, Operation Pluto went into action. Several lines were established, and in no time petrol was being pumped from Britain to Normandy. Later, when Allied armies were sweeping into Belgium and Holland, the need for quick supplies of petrol in great bulk called for the laying of pipes nearer to the advancing troops. As soon as Boulogne was captured pipelines were laid, and, in the weeks that followed, Pluto's operations expanded rapidly until petrol was flowing along the pipelines from Boulogne to Antwerp, to Eindhoven, to Emmerich, and soon a million gallons a day were being pumped from the Mersey to the Rhine.

The Germans were quite unaware of what Pluto was up to, and they did not consider the harmless-looking *Conundrums* worth their attention. As secret weapons they looked far from impressive as they ploughed through the Channel in the wake of fussing tugs. Pluto's work was by no means easy, for it was often carried out under adverse weather conditions and in



*A close view of a "Conundrum"*

strong spring tides. But by VE-day over 500 miles of pipeline had been laid and millions of gallons of fuel were made available by this ingenious method for the victorious British armies speeding into Germany. Operations Pluto not only contributed in no small way to a speedy victory, but showed a new method of supply which might be of considerable use in the days of peace.

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## *It's A Way They Have In The Navy*

Sailors have queer nicknames for their ships, queer friendly names that pass on from generation to generation. Nelson's famous *Agamemnon*, the ship he loved more than any other, was known to the sailor of the day as "Aggie". Here are a few of the nicknames given to famous British ships:—

*Anson*, Annie.

*Amphitrite*, 'Am and Tripe.

*Achilles*, Egg Shells.

*Ark Royal*, The Ark.

*Chatham*, Tiddley Chats.

*Furious*, Furibox.

*Formidable*, Formy.

*Hermione*, Ermy—one.

*Hecate*, He-Cat.

*Howe*, Any ——— How.

*Iron Duke*, Tin Duck.

*Indefatigable*, Indefat.

*King George V*, K.G. Five.

*Magnificent*, Maggie.

*Mersey*, Misery.

*Queen Elizabeth*, Big Lizzie.

*Royal Sovereign*, Tiddley Quid.

*Venerable*, Archdeacon.

*Warspite*, Stodger.

*Weston-Super-Mare*, Aggie-on-a-Horse.