

The Battle of the Atlantic

During the war Great Britain got most of its food , war materials and other **supplies** from North America. **Throughout** the war Germany tried to **destroy** the ships that brought **goods** to the island. German U-boats or submarines were the biggest **threat** to the British **navy**. At first these U-boats were very **successful** in **tracking down** British **cargo** ships and sinking them. They often **attacked** in groups called **wolf packs**.

To **survive** such attacks British ships travelled in groups called **convoys**. They were **protected** by **destroyers** and also **supported** by planes. As time went on America gave British ships more and more **protection**.



British officers on the lookout for German U-boats

In 1943 the **Allies** began to **escort** the **convoys** with small **aircraft carriers**. The planes that could **take off** from the carriers and **long-range** bombers from land began to **attack** and **destroy** more and more German submarines. The **Allies** began winning the sea war also because they started using an underwater radar system called **sonar** to find the submarines. By the middle of 1943 the Allies were sinking German U-boats faster than they could **replace** them.

WORDS

- **aircraft carrier** = ship that planes can fly from and land on
- **Allies** = the countries that fought against Germany in World War II = The USA, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union
- **attack** = to use guns and bombs against an enemy in a war
- **cargo** = the goods that are carried on a ship or a plane
- **convoy** = group of ships that are travelling together
- **destroy** =to damage completely so that you cannot use it any more
- **destroyer** = a small fast military ship with guns
- **escort** = a ship that travels with another one to protect it
- **goods** = things that are produced so that they can be sold
- **long-range** = to be able to hit something that is a long distance away
- **navy**= part of a country's army that fights at sea
- **protect** =defend, guard
- **replace** =here: to get new ones
- **sonar** = machine on a ship or submarine that uses sound waves to find out where objects under water are
- **successful** =to be good at something
- **supplies** = things that are necessary for daily life , like food, clothes, medicine etc..
- **support** = help, assist
- **survive** =to live on after a dangerous situation
- **take off** = start
- **threat** = danger
- **throughout** = in all of
- **track down** = look for, find
- **wolf pack** = here: a group of submarines that travel together and attack enemy ships