

Sinking of Edinburgh

From Vice-Adml B. B. SCHOFIELD

SIR—As the author of two books about the convoys to and from Russia during the Second World War, may I comment on the statement by Mr John Bulloch (report, Sept. 18) and subsequent correspondence.

As stated by Vice-Adml J. S. C. Salter (Sept. 24) the cruiser Edinburgh was sunk on May 2 on the orders of Adml. Bonham-Carter, after she had suffered a third torpedo hit and it was obvious that there was no hope of saving her.

When first hit on April 30 the Edinburgh was some 250 miles west of the Kola inlet, so when at 6 a.m. on May 1 the two Russian destroyers forming part of the escort of Convoy QP 11 were obliged to return to Murmansk to refuel, they had some 12 hours steaming ahead of them to reach the Kola inlet.

Allowing them 12 hours to refuel, they could not have rejoined the damaged cruiser before the afternoon of May 2, by which time she had been sunk by the Foresight.

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