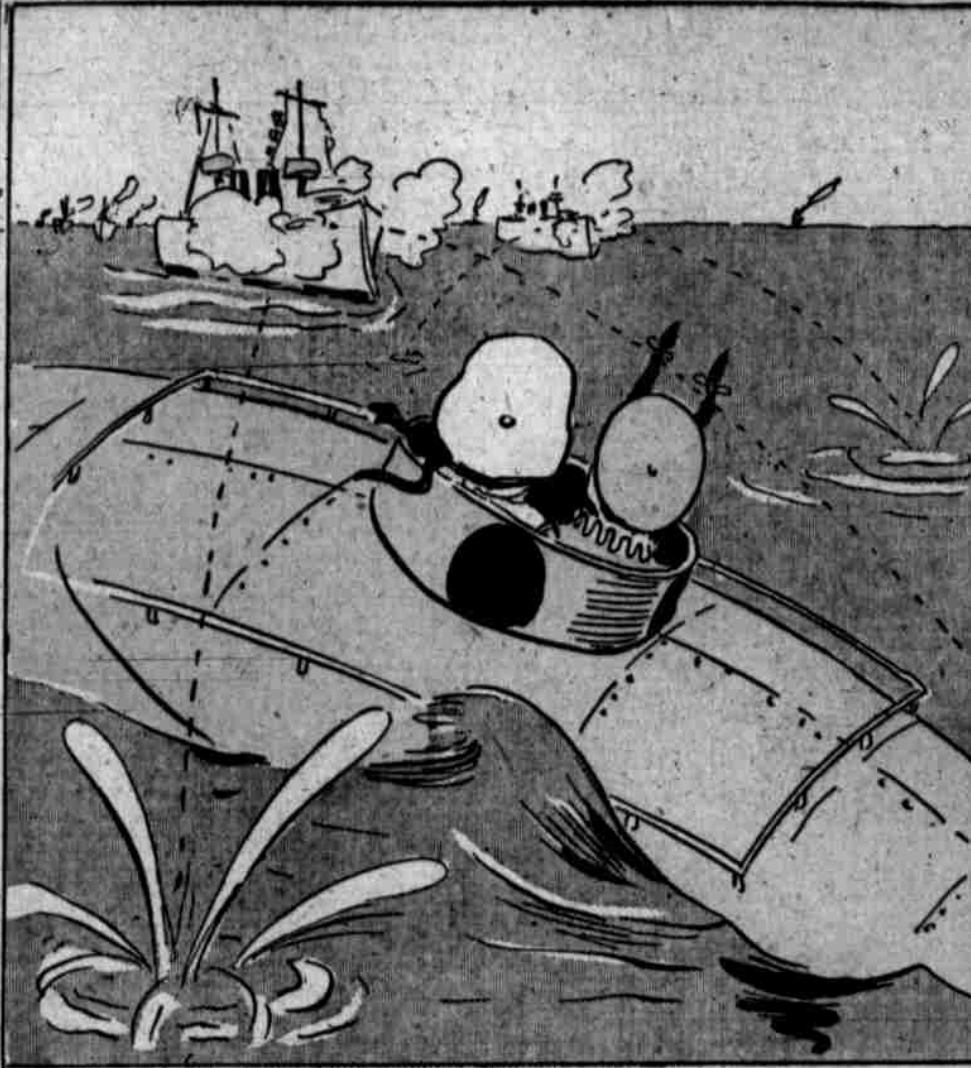


THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF BESSIE BUSYBODY



1—"O LOOKY-LOOKY!" I shouted to the captain, as we cruised along, and ran smack into a whole fleet of battleships. We were sailing in the Japan Sea, and the captain said we might get a glimpse of real war any time.



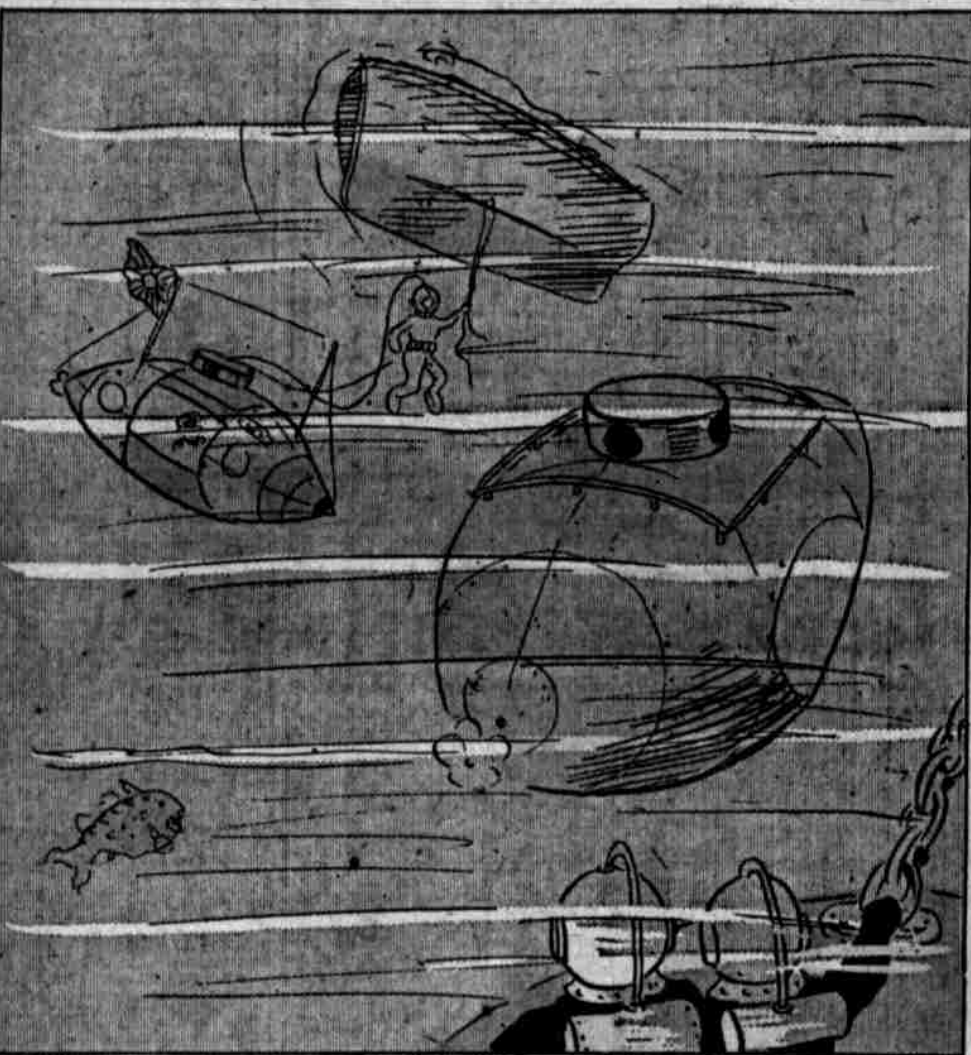
2—"WELL, SIR, what d'ye think? We hadn't any more than got within range of those Russians—for that is what they were—when "Boom! Bang!" went their guns, and the shells whizzed and screamed right by our heads.



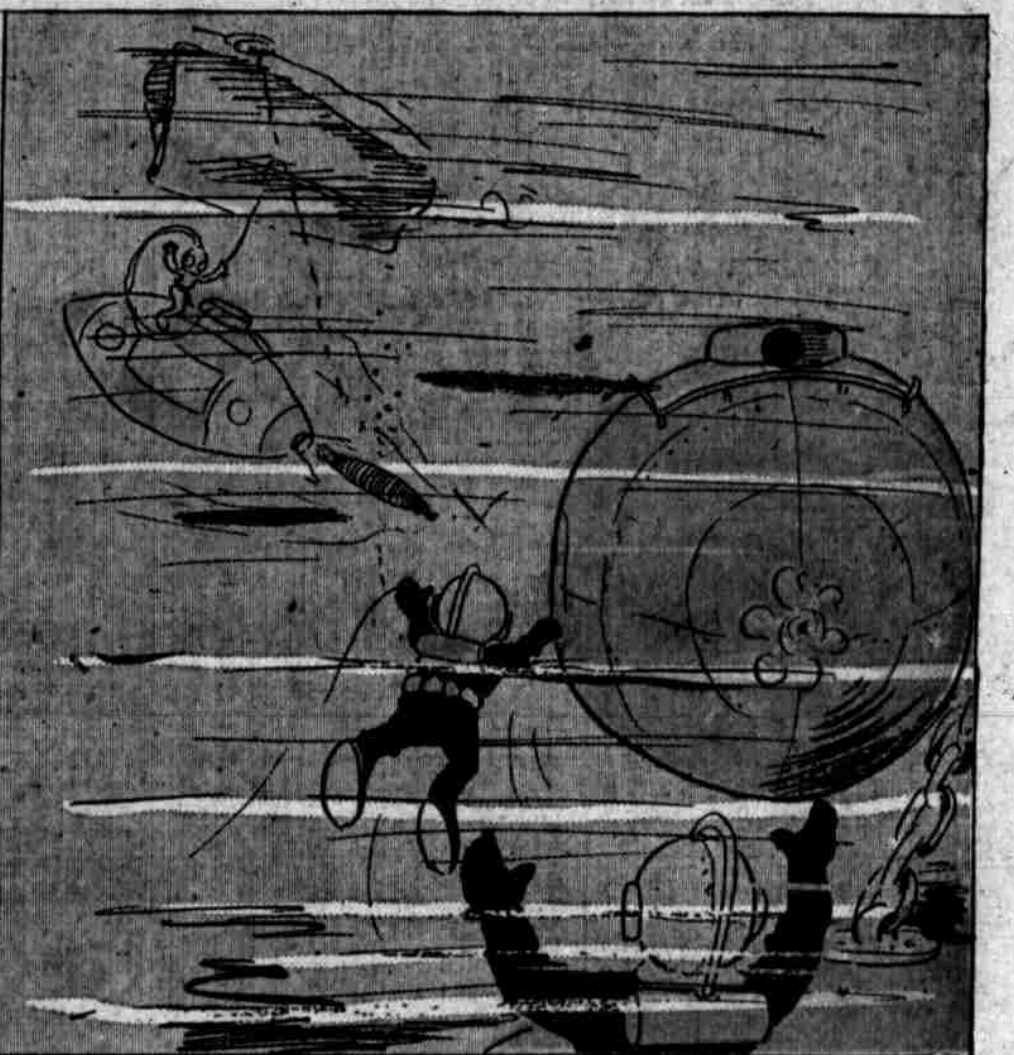
3—"DOWN, BESSIE, down!" yelled the captain. They were firing right at us. Now wasn't that awful? Might have killed us and sunk the Bessie B. before they found out who we were. Guess they took us for a Japanese submarine boat, eh?



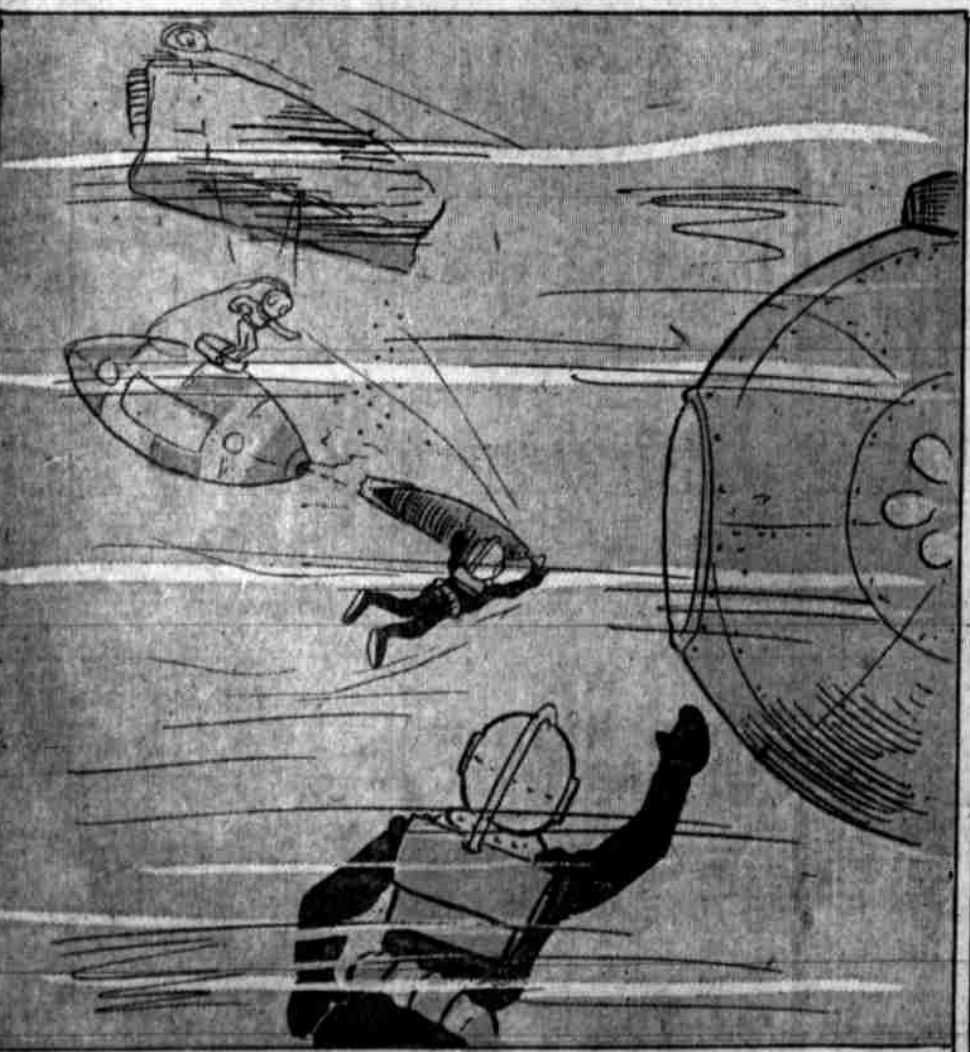
4—"WE CLAPPED down the lid and sunk the Bessie B. in a jiffy, and we could still hear their shells dropping past us. We avoided one terrible danger, only to bump into another, for there was one of those fearful Japanese mines right ahead of us. Jes' stopped in time, I tell you! Then we got into our diving suits and went out to examine the things that were blowing Russian ships higher than kites.



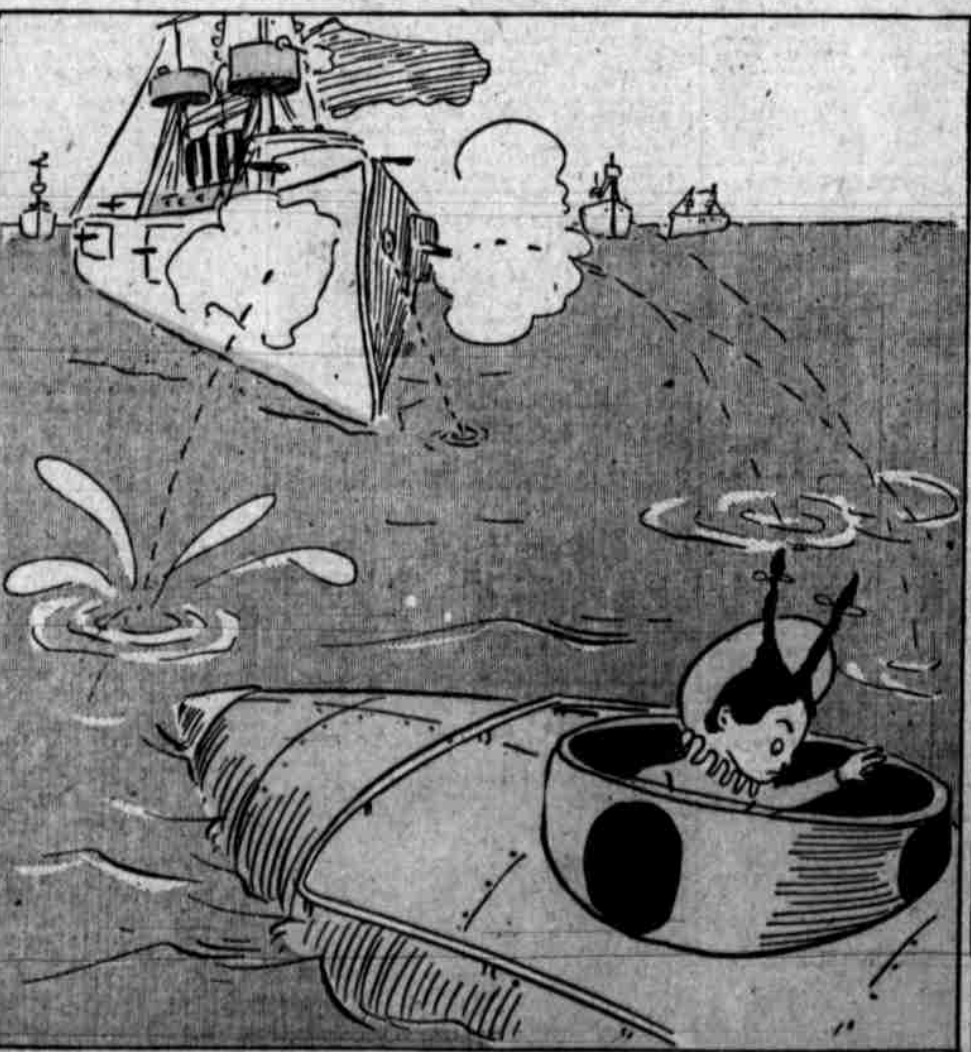
5—"WELL, WHAT NEXT, do you suppose? Another submarine! Yessiree! A Japanese submarine appeared right before our eyes, and there was a Jap in a diving suit right under the Russian battleship. Just ready to sink her, I'll bet. And when they spied us there was great commotion. Took us for Russians, naturally.



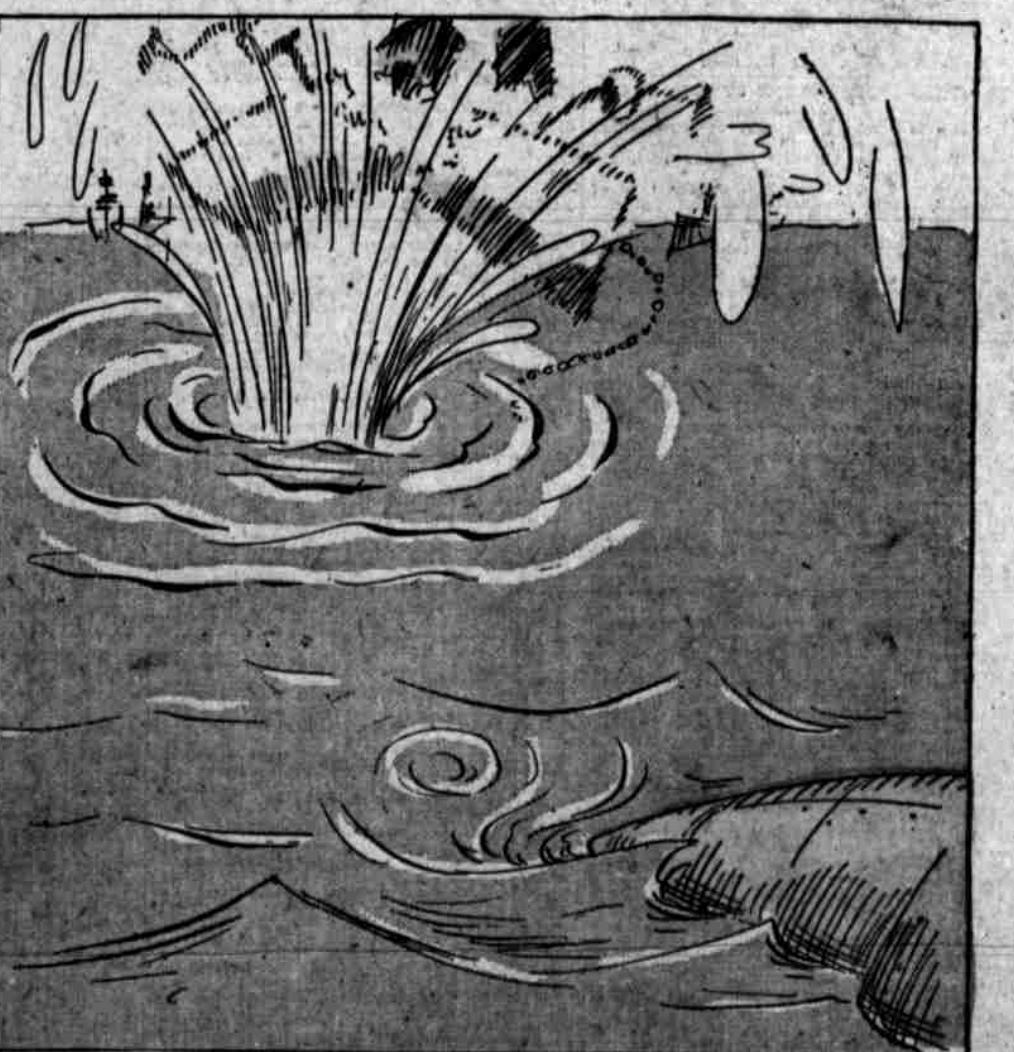
6—"FIRST THING WE knew, their boat turned her nose toward us and out came bobbing a big torpedo. Looked for a second as though we were done for. The torpedo came slowly along ready to blow the Bessie B. into smithereens. I remembered a story of how a Jap once saved a ship by pulling the war-head, or cap, out of a torpedo; so, says I, I'll try it!



7—"MEBBE I DIDN'T cut through the water, and grabbed hold of Mr. Torpedo by the head and yanked his nose out, not a second too soon. It jes' bumped against the Bessie B. hard enough to put a dent in her, and then slowly sunk. Couldn't explode without the cap, you see.



8—"THEN WE ROSE to the surface before the Japs could fire another. Again the Russian ships opened fire on us. We were surely getting it on both sides. But jes' then something we were expecting happened. There was a terrible booming, and a column of water shot up through the centre of the battleship.



9—"SHE ROSE HIGH in the air, crashed in two, and as her magazines exploded she came down into the water in a million pieces. We took that opportunity to escape, for it was not long before the other ships came rushing to the rescue, and it didn't seem like a very healthy place for a submarine jes' about that time.