



The destroyer *Karl Galster* practising manoeuvres with *Hans Lody* in the Baltic in the spring of 1941. (WH col.)

commenced another period of repairs, as defective machinery was removed and replaced with new equipment. The Easter holidays were recognized with a general easing of duties and additional goodies for our meals, but holidays they were not, and I remember having to stand watch outside the ship's arrest cell! During the evening of Easter Monday, however, I was finally allowed ashore and saw a performance of *Die Fledermaus* at the opera.

We *Kadetten* now commenced writing a series of examinations leading towards our eventual promotion to *Fähnrich* (midshipman). While writing these tests, we were required to wear dress uniform, which puzzled us,

but by now, having been six months in service, we knew better than to complain.

Towards the end of April 1941, *Hans Lody* returned to Kiel, to the crew's deep disappointment, as we had all hoped that we would go into action in the North Sea. In Kiel I was sad to see the widespread destruction British bombers had recently inflicted on the city and I wondered what the cities in England looked like. Again we engaged in various tests and exercises and practised more battle evolutions, mostly in very heavy seas that made it impossible to get from the engine rooms to the aft messdecks without getting drenched. Visits to places like Rønne on



*Hans Lody* exercising in the Baltic, being followed by the destroyers *Karl Galster* and *Hermann Schoemann* in the spring of 1941. (WH col.)

A rough sea with winds of force 8 in the Baltic in the spring of 1941. No wonder I had my first bouts of seasickness! (WH col.)