

The Winnipeg Tribune

Prairie Sailors Helped

Canadian Minesweeper Rescues Sub-Chaser

(by the Canadian Press)

OTTAWA, March 10 - The Canadian minesweeper H.M.C.S. Guysborough, braving the tempestuous seas of the North Atlantic, towed into port a United States navy sub-chaser and her 20-man crew after the sub-chaser had been at the mercy of the sea for 23 hours, drifting without communications, steering or motive power.

Guysborough, the navy said today, was bucking the heavy swells as lone escort of a merchant ship en route to an Allied port when a distress rocket flare was reported off the starboard bow.

Lieut. Benjamin R. Russell of Halifax and Red Deer, Alta., Guysborough's commanding officer, said that had it not been for the bitter winter weather conditions there would have been "very little" in the rescue task. "But in my 13 years of sea service I can't recall a rougher or colder night."

Ten R.C.N.V.R. ratings from Manitoba - eight of whom hail from Winnipeg - played important roles in the rescue.

They were: Chief Engineer Albert Sayer, Transcona; A.B. Fred Seeley, Dauphin; Ldg. Smn. Robert Lawson, A.B. Gordon MacGregor, Ord.Smn. Edward Carey, Tel. Gordon Robertson, Ldg. Sig. Alexander Gaer, Coder Tommy Ross, Sto. Howard Higgins and Sto. James Bennett, all of Winnipeg.

All agreed they encountered considerable difficulty in carrying out the rescue operations in the rough sea and ice-covered deck.

"I'd have done much better if I'd had my skates on," said Ord. Smn. Edward Carey. "The decks were a mass of ice and so slippery that it was a job to stay on your feet."

Lieut. George Whynot, of Toronto, said the problem was to get near enough to the American ship to pass a line without crashing into her.

Charles Bennett of Vancouver who fired the Coston gun that carried the towing line to the sub-chaser said it was "like trying to hit an attacking Spitfire with a BB gun." However the line landed on the deck.

(Photo caption) HELPED RESCUE: The Royal Canadian Navy minesweeper H.M.C.S. Guysborough, was praised by the Canadian and American governments for her recent rescue of a U.S. sub-chaser and crew in an Atlantic gale. Above are nine Manitobans who were aboard the Guysborough when the rescue was made. They are, front row, left to right: A.B. Gordon MacGregor, Sto. James Bennett, Sto. Howard Higgins, Tel. Gordon Robertson and OS. Edward Carey, all of Winnipeg. Back row, left to right: CERA Albert Sayer, Transcona; A.B. Fred Seeley, Dauphin; Coder Tommy Ross and Ldg. Sig. Alexander Gaer, both of Winnipeg. - (R.C.N. photo).