

## **Canadian Minesweeper "GUYSBOROUGH" Torpedoed**

Veteran of the war at sea in the Pacific and the Atlantic, H.M.C.S. GUYSBOROUGH was recently torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat while on duty in the North Atlantic. Of her complement of 90, five officers and 48 men were lost. Some were killed by the explosion, some by drowning and many others died of exposure during the black nineteen hours the crew spent in clinging to carley floats before a rescue Frigate reached them. "GUYSBOROUGH" was one of the famous Canadian Bangor Class minesweeper which cleared the way for the armada which invaded the beaches of Normandy. Twice during her busy life she was cited by the United States' Government for rescue work. Among the survivors is her Commanding Officer, Lieut. Benjamin Russell, R.C.N.R. of HALIFAX and RED DEER, ALTA, who commissioned "GUYSBOROUGH" in 1942.

OTTAWA, April 25 - Loss in the North Atlantic of the gallant Canadian minesweeper H.M.C.S. Guysborough, with five officers and 48 men out of the 90 on board was announced today by Hon. Douglas C. Abbott, Minister of National Defence for Naval Services.

One Islander, Lieut. Thomas Vincent Holland, son of Peter E. Holland, Souris, was lost in the torpedoing. He was the only man from this province on board the Guysborough at the time.

In making this announcement Mr. Abbott said: "It is a matter of deep regret to me that the first public announcement on naval operations which I have to make since assuming the office of Naval Minister is one which will bring sadness to so many hearts in Canada, and my deepest sympathy is extended to the bereaved families"

The Guysborough, twice cited by the United States Government for her part in rescue work, and participant in invasion minesweeping operations, was on detached duty in the North Atlantic when she was torpedoed by a submarine. She was the fourth Canadian minesweeper and the and the 22nd R.C.N. warship announced lost in this war.

Only one death occurred from the explosion, but many died during the 19 hours the men who had survived the explosion spent in the water clinging to the five Carley floats. Only six men of 42 on one over-crowed float lived until the rescue ship, a Royal Navy Frigate, arrived.

Lieut. Benjamin T.R. Russell, R.C.N.R. of Halifax, commanding officer of the Guysborough since she was commissioned in 1942 was a survivor

"Both the air and water were cold," said one of the survivors, Stoker Petty Officer Danny Walker, R.C.N. of Victoria, B.C. "Most of the men who died, died, died smiling. If they suffered any you never have known it."

With the whaler over turned and the ship's motor boat holed by the explosion, only the Carley floats remained for the survivors. Four of the five floats were lashed together and from these the majority of the survivors were picked up.