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HEALY

An Eastern Canadian Port – Light submarine hunts during many months at sea is the record of Electrical Artificer F.W. Hinde, R.C.N.V.R., of Toronto, who has just been promoted to that rate.

An electrical operator in Toronto's Department of Public Works before the war, Hinde saw sea time on a speedy, sub-chasing converted yacht on patrol and convoy duty in the North and South Atlantic. His most thrilling experience happened when he watched a torpedo pass right under their ship.

"It was a clear, bright day and the sea was smooth," he recalled. "We were patrolling in the South Atlantic when suddenly we sighted an enemy sub. Before we could attack her, she let go at us.

"It was a close call, and I thought for sure we were goners," he added. "The torpedo was aimed at amidships but skimmed right under our keel and kept on travelling. The water was so clear we could follow its course.

"We stood by our action stations for 36 hours that time and dropped many patterns of depth charges, but never knew if we got the sub."

On another trip they were attacked by a pack of U-boats while escorting three merchant ships. One ship was torpedoed and sunk, and they picked up 29 survivors.

"We chased one sub for four hours that time," he said, "but again we couldn't tell if we got him. If we didn't sink it, we at least frightened it and the other subs out of those waters. But I like to think that we got it."

Hinde joined the Navy in Toronto in January, 1941. His wife and mother live in Toronto.