AN EASTERN CANADIAN PORT – Chief Stoker Jean B. Robillard, R.C.N., of 2100 Gallagher Ave., Winnipeg, recently promoted to that rate, has served on more than 10 Royal Canadian Navy ships since he enlisted several years ago, but his only complaint is that "I was always below in the engine room when all the excitement happened up top."

Despite his "handicap", he has seen lots of action and boasts that each of the ships he has served on has been officially credited at one time or another with having destroyed an enemy submarine.

"I was overseas when the war broke out," he recalled, "taking a course. A few days later I was drafted to a Canadian destroyer and we started off by sinking a German sub off the coast of France. That was our first contact with the enemy and the crew felt pretty jubilant. We sunk her by dropping several patterns of depth charges."

But of all the naval engagements he has taken part in, Robillard likes best the time his ship took part in capturing a large German freighter in West Indies waters.

The enemy ship was disabled by a British cruiser which took her in tow to Jamaica. Robillard's ship stood by ready to come to the cruiser's aid if the need arose.

"But the freighter soon submitted," he said. "It was a fine show and I watched it from the deck of our ship. When the cruiser took her in tow we escorted them under the smoke screen and got them safely to port.

"At one point the freighter's crew tried to scuttle the ship with fire, but we pulled alongside and extinguished the flames."

Robillard now has more than 10 years of sea time service.

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