

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 P.M., E.D.T., Sunday, March 28th.

HEALY

An Eastern Canadian Port – Thirty-five years with the sea, Stoker Petty Officer John A. McDonald, R.C.N.R., of Montreal, who joined the navy in May, 1939, has recently been promoted to the rating of petty officer.

Although stationed on a shore job here now, he would love to be back at sea.

“They won’t let me go to sea anymore,” he says, “because I’m too old...past the age limit. But I’d sure like to.”

Born in Sydney, Australia, this 52-year-old “salt” joined the navy after more than 30 years in the merchant and Royal Navy. He left home to go to sea on a merchant ship when he was only 17, and he’s been going ever since.

He saw action in the last war as a stoker petty officer with the Royal Navy and left the merchant service just before this war to be ready to “get back in the fight”.

“I guess you could call me the luckiest tar afloat,” he says. “During all my time at sea I never once was torpedoed or had a ship sunk from under me, and that’s a record I’m proud of.”

His next-of-kin is a cousin, Mrs. J. Edwards, 1055 Minto Avenue, Montreal.