

## HEALY - for Prairies

An Eastern Canadian Port – A number of Western Canada seamen, back in Canada on survivor's leave, told today of their harrowing experiences when their Royal Canadian Navy Corvette – H.M.C.S. "LOUISBURG" – was sunk recently in the Mediterranean by torpedo.

They were toggled roughly in pieces of clothing issued them by the Red Cross at Algiers in North Africa, because they lost all their belongings in the sinking.

A.B. Donald Stewart, R.C.N.V.R. (507 Osborne St., Winnipeg) was standing by his action station on the four-inch gun deck when the torpedo plane attacked.

"I was lowering the gun when someone yelled 'Here comes a torpedo'," he said. "There was a loud explosion and a few seconds later the order was given to abandon ship.

"I was wearing my duffle coat and sea boots but didn't take time to remove them," he continued. "I headed to the starboard side and dived overboard. The ship started to sink and sucked me below the surface.

"But as I started to go down I grabbed the side of a carley float. That was what brought me to the top again. It was just like being suddenly thrown to the surface.

"In a little while 10 survivors had reached my float and we laughed and sang, hoping some ship would see us."

Tel. Kenneth Crowe, R.C.N.V.R., of Moose Jaw, Sask., (463 Stadacona St. E.) was in the forward mess deck with the ammunition supply when the torpedo hit.

"I thought at first it was a bomb," he said. "Then the lights went out and the ship started to list. I scrambled up to the starboard side by the wheelhouse. A float had just been tossed overboard so I plunged in after it and was later picked up by the destroyer.

"My biggest job," he added, "was trying to help tired seamen to climb onto the float. I was pretty weak myself."

A.B. Lorne Gibson, R.C.N.V.R., of Saskatoon, Sask. (650 Broadway Ave.) was another survivor who was almost sucked under with the ship as she went to the bottom.

"I was standing by the port Oerlikon when the plane swept in fast and dropped the torpedo," Gibson said. "There was a loud explosion and the ship listed to port.

"I followed the captain off the bridge after he gave orders to abandon ship. He went down below but I went to the starboard side and jumped in. The ship began to sink and sucked me down. But I broke away, swam to a float, and was picked up with the rest of the men by the destroyer.

"It was a close call," he added.