

Aboard H.M.C.S. “PORT ARTHUR” – Two Maritimers and a Newfoundlander, on this corvette when she sank an Italian submarine recently in the Mediterranean, told today of their experiences during the battle.

Able Seaman Thomas Brooks, R.C.N.V.R., of O’Leary, P.E.I., was in charge of an action station by the depth charges on the ship’s rail. Able Seaman Roy Lohnes, R.C.N.R., of First South, Lunenburg, N.S., manned an Oerlikon gun, and Able Seaman Uriah Hillier, R.C.N.R., of Belleoram, Nfld., was standing by the 4-inch gun.

The Port Arthur brought the sub to the surface by dropping a pattern of depth charges, and as the sub began to sink, an accompanying British destroyer administered the coup de grace with a salvo of gunfire.

“I was responsible for the rail charges,” Brooks said. “We dropped six charges and stood by to drop more. But it was just a matter of minutes before the sub came to the top and began to sink. I was excited and enjoyed it all.”

Lohnes, a veteran seaman with 16 years fishing experience behind him, watched the sub surface and sink from his Oerlikon gun station on the starboard side. He too was excited, but sorry “I didn’t get a chance to fire on the sub.”

“There was just no need in firing, so the order wasn’t given,” he said. “But I was all set.”

Hillier was also disappointed at not getting a chance to fire his 4-inch gun.

“All I wanted was to get a shot at the sub,” Hillier said. “We were all excited and just waiting for the order to fire. I even had a projectile in my arm and all was set. But the charges had done the job.”