

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 P.M., E.D.T., Monday March 29th, 1943

HEALY

A cheerful little Irish terrier named "Looie" and a playful black kitten, the mascots of H.M.C.S. Louisburg, died in action at sea.

Although two men gave valuable minutes of their time after the ship was hit, Looie, lost in the darkness of the petty officers' mess, barking wildly from the shock of the exploding torpedo, had to be left behind. The kitten, accustomed to curling up for a nap when the men were up on deck, was not seen.

As the ship first closed action stations for practice, A.B. John Charlton of Montreal tucked the terrier inside his duffle coat to keep him safe. He was Charlton's special charge. When the attack developed, he turned Looie over to A.B. Albert Ruthven, R.C.N.V.R., of London, who had a standby station.

Ruthven was knocked down the gangway to the petty officers' mess, and Looie broke away. After a frantic search in the darkness, Ruthven was forced to abandon the pup to save his own life.