

WEST COAST ADD

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HEALY

Petty Officer James McNeney, R.C.N., of New Westminster, B.C., Louisburg's yeoman of signals, was on the bridge.

"Most of us were watching the plane come in and most of us saw the torpedo drop," he said. "But there was no time to dodge."

"I'd like to pay tribute to one of the lads who didn't survive. He was on one of the Oerlikons on the bridge wings. After the captain gave the order to abandon ship he stuck grimly to his gun, determined to get the aircraft. He was Stanley Benjamin of Saint John, N.B. I don't know whether he got over the side, but he didn't survive.

McNeney destroyed his confidential books before leaving, and was not far from the scene of the sinking when the boiler burst. "It knocked the wind out of me, and I couldn't seem to fight. Charlton reached over and pulled me up."

Another instance of "coast to coast teamwork" occurred when A.B. Hubert Rhodes, R.C.N.V.R., of New Westminster, B.C., teamed up with A.B. Earl Griffin, R.C.N.V.R., of Dalhousie Jct., N.S., to set the depth charges to safe as the air action started.

"His work probably saved lives later," said Rhodes. "He was by the depth charge rails when the torpedo hit, and was lost."

Petty Officer A. McIntyre, R.C.N., of Victoria, B.C., was standing by the flooding valves. He escaped "without incident". A.B. Elvin McLean, R.C.N., also of New Westminster, was standing by at the bottom of the four-inch magazine, ready to pass up ammunition. "I didn't know what had happened until the lights went out," he said. "I had farther to come than anyone else – but I didn't take long. On the way up I closed the water-tight door, but that didn't take me long, either!"