

Spikenard Survivors Vow to Even Score

By LOUIS HUNTER
 LONDON (CP Cable)—Survivors of the Canadian corvette Spikenard, torpedoed and sunk during a submarine wolf-pack attack on a convoy in the north Atlantic, spent 18 1/2 hours adrift on a half submerged float. They buried two of their companions at sea after stripping them of their clothes to cover their own scantily-clad and shivering bodies. The gallant little ship went down three minutes after the

torpedo struck and all but eight of the crew of 67 men aboard perished in a sea blanketed by midnight darkness.

(Lieut.-Com. Bert Shadforth, commander of the Spikenard and brother of Capt. Percy Shadforth of Victoria, and Lieut. Patrick R. Milthorpe of 615 Hampshire Road, were among those lost when the corvette was torpedoed.)

The men aboard the Spikenard had only the barest chance of saving themselves and the eight alive today had an astonishing escape. Many of them were asleep when the torpedo ripped into the side of the vessel just below the bridge. The explosion splintered the port lifeboat and flames from the forepart of the vessel engulfed the starboard lifeboat.

Chief Petty Officer Alex Day, 34, of Verdun, Que., stokers Red MacMillan, 22, of Mount Stewart, P.E.I., George Morrison, 22, of Pictou, N.S., and others able to get away were left with only a float and a raft which they barely had time to cut adrift.

Their desperate plight ended the day after the torpedoing when they were picked up by a British corvette, hours after their hopes had been falsely buoyed by the appearance on the horizon of an aircraft which disappeared without sighting them.

CONVOY GOT THROUGH

Day, MacMillan and Morrison passed through London last night at the end of their leave on their way back to sea and Canada, determined to even the score for their friends whom the Nazis killed. They told the first story of the desperate U-boat attack which failed to halt the passage of the convoy their ship was escorting.

Slipping tea in the fore-cabin of one of London's gloomy railway stations while they waited for a train to take them to a British port, they told their story.

Day, a stocky veteran, said: "The torpedo struck, the explosion awakened us and when we reached the deck we saw other Canadian corvettes attacking submarines to port and starboard."

DRAGGED DOWN

"The Spikenard immediately started sinking. One lifeboat was smashed by the explosion and the other lifeboat was aflame.

Day had no time to clear the raft before the ship sunk. He floated off on it and was dragged down in the suction of the sinking vessel until an underwater explosion blew him to the surface again.

"I got clear of the wake and when I made the surface I heard

voices and saw MacMillan, Morrison and others, on the float," he said. "I swam over to the float and when I reached it they were changing to the raft. They pulled me out and we heard cries over the water, but the voices faded and died before we could locate them."

Morrison interjected: "Only three of us left the ship together. We picked the others up in the water."

"We huddled together for warmth and tried to sleep," Day continued. "In the morning we had bully beef, biscuits and water. An aircraft flew along the horizon during the day, but flew away without seeing us."

Four of the men aboard the raft were so badly burned they required hospital attention when eventually they reached shore. During the time aboard the raft the others did their best to keep the injured men warm and alive. They described their discomfort on the raft simply as "considerable."

NO COMPLAINTS

"There were no complaints whatsoever," Day said, and MacMillan added: "The only thing we wanted was a cigarette."

The men told of two of their companions who died on the raft only on condition that their names be withheld.

"When we picked them up we found they had been badly injured by the explosion," Day said. "One died at 5 a.m., the other at 11 a.m."

"We buried both at sea. We stripped them of their clothing because we were so cold, then said a prayer and lowered them into the sea."

There was no panic and no shouting when the Spikenard was hit, "Just men working in silence to get the rafts and floats free," Day recalled.

"I would like to say," he said, "that the crew of the British

Sub-Sinker Promoted

WASHINGTON (AP)—Identity of the laconic navy man who reported a few days ago "sighted sub, sank same" was disclosed today. He is Donald Francis Mason, aviation machinist's mate first class, who blasted the submarine in question with depth bombs. He has been advanced to the rating of aviation chief machinist's mate and commended for meritorious conduct in action. The commendation told the story of Mason's attack.

Jap Boats Sold

VANCOUVER (CP)—More than 100 Japanese fishing boats have been sold or disposed of to naval authorities, A. E. McMaster, executive assistant to the Japanese fishing fleet disposal committee said today. Inspection of vessels by prospective buyers has been speeded up during the past week, Mr. McMaster said. The boats were ordered impounded when Japan entered the war.

Foreign Exchange

NEW YORK (AP)—Foreign exchange late rates: Canadian dollar in New York open market 11 1/2 per cent discount or 88.75 U.S. cents. Europe: Great Britain, official (Bank of England) Foreign Exchange Committee rates, buying \$4.02, selling \$4.04 open market; cables, \$4.04.

London Market

LONDON (AP)—The stock market closed at a higher level today, with recovery for the week and furnishing important buying support. British funds held well throughout the session as did most of the foreign bond group. Inactive South American rails showed moderate improvement along with most home industrials and rails. Cals firmed up toward the close. Kaffirs were strong and most of the rubbers found support. In sterling: Austin A 15 1/2, Babcock & Wilcox 4 3/4, Bata 3 1/2, B.C. Central Mining 11 1/2, Consolidated Gold 3 1/2, Courtauld 2 1/2, Crown 1 1/2, De Beers 1 1/2, East-Grand 1 1/2, H.B.C.



H.M.C.S. ICEBERG—Hunting down U-boats and protecting convoys in the north Atlantic are cold jobs in wintertime. Here a corvette, fresh from patrol duty, arrives in port.

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