

# Canada Supplied 29 Ships And 3,000 of Her Sailors For North African Action

## Corvettes Louisburg and Weyburn Lost— Three Enemy Subs Sunk and Fourth Listed as Probably Destroyed

London, July 6.—(CP)—Three thousand men and 29 ships—that, in cold statistics, was the Canadian naval contribution to the conquest of North Africa. To them in the Mediterranean, the figures credit three sunken enemy submarines, the probable sinking of a fourth, the probable damaging of a fifth. From their ranks, the figures say, fell the corvettes Louisburg and Weyburn.

### Score Decorated

Of these ships, 27 were corvettes and two were destroyers.

Of these men, more than a score won decorations, including two D.S.O.'s, three D.S.C.'s and two D.S.M.'s.

The human story of these seadogs and their diminutive fighting craft is the story of harsh action on the sea and in the air, of shepherding convoys, of combating the forces that endangered the line of supply, of landing American shock troops on a dubious seacoast.

Canada's navy, as world navies go, is a fleet of flyweights. Her work is the tedious, thankless task of the convoy. Her role in the African victory was that of protecting the supply line which nourished the British divisions in the field.

She first sent 17 corvettes into the struggle, scattered through a vast British fighting force. One combined escort group came out of the campaign with a record of 12 convoys conducted to their destinations with the loss of one merchantman.

The new corvette Ville de Quebec got the first enemy submarine January 13 by a combination of depth charges, gunfire and ramming. Six days later, the Port Arthur depth-charged another U-boat to the surface and a British destroyer gunned it to defeat.

In her command, the Port Arthur has the first Canadian naval man

to win both the D.S.O. and D.S.C. in this war—Lieut. E. T. Simmons, a former Victoria interior decorator.

The count rose to three February 8 when the Regina pounced on an Italian submarine. The damaged U-boat was credited to the Camrose and the "probably destroyed" to the Woodstock.

The corvette Louisburg fell to German aircraft in defence of a convoy February 6. Her commanding officer and 38 others were lost.

Loss of the Weyburn was due to enemy action of an undisclosed nature. Her commanding officer and six others were lost and an eighth victim died in hospital.

For many of the Canadians who took the Americans ashore in landing barges it was Dieppe over again. Many were commended for keeping their craft running in the face of fire from the shore.

Of Canadians flying with the fleet air arm, Lieut. R. E. Jess, of Quebec city, was recently awarded the D.S.C. for his work against enemy shipping. Lieut. H. A. L. Tibbetts, of Fort Frances, Ont., was mentioned in dispatches for his services off North Africa.

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