

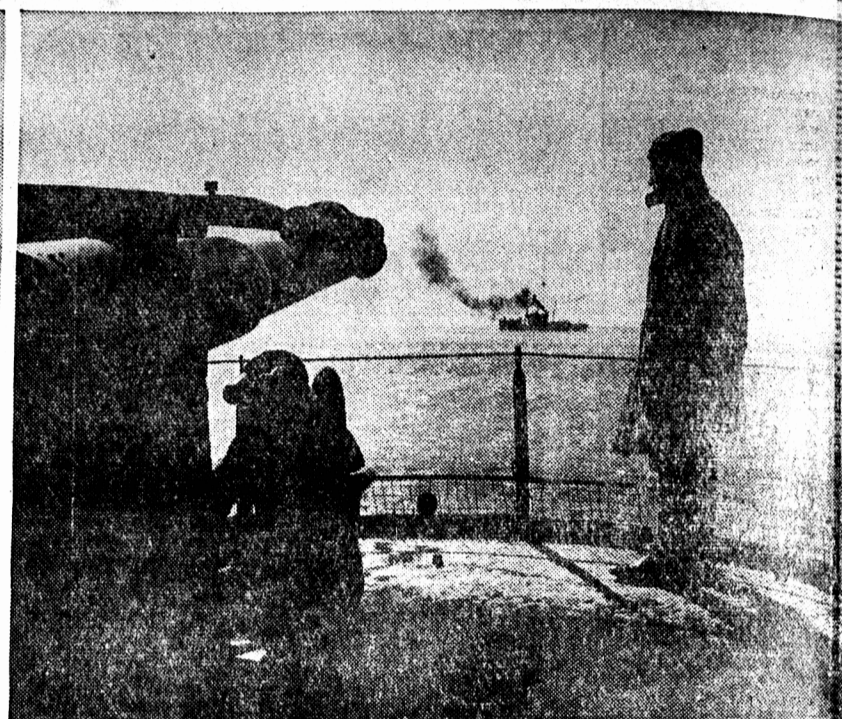
Canada's Merchant Marine Stout Link in Perilous Atlantic Life Line



Captain L. H. Johnson, Vancouver, merchant ship skipper.



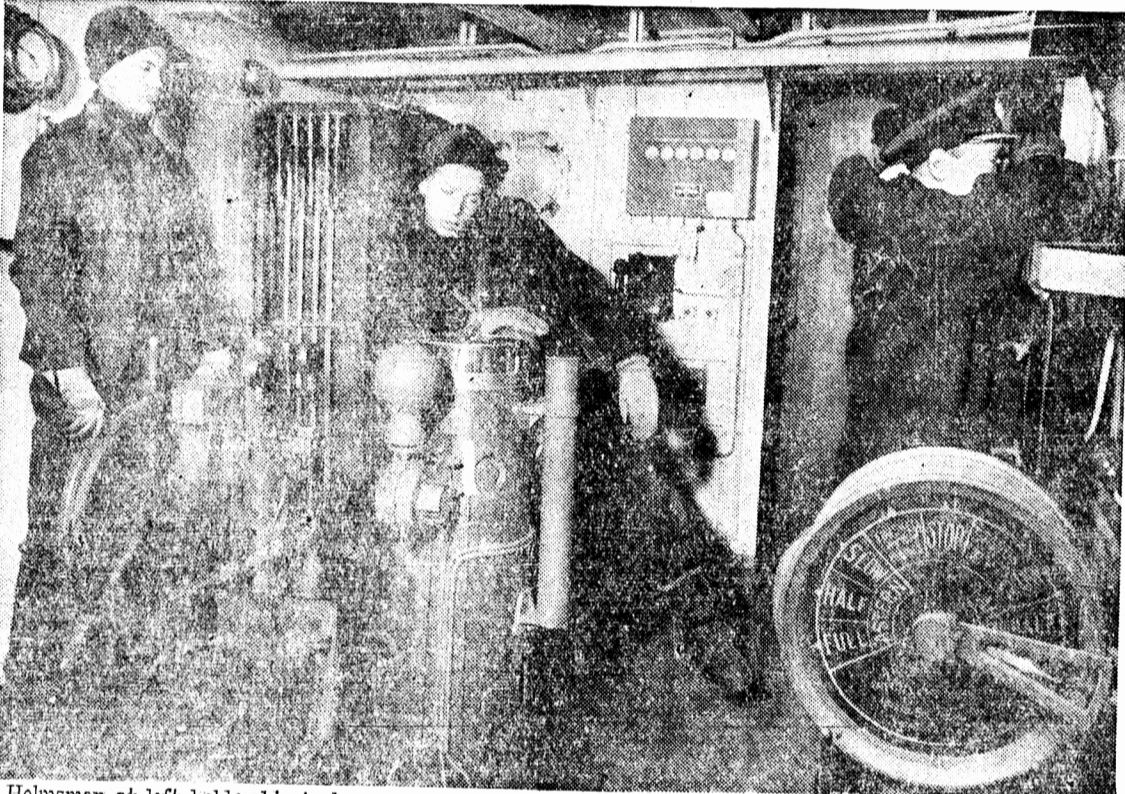
Able Seaman Roy Hopper, 21, of Saskatoon is a member of the R.C.N.V.R. assigned to defensive gun duties aboard one of Canada's merchant ships, built at yards at Levis, Quebec. She sailed across Atlantic laden with cargo of "mixed dynamite"



Beside deck gun on a Canadian merchant ship a sailor keeps watch for signs of enemy submarines. Astern is a Canadian corvette sweeping the seas around the convoy, crew, guns and depth charges ready for instant action to protect ships.



Able Seaman John McLeish at 58 a veteran of two wars.



Helmsman at left holds ship to her course as second officer leans back to read compass. Skipper, right, keeps watch with glasses for signs of enemy action.



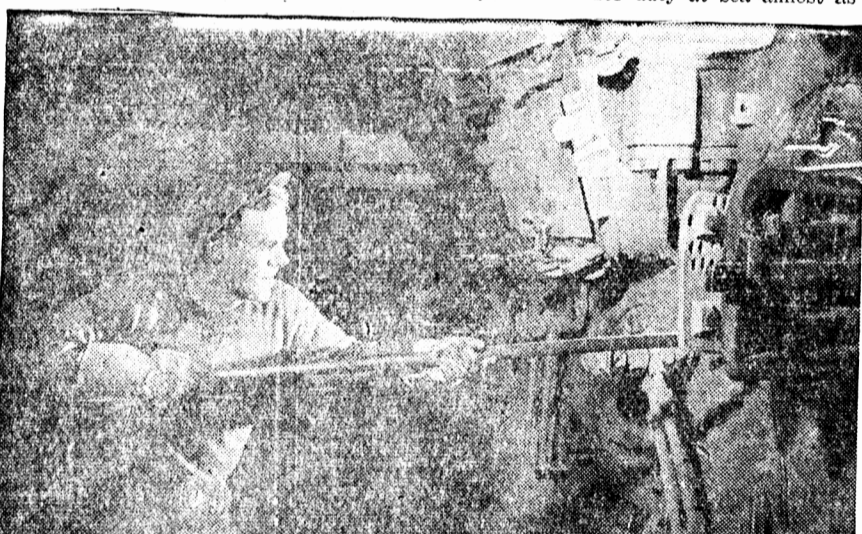
The Bos'un keeps sharp eye on Fanny, the ship's cat. Last time she skipped a ship it was sunk immediately after. The Bos'un has already been torpedoed twice.



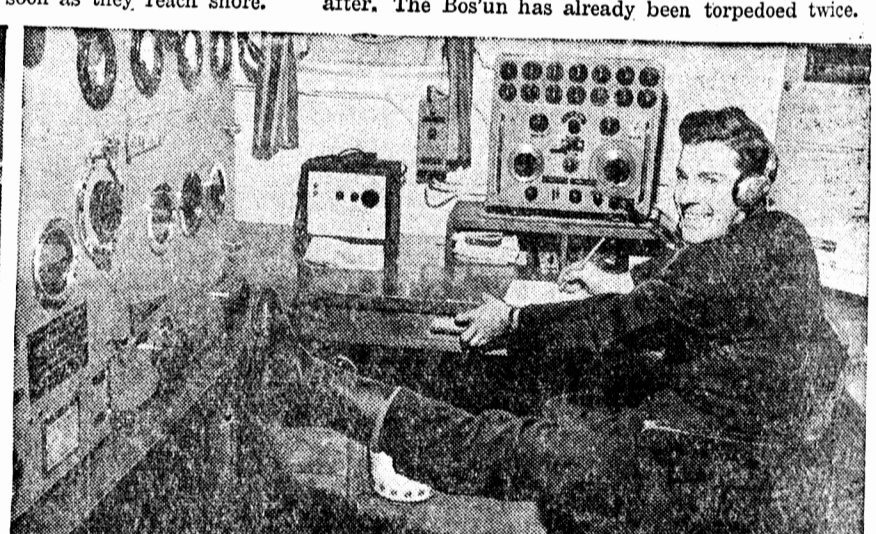
"Mister" Oliver, the chief officer, checks a compass.



Pat McHenry, 29, of Scotland, chief radio operator. These are men of Canada's growing merchant marine. Victories to them mean successful convoy crossings.



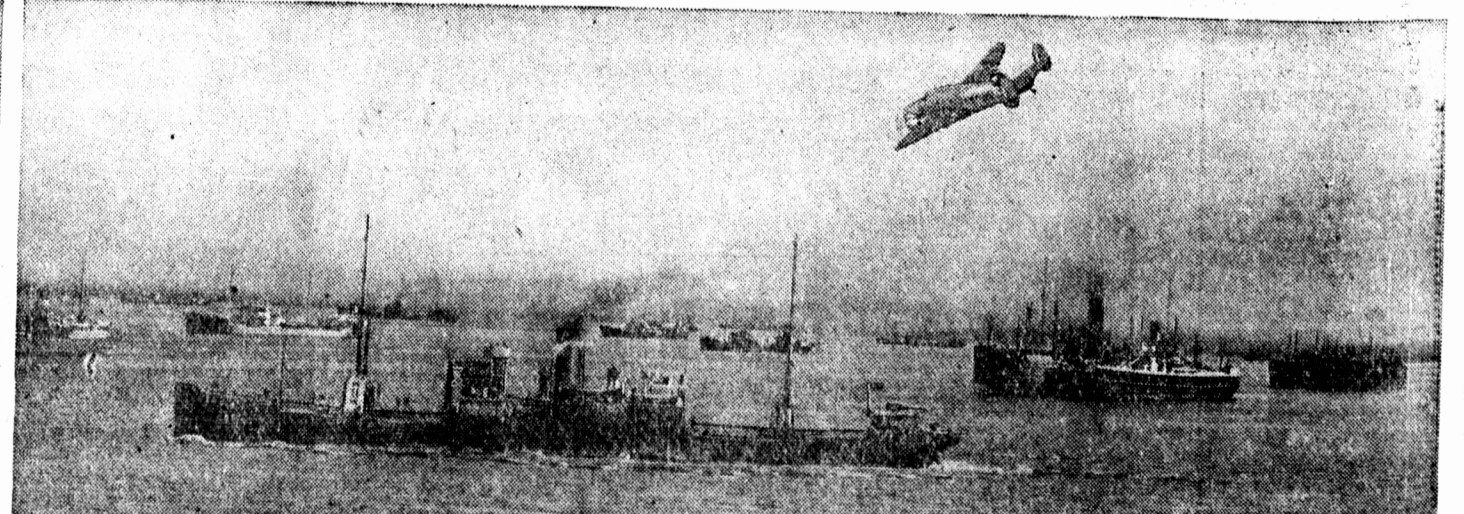
Far below decks in the stokehold the black gang keeps steam up. Ship is a coal burner, and finds trained stokers are becoming scarce because of inroads made in modern shipping by automatic oil firing. Contrary to belief hold was cold.



Radio Operator Art Sim of Toronto braces himself against the roll of the ship as he receives a message. At sea convoy run into cold weather and temperature dropped to twenty below. Distilled sea water took place of ship's frozen supply.



"Mug up time" means cup of hot tea and a joke for three of the ship's officers. Warming his hands, right, is Chief Engineer T. Atkinson, London, Eng. Centre is Asst. Radio Operator, N. McLachlan, Toronto, right, Chief Officer W. Oliver of B.C.



At a Canadian Port a convoy gets up steam for an Atlantic crossing. Manning the ships of the Canadian Merchant Marine are sailors from across Canada. Guns of merchant ships are manned by men of RCNVR.

Crews are made up of officers young as 21, seamen in their fifties, veterans, some of them, of the sailing ship days. Despite danger of an Atlantic crossing they are a cheerful lot, hard working and modest.

National Film Board Photos by Nicholas Morant