

SANK U-BOAT

New Assiniboine Recalls Notable Single-ship Action

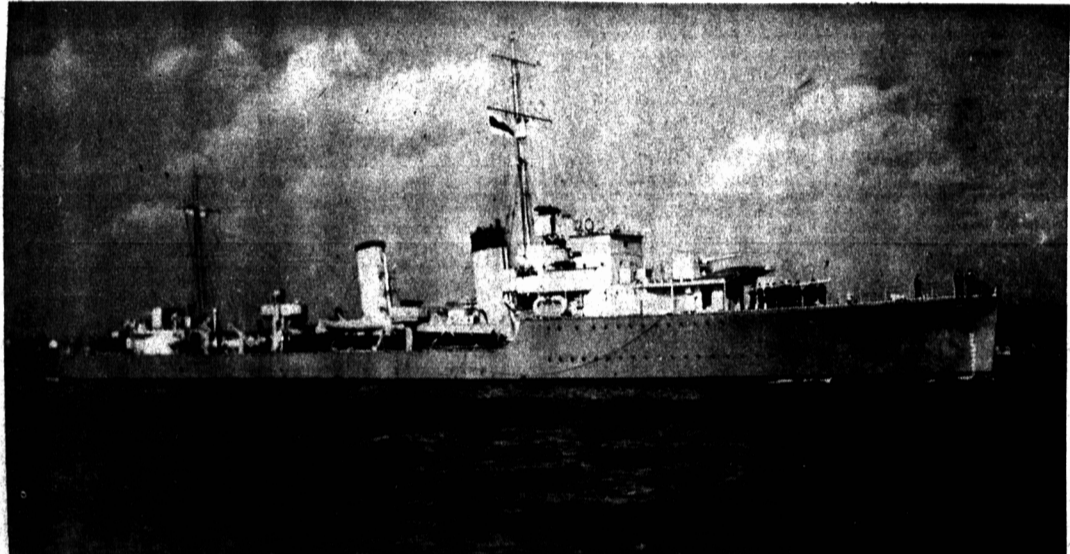
Fourteen years ago this August, a Canadian destroyer, H.M.C.S. Assiniboine, fought and sank a Nazi U-boat in one of the most notable single-ship actions of the Second World War.

The fame and honor won in that and other actions during the war will be passed on to another warship at Sorel, P.Q., on August 16 when Destroyer Escort 234 is christened Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Assiniboine by Mrs. Lionel Chevrier, wife of the President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.

The new Assiniboine, the second ship to bear the name, will be commissioned immediately following the christening ceremony, thus becoming the second of the Canadian-designed destroyer escorts to enter service. The first, H.M.C.S. St. Laurent, was commissioned last October. Twelve others are in various stages of construction.



STREAMLINED SUCCESSOR — The second HMCS Assiniboine differs greatly from her predecessor in appearance, and vastly more so in equipment, weapons and living and working arrangements. The ultra-modern destroyer escort commissions August 16 at Sorel, P. Q. (National Defence Photo).



SERVED WITH DISTINCTION — A dramatic and successful engagement with a U-boat highlighted the career of the first Assiniboine. In six years of wartime service, the destroyer saw duty in the Caribbean, in the North Atlantic and in European waters.

libean with Royal Navy units blockading German ships caught in that area by the war. She took part in the capture of the German merchant ship Hannover, which was set afire by its crew when intercepted. The fire was put out after a long struggle by the combined efforts of the ships' companies of the Assiniboine and the British cruiser Dunedin, and the Hannover was saved from destruction to become the first of a long line of R.N. auxiliary aircraft carriers.

Following this episode, the Assiniboine began a lengthy period of service on the North Atlantic convoy routes. In August, 1941, she was one of the destroyers assigned for escort duties at the historic Churchill-Roosevelt Atlantic Charter meeting, and had the honor of em-arking the British Prime Minister for several hours in Icelandic waters during his return voyage.

A year later, the Assiniboine was involved in the U-boat sinking which won fame for herself and her commanding officer, the late Lt.-Cdr. John H. Stubbs, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.C.N.

The late Dr. Gilbert Tucker, official naval historian of that day, was taking passage in the Assiniboine at the time. A veteran of the First World War who had faced German fire before, Dr. Tucker marvelled at the battle. He described the contest of weapons and the manoeuvring in the mist-shrouded seas as the destroyer hounded the evasive submarine.

The U-boat manner her guns, but the range was so short that the heavy armament on both sides was able to play only a relatively

minor role. The effective fire came chiefly from short-range weapons. "In the Assiniboine," said Dr. Tucker, "nothing was left undone which might add to the discomfort of the enemy. Even depth charges were lobbed over the side, one of them actually landing on the submarine's deck."

"The U-boat was too close for the destroyer's torpedoes, and too far away to be smacked with an oar; but everything else was tried."

At last, after much manoeuvring the Assiniboine succeeded in ramming and sinking the U-boat.

"Throughout the action," noted Dr. Tucker, "the Captain, high on the bridge, stood fully exposed down to the knees. Time and again the bridge was deluged with machine-gun bullets, most of which were probably aimed at him. Yet he never took his eye off the U-boat and gave his orders as coolly as though he were talking to a friend at a garden party."

Lt.-Cdr. Stubbs later lost his life in the sinking of the first H.M.C.S. Athabaskan in an English Channel action.

The spring of 1944 found the Assiniboine still serving on the Atlantic convoy routes. Later in the year she was assigned to duties in support of the land campaign in Europe. Other tasks included interception patrols and further convoy duties which took her to every part of the British Isles, to the North Sea, Iceland and Gibraltar.

On one of her patrols off the French coast, the Assiniboine was hit during an engagement between Canadian destroyers and enemy trawlers. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

Following repairs and a brief patrol, she returned to Plymouth in time to sail, August, 25 as close escort to H.M.S. Warspite (battle-

Truman Will Announce His Choice For Pres. Nominee

CHICAGO (AP)—Harry S. Truman arrived with flourishes Thursday on the scene of next week's Democratic party convention—and promptly reached out for a king-maker role.

Before next Saturday, the former president told a press conference, he hopes and expects to announce his choice of a party presidential nominee. The convention opens Monday.

Truman's timing for abandoning the neutrality he has maintained for months left no doubt that he hopes to have a decisive hand in swinging the nomination. Supporters of Adlai E. Stevenson, who has the most committed convention delegates, are hoping for a nod from Truman as the possible clincher for a first-ballot victory. They were making no claims they would get it, though.

Backers of Governor Averill Harriman of New York also were hopeful Truman would bestow his hand in swinging the nomination. Supporters of Adlai E. Stevenson, who has the most committed convention delegates, are hoping for a nod from Truman as the possible clincher for a first-ballot victory. They were making no claims they would get it, though.

At the end of the war she was at sea on patrol. On her return to Canada, she began a ferry service from Newfoundland to help relieve the pressure on commercial transportation systems.

Finally sold as surplus, she was taken in tow from Sorel, P. Q., to Baltimore for breaking up. By a trick of fate, she was not to leave Canada.

On November 7, 1945, strong winds parted her from the towing vessel and she went aground. She still lies, bows to the west, directly south of the eastern end of South Lake, two and one-half miles west of East Point, Prince Edward Island.

To her successor, the old Assiniboine left a heritage of renown and the battle honors: "Atlantic, 1939-45"

"Biscay, 1944"

"English Channel, 1944-45"

blasting on their man and strength, then his runner-up position. They made no claims, either. But at Harriman headquarters one of them said that since the Truman press conference there had been "more smiles around here."

Truman would not say at his press conference whether he thought the party platform should carry full endorsement, as Stevenson proposed Tuesday night, of the Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools. Truman did say the platform should be "very specific and plain on civil rights."

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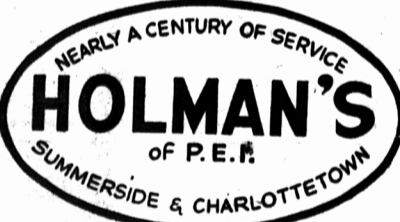
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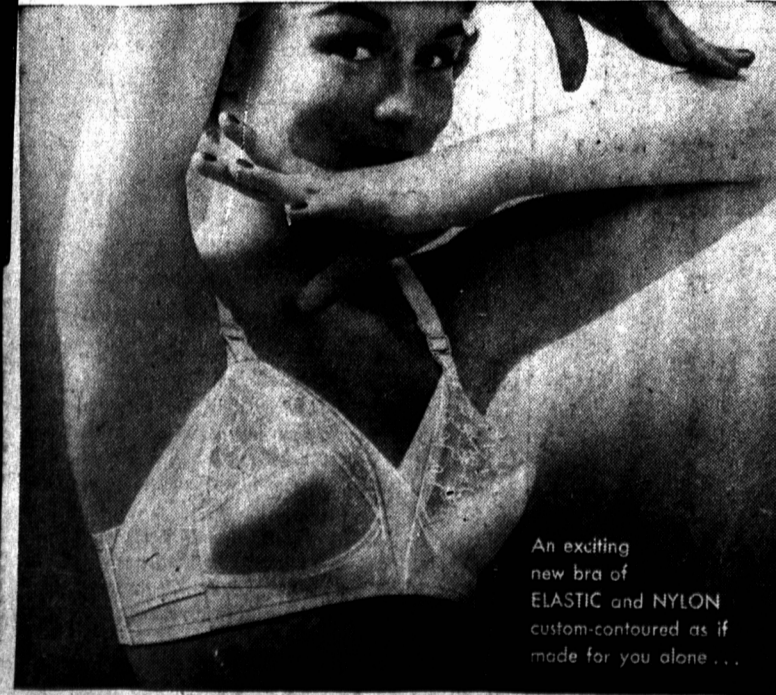
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