

CONVALESCENT HOME NEEDED

Merchant Seamen Wounded As Two U-Boats Shell Ship

Kenneth Nixey, a youthful but experienced merchant seaman from Belfast, Ireland, wishes a convalescent home was available for Allied fighting men recovering from battles in the Atlantic at Halifax.

His left arm riddled by machine gun bullets when his ship went down under enemy fire in the South Atlantic several months ago, Nixey got out of a Halifax hospital recently, but is unable to work his way back home because of injuries received to his arm.

Seaman Nixey tells of the attack

on his ship. "Our ship was shelled by two enemy submarines at night. I was lying on the hatch. It was too warm in the bunks. I awoke to find a hail of bullets had ripped open my left arm," he said.

The Irish seaman said shipmates fought the submarines an hour and a half with one deck gun before the ship finally sank beneath the water. He said the starboard lifeboat stuck as the ship became a mass of flames.

"Seamen dived overboard. The machine-gun, riddled lifeboat was finally cleared from the ship. We rowed away and searched for those in the water. We found the Captain on a liferaft and the Chief Officer hanging to the raft with one hand, the other mangled by bullets. Sharks were swimming near him," said Seaman Nixey.

Nine men were pulled from the sea. Nixey said one of the submarines came so close to his boat, crew members could have touched it with their hands. "The Captain, who was swimming with the Mess Boy, a lad of 15, said he saw one of the subs pass over the seaman. We were finally picked up and taken to a West Indies port. Several crew members are still in hospital recovering from wounds received in the shelling," said the youthful seaman.

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