

# Blazing Tanker Came Home by Pole Star

## JERVIS BAY CONVOY EPIC RECALLED

THE story of how seamen salvaging a 10,000-ton motor tanker brought the vessel back without a sextant was told to Mr Justice Langton in the Admiralty Court to-day.

It was revealed that the ship was kept to an easterly course by the Pole star, with a check by the moon and sun, and the salvors' diet consisted of boiled onions and potatoes.

The incident occurred after the attack on a convoy in which the Jervis Bay, out-gunned and silenced, gallantly drew an enemy's fire, allowing most of the ships in convoy to escape.

Mr Arthur Godfrey Hawkins, second officer of the 10,000 ton motor-tanker San Demetrio, belonging to the Eagle Oil and Shipping Company, of London, with 14 others of her crew, and the representatives of John Boyle, a greaser, who died, claimed salvage remuneration for bringing their disabled and burning vessel home after her master had ordered her to be abandoned.

### WENT ABOARD AGAIN

Mr Justice Langton said the Jervis Bay fought an action with an enemy warship which did great service to the convoy.

Mr Hawkins said there were 38 ships in the convoy, and his own lifeboat passed two perilous nights before they picked up their ship in flames and went on board to sail her in a continuous north-westerly gale.

Mr Justice Langton mentioned that the tanker was worth more than a quarter of a million pounds, and she had a cargo and freight worth over £60,000. She was brought home with 10,000 tons of oil still in her.

Counsel said he had heard that having got back to the vessel the salvors found it too dangerous to light the galley fire and lived mainly on cold vegetables.

Mr Hawkins replied that buckets of boiled onions and boiled potatoes came up occasionally.

### WITH SCHOOL ATLAS

Describing the attack, Mr Hawkins said that the first salvo when attention was directed to the San Demetrio straddled the tanker, and the third holed her on the port bow, just above the water line.

The enemy had so surely got the range that the captain, seeing the ship was petrol-laden, ordered the crew to abandon ship. She burst into flames as their boats fell astern. Shells passed over the boats in the night while the raider continued her bombardment.

After two days the salvors

# Births, Marriages In Memoriam

The charge for BIRTHS, BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, IN MEMORIAM NOTICES, BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES, and CONDOLENCES (authenticated by name and address of sender) is 3/3 for three lines or less and 1/3 for each additional line or part thereof. REMITTANCES SHOULD BE BY CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER CROSSED AND MADE PAYABLE TO HULL "DAILY MAIL."

## BIRTHS

TIFFIN.—On Jan. 14th, at Townsend M.H., to Mr and Mrs R. Tiffin (nee Hepple), a son (stillborn). P16

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

DEIGHTON.—George, missing H.M.S. Forfar, 32 to-day. Happy birthday, sweetheart. God send you back to me from over the mighty sea.—Your loving wife, Amy, David, and Malcolm. P16

DEIGHTON.—Birthday greetings to our dearly loved son and brother, George, 32 to-day, missing from H.M.S. Forfar.—Somewhere above is a star on its own, waiting to guide you all the way home.

—Loving mam, dad, Fred, Eva and Gladys. P16

DEIGHTON.—Greetings to George on your 32nd birthday missing H.M.S. Forfar, dear son-in-law and brother-in-law of Mr and Mrs Carter and family.—Although your distance is many a mile we still can see your cheerful smile. P16

## MARRIAGES

BUTTIMER—HUNTER.—On Jan. 13th, at St. Nicolas Church, Hornsea, Capt. William James (Bill), R.A., son of Mr and Mrs W. Buttimer, to Sylvia Mary, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs R. R. Hunter, Grimsby. P16

WHITELAM—BUSBY.—On Jan. 11th, at St. Columba's, William Arthur, only son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Whitelam, to Irene, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. R. Busby. P16

## DEATHS

BARRICK.—15th Jan., at B.R.H., Susannah Barrick, aged 79 years. Resting Brown's Chapel of Repose, Newland. Cortege leaves 2, Ferngrove, Cave-street, Saturday, 2.10. Interment Western Cemetery, 2.30. P16

BILTON.—Jan. 14th, at New Holland, Harold, 53 years, youngest son of the late William Bilton. Service New Holland Church, 2.0 p.m., Saturday; interment Barrow Cemetery. P16

A stand-up meal  
for an  
all-night  
worker

2/6 AND 6/6

Fry's  
Sandwich

After two days the salvors came up again with the tanker still burning aft and glowing hot amidships. Bridge, compass, steering and wireless were gone, and petrol spurted through the holes in the deck.

Mr Justice Langton: You did 700 miles with a ship in this state and the charts burnt?

Mr Hawkins said they found a sixpenny school atlas on board, which proved very entertaining.

#### DYING MAN CARRIED ON

Mr Justice Langton said the greaser, Boyle, died in the owners' service. He was injured by the activity of the boat in the sea, but carried on in the engine room for three days. He was buried at daybreak on the morning of November 14.

Mr Hawkins said a destroyer met them in Blackshod Bay, a coast watcher having seen a white tablecloth displayed from the ship. His deck crew, suffering the greatest handicaps, behaved magnificently.

One of his men had three broken ribs, but seemed to be blissfully ignorant that he was hurt. Another went to hospital for exposure, and the third engineer had "trench feet."

"Twenty-six," Mr Hawkins answered when the judge asked him how old he was.

Mr Justice Langton: I should like personally to congratulate you upon your magnificent effort, and the Elder Brethren sitting with me would like to do the same.

Mr R. F. Hayward, K.C. (for the owners): And may I for the Bar, offer to you my congratulations, and all your company, on your splendid work.

# Chocolate

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