Scuttling of Pocket Battleship in Montevideo Harbor Was Ordered by Hitler

By FRANK LOWE Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, April 25 (P) After German pocket battleship Graf Spee was scuttled in the outer ful twists. reaches of Montevideo harbor In Fighting Trim reasons of national prestige.

the story of the chase down the fighting efficiency. a trio of pygmy cruisers.

rather a blow to the fighters in the Commons that "strong re- she was facing.

with words who have cited the incident as proof of the effectiveness of the propaganda weapon.

Their story is that when the eight-inch cruiser Exeter and the six-inch Ajax and Achilles, under the then Commodore H. H. hardwood, first contacted the battleship December 13, 1939, they predded the unusually silent Admiralty into releasing the story immediately.

From then until December 17 when the Graf Spee committed suicide in a spectacular pall of smoke and flame at the mouth of the River Plate they ballyhooed five and one half years, the Royal the story with admittedly false, Navy reports officially that the but what they thought then use-

because Hitler personally decided | Their justification for this was however, don't think much of the Nazi ship could not afford that the Graf Spee undoubtedly the theory. Langsdorf was frightto be beaten in a stand-in fight would have come out shooting ened. They admit the story of by inferior British forces for had she known for sure what "reinforcements" got wide play an inferior force faced her. She and was backed by the highest Official sources here say that was in fighting trim. Uruguayan authorities, but point out these when the raider ducked into the experts who inspected her on ar- accounts were questioned even Uruguayan refuge her skipper, rival reported she had 15 large at the time by British and Capt. Hans Langsdorf, immedi- and small shell holes in her port friendly newspapers. ately got on the trans-Atlantic side and 12 on her starboard The eight-inch cruiser Cumtelephone to Hitler. By that time side, but these did not affect her berland was the closest to the

French battleship Dunkerque Janeiro 1,000 miles away. On the basis of that decision and "several" British cruisers-

TO SAN FRANCISCO

Through the Golden Gate to the Pacific slope's

colorful, cosmoplitan metropolis of a million and

a half free Americans, come the statesmen of

forty united nations to the San Francisco Con-

Many of these foreign ministers, diplomats and

ference on World Security.

common purpose, they will plan the foundation and set up the preliminary

organization for the future peace and security of all peoples—to cement

This gathering of international figures—the greatest since the ill-fated

Versailles meeting, may well be the prelude to the Peace Conference of

Teheran . . . Bretton Woods . . . Dumbarton Oaks, and the Crimean

Conference at Yalta, from which came San Francisco . . . these were

the milestones along the way to this conference which history may

The world should remember that Woodrow Wilson went to Versailles

alone—but in the United States delegation to San Francisco there will

be many men of many minds, but Americans all.

Canada's delegation too will be large and representative.

delegates have travelled from recently liberated lands. Activated by a

unity and end insularity among nations.

the second World War.

make the greatest of all.

#### FOUR YEARS AGO IN THIS WAR

By the Canadian Press April 25, 1941—United States extended naval patrols in the Atiantic and Pacific for protection of the Western Hemisphere. The last of British troops in Thermopylae area of Greece were withdrawn and embarkation of troops started from beaches in Attaica, Argolis and the Peloponnesos.

SOUTH AFRICAN PLANNING

CAPE TOWN, P-E. E. Beaudouin, the French town-planning expert has arrived in South Africa to advise the city council of Cape Town on the planning of the new foreshore area.

inforcements "were enroute." Hard-headed naval tacticians.

action and it was already known South American coast was head- So official Admiralty commun- that she had taken the place of lined in every newspaper, so Ber- iques were issued saying strong the damaged Exeter which suflin decided too much unfortun- reinforcements-supposed to in- fered 64 of the 75 British dead ate publicity would result if one and the mighty Ark Royal, the in the action. The Ark Royal and of their prize ships fell victim to 16-inch Renown, the 13-inch Renown were oiling in Rio de

The Germans, being in a neutnaval talticians are willing to were on their way to bolster the ral country, would know this just credit propagandists with an as- watch on the River Plate. Prime as well as the British-so the sist on the kill, but no more— Mini er Churchill himself said Spee had no illusions as to what of 42 on one over-crowded float seen again.



NAZI U-BOAT SURVIVORS Survivors of a German submarine, sunk by the Canadian corvette St. Thomas in the Atlantic, cling to rubber rafts as they await rescue by the ship that put them in their plight.

## Canadian Minesweeper Torpedoed

Continued from Page 1

spent in the water clinging to pel, R.C.N.V.R., of Kitchener, five Carley floats. Only six men Ontario. Lieut. Rumpel was not

R.C.N.R., of Halifax, command- glimpse of the submarine. He saw Hastings St., Vancouver. ing officer of the Guysborough its periscope for a few brief secsince she was commissioned in onds before the torpedo hit the ADAM, George Frank, Mechan-1942 was a survivor.

"Both the air and the water were cold," said one of the sur- most instantly. vivors, Stoker Petty Officer Was Built at Denny Walker, R.C.N., of Vic- North Vancouver toria, B.C. "Most of the men who died, died smiling. If they suffered any you'd never have known it."

With the whaler over-turned of the Bangor class, steam- West 14th Ave., Vancouver. and the ship's motor boat holed by the explosion, only the Carvivors. Four of the five floats submarine duties. Under the cap- Vancouver. these the majority of the surhours after the men abandoned ship only 10 men remained alive on the one over-crowded Carley float. Four others died before rescue came.

#### Harrowing Experiences

Through the long night the men bore their plight calmly. In the crowded float they took turns slipping over the side and coats were removed from the dead to cover the helpless living There was a moderate sea and swell running and no one could keep dry.

Exposure accounted for the largest number of deaths. Survivors were unanimous in saying that those who died did so ficers of the British flotilla, who Duncan. quietly and with little apparent told their crews that they had suffering. Two of those lost were taking passage—an officer and a rating of the Royal Navy.

At eight o'clock in the morn- ally cited by the United States C.N.V.R. Mrs. Mary J. Brumpton ing an aircraft was sighted but government for rescue work. The (wife), 413 Oak St., New Westit failed to see the floats. It first was for saving the crew of minster. was afternoon before a British a disabled U.S. Navy subchaser WALKER, Dennis. Gerald, frigate arrived, first taking on and towing the vessel to port. The Stoker Petty Officer, R.C.N. Mrs. board the men from the four second was for towing to safety Ruby E. Walker (wife), 3259 Elfloats which had been lashed an American liberty ship crippled don Place, Victoria. together and later the six survivors in the fifth.

Men were so weak they could not climb up the scramble nets and had to be hauled on board by lines.

Once on board, they received every comfort the ship could provide. They were given hot baths, clothing, blankets, hot soup and other food. The Royal Naval officers and ratings gave over their bunks to them, some of them sleeping on the decks. The ship made a search for the German killer and then hastened to a British port where the wounded and weaker members of Guysborough were taken to hos-

When the torpedo struck the Guysborough so much debris littered the decks that the captain, Lieut. Russell, at first glance thought his ship had been the victim of two simultaneous torpedoes.

It looked at first as if the ship would survive. Guns crews were closed up, water-tight doors were closed, bulkheads shored up and every effort made to save the little vessel.

There was just one reported fatality from the torpedoing. although some members of a gun's crew were injured and the gunnery officer, Sub.-Lieut. C. L. Potter, of Hamilton, Ont., was blown to the top of the bridge, fell off again onto the deck, broke his thigh, but survived.

during the 19 hours the men The captain was with the first lumbia in the loss of H.M.C.S. who had survived the explosion lieutenant, Lieut. Oscar N. Rum- Guysborough:

lived until the rescue ship, a Stoker Petty Officer James Lieutenant (E), R.C.N.V.R. Mrs. Royal Navy frigate arrived. Squibb, of Brockville, Ontario, Sally M. Bell-Irving (wife), c-o-Lieut. Benjamin T. R. Russell, was the only survivor to get a Hy. Bell-Irving & Co. Ltd., 989 W.

> ship. It was about a half mile off ician -st Class, R.C.N. Mrs. Hilda the port bow and submerged al- C. Adam (wife), 1735 Denman St.

BARNETT, Charles Austin, Able Seaman, R.C.N.V.R. Mrs. Mary Barnett (mother), 2951 Guysborough was built in the Parker St., Vancouver.

Ship Repairs and was commis- Leading Coder, R.C.N.V.R. Mrs. sioned on April 22, 1942. She was Madeline Crosson (mother), 3925

ley floats remained for the sur- for both minesweeping and anti- (mother), 2312 East 46th Ave., were lashed together and from tain who was with her until she | GIBSON, Alvon Robert, Ordin-

> patrolling the Pacific along the couver Island. British Columbia and Alaska HAMILTON, William Ainslie, E.R.A. 5th Class, R.C.N.V.R. Wil-

fax and was part of the fleet Woodstock Ave., Victoria. of minesweepers which balked | HUNTER, William Alexander, | the attempt of the Germans to Able Seaman, R.C.N.V.R. Mrs. seal Halifax harbor with a mine- Elizabeth Hunter (mother), Anderson Ave., Port Alberni.

After further months of patrol | McCUTCHEON, William Albert, and escort duties in the Atlan- Leading Writer, R.C.N.V.R. Dr. tic Ocean, Guysborough proceed- Robert H. McCutcheon (father), ed overseas for invasion opera- 675 Davie St., Vancouver.

tions. Along with H.M.C.S. Geor- | NEUFELD, Arthur, Stoker 1st gian, she was attached to a Royal Class, R.C.N.V.R. Mrs. Katherine Navy minesweeping flotilla. Neufeld (mother), 7630 Main St. When they left to join a Cana- Vancouver.

mally thanked for "loyal and de- Seaman, R.C.N.V.R. Mr. Allan voted service" by the senior of- Payne (father), 47 McKinstry,

SURVIVORS-UNINJURED Ratings

been a credit to the Canadian BRUMPTON, Asa Gordon, En-Guysborough was twice offici- gine Room Artificer 4th Class, R.

by collision in convoy. Casualties, . Survivors

and survivors from British Col-MISSING

#### Officers

BELL-IRVING, Richard Morris,

Victoria.

yards of the North Vancouver CROSSON, Abraham Bullard,

powered, with displacement of GARVEY, William, Signalman about 700 tons and equipped both R.C.N.V.R. Mrs. Blanche Garvey

was sunk in the North Atlantic, ary Seaman, R.C.N.V.R. Ingvald vivors were picked up. Seven Guysborough spent her first year J. Gibson (father), Youbou, Van-

Next she operated out of Hali- liam G. Hamilton (father), 1150

dian flotilla the ships were for- PAYNE, Harry Alvin, Leading

### First Canadian to enter Fort Dufferin in Mandalay was F/O S. A. Pettit of (57 Murray St.) Brantford, Ont. While Punjabi troops still were seeking Japanese in the big enclosure, he went in to see at first hand the success of bombing which

R. C. A. F.

Mess Room

he had helped to direct from the ground. Since completing a tour as VICTABUL pilot of a Hurribomber last December, F/O Pettit has been attached to headquarters of Maj .-Gen. Rsses, commander of the 19th Indian Division whose

troops liberated the Burma city. Pettit's job of using radio to achieve pinpoint accuracy in air attacks is a new departure for the Burma war theatre. From selected vantage points in frontline positions, the visual controllers observe the accuracy of bombing and inform pilots of particular spots which need attention.

"When we first started directing the strikes on Mandalay we set ourselves up in the racecourse grandstand," said the fly-Following is a list of casualties ing officer.

"Then we looked back and there was the infantry advancing behind us! No repeat thanks! I'm no hero.

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