

RELEASE DATE: Saturday May 12, a.m. 1945

WITH THE CANADIAN 65TH M.T.B. FLOTILLA IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL—

A motor torpedo boat manned by Royal Canadian Navy personnel and commanded by Lieut. Archie Byers of Vancouver has gone on record as being the first Canadian M.T.B. to sink a German midget submarine, one of the two-man subs operating against shipping in the English Channel

Veterans of many actions with German E-boats and R-boats up and down the French and Belgian coasts since months before D-day, officers and men agreed it was the easiest action they ever fought – and the most enjoyable. They sank the sub while on night patrol.

“We were just sitting there when the midget passed down our starboard side about 40 feet away,” Lieut. Byers said. “It was on the surface and at first we thought it was a buoy. We turned around to investigate but it passed us again too quickly for us to fire. We made a third attempt to get at him and opened fire at 150 feet. We fired everything we had at him.

“After our first barrage only six feet of his bow was out of the water,” Byers added, “so we opened fire again and filled it full of holes until it just disappeared. Then to make doubly sure we went over the spot and dropped depths charges.

“It was a definite kill, all right. The night was flat calm, and we were so close we couldn’t miss.”

-30-