



## Features

At the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy where subsequently he was given a command, a position he held until the end of hostilities. In November 1941, he was in command of the newly-commissioned HMCS *Red Deer*, (right), a Bangor class minesweeper based in Halifax. This was Arthur's third command.



On the night of 11th January 1942, she was at sea off Sable Island when a signal was received 'to proceed with all despatch' to search for survivors of the SS *Cyclops*. Arthur takes up the story: 'We were about 250 miles north west of her last known position. This was a great surprise, we had been aware that enemy submarines had been moving slowly westwards but this was only 200 miles from the US coast, a long way from Cape Race, Newfoundland, where they had last been seen. We now know that this was the first wave of them to hit the US coast, with strict orders not to attack anything until they got there and so give the game away. I guess that Kapitan-Leutnant Hardegen couldn't resist the *Cyclops* steaming merrily for Halifax, and sank her with two torpedoes. So off we went at our best speed and very fortunately I got a brief sight of the moon near the meridian through the clouds and so was able to correct my latitude with the result that we found the survivors at about 4pm. There was a mess of boats and rafts – what a slim thread that life hangs by! Were it not for that glimpse of the moon, I'd have missed them by 10 miles and with the early January darkness setting in, a long search would have ensued. 'Some of the boats were awash and full of dead men, lowered in a panic, I would think, but we ended up getting all the surviving officers who were on rafts (below) and about 70 of the Chinese crew and passengers. About the same number were left behind dead.'

Only two men died on the *Cyclops* as a result of the torpedoes, the rest of the casualties succumbing to hypothermia, having spent nearly twenty four hours in swamped boats, biting winds, spray and poor clothing. One of the survivors was the Cadet, DH Stewart, who, later that same year, survived the sinking of the *Glenorchy* whilst on a Malta convoy. He was also mentioned in an article in the last *Cadet*. Capt DH Stewart RNR, as he became, was awarded the CBE on his retirement in the mid 1970s. For those of us who left The Ship in the years following the war, these survivors of the Atlantic Battle, who rarely mentioned their war experiences, attempted to teach us and make us into ships' officers. Now most of the survivors like Arthur Moorhouse and DH Stewart have left us to join their former shipmates who didn't make it. Those of us who subsequently sailed more peaceful seas remember them with respect and gratitude.

