

HMCS Iroquois—The Aftermath

by J. L. W.

ON BOARD HMCS IROQUOIS— The toughest part of the Iroquois' fight with a shore battery began when the fight finished.

The Iroquois, with an American destroyer escort, USS Marsh, was making a daylight interdiction bombardment on a coastwise stretch of the main North Korean railway line. Some time previously HMS Charity (destroyer) caught a train on this section of line and blasted it and several hundred yards of track, successfully cutting the Reds' principal east coast line of communication.

The interdiction task, which the Iroquois and Marsh were carrying out on the afternoon of October 2, was designed to keep that line cut. Working parties could be seen in the area, toiling to get the line back into service. The Iroquois, with the Marsh supporting, opened up with her 4-inch armament and sent the road gang scurrying for cover.

The shore battery fired on the two ships as they were turning to seaward, the operation just about finished for the day.

Close on the heels of a couple of ranging rounds, a shell hit "B" gun deck. It killed Lieut.-Cdr. John Quinn and AB Elburne Baikie instantly. AB Wallis Burden was critically wounded and died several hours later. Ten men suffered light wounds from fragments and blast.

"B" gun deck was covered in a pall of powder smoke. It was impossible to determine, from the bridge, the number of casualties or the extent of the damage. Shells from ashore were still bracketing the ship as she snaked her way out of range at full speed, all guns blazing at the battery, and black smoke pouring astern.

The doctor, Surgeon Lieut. Donald Brooks of Toronto, was treating the wounded while enemy shells were still

splashing alongside the ship. The ship's medical assistant, PO Emilien Fortin, of Giffard, Que., and the first aid party were hard at work under the doctor's direction.

After Lieut. Brooks examined each of the wounded men, the first aid party, with the help of many other willing hands, began to move them aft. They were bedded down in the sick bay, the captain's day cabin and the after canopy.

For a few hours, the flat was the busiest place in the ship. Men were spread out on the deck, covered with blankets, winter jackets and anything else available. Other men worked over them, bandaging, cleaning, and passing out cigarettes and warming cups of tea.

For several hours, the doctor devoted all his attention to AB Burden, the one man on the critically injured list. In spite of a shrapnel wound in his right leg, PO Fortin worked with the doctor the whole time. Lieut. (L) Earl McConechy assisted them.

None of the others was in danger. Members of the first aid party, with many willing helpers, made the men comfortable and administered first aid until the doctor was able to treat them. Three men in particular worked long hours to comfort the wounded men — PO Howard Smith of Halifax, PO Frank Judd of Toronto and PO Edward Moslin of Spalding, Sask. PO Moslin had suffered a shrapnel wound and was himself put on the wounded list later that night. Among the others who assisted the first aid men were Lieut. (S) D. S. McNicol of Victoria and Halifax, and Ldg. Sea. Derald Richardson of Saint John, N.B.

AB Edwin Jodoin of Toronto, with a complex fracture of his left ankle and shrapnel wounds, was the most seriously wounded of the other men. He and AB Joseph Gaudet of Tignish, P.E.I., who had suffered a peppering by flying fragments, were transferred the next day to the USS Chemung, a supply ship, for transport to the US Army hospital in Sasebo, Japan.

The others were only superficially injured and all of them were back on full duty within a few days. On the wounded list were AB Aime Adam of Joliette, Que., AB Waldo Berggren of Newport, N.S., AB Gilbert Dynna of Spalding, Sask., PO Fortin, PO Gerald Jamieson of Halifax, PO Moslin, AB Eugene Riley



Able Seaman Edwin Jodoin of Toronto, wounded when HMCS Iroquois was struck by a shell from a communist shore battery, is transferred in a stretcher to a USN supply ship to be taken to hospital in Sasebo, Japan. Jodoin suffered a broken leg and shrapnel wounds of the leg and foot in the action in which one officer and two men of the Iroquois were killed. In the immediate foreground are CPO Peter Fane, Victoria and Dartmouth, N.S.; Ldg. Sea. Benedict Pask, London, Ont., and Halifax, and Ldg. Sea. Derald Richardson, Saint John, N.B. On the other side of the stretcher are Surgeon Lieut. Donald Brooks, Toronto; Lieut. (SB) James Wightman, Toronto; AB W. Gorley Green, Dunnville, Ont.; PO Charles Quirback, Montreal and Halifax, and PO Malcolm Payne, Saint John, N.B., and Halifax. In the background are Ldg. Sea. Richard Leeming, Saint John, N.B., and, wearing the white baseball cap, Ldg. Sea. Victor Stobbs, Woodstock, Ont. (IR-172).

RCN Sustains First Korea Battle Casualties

On Thursday, October 2, the Royal Canadian Navy sustained its first battle casualties of the Korean war.

Killed when an enemy shell struck "B" gun turret of HMCS Iroquois were Lieut.-Cdr. John L. Quinn, Able Seaman Elburne A. Baikie and Able Seaman Wallace M. Burden. They were buried on October 8 with full naval honors in the British Commonwealth cemetery at Yokohama, Japan.

Several men suffered injuries, but only two cases required hospitalization ashore.

On October 2 the Iroquois and USS Marsh (destroyer escort) were bombarding a section of North Korean railway along the east coast shoreline. The exposed trackage had been pounded previously by UN warships and the communists were trying to restore it to service.

The Iroquois and the Marsh fired on the target for an hour. Working parties were scattered and the rail line took a heavy blasting.

The two ships ended their bombardment and turned to head out to sea. At this moment shore batteries opened fire on the Iroquois and almost at once a full salvo bracketed the ship.

The destroyer made smoke and took evasive action, but one enemy shell found its mark. Lieut.-Cdr. Quinn and AB Baikie were killed instantly. AB Burden was critically wounded and died a few hours later in the ship's sick bay. Three other men were wounded by shrapnel and shell splinters and seven received minor cuts.

As the two ships withdrew, the Iroquois poured steady fire from her main armament at the shore battery and silenced it.

Damage to the ship was slight and did not affect her fighting efficiency in any way. The Marsh was not fired upon.

The Canadian destroyers, on duty in the Korean war theatre for more than two years and often working within easy shelling distance off the shore, had previously experienced near misses, but the shell which hit

Iroquois was the first enemy fire to find its mark.

Not many days earlier the Iroquois had directed a sea, land and air raid on a west coast beach which cost the enemy more than 200 killed and wounded and which knocked out a score of gun emplacements, mortars and heavy machine guns.

The main attack on the beach at the southwestern end of Hwang-Hae province was made by a force of two companies of South Korean troops which sailed in junks to their rendezvous point.

A diversionary raid was made by a third company, with HMS Belfast (cruiser) providing covering fire.

The assault began about two o'clock in the morning. The Belfast and the Iroquois pounded gun, mortar and troop positions along the coast as the assault junks moved in.

When the land attack began at four o'clock the warships lifted their fire to blast roads leading to the peninsula and slow down any movement of enemy reinforcements. Fire from the Iroquois had completely

disorganized enemy resistance in the landing sector and South Korean troops accounted for about a third of the communists' more than 200 casualties. The only casualties suffered by the attackers were a handful of wounded.

The withdrawal began about six o'clock and the two warships laid down heavy fire behind the troops. Several companies of Chinese communist reinforcements were caught on the roads among the rice paddies, suffered heavy losses and never joined battle.

Naval aircraft from the carrier USS Sicily arrived over the area in the final stages of the operation and, taking their directions from the Iroquois, wiped up all last attempts at harassing fire on the withdrawing forces. The aircraft topped off their part in the raid by knocking out a dam and destroying several gun bunkers.

Later in the same patrol, the Iroquois captured an enemy junk and turned it over to shore authorities.

Canadian Destroyers Strike Enemy Targets

All three Canadian destroyers serving in the Korean theatre struck blows at the enemy during September and October.

Operating in the Yellow Sea, HMCS Crusader scored a hit on a beached sampan, south of Chinnampo, on September 19.

HMCS Nootka, operating along another section of the coast, engaged enemy guns on September 23 but made no claims. Three days later the Nootka laid 47 rounds on troops and gun positions west of Sogwanni, with undetermined results.

On September 27, the Nootka, continuing her west coast operations, fired seven rounds at a sampan. The next day she captured an armed sampan in the Chodo area.

In a west coast action on October 1, the Nootka and HMS Cossack (destroyer) fired at troops and gun positions near Sogwanni.

The Iroquois, in the meantime, had moved around to the east coast, and it was in an early October action



AB Arthur Wilkinson, of Victoria, communications number of "A" gun on board HMCS Nootka, has his supper at his action station during a brief lull between bombardments of North Korean coastal positions. Behind him is the gunlayer, Ldg. Sea. Joseph Pattenden, of Halifax. The Nootka is scheduled to be relieved early in November and to be back in Halifax before Christmas. (NK-1699).

of Beaver Harbor, N.S., and AB Walter Wrigley of Sudbury.

The next day the Iroquois went alongside the USS Chemung to fuel and replenish. AB Jodoin and AB Gaudet were transferred in stretchers. The bodies of Lieut.-Cdr. Quinn, AB Baikie and AB Burden were piped over the side to the Chemung.

The Iroquois then returned to her operational area to finish the two-week patrol.

On Wednesday, October 8, the ship took an hour off from the arduous patrol. At 1030, all the ship's company off watch assembled on the forecastle. At the same time as their three shipmates were being buried with full naval honors in the Commonwealth Cemetery in Yokohama, Japan, the officers and men of the Iroquois held a memorial service at sea. Simply and with heavy hearts, they prayed for their fallen comrades.

A/Captain W. M. Landymore, commanding officer of the Iroquois, conducted the service, ten miles to seaward of where the action took place. It consisted of prayers, Scripture passages, the hymns, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" and "Abide with Me", and two minutes' silence.

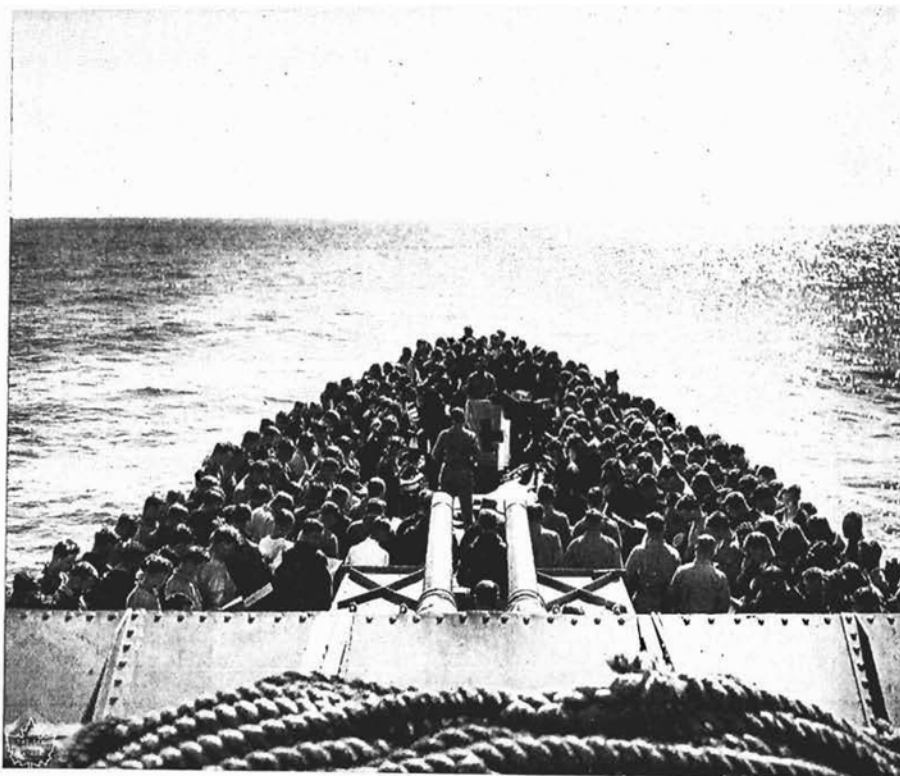
The service ended, the Iroquois resumed her patrol duties. For another six days she ranged up and down the area, shooting up a variety of enemy targets and making a particular point of blocking communist attempts to repair their important coastal rail line.

In the service at Yokohama, the three flag-draped coffins were borne to their final resting place on the shoulders of men from HMCS Crusader and were saluted by a firing party, landed from the same ship.

The cortege entered the gates of the British Commonwealth Cemetery led by Chaplain John Wilson, Protestant padre of the Canadian destroyers in the Far East. Behind were the mourners and armed services and government representatives, with Lieut.-Cdr. J. H. G. Bovey, captain of the Crusader, as chief mourner.

The committal service was read by the chaplain, the bodies were lowered and, the last handful of earth thrown into the graves and the last farewell volley fired, the funeral party dispersed.

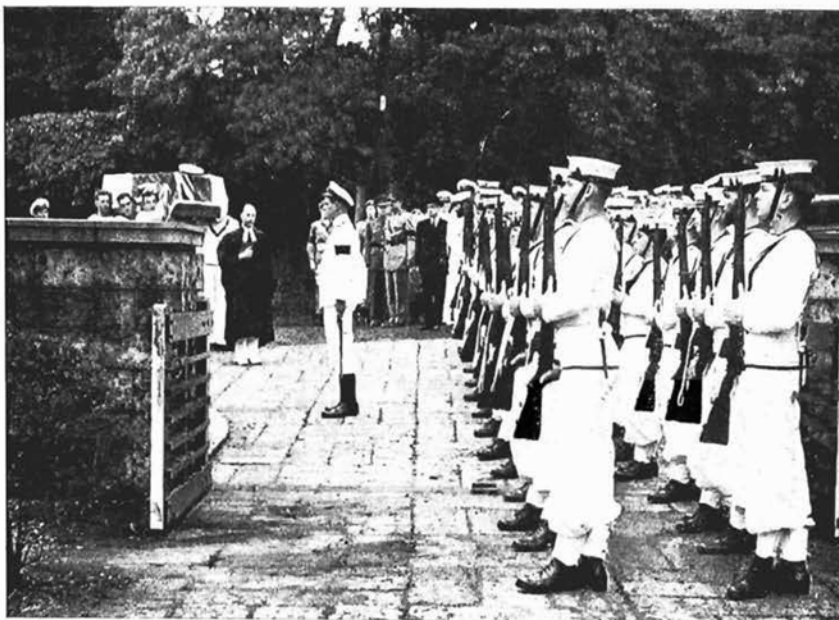
Besides officers from the Crusader, the funeral was attended by Lieut.-Cdr. (S) Peter Cossette, Canadian Naval Liaison Officer; A. R. Menzies, Charge d'Affaires, Canadian Embassy; Captain M. N. Tufnell, U.K. Naval Attache, Tokyo, representing the British Embassy; Brigadier



At sea off the east coast of Korea, the ship's company of HMCS Iroquois held a service of remembrance for three shipmates who were killed six days previously when the destroyer was hit by a shell from a communist shore battery. Led by Captain William M. Landymore, the service took place on the same day the three Canadians were buried in the Commonwealth cemetery at Yokohama, Japan. The Iroquois paused during her patrol to hold the service not far from where the action took place. (IR-195).

R. E. A. Morton, head of the Canadian Military Mission, Tokyo, and Commander D. G. Clark, command-

ing officer of HMS Ladybird, representing the Flag Officer Second-in-Command Far East Station.



The firing party from HMCS Crusader presents arms as the funeral procession bearing the bodies of Lieut.-Cdr. Quinn and Able Seamen Baikie and Burden and led by Chaplain John Wilson, enters the Commonwealth Cemetery at Yokohama. (CU-213).