

SUBMARINERS DECORATED

Two Commanding Officers of H.M. Submarines, who have been responsible for sinking many enemy ships have been awarded the D.S.O. for outstanding zeal, efficiency and daring in successful patrols, states tonight's London Gazette. They are:-

Lieut. John Henry Bromage, D.S.C., R.N.,
Lieut. Ian Laughlan McGeoch, R.N.

Four members of their ships' companies are awarded the D.S.C. Ten receive the D.S.M. and eight are mentioned in despatches.

Lieut. Bromage and Lieut. McGeoch have both played invaluable parts in the unremitting and successful offensive waged by H.M. Submarines against Axis ships attempting to run supplies across the Mediterranean to North Africa.

During recent patrols the submarine under the command of Lieut. Bromage sank three supply ships and a number of smaller vessels. She also bombarded and damaged a sea-plane hangar.

Lieut. Bromage is aged 27. His home is at Kilm, Argyllshire. Only last Sunday an Admiralty communique announced that the submarine under the command of Lieut. McGeoch had sunk a large and valuable enemy tanker fully laden with supplies for Axis forces in Tunisia.

In addition to this success Lieut. McGeoch has recently been responsible for sinking one enemy destroyer, three merchant ships and three smaller naval vessels.

He had to shadow one of the supply ships for 13 hours before getting an opportunity to sink it.

Describing this grim game of hide-and-seek, Lieut. McGeoch stated in his narrative of the patrol that late at night he sighted a supply ship escorted by three destroyers and carried out a torpedo attack on the surface.

"As the submarine dived," stated Lieut. McGeoch, "we heard a loud explosion. The supply ship and escorting destroyers carried out a counter attack with depth-charges but our position was not detected. We withdrew for a time. On surfacing we saw the target lying stopped with two destroyers standing by.

"We kept the target in sight and when the moon emerged from clouds we dived, intending to sink the damaged ship.

"The target, however, was out of range and we were unable to use more speed as our batteries were low. Then the darkness became more intense and we lost sight of the target."

About an hour later the submarine surfaced, located the supply ship again and dived once more. The light by then was just good enough for an attack at periscope depth. Lieut. McGeoch was closing the target when he saw two enemy destroyers exchanging signals. One of them approached the submarine, which was forced to withdraw but she kept the target in sight until dawn. By this time a tug had begun to tow the damaged supply ship.

"The tow was manoeuvred in such a manner," stated the submarine's Commanding Officer, "that we were able to deliver a knock-out blow with one torpedo fired at periscope depth."

This shot, fired 13 hours after the start of the attack, was followed by a heavy explosion and breaking-up noises.

Lieut. McGeoch is one of the ten outstanding submarine commanders mentioned by name by the First Lord in his Naval Estimates speech in the House of Commons last month.

He is aged 29. His home is at Danbury, Essex.

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