

Joins Navy, Six Days Later Goes to Sea, Hunting Subs

An Eastern Canadian Port, April 12.—(CP)—Stoker Petty Officer J. Stewart Kirk, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, of 239 Cannon street east, Hamilton, joined the navy as a first-class stoker in January, 1942—and six days later was at sea hunting enemy submarines.

That record, said naval headquarters in a press release, is one Kirk takes pride in. Kirk, a former student at Cathedral High School, Hamilton, has just been promoted to petty officer's rating.

"I joined the navy to get into the fight, but I never dreamed I'd get my chance so fast," he said. "They would never have let me had I not six years' engine room experience behind me on lake freighters." His first ship was a minesweeper, and he stayed with her for more than nine months. His only complaint was that they didn't see enough action.

"We were attacked by a sub once," he said, "but frightened her off when we dropped a few patterns of depth charges while returning alone after a convoy trip." Now, however, Kirk has been drafted to a large Canadian destroyer, and believes his desire for action soon may be realized.



Stoker Petty Officer Kirk

—R. C. N. Photo.

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