

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 1939

### **PADDY DOYLE'S EXPLOIT IN E7**

Most of you know Paddy DOYLE, Ryde's blinded ex-serviceman, and many are conversant with his wartime experiences, which resulted in the loss of his sight.

In last week's issue of a weekly magazine devoted to stories of 1914-18, by the men who took part in the many theatres of war, is a chapter devoted to Submarine E.7.

Mr DOYLE served aboard her, and as one of those captured by the Turks when the E.7 fouled a submarine net in the Dardanelles in September, 1915.

The writer of the episode, ex-Chief Petty Officer Bob SIMS tells of an incident in which Mr. DOYLE featured.

It happened as depth charges were bursting around the trapped submarine. The damaged starboard motor was shedding molten copper from its fused starting resistances, and a piece of glowing metal fell on some oil waste, and started a fire. Imagine it, a blaze inside a trapped submarine, 180ft. below the surface, water leaking through strained plates, lights almost out from failing electric power, the boom of depth charges around the trapped vessel. Above, naval craft with their guns trained, were waiting for the E.7 to rise.

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#### **Plucky Action**

When the fire started, this is what happened, according to the writer.

“Had it not been for the lightening-like, plucky action of Paddy DOYLE, the boxer, Stoker POPE, and cheery Jack HARRISON (chief engine room artificer), we should have been memories today; for we were packed with explosives aboard.”

“It was a real sailor-like job, ‘Hell’s bells’, shouted one of them as he rolled on the last embers. And it was. But we were to hear Hell’s bells more clearly before our adventure was done.”

In the end, the submarine's crew were all taken off, and as the commander was rowed away in a Turkish boat, the E.7 blew up and sank.

I wish Paddy a prosperous New Year for his kiosk business on the sea front.

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