

ST. LOUIS, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1943

'Crack, Swoosh' of Depth Charge Severest Test of Submariner's Courage

Only a Special Type of Fighting Man, Like Madison (Ill.) Officer, Can Take It, Reporter Finds.

By B. J. McQUAID

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(Delayed).

LISTENING in the control room of a submerged submarine for the shock of a depth charge being laid down by a nearby destroyer is not much of a strain, when you know that it's a friendly destroyer and that the "ashcan" will be dropped too far away to do any real damage to the submarine. The whole thing is an "indoctrination procedure" to give new members of the boat's crew a mild taste of what the real thing is going to be like.

Nevertheless, you observe that as the time draws near for the explosion, the faces of most of the officers are grimly attentive and serious. It is hard to take any depth charge attack lightly after you've once been under enemy attacks—attacks that mean business. And these men all got their indoctrination the hard way.

"Listen for the swoosh, right after the bang," says the young executive officer and navigator, Lieut. D. R. Connole, of Madison, Ill., across the river from St. Louis. "That was what surprised us the first time we got smacked. We had a pretty good notion of what the explosion sound would be like, but that swoosh! It worried hell out of us. We couldn't figure out what it was."

"What was it?"

"Wait. Listen."

Angry, Ugly Growl.

In a moment the sharp report of the charge rang through the compartment like the snap of a bullwhip. A fixture or two shook loose and fell to the deck.

Then I heard it—the swoosh. A deep-throated, angry, ugly growl. It seemed both inside and outside



LIEUT. DAVID R. CONNOLE

Described by B. J. McQuaid in the accompanying dispatch as typical of the "special breed of fighting man" required for submarine warfare, Lieut. Connole is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Connole, 1443A Third street, Madison, Ill. With his wife, Mrs. Vita Connole, who lives at Annapolis, Md., he visited his parents last October on his first leave since the beginning of the war.

A graduate of the Naval Academy in 1936, Lieut. Connole is 29 years old. He was born in Madison, where his father is an attorney. He attended John Burroughs School for two years and was graduated from the Madison High School. He was a student at Illinois College at Jacksonville

when he received his appointment to Annapolis.

He has received two commendations for extraordinary services aboard the submarine on which he served as engineering and diving officer. The first was for skill and courage in accomplishing his duties when the submarine "attacked and destroyed an enemy vessel while patrolling in an enemy-controlled sea." The second was for his part in another war patrol when the submarine sank five enemy ships, and "due to the skillful manner in which his duties were executed there was no damage or injury to the personnel or the submarine, which returned to its base under enemy fire."