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This was the condition in which many survivors of the torpedoed Tilawa had drifted for more than 36 hours by the time they were picked up by the cruiser H.M.S. Birmingham. This picture, showing them packed into a swamped lifeboat, was taken in November, 1942, by a Cape Town man, Mr. P. J. Moolman, who was serving in the cruiser.

10/11/51 C. TIMES

BABY BORN ON DECK OF RESCUE SHIP

Cape Town Men Recall Torpedo Drama

THE rescue of about 700 survivors of the torpedoed Tilawa in the Indian Ocean in November, 1942—among them Abdul Razak Halim, a Cape Town tailor—stirred memories for at least two other Cape Town men who read reports in the *Cape Times* yesterday and on Thursday.

The reports sent Assistant Lightkeeper P. J. Moolman, of the Mouille Point Lighthouse, scrabbling through an old dump box almost forgotten since his demobilisation, to find photographs of the survivors which he had taken as an able seaman from the deck of the rescuing cruiser, H.M.S. Birmingham.

REMEMBERS SHARKS

For a railway ticket examiner, Mr. G. Marx, of Cape Town, the stories stirred memories of his first trip to sea as a raw ordinary seaman in the Birmingham.

Mr. P. J. Moolman

"Mainly I remember the sharks," Mr. Moolman told the *Cape Times* yesterday. "There must have been hundreds of sharks milling around the ship and the rafts and the lifeboats.

"The sea was thick with them. Nearly all the small boats and rafts and driftwood to which the survivors clung were awash. They had their legs and arms dangling in the water. We were afraid that the sharks did not

He was stirred, too, by the fortitude of one European woman who had sat unmoving for nearly two days in a lifeboat, in the same position, sheltering a small Indian boy from the fierce heat of the sun by day and keeping him warm against her body at night.

HER BABY

Her husband and baby had also been on the Tilawa and had been rescued. As the cruiser came alongside the lifeboat her first question was for their safety. The moment she learned that they had been picked up she collapsed.

Mr. Marx remembered chiefly another woman who was helped on board the cruiser.

As she reached the deck, she collapsed and the ship's doctor, his hands full with attending to the many injured among the 300 survivors, was just in time to deliver her baby on the Birmingham's open deck, while rescue parties around him pulled more and more survivors from the sea.

Both men said the number of survivors rescued was nearer 700 than 300. Mr. Marx had recorded the number as between 650 and 700 in his diary.

NEW RAND MAYOR

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. I. E. B. Attwell and Mr. H. Miller were installed as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Johannesburg at a ceremony yesterday. (Sapa.)

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