



The Athenia—torpedoed and sunk

My happy return...

IT IS most touching for me to return to Scotland from the north-west coast of North America after 38 years.

My first visit was unscheduled. I was landed in Scotland after being rescued at sea. I was then a teenager returning home to Canada with my mother after eight months abroad visiting relatives in England and Europe.

I had hoped to continue my musical studies in Europe, where my mother had been a renowned musician and dancer. However, in late August, 1939, my father, who was with the Intelligence branch of the Canadian Navy, wired us to return home quickly. On September 2, we boarded the Athenia at Liverpool. After one day at sea the ship with its 1,418 passengers was torpedoed and sunk.

I shall always remember the gallantry and selflessness of the Scottish crew. We were rescued by the destroyer Escort, and, after another terrifying day and night clearing the sea of Nazi submarines, we were landed at Greenock. The overwhelming kindness and generosity of the Scottish people can never be forgotten.

(Mrs.) IAN C. MILNE,
Kilohit Drive, Shelter Bay,
La Conner, Wa., U.S.A.



Bedraggled survivors come ashore from one of the rescue vessels