

"COLUMBIA"  
(The Gem)

Here's to the old Destroyer U.S.S. Haradin  
H.M.C.S. Columbia now is her name,  
She's convoyed the North Atlantic  
Through submarines, icebergs and rain.

R.C.N. Officers have tried to reform us  
But, have soon given up in disgust,  
As for routine we never had none  
But take the ship to sea we must.

Pusser routine we don't go for it  
As sailing men mostly are we,  
We have our ideals of living  
After many years spent on the sea.

Though the crew may be well represented  
As defaulters each morning at nine,  
We will back the ship to the limit  
And sail her over Hitler's front line.

So while in port please don't chastise us  
Though we fight gamble and go on a spree,  
We will all be back in the morning  
To take this Destroyer to sea.

We sailed with convoys to Iceland,  
To England far over the sea,  
And our ship will not be forgotten  
For there were no happier crew than we.

Then we changed from convoy to task force  
Looking for trouble northward we went,  
And it came in the form of disaster  
When two brave sailor's lives went.

We went steaming along through the ice flows  
At thirty-five knots by the log,  
Visibility had dropped to zero  
By the ever encircling fog.

Now it seemed the Lord, he was with us  
As the condensers soon filled with ice,  
And our speed was quickly diminished  
Which I am sure must have saved my life.

The off-watches were below in the mess deck  
And dominoes was the usual game,  
Little Joe was the point I was after  
Then came the crash and the flame.

The rocks had come out of the darkness  
And our Bow was now a crumpled mess,  
But the crew were in no way excited  
For the Columbia none the less.

The officers had orders out quickly  
Emergency crews went to work with a will,  
And we sailed into harbour at midnight  
On the good old Columbia still.

Now she lies in a peaceful harbour  
Away from the storm tossed sea,  
But I know she'll be back in commission  
For she is still a part of me.

Now we only lost two of our shipmates  
And their deaths are deeply mourned by the crew,  
But they gave their lives for Their Country  
And a better World for me and for you.