



The newly-weds leaving the church

## **Marriage of Lieut. Charles Lamb to Miss Josephine Elgar**

### **A "Courageous" Survivor Weds**

Junior village schoolchildren waving Union Jacks formed a guard of honour at the wedding at Charlton All Saints, near Salisbury, of Lieut. Charles Bendall Lamb, Royal Naval Air Branch - of the "Courageous" - to Miss Josephine Frances Elgar, a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Lieut. Lamb lost all his naval clothes when the "Courageous" sank, but naval tailors lent him the clothes for the occasion. There was no naval escort or guard of honour as Lieut. Lamb's shipmates who were to have fulfilled the duty had lost all their clothing and equipment. The photo shows the bride and bridegroom passing through the guard of honour of schoolchildren after the ceremony.

**The Central Queensland Herald (Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia), Thursday, 26 October 1939**

### **Married 60 Hours After Ship Was Torpedoed**

#### **Escaped Death And Found Happiness**

Sixty hours after he swam from the sinking aircraft carrier "Courageous", Lieutenant Charles Bentall Lamb, 25, was married at Charlton-All-Saints, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. September 30 was the date on which Lieutenant Lamb had planned to wed Miss Josephine Frances Elgar, 32, a lorry driver in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. "My wedding day seemed far away when I was swimming in the sea," Lieutenant Lamb said after his wedding. "But in the sea; I saw the chaplain, the Rev. B. G. Beale, who had called my banns on board ship. The chaplain said, "This may be the opportunity you have been looking for to get married, Charles. I hope I shall be able to perform the ceremony." Chaplain Beale was

rescued, but he was unable to come to the wedding. "But for the disaster, the wedding would have been postponed indefinitely" Lieutenant Lamb said that his first thought on reaching harbour was to phone his fiancée to let her know he was safe.

### **We Are Happy Now**

To his amazement and joy he learned that Miss Elgar, who had been out driving all day, had not then heard of the disaster. Then they spoke about their wedding. As they left the church smiling happily, the village children waved Union Jacks. At the bride's home, The Waterways, Charlton-All-Saints, where the reception, was held, guests drank the health of the man who had escaped death and found happiness. The bride said "We are happy now, no matter what happens. My husband lost all his personal belongings. What worried him most was the loss of my wedding present, a pair of flying goggles, a new type."

### **Honeymoon In The South**

We have known each other for about two years. I have been in the Women's Auxiliary Air Service since November." After the reception, Lieutenant and Mrs. Lamb, both on leave, left for a brief honeymoon "somewhere in the south of England." Lieutenant Lamb is the holder of the welterweight boxing championship of the R.A.F. Coastal Command, a title he has held for two years. He was lightweight champion of the Navy in 1934 and of the Air Force in 1936. Lieutenant Lamb is the son of a Somersetshire Congregational minister and his wife the daughter of a Salisbury architect.

**The Evening News (Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia) Friday, 3 November 1939**