



Review . . . Coveney

# Medals review for ship heroes

**By ED CARTY**

TWO Navy veterans who risked their lives to save more than 80 others from fire could finally be in line for gongs.

Lieutenant Pat O Mathuna and Stoker William Mynes suffered severe burns fighting the boiler room blaze on the LE Cliona in 1962 after a depth charge exploded prematurely during a training exercise.

The force of the blast lifted the ship several feet out of the water in Cork harbour and ruptured oil lines sparking the lethal fire.

Defence Minister Simon Coveney has now ordered Rear Admiral Mark Mellett, Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, to review their case for a medal or commendation.

The brave crew members were not eligible for Distinguished Service Medals because they were not recommended within four years of the near-tragic incident.