

U.S.S. CAIMAN (SS-323)
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

SS323/RHG/rf
AL6-5
Ser: 017
24 July 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Via: (1) Commander Submarine Group, Western Pacific
(2) Commander Naval Forces, Far East
(3) Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
(4) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: U.S.S. CAIMAN (SS-323); Report of Third Special
Patrol

Ref: (a) ComSubGruWesPac (CTG 96.9) Operation Order No. 15-54 of
4 June 1954
(b) NWIP 10-1
(c) ComSubPac Instr. 3480.1C
(d) ComSubPac Instr. 03522.3

Encl: (1) Subject Report (64 pages)
(2) Track Charts
(3) Sailing List (6 pages)

1. Enclosure (1), reporting the third shipping surveillance patrol of this vessel, conducted in Joint Zones 5 and 10 during the period 23 June 1954 to 21 July 1954, is forwarded herewith, pursuant to references (a) and (b).
2. The following have been forwarded separately as indicated:
 - (a) ECM report in accordance with reference (a).
 - (b) Overlay contact chart in accordance with reference (a).
 - (c) Intelligence photographs and negatives in accordance with reference (c).
 - (d) Hydrographic data in accordance with reference (c).
 - (e) Tape recordings of sonar signatures direct to ComSubPac in accordance with reference (d).
3. The Commanding Officer invites attention to the remarks contained in section (v) of enclosure (1).

R.H. GALLEMORE

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CTG 96.9/RHO:lot
A16-5
Ser 0108
28 July 1954

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO USS CAIMAN Conf ltr SS323/RHG/rf A16-5 Ser 017
of 24 July 1954

From: Commander Submarine Group, Western Pacific
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Via: (1) Commander Naval Forces, Far East
(2) Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
(3) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: USS CAIMAN (SS323); report of Third Special Patrol

1. Though this patrol was conducted during the time of year when maximum shipping would be expected in Joint Zones FIVE and TEN, the one hundred and eighteen contacts is the largest on record at this command. Further, the USS CAIMAN closed and tentatively identified a higher percentage. The following figures attest to the vigorous manner in which CAIMAN prosecuted her mission:

Ships approached to less than 2000 yards - 56
Ships approached to less than 1500 yards (best photographic position) -
47

The excellent quality of the sketches made by C. L. LEWIS, ENC(SS), USN, many more detailed than periscope photographs, should add greatly to the intelligence value. It would appear that any submarine having on board this type talent would do well to develop it during normal operations for this contingency.

2. The practice runs made by the P2V might offer a means of "peaking" lookouts as suggested, but this should either be scheduled or the planes should avoid any action which could be considered as hostile.

3. The comments of the Commanding Officer in general are considered well taken, but what is most gratifying, they show good sound submarine thinking. The Group Commander concurs with the views expressed in paragraph 3 (c) of enclosure (1). The operation orders which spell out the desires of the Force and Operational Commander might well include a general prudential Rule for submarines; "Nothing in this order shall be construed as preventing the Commanding Officer from using equipments and tactics as special circumstances dictate".

4. The USS CAIMAN returned from patrol smart, clean and proud. The minor material items will be repaired locally. The Commanding Officer, officers and crew are congratulated on conclusion of a well conducted patrol which was most thorough in prosecuting the mission and excellent in all respects.


R. H. O'KANE

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1954

3 SEP 1954

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SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CO USS CAIMAN (SS 323) conf ltr ser 017 of 24 Jul 1954

From: Commander Naval Forces, Far East
 To: Chief of Naval Operations
 Via: (1) Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
 (2) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: USS CAIMAN (SS 323); report of Third Special Patrol

1. Forwarded.
2. Commander Naval Forces, Far East is in agreement with the identification of ship contacts made by the Commanding Officer, USS CAIMAN with the following exceptions:

| a. <u>Ship Contact No.</u> | <u>Identification</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | Unidentified FT, Type 24 |
| 6 | NORILSK |
| 9, 9A | Unidentified SB, Type 47 |
| 10 | ANGARA |
| 20 | JENISEISK |
| 33 | Unidentified ULIANA GROMOVA class |
| 36 | NEMIROVICH DANCHENKO |
| 37 | TAGANROG |
| 38 | Possibly KASHIRSTROI |
| 42 | REFRIGERATOR No. 6 |
| 56 | DNESTR |
| 62 | Probably RIBINSK |
| 69 | Possibly KASHIRSTROI |
| 81 | VIACHESLAV MOLOTOV |
| 82 | SUTCHAN (SUCHAN) |
| 90 | Unidentified SA, Type 47 |
| 92 | Unidentified FT, Type 24 |
| 96 | DMITRY LAPTEV |
| 101 | Probably DONBASS |
| 102 | PAMIR |
| 111 | Unidentified Type 47 |

W. E. RAMIE
 By direction

Copy to:
 COMSUBGRUWESTPAC
 CO USS CAIMAN (SS 323)

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1954

Reg U. # 5049

FF4-11:30:jb
A16-1
Ser 0834
21 SEP 1954

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THIRD ENDORSEMENT on CO USS CAIMAN (SS323) conf ltr ser 017 of 24 Jul 1954

From: Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Via: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: USS CAIMAN (SS323); report of Third Special Patrol

1. Forwarded, concurring in the comments of previous endorsements. It is noted, however, that numerous contacts listed in paragraph 2 of the second endorsement were correctly identified by CAIMAN.
2. Material performance is considered excellent. The few deficiencies reported have been the subject of previous reports and corrective action is in progress.
3. The hydrogen explosion reported on page 58 is the first such case with a Mark 28 torpedo. CAIMAN's corrective procedure is considered to have been proper. In order to avoid recurrence of this casualty COMSUBPAC has revised the torpedo charging instructions to provide for increased ventilation.
4. COMSUBPAC concurs with the Commanding Officer, USS CAIMAN, on the subject of EMCON restrictions for submarines operating singly. Subsequent operation orders for these patrols will be written to permit infrequent and judicious use of radar at the commanding officer's discretion.
5. The Commanding Officer, officers, and men of the CAIMAN are congratulated upon the completion of a very well planned and aggressively conducted patrol.

W. B. SIEGLAFF
Chief of Staff

- Copy to:
- CNO (2)(Advance)
 - COMNAVFE (1)(Complete)
 - COMSUBGRU COMSUBPAC (2)(Complete)
 - COMSUBLANT (8)(Complete)
 - S/M SCHOOL N.L. (1)(Complete)
 - COMSUBRON 1,3,5,7 (1 ea)(Complete)
 - ALL COMSUBDIV's SUBPAC (1 ea)(Complete)
 - ALL S/M's SUBPAC (1 ea)(Complete)
 - BUSHIPS (1)(Complete)
 - HYDRG (1)(Complete)

THE ENTIRE PATROL REPORT
CONTAINED HEREIN IS DOWN-
GRADED TO
U N C L A S S I F I E D

AUTH: DCD 52009 of 27 SEP 58

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