

UNITED STATES ASIATIC FLEET

SUBMARINE DIVISION 203

SS178/A16-3

Serial: 3-085

3-0-16-F-1-D-1-1-1-A-1

U. S. S. PERMIT (SS178)

U. S. S. PERMIT (SS178) - REPORT OF THIRD WAR PATROL (Continued)

bearing 040 T, hull down. Convoy was observed to be zigging making good base course about 025 T, speed 13 to 14 knots. On surfacing started trying to get off contact report to FLD but was unsuccessful. Finally at 0243 PERMIT, believed to be FICHEREL, offered to relay it which was done at 0305. PERMIT despatch stated that four cargo ships screened by four destroyers were sighted off MANOEI on northerly course at 1000 022. Range extreme unable to complete submerged attack and am pursuing on surface until time to return to station.

THIRTIETH DAY, 28 January, 1942

Underway on course 025 T, speed 13.3, following convoy of 4 cargo ships screened by 4 DD's apparently heading for GREYHOUND STRAIT. 0001 Slowed to 12.1 knots (2 engines) due to casualty on A main engine. 0005 Changed course to 045 T following convoy. 0103 Changed course to 035 T following convoy. 0126 Changed course to 030 T following convoy. 0129 Changed course to 025 T following convoy. 0138 Changed course to 020 T following convoy, attempting to maintain visual contact without being sighted. 0150 Changed course to 205 T when it was definitely determined convoy was heading for GREYHOUND STRAIT - then 30 miles distant from PERMIT. Insufficient speed was available to get ahead or in favorable firing position before convoy arrived at straits or before moonset. Night was very bright and visibility generally excellent. 0200 Lost visual contact, distance estimated 8 to 10 miles. 0204 Changed course to 213 T. 0305 Observed moonset. 0325 Heavy rain storm, accompanied by heavy thunder and lightning. Visibility zero. Search St. Elmo's fire was seen on rigging, antennas and searchlight platform. This weather continued with intermittent rain and low visibility until submerging at 0619 on course 213 T, speed 2.5 knots. 0737 Changed course to 230 T. 1000 Changed course to 270 T. 1144 Changed course to 180 T. 1235 Changed course to 225 T. 1523 Changed course to 180 T. 1730 Heard 2 heavy rumbling noises accompanied by vibrations which later were determined to have been caused by a severe earthquake between NEW GUINEA and AUSTRALIA according to radio report; changed course to 090 T. 1742 Changed course to 180 T. 1942 Changed course to 025 T. 1957 Surfaced, speed 10 knots. 2218 Increased speed to 12.3 knots.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY, 29 January, 1942

Underway patrolling between MANOEI ISLAND and GREYHOUND STRAIT on course 025 T, speed 13.3. 0100 Changed course to 205 T. 0200 Changed course to 220 T. 0300 Encountered intermittent rain squalls. 0505 Slowed to 10 knots. 0615 Submerged, speed 2.5 knots, 4.2 miles due east of MANOEI ISLAND. 0650 Changed course to 180 T. 0840 Sighted

