

U.S.S. SHILFISH

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L: 8 August 1944

- 0045 I Received orders to proceed to new patrol station.
- 0545 I Submerged to conduct submerged patrol. Sighted much wreckage and debris during the day including an empty life boat, many oil drums, and an empty life ring.
- 1503 I Sighted smoke bearing 263°T estimated range 20 miles. Changed course towards and increased speed.
- 1530 I Lost sight of smoke.
- 1612 I Smoke has not been seen since 1530 so surfaced and commenced closing at high speed. The smoke was in the GREENLING or BILLFISH area and I'll get left in the cold unless we can get over there.
- 1630 I Sighted periscope bearing 320°T, range 2500 yards. Avoided on surface. A sun line shows that a westerly current set plus our surface running puts us in BILLFISH area.
- 1655 I Plane contact # 17 on SD radar 8 miles. Submerged and changed course to return to area.
- 1950 I Surfaced.
- 2030 I Message from GREENLING indicates that our smoke contact was probably the patrol boat she reports sinking about 1500 today. Missed more radio schedule traffic tonite as result of superfluous radio transmissions on group frequency. Extensive tuning of transmitters, inopportune times of transmissions, repeated messages to clarify garbles due to operators poor keying, superfluous messages, improper use of serial numbers, etc, etc. have kept communications in a dither as well as giving the Jap good opportunity to DF and unduly hampering the proper copying of fox schedules.

9 August 1944

- 0552 I Submerged.
- 1330 I While conducting submerged patrol heard heavy rumbling dull explosion. At first thought we had bumped aground (in 1300 fathoms of water) since ship was jarred appreciably. Source of explosion undetermined - believe possible earthquake.
- 1828 I Sighted large land based bomber bearing 150°T, distance 6 miles. Plane contact # 18.
- 1959 I Surfaced.

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