

PROLOGUE:

Arrived Midway from eighth war patrol on 10 November 1943. Reported to Commander Submarine Division 22 (45) for administration, refit and training. Refitted by Submarine Division FORTY FOUR Relief Crew and Submarine Base, Midway Islands.

November 13, 1943, FORWARD, Jack Dewey, LM3c, 377 85 24, U.S.N.R., authorized passenger on routine patrol flight from Midway Islands, missing; believe he sank with land plane which made forced landing at sea. Refit completed 25 November 1943. Not depermed, wiped, nor sound tested. Silhouette reduced and solid grey camouflage applied.

Transferred sixteen men with an average of six war patrols per man to Commander Submarine Division FORTY FOUR Relief Crew. Received seventeen men, only one of whom had made a war patrol.

Held four day training period, 27-30 November 1943. Fired three exercise torpedoes, 5" deck gun, and 20MM guns. Antenna trunk flooded during training period. 30 November-1 December 1943, replaced rubber gaskets on #1 MBT vent riser with Consolco, in accordance with despatch authority. Antenna trunk overhauled.

1514 (Y), 2 December 1943, when in all respects ready for sea, got underway and cleared channel. Made deep dive to test gaskets on #1 MBT vent riser and to test radio antenna trunk. Although the antenna trunk leaked slightly, decided to continue on patrol in accordance with Commander Task Force, Seventeen, Operation Order 280-43, to conduct offensive patrol in assigned area. Task Unit designation, 17.1.11.

NARRATIVE:

2 December 1943.

2400 (Y) Set clocks ahead 24 hours to keep minus 12 (M) time.

4 December 1943

0056 (M) Radar contact, with SJ Radar interference, bearing 246 (T), range 4550 yards. Believed to be U.S.S. TRIGGER on opposite course. Tracked, with bearings drawing to left, until contact was lost at 8000 yards.

0355 (M) Crossed International Date Line.



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NARRATIVE (Cont.)

5-6 December 1943.

Conducted section dives and exercised fire-control party.

7 December 1943.

- 1504 (II) Lat. 29-47-00 N.; Long. 162-57-30 E. Lookout sighted plane astern, estimated range 12 miles, estimated course 000 T. (Aircraft contact #1). Made quick dive. Not sighted.
- 1530 (II) Surfaced. Continued on patrol.

8 December 1943.

- 0850 (LM) Lat. 29-50-10 N., Long. 158-17-30 E. Plane on radar. Range 8 miles. (Aircraft contact #2). Made quick dive.
- 0857 (LM) Received two distant depth charges.
- 0910 (LM) Surfaced. Continued on patrol.
- 1142 (LM) Lat. 29-49-30 N., Long. 157-33-30 E. (Aircraft contact #3). Plane on radar, 15 miles. Made quick dive.
- 1155 (LM) Surfaced. Continued on patrol.
- 1324 (LM) Made training dive.
- 1414 Surfaced. Continued on patrol.

9-11 December 1943.

Conducted training of fire-control party. Made section dives.

12 December 1943.

- 2000 (KL) Converted #3 A&B FBT to normal ballast tanks.

13-14 December 1943.

Conducted training of fire-control party. Made section dives.

15 December 1943.

- 0610 (K) Lat. 28-59-00 N.; Long. 131-00-00 E. Entered area.
- 1158 ~~Lat. 28-41-35 N., Long. 130-26-30 E. Kikai Jima sighted, bearing 231 T., range 30 miles.~~
- 1238 Lat. 28-37-15 N., Long. 130-22-35 E. SJ Radar picked up Kikai Jima, range about 50,000 yards.
- 1419 Lat. 28-20-45 N., Long. 130-16-00 E. (Aircraft contact #4). Plane on radar, range 18 miles. Made quick dive.



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NARRATIVE (Cont.)

15 December 1943 (Cont.)

1440 (K) Surfaced.  
2126 SJ Radar contact. Proved to be squall.

16 December 1943.

0146 (K) SJ Radar contact. Pip vanished four minutes later. Probably caused by reflection from low cloud.  
0712 Lat. 26-27-30 N., Long. 128-46-00 E. Sighted Okinawa Jima bearing 298° T., range about 33 miles.  
1615 Made trim dive.  
1630 Surfaced.

17 December 1943.

0744 (K) Lat. 25-13-30 N.; Long. 127-25-00 E. Pip on radar, 340 E., range 30,000 yards. Changed course and increased speed to close. Lost contact. Proceeded to northward to investigate.  
0837 Changed course to southward to resume patrolling.  
0855 Made trim dive. Went to deep submergence and found no temperature gradient at 300 feet. Lat. 25-09-18 N., Long. 127-27-30 E. (SMT Survey #1).  
0924 Surfaced. Resumed patrolling on surface.  
1740 Lat. 25-06-00 N., Long. 127-22-00 E. Lookout sighted patrol bomber, estimated course 330 E., range 5 miles. (Aircraft contact #5). Made quick dive to avoid. Not sighted.  
1759 Surfaced. Continued patrolling.

18 December 1943.

0745 (K) Radar contact. Proved to be distant squall.  
0905 (K) Lat. 25-27-30 N., Long. 126-55-00 E. (Ship contact #1). Smoke sighted by lookout, bearing 222° T., distance about 15 miles. Closed at full speed to investigate.  
1020 Tops in view.  
1021 Move on estimated track of convoy to make approach. Counted 7 ships, smoking intermittently.  
1150 Lat. 25-32-50 N., Long. 126-47-30 E. Sighted plane over convoy. (Aircraft contact #6). Unable to close; tracked targets and determined targets' base course to be about 475 E., speed 8 knots.  
1423 Surfaced to close range and keep smoke within easy sighting distance, planning to track until dark-ness and then make an "end around run" for night radar approach.



NARRATIVE (Cont.)

18 December 1943. (Cont.)

1535 (K) Lat. 25-44-00 N., Long. 127-22-00 E. Plane sighted by lookout. (Aircraft contact #7). Range 10 miles, estimated course 200 T. Made quick dive. Not sighted. Remained submerged, taking frequent looks to keep smoke in view.

1703  
1917

Surfaced and went ahead full speed. SJ-Radar picked up targets bearing 029 T., range 23,000 yards. Tracking commenced, using TDC, navigational, and relative plots. Targets were zigging every six to nine minutes from 000 T., to 065 T., on base course 040 T., speed 8 knots, in accordance with the following zig plan:

Time:	0	6	12	19	26	33	42	51	60
Course:	065	040	065	030	000	050	010	055	065

Convoy's disposition at this time was determined by use of PPI. Targets were in two columns of two ships each. One small escort was ranging ahead; a small escort covered the port flank; and a large escort was ranging astern of the formation. Maintaining a range of 10,000 to 12,000 yards, GRAYBACK drew past convoy's starboard beam and into position ahead. Six minutes before GRAYBACK fired, targets zigged right, moving into rough single column formation, with a small escort leading, a small escort on the port flank, and the large escort astern. Closed to within firing range, allowing leading escort and leading ship to pass ahead before firing. Plan was to fire bow tubes first, using two torpedoes on each of three targets in column, swing hard left, and bring stern tubes to bear on remaining ship or attempt "down the throat" shot at any escort who might come down GRAYBACK's track. The second and third ships were similar to BANDOENG MARU class, 4000 tons, page 130, ONI 208-F. The last ship was similar to LYONS MARU class, 7000 tons, picture S-38, RECOGNITION OF JAP MERCHANTMEN. One unidentified freighter leading, two small escorts (subchaser type), and one large escort (YAE-YAMA or HASHIDATE type), made a total of seven ships.

2219 (K) When range on second ship in column was 1500 yards, commenced firing bow tubes. (Attack #1). Lat. 26-22 N., Long. 128-20 E. Fired four torpedoes at second and third ship in column, now overlapping, and two torpedoes at largest ship at end of convoy. With rudder hard left, tried to bring stern tubes to bear; but by this time, ships seemed to be exploding everywhere. The small escort on the



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NARRATIVE (Cont.)

18 December 1943 (Cont.)

- 2219 (K) (Cont.) convoy's port flank came around the bow of the first target, which was now awash, and headed for GRAYBACK at high speed. The large escort moved up beside the third target and then headed down GRAYBACK's wake at rapidly closing range. (1200 yards, bearing 200 relative).
- 2231 Made quick dive to avoid gunfire, which passed overhead, and escorts bearing down. After GRAYBACK dove, persistent but poorly executed depth charge attacks followed, with two escorts making frequent runs. JP, JI and QC sound were able to track escorts without difficulty.

19 December 1943.

- 0107 (K) With faint screws bearing 180 relative, GRAYBACK surfaced to continue attack on remainder of convoy.
- 0121 Radar contact 290 T., range 8500 yards. Tracking commenced. Opened range to complete reload.
- 0205 Radar contacted target at 12,200 yards. No other pips on radar, indicating that damaged targets not seen to sink by eye had probably done so. The third target of 7000 tons gross, was last seen smoking and down by the stern. Target #2, a smaller ship of about 4000 tons gross was hit a little forward of bridge. Tracking commenced on target, using radar ranges and bearings. Target's course was 040 T., speed 10 knots.
- 0210 Range started closing rapidly. Target proved to be large escort, gunboat or small destroyer type of about 1200 to 1500 tons, similar to WASHIDATE class PG or YAEYAKA class CM (ONI 222), who sighted GRAYBACK as she presented a broad silhouette in path of rising moon. Range at this time was 6600 yards, closing rapidly.
- 0222 When range was 6220 yards, made quick dive to get setup for night periscope approach.
- 0223 Came right, using full rudder, to gain distance from track of target, who was pursuing GRAYBACK's wake. Based on turn count of 224 RPM, target's speed was estimated at 17 knots.
- 0231 Lat. 26-29-30 N., Long. 123-26-30 E. Fired 4 torpedoes from stern tubes. (Attack #2). Before torpedoes hit, escort had started run and managed to drop one depthcharge. Terrific explosions followed, as target literally disintegrated from force of three torpedo explosions and about 5 or 6 of his own depth charges. GRAYBACK remained at periscope



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NARRATIVE (Cont.)

19 December 1943 (Cont.)

- 0231 (K) depth, watching the fire and smoke where the escort  
(Cont.) had been a few moments before.
- 0237 Came to radar depth for sweep. Although all clear,  
decided to remain submerged, as explosions were  
still heard. Made reload of after torpedo tubes.
- 0304 (K) Surfaced and headed for escort's last position.
- 0315 Sighted a burning carbide marker flare of the type  
used to mark position of depthcharge attacks.  
GRAYBACK circled area, which was covered with oil  
slick and bits of floating wreckage. Odor of die-  
sel fuel oil was very noticeable. No survivors  
were found. After further search of immediate area,  
resumed patrolling to southward to see if cripples  
remained. No further contact.
- 0435 Headed north to continue search for remainder of  
convoy.
- 0607 Transmitted GRAYBACK's serial #1 to Commander Sub-  
marine Force, Pacific Fleet.
- 0723 Made routine dive. Continued patrolling submerged.
- 1853 Surfaced. Continued patrolling.

20 December 1943.

- 0840 (K) Made routine dive.
- 0933 Lat. 29-03-45 N., Long. 129-36-20 E. Sighted small  
patrol craft, bearing 352 T., range 8000 yards.  
(Ship contact #2). Estimated speed 12 knots. Com-  
menced approach. Target, a patrol craft, was zig-  
ging radically and searching area thoroughly. It  
appeared that this patrol craft suspected the pres-  
ence of a submarine. Target was too small for tor-  
pedo attack.
- 1050 GRAYBACK lost sight of patrol craft.
- 1200 (K) Sighted smoke of same patrol craft bearing 129 T.  
A sailboat was also sighted on about the same  
bearing.
- 1410 Sighted two or three columns of smoke, bearing  
196 T. Commenced approach.
- 1445 JP sound reported two sets of screws on same bear-  
ing as last smoke, one 80 RPM, one 120 RPM.
- 1500 Tall masts and stacks came into view.
- 1507 Through periscope could be seen six ships, with  
large starboard angle on bow. Bearing on right  
hand ship was 210 T. (Ship contact #3). Lat. 28-  
40 N., Long. 129-30 E. Sound reported one set of  
heavy screws, clocked at 80 RPM, one at 120 RPM,  
and one set of very fast screws.
- 1600 Ships were close enough to distinguish their type.  
They appeared similar to the following:



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NARRATIVE (Cont.)  
20 December 1943 (Cont.)  
1600 (K)(Cont.)

<u>Target Number</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Similar to</u>	<u>Gross Tons</u>	<u>Where found</u>
1	1	Freighter medium	TAZAN MARU	5480	ONI-208 J, Page 210.
2	1	Freighter medium	KISO MARU	4070	ONI-208 J, Page 131
3	1	Freighter large	TATUNO MARU	6340	ONI-208 J, Page 77.
4.	1	KAM-small platform on stern	CHOKAI MARU	2681	ONI-222
	1	Freighter small	CHOKEI MARU	1700	RECOG. OF JAP. MMR. S-72
	1	Freighter small with rake.	KEIZAN MARU	2319	ONI-208 J, Page 147

All ships were closely observed as they passed close aboard. Decided to keep smoke in view and make night radar attack, since firing at this time would probably get one ship, but would permit the remainder to get away.

1803 (K) Surfaced. Targets were closer than expected, so dove immediately to prevent being sighted.

1844 Surfaced and kept smoke within easy sighting distance. Headed northward, trailing convoy.

2054 Visibility very poor. Numerous radar echos were received from islands, resulting in some confusion. GRAYBACK would close radar contact, only to find sharp, jutting rocks lying off islands.

2030 Sighted and identified GAJA SHIMA light.

2146 Radar contact bearing 015 T., range 7000 yards. (Ship Contact #4). Lat. 2-42N, Long. 129-29E, believed S/M or small craft. GRAYBACK put contact astern, and slowed in order to track. Tracked on various courses at various speeds. A low flat object was sighted, but no definite identification could be made. Radar lost contact at 10,800 yards.

2207 Came back to northerly course to overtake convoy. Assumed position to intercept convoy when they came out from TOKARA GUNTO Island chain.



NARRATIVE (Cont).

21 December 1943.

- 0033 (II) Radar contacted targets 058<sup>CT</sup>, range 15,000 yards. Tracking commenced. Targets were smoking excessively. GRAYBACK closed range to 8100 yards, and maintaining this distance, came left to make "end around run" on convoy's port flank.
- 0105 Fisherman picked up on radar between convoy and GRAYBACK. Came left to avoid being sighted, opening range on convoy to 13,500 yards.
- 0150 Convoy formation was indicated on the PPI as shown in the sketch (page 8 B). Targets were tracked on course 025<sup>CT</sup>, speed 8.3 knots, not zigging. Closed range on leading ship (Target #1) to 3200 yards.
- 0234 Approximately one-half hour after moonrise, commenced firing bow torpedoes. (Attack #3). Lat. 30-24-30 N., Long. 129-53-30 E. Fired three torpedoes at leading ship (Target #1); changed course to reduce gyro angles, and at 0236, fired two torpedoes at target #2, which, from the bridge, appeared slightly to the right of the nearer escort. At approximately the same time, one hit, followed shortly thereafter by a terrific explosion, was observed in target #1. Firing at target #2 completed, swung right with full rudder, all ahead flank, in a maneuver to fire with stern tubes at target #3. At 0239½, observed one hit in stern of target #2, and at the proper time interval, heard second hit in this target. (Shortly thereafter this target was observed to be smoking heavily from a hit aft. and apparently stopped). From time of torpedo run, target #2, run of torpedo was approximately 4800 yards (Radar range reported 2700 yards, probably on escort. The Commanding Officer would not have fired at this target had he realized that its range was so great). At a range of 4800 yards, one hit would appear lucky; however, one hit was seen by a Quartermaster, and the effects of damage were seen by two lookouts, and a second torpedo explosion was heard at exactly the proper time. First target was now awash from superstructure to stern, and settling rapidly.
- 0240 Commenced firing four stern tube torpedoes, bearings from after T.B.T., at target #3, which in the meanwhile had turned toward us with left rudder through approximately 130°, and presented a 90 degree starboard angle on the bow. New angle on the bow, new range and speed of 9 knots were cranked into T.D.C. prior to firing. The appearance of target #3 with odd goal post-mast sequence (similar to TATUHO MARU) was particularly noted at this time.



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NARRATIVE (Cont.)

21 December 1943.

0242 (K) Heard first of two hits, followed 19 seconds later by a second hit. A hit was observed by a Quartermaster, and two hits were observed by the after lookout, who was specifically detailed to cover target #3 for possible torpedo hits. The time interval between the torpedo explosions that were heard indicates that the first and last torpedoes were those that hit, and two hits were definitely observed. With this being the case, it is difficult to explain misses for the second and third torpedoes, which were spread between the first and last of the four torpedoes.

0243 With range to escort about 2000 yards, dove. During the period from the first explosion until this time, two escorts and uninjured vessels had been firing in the general direction of GRAYBACK with deck guns. The gunnery of the convoy had appeared putrid, but with range to nearest firing escort as 2000 yards, it appeared that sooner or later a lucky hit might be scored, hence the decision to dive. A poorly executed depth charge attack followed, with two escorts conducting a bewildered search. Prior to this, depth charge explosions had not been seen or heard from the bridge; GRAYBACK remained at periscope depth on the chance of a shot at the escorts with the remaining torpedo forward. Escorts at relatively close range were clearly visible in periscope, and were observed to be the XAM, similar to the CHOKAI MARU, (target #4), and a small escort similar to CHOKAI MARU, which had previously been observed.

0346 Went to radar depth. Observed three targets on radar screen, one small and two medium. It is

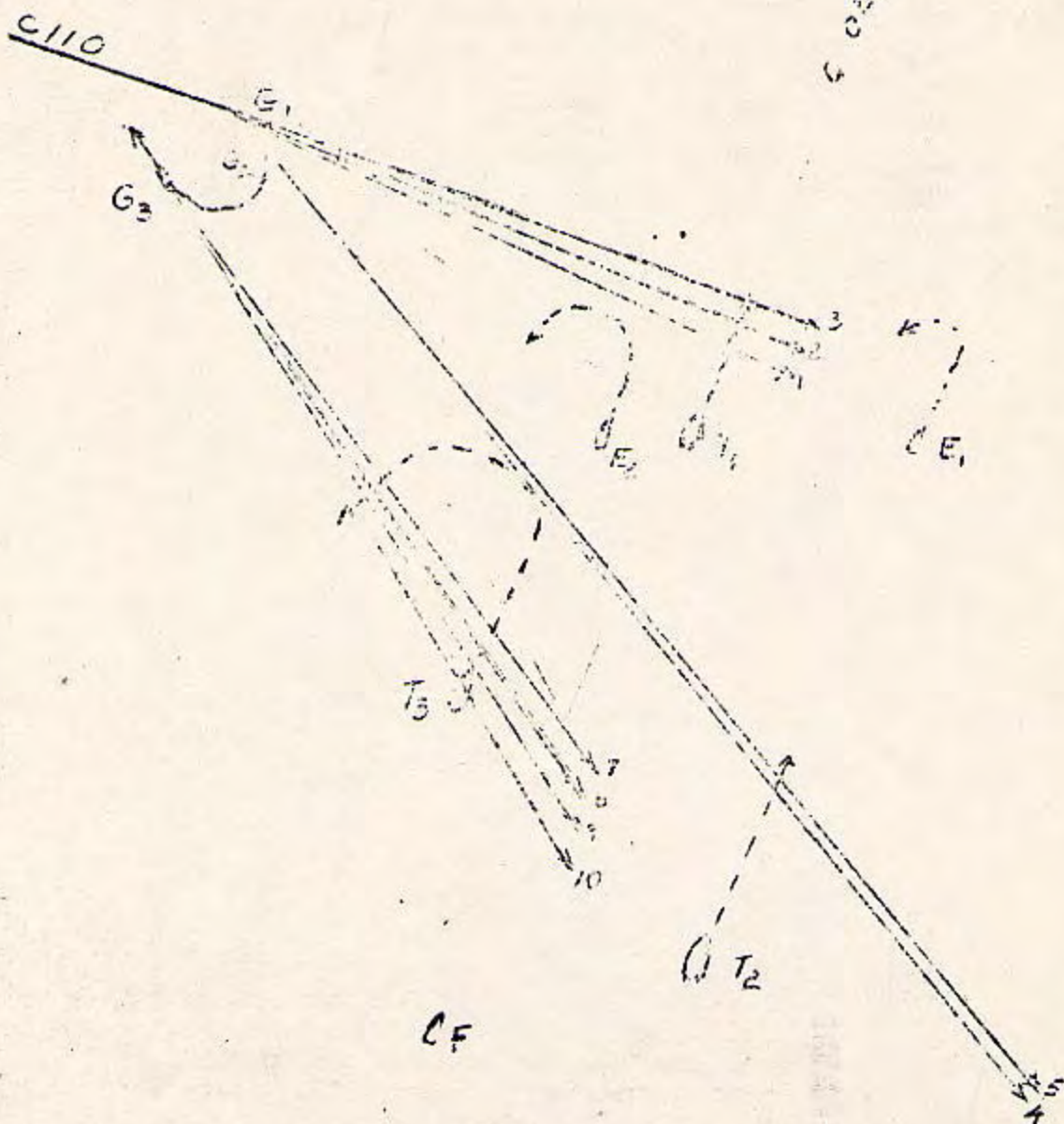


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U.S.S. GRAYBACK

TORPEDO ATTACK NO. 3.

PATROL NO. 9.



LEGEND

- E1 - KAM, CHOHEI MARU
- E2 - Escort, CHOHEI MARU
- T1 - TAZAN MARU
- T2 - KISO MARU
- T3 - TATSUO MARU
- F - KEIZAN MARU



NARRATIVE (Cont.)

21 December 1943 (Cont.)

0346(K) assumed that these were; the small escort; the  
(Cont) target of attack #4; and a "smoking" freighter which  
had not been fired at and which had appeared as the  
lagging ship of the original formation. Range and  
bearing to escort and to "KAM" indicated that these  
two vessels were in the near vicinity of the last  
location of the target which had been fired at with  
the stern tubes. They were later observed to be in  
this location with the "KAM" stopped, apparently  
picking up survivors, and with escort acting as a  
roving escort. As there were no radar indications  
at this time of targets number 2 and 3, it is as-  
sumed that they sank (they had previously made  
large runs at 17,000 yards, and the range at this  
time to their positions at the time of hitting was,  
at the most, 5000 yards; also, why would the two  
vessels that acted as escorts still be around if  
there were cripples to guard).

0349 Made decision to make second, meanwhile opening  
range to 6000 yards on "KAM" which was selected as  
next target.

0422 When reload was completed, surfaced. Smoke was  
visible on horizon in vicinity of last attack.  
Dressed out for another attack. Closed radar con-  
tact bearing 162°T., range 6800 yards. A ship  
could be seen on this bearing, apparently stopped.  
He was identified as the "KAM" (Target #4), previ-  
ously described, and his platform on stern could  
be plainly seen in the moonlight.

0523 GRAYBACK headed in slowly for fourth attack. Targe  
was tracked at speed zero, apparently picking up  
survivors. Small escort was nearby, and smoking  
freighter was in the background, range 11,000 yards  
Circled to obtain 90° track angle, and closed to  
5000 yards. Target got underway at this time.  
Radar ranges and TBT and periscope bearings gave  
new target speed of 2 knots, course 180 degrees.  
Small radar targets, believed motor launches, were  
found near "KAM" when at range of 3500 yards. Sound  
reported small, fast screws in same vicinity.

0604 With range 3200 yards, fired two torpedoes from  
bow tubes. (Attack #4). Lat. 30-24-00 N., Long.  
129-53-30 E. Two minutes later, all hands on deck  
saw a terrific explosion at the target, followed  
by a huge cloud of very black smoke. GRAYBACK  
turned away to avoid escort heading in her general  
direction. Range on escort opened rapidly, as four  
engine speed increased. Small escort dropped a  
few depth charges that were seen to explode about  
4000 yards astern of fleeing GRAYBACK.



NARRATIVE (Cont.)

21 December 1943.

- 0612 (K) Headed on northerly course to clear area.
- 0625 Radar contact bearing 025 T., range 23,000 yards. Believed YU EE rock.
- 0630 With daylight within an hour, and in view state of fatigue of all hands, believed GRAYBACK not up to one more attack plus daylight anti-submarine measures, so made decision to clear vicinity of attacks. Changed course to southwestward.
- 0636 Suddenly sighted what appeared to be a circle of floats or small boats, carrying bright steady lights, pointing out from a common center, possibly surrounding a damaged or grounded ship, near YU EE rock.
- 0712 Lookouts sighted craft, similar to landing barge, awash.
- 0737 Made routine dive. Depth charges were still heard in the distance at various times through the morning. Faint screws could also be heard, which indicated that thorough search of the area was being made. Last depthcharge heard at 1142.
- 1647 Sighted smoke bearing 110 T. An attempt to close was unsuccessful.
- 1913 Surfaced. Continued patrolling to southward. Numerous lighted fishing craft were sighted and avoided.
- 2025 KUSAKAKI and GAJA SHIMA lights sighted and identified. Numerous radar contacts, which proved to be islands, were experienced throughout the night.

22 December 1943.

- 0741 (K) Lat. 28-59-00 N., Long. 129-03-20 E. Plane on radar, range 7 miles. (Aircraft contact #8). Made quick dive. Patrolled submerged.
- 1456 Lat. 29-00-15N, Long. 129-17E. Sighted ship bearing 152 T., range 8000 yards. (Ship contact #4). Commenced Approach. Target was similar to, but possibly smaller than, HAKUYO MARU, 1327 tons (ONI-208J, page 158). Tracked target on course 348, speed 8 knots, not zigging.
- 1515 Lat. 29-02-00N., Long. 129-15-30E. When range was 700 yards, fired remaining three bow torpedoes, depth setting 6 feet, (Attack #5). The smoke of the first torpedo was seen to pass near or under the bow. The tracks of the other two were not observed. Went deep to avoid possible depth charge attack, since target was very close when torpedoes were fired. He was observed to be turning away when GRAYBACK went deep. Two minutes after GRAYBACK fired first torpedo, a loud close explosion was heard, followed shortly by another. Neither explosion had a sound similar to that of a depth charge, and if not depth charge explosions may have been those of aerial bombs. Target's screws were tracked by sound going away.



CONFIDENTIAL GRAYBACK Ninth War Patrol

NARRATIVE (Cont.)

22 December 1943 (Cont.)

- 1521 (K) With all torpedoes expended, set course 090 T. to clear area. Patrol craft's screws were last heard at 1534, bearing 310 T.
- 1600 Surfaced. Set course for Midway Islands.
- 2200 Transmitted GRAYBACK's serial #2 to Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.
- 2310 Lat. 28-56 N., Long. 131-00 E, departed from area.

23 December 1943.

- 1933 (K) Commenced converting #4A&B FBT to normal ballast tanks.
- 2141 Made dive to test #4A&B vent and wash out fuel.
- 2155 Surfaced and dove again to wash out fuel.
- 2201 Surfaced. Continued toward Midway Islands.

24 December 1943.

- 0937 (K) Smoke sighted on horizon, bearing 039 T. Lat. 29-29 N., Long. 140-16 E; proved to be LOT'S WIFE.
- 1010 LOT'S WIFE in sight.
- 1025 Plane on radar, range 4½ miles. (Aircraft contact #9). Lat. 29-25-30 N., Long. 140-14-00 E. Dove to avoid detection. Not sighted.
- 1049 Surfaced.
- 1313 Plane on radar, range 8 miles. (Aircraft contact #10). Lat. 29-38 N.; Long. 140-57-00 E. Made quick dive to avoid, not sighted.
- 1327 Surfaced. Dove immediately when plane reappeared on radar screen, range 11 miles and decreasing.
- 1357 Surfaced.

25-26 December 1943.

Uneventful. Cruising on surface toward base.

27 December 1943.

- 0730 (IM) Made trim dive.
- 0747 Surfaced. Continued toward base.
- 0954 (IM) Sighted masts of ship bearing 055°T., range about 15,000 yards. (Ship contact #6). Lat. 30-20-00N., Long. 159-15-00E., turned away and then headed toward contact; after determining masts to be those of a fisherman, of about 250 gross tons. At about 7000 yards range, contact could be seen clearly, and presented a worthy target for the 5" deck gun.
- 1120 (IM) Manned "Battle Stations, Surface".
- 1128 (IM) When radar range was 4500 yards, commenced firing 5" gun. (Gun Attack #1). Lat. 30-29-00N., Long. 159-25-00E.



NARRATIVE (Cont.)

27 December 1943 (Cont.)

- 1128 (LH) Thirty minutes after "commence firing", the target, (Cont) who had been tracked at about 8.5 knots on various courses in an attempt to put GRAYBACK astern, was stopped, down by the stern and with a list to starboard. GRAYBACK continued firing and changing course until gun range was 1900 yards. Seventy-four rounds were expended in this initial stage, with a total of about six hits.
- 1234 (LH) Ceased firing and secured gun crew. At 1800 yards range, target could be seen, decks awash, with stern completely under and with a 30 degree list to starboard. It was noted that target carried radio equipment, since an antenna and insulators were distinguishable. Her armament consisted of a unmanned, small calibre, water jacketed, machine gun on her deck house. Seven men were counted in the water clinging to debris, a life raft, and to life preservers. One, apparently dead, could be seen in the bow of the water-logged hull. GRAYBACK maneuvered to within hailing distance of survivors who, although apparently able to understand the invitation to come aboard, refused to do so.
- 1247 Recalled 5" gun crew to stations in an attempt to finish sinking target, which by this time, was very low in the water.
- 1250 At about 200 yards range, commenced second firing of 5" gun, expending 21 rounds. The target was so riddled with holes and so low in the water that gun crew found it difficult to bring final shots on. At 1303, ceased firing and set course for Midway Islands. Target was left with decks leveled and awash, and with bridge structure blown away entirely. All of the crew had abandoned her, and when last seen, were huddled together clinging to various floating objects. This vessel was a typical Japanese fisherman of wooden hulled construction. The usual orange ball in a white field was painted on her sides. In view of her location, and very fine radio antenna, she was treated with grave suspicion. Two members of her crew attempted to reboard her just prior to the final firing, probably for the purpose of using her unused machine gun on exposed members of GRAYBACK's gun crews. This attempt was thwarted by final gun firing of GRAYBACK. One of survivors appeared to understand English; however, all hails were answered by turned backs; one survivor appeared to be having discourse with "honorable ancestors" and ancient gods in the form of fervently uttered and anguished prayers. No prisoners were taken in view of the non-naval character of the target. The percentage of hits was low; however, in view of the sea conditions and smallness of the target, a large number of hits was not to be expected.



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NARRATIVE (CONT.)

28 December 1943.

- 0753 (H) Made trim dive.  
0817 Surfaced.  
0845 Received despatch from Commander Task Force SEVENTEEN to proceed to Pearl Harbor, fuel permitting, because of inclement weather at Midway Islands.  
1011 Set course for Pearl Harbor, T.H.

29 December 1943.

- 0152 (H) Transmitted GRAYBACK's serial #3. Continued on surface for Pearl Harbor, T.H.  
2400 Set clocks back 24 hours to keep plus 12(Y) time.

29 December 1943.

- 1304 (K) Lat. 26-22 N., Long. 176-16 E. Sighted plane believed to be PBX. Dove to avoid detection.  
1320 Surfaced. Continued toward Pearl Harbor. Numerous pips on radar due to squalls, were experienced.

30 December 1943.

- 0530 (K) Crossed International Date Line.

31 December 1943. - Uneventful.

1 January 1944.

- 1900 (V) Transmitted GRAYBACK's serial #4.

2 - 3 January 1944. - Uneventful.

4 January 1944. - Numerous radar contacts on friendly vessels.

- 0530 (VI) Radar contact 080 T., range 9850. Proved to be escort. Made rendezvous. Set course for Pearl Harbor channel entrance.  
0910 (VI) Channel entrance buoy abeam to starboard.  
0940 (VI) (Approximate) Moored at Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

THE END

WEATHER

December 2 - 13 - Enroute Midway to vicinity ARAI GUNTO. Heavy head seas (force 4-7) and head winds encountered.

In area, weather was in accordance with coast pilot information: One day (December 21) of flat oily calm was experienced, about 20 miles westward of TOKARA GUNTO.

27 December 1943 - 3 January 1944 - Moderate seas encountered enroute ARAI GUNTO to Pearl Harbor, T.H.

TIDAL INFORMATION

No unusual tidal currents were noted in vicinity of OKINAWA GUNTO, ARAI GUNTO or TOKARA GUNTO.

NAVIGATIONAL AIDS - The Islands of TOKARA, OJUI, ARAI and OKINAWA GUNTO's cut in well.

The only navigational lights sighted, GATA SHEIA and KUSAKAKI SHEIA, were burning with their normal characteristic.



Serial 065

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
9 January 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD ENCLOSURE to  
GRAYBACK Report of Ninth  
War Patrol.

NOTE: THIS REPORT WILL BE  
DESTROYED PRIOR TO  
ENTERING PATROL AREA.

COMSUBSPAC PATROL REPORT NO. 342  
U.S.S. GRAYBACK - NINTH WAR PATROL.

From: The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via : The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK (SS208) - Report of Ninth War Patrol.  
(2 December, 1943, to 4 January, 1944).

1. The ninth war patrol of the GRAYBACK was conducted in the EAST CHINA SEA. The patrol was brief, aggressive and extremely successful.
2. Carrying out night attacks on two convoys, the advantages of the new PPI and long range radar are again evident. The GRAYBACK in attacking these two convoys maintained the offensive by skillfully sinking, in each case, an escort vessel along with inflicting severe damage and the sinking of other vessels in the convoy.
3. It is noted that the Commanding Officer's comment regarding the new type camouflage is most favorable. This, with reports from other submarines, and facts found true during tests, definitely prove this camouflage an asset, particularly during night attacks.
4. In addition to successful torpedo attacks, the GRAYBACK destroyed a patrol trawler despite rough seas and erratic gun fire.
5. This patrol is considered successful for Combat Insignia Award.
6. The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, congratulates the Commanding Officer, officers, and crew for this aggressive and successful patrol. GRAYBACK is credited with having inflicted the following damage upon the enemy:

**S U N K**

1 - Freighter (BANDOENG MARU class)	-	4,000 tons
1 - Freighter (TAEJIN MARU class)	-	5,478 tons
1 - Freighter (TATUHO MARU class)	-	6,325 tons
1 - Freighter (KISO MARU class)	-	4,071 tons
1 - Gun Boat (HASHIDATE class)	-	1,200 tons
1 - Converted Mine Layer (CHOKI class)	-	2,638 tons
1 - Trawler	-	250 tons
Total	-	23,995 tons

REC'D 00162  
SUBAD, M. I.  
JAN 26 1944

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## SUBMARINE SQUADRON FOUR

11/rs

FC5-4/A16-3

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California.

Serial 011

9 January, 1944.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-LSECOND ENDORSEMENT to  
GRAYBACK Report of  
Ninth War Patrol.

From: Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR.  
To: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. FLEET.  
Via: (1) Commander Submarine Force, PACIFIC FLEET.  
(2) Commander-in-Chief, PACIFIC FLEET.

Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK - Report of Ninth War Patrol,  
Comments on.

1. Forwarded, concurring in the remarks of the  
Commander Submarine Division SIXTY-ONE.

2. The excellence of the GRAYBACK's fire control  
party was demonstrated on every occasion. The commanding  
officer is deserving of the highest praise for the training  
and coordination of a team which reacted correctly to fast  
changing attack conditions.

3. The correctness of the commanding officer's  
decision to refrain from a daylight periscope attack is borne  
out by the magnitude of the results of the night surface  
attack. The use of the P.P.I. enhances the night surface  
attack by furnishing more accurate information than may be  
otherwise obtained.

4. The Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR congratulates  
the commanding officer, officers and men on the comple-  
tion of another highly successful patrol.

C. B. MOISEN.



SUBMARINE DIVISION SIXTY-ONE

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FB-61/416-3

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
5 January 1944.

Serial (01)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commander Submarine Division SIXTY-ONE.  
To : The Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.  
Via : (1) The Commander Submarine Squadron Four.  
(2) The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
(3) The Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK, Report of Ninth War Patrol.

1. GRAYBACK ninth war patrol was a short but very effective one. It covered a period of thirty-three days of which seven were spent in the assigned area. Expenditure of all torpedoes caused termination of the patrol.

2. Area coverage was excellent. There were six contacts with enemy ships or groups of ships. One was a patrol craft and was avoided. Contact was made with a possible submarine while chasing a convoy. This contact was soon lost. Attacks were made on all other vessels or groups of ships sighted or detected by radar. All attacks were exceptionally well planned and executed against heavily escorted convoys. All except the last of five torpedo attacks were made at night and only one of the night attacks was made submerged. Four out of five torpedo attacks were successful. The only one that failed was on a small ship at a range of about 700 yards. There was one possible dud hit. It is probable that the other torpedoes ran too deep for this shallow draft vessel. Torpedoes on all attacks were set to run at 6 feet. The gun attack on a fishing vessel was difficult due to roll of the submarine and the casualty to the pointer's firing key which necessitated firing by lanyard.

3. GRAYBACK returned from patrol in good material condition and exceptionally clean. The ship will be refitted in the normal period. No. 1 torpedo tube shutter will be particularly examined for misalignment or improper clearance and corrective action taken. Torpedoes will be fired from this tube during the exercise period. The cause of the port tail shaft noise will be sought and corrected while docked.

4. The Commanding Officer, officers and crew of the GRAYBACK are congratulated on another very aggressive and highly successful patrol.



## SUBMARINE DIVISION SIXTY-ONE

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FB5-01/A10-3

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
5 January 1944.

Serial (01)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-LSubject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK, Report of Ninth War Patrol.  
-----

5. It is recommended that the GRAYBACK be credited with inflicting the following damage on the enemy:

SUNK

1 Freighter (BANDOENG MARU class).....	4003	tons
1 Freighter (LYONS MARU class).....	7018	tons
1 Gunboat (unidentified).....	1500	tons
1 Freighter (TAZAN MARU class).....	5478	tons
1 Freighter (KISO MARU class).....	4071	tons
1 Freighter (TATUHO MARU class).....	6335	tons
1 XAM (CHOKAI MARU class).....	2681	tons
Total	31,086	tons

DAMAGED

1 Freighter (BANDOENG MARU class).....	4003	tons
1 Fishing vessel.....	250	tons
Total	4253	tons

*C.C. Smith*  
C.C. SMITH



SUBMARINE DIVISION SIXTY-ONE

FIRST ENDORSEMENT  
FMS-61/116-3

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
5 January 1944.

Serial (01)

C-O-N-T-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commander Submarine Division SIXTY-ONE.  
To : The Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.  
Via : (1) The Commander Submarine Squadron Four.  
(2) The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
(3) The Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK, Report of Ninth War Patrol.

1. GRAYBACK ninth war patrol was a short but very effective one. It covered a period of thirty-three days of which seven were spent in the assigned area. Expenditure of all torpedoes caused termination of the patrol.

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3. GRAYBACK returned from patrol in good material condition and exceptionally clean. The ship will be refitted in the normal period. No. 1 torpedo tube sautter will be particularly examined for misalignment or improper clearance and corrective action taken. Torpedoes will be fired from this tube during the exercise period. The cause of the port tail shaft noise will be sought and corrected while docked.

4. The Commanding Officer, officers and crew of the GRAYBACK are congratulated on another very aggressive and highly successful patrol.



## SUBMARINE DIVISION SIXTY-ONE

FIRST ENDORSEMENT  
 FB5-61/A10-3

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
 San Francisco, California,  
 5 January 1944.

Serial (01)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK, Report of Ninth War Patrol.  
 -----

5. It is recommended that the GRAYBACK be credited with inflicting the following damage on the enemy:

SUNK

1 Freighter (BANDOENG MARU class).....	4003 tons
1 Freighter (LYONS MARU class).....	7018 tons
1 Gunboat (unidentified).....	1500 tons
1 Freighter (TAZAN MARU class).....	5478 tons
1 Freighter (KISO MARU class).....	4071 tons
1 Freighter (TATUHO MARU class).....	6335 tons
1 XAM (CHOKAI MARU class).....	2681 tons
Total	31,086 tons

DAMAGED

1 Freighter (BANDOENG MARU class).....	4003 tons
1 Fishing vessel.....	250 tons
Total	4253 tons

*C.C. Smith*  
 C.C. SMITH



CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. GRAYBACK, (SS208)  
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via : Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.  
Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet.  
Administrative Commander Submarine Squadron Assigned.  
Commander Submarine Division, SIXTY-ONE.

Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK, Report of War Patrol number NINE.

Enclosure: (A) Subject report.  
(B) Track Chart (Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet).

1. Enclosure (A), covering the ninth war patrol of this vessel conducted in East China Sea, Mansai Sacto area, during the period 2 December 1943 to 4 January 1944, is forwarded herewith.

*J. A. Moore*  
J. A. MOORE.



Serial 065

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
9 January 1944CONFIDENTIALNOTE: THIS REPORT WILL BE  
DESTROYED PRIOR TO  
ENTERING PATROL AREA.THIS INDICATOR to  
GRAYBACK Report of Ninth  
War Patrol.COMUSPAC PATROL REPORT NO. 342  
U.S.S. GRAYBACK - NINTH WAR PATROL.Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK (SS408) - Report of Ninth War Patrol.  
(2 December, 1943, to 4 January, 1944).-----  
D A M A G E D

1 - Freighter (BANDONG MARU class)	-	4,003 tons
1 - Freighter (LYONS MARU class)	-	7,018 tons
Total	-	11,021 tons

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 C. A. LOCKWOOD, JR.  
 Flag Secretary.