

USS Grayling (SS 209)



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS GRAYLING (SS 209)

September 9, 1943 - 76 Men Lost



Grayling (Lt. Cmdr. R. M. Brinker) departed Fremantle on 30 July 1943, for her eighth patrol, going through Makassar Strait and thence to the Philippine area. On 19 August, she reported having damaged a 6,000-ton freighter near Balikpapan, and the following day told of having sunk a 250-ton Taki Maru-type pocket tanker by gunfire in Sibutu Passage, taking one man prisoner. This was the last report received direct from GRAYLING. On 23 August, she completed a special mission at Pandan Bay, Panay, delivering cargo to guerrillas. Guerrillas reported this mission. Then she departed for Tablas Strait, there to reconnoiter until 2 September, when she would patrol approaches to Manila until 10 September. She was to return to Pearl Harbor for refit, passing from SubSoWesPac to Subpac on 13 September.

She was not heard from after 19 August 1943, and on 30 September 1943, GRAYLING was reported as presumed lost.

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Following war's end, the Japanese have submitted the following reports, which bear on GRAYLING. On 27 August 1943 a torpedo attack was seen by the enemy, and the next day a surfaced submarine was seen northeast. Both of the positions were in the Tablas Strait area. On 9 September a surfaced U. S. submarine was seen inside Lingayen Gulf; this ties with GRAYLING's orders to patrol the approaches to Manila. It is said that the freighter-transport HOKUAN MARU was engaged in a submarine action on the 9th in the Philippine area, but no additional data was available, and no known enemy attacks could have sunk GRAYLING. Her loss may have been operational or by an unrecorded enemy attack. At any rate, it is certain that GRAYLING was lost between 9 and 12 September 1943 either in Lingayen Gulf or along the approaches to Manila. ComTaskFor 71 requested a transmission from GRAYLING on the latter date, but did not receive one.

GRAYLING's first patrol, made in January and February 1942, was a reconnaissance of the northern Gilbert Islands. She went to the Japanese homeland for her second patrol, and sank a freighter and damaged a sampan. Truk was the scene of GRAYLING's third patrol; she sank a large freighter. On her fourth patrol, this boat again went to Truk, and sank a medium tanker, while she damaged an aircraft transport. In January and February 1943, she patrolled the approaches to Manila on her fifth patrol. Here she sank two freighters and a medium freighter-transport and two schooners. Damage was done to a large tanker and two freighters. She went to the area west of Borneo for her seventh patrol, and sank a medium freighter and two sampans. Damage was done to a large tanker. Thus GRAYLING's total record is 16 ships sunk, totaling 61,400 tons, and six ships damaged, for a total of 36,000 tons.



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Sailors Lost On USS GRAYLING (SS-209) 9-12-1943

Arnold, D. E. LT
Baker, E. N. TM1
Beavers, A. R. EM2
Booker, J. W. LTJG
Boyne, G., Jr. EM1
Brinker, R. M. LCDR
Burch, J. M. EM2
Bush, J. W., Jr. MOMM2
Campana, C. J. MOMM2
Chockley, J. E. CMOMMA
Clark, B. R. GM1
Corbett, R. A. SM2
Criswell, H. W., Jr. LT
Dallaire, W. J. ENS
Day, J. E. CTM
Dillow, H. E. MOMM2
Donaldson, F. W. COX
Ellis, W. EM3
Fontaine, D. I. PHM1
[Goodnight, J. C. MOMM1](#)
Grimes, C. A., Jr. S1
Gurasko, T. J. S1
Harbauer, R. E. SC1
Harper, J. K. FC2
Hawkins, C. H. MOMM1
Hickcox, F. J. S1
Hoffman, E. J. CTMA
Howard, R. GM1
Howell, J. L. S1
Hunt, C. W. TM3
Johnson, E. S1
Kelley, W. W. S1
Kelly, J. E. MOMM1
Keplinger, D. L. RM3
[Kysar, C. R. Y2](#)
Loudon, L. E. GM3
Mabuti, S. P. CK2
Maloy, F. B., Jr. LTJG
Marks, J. H. MOMM1
Mathis, M. O. F2
Mulvenna, G. A. CTMA
Nichols, C. W. BKR1
Nichols, J. T., Jr. LT
Oeldemann, H. C. F1

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Oliver, R. G. EM1
Parrino, A. J. GM2
Pawloski, J. T. MOMM1
Quesenberry, M. J. TM
Rainault, A. L. MM3
Santos, J. C. ST2
Sawerbrey, A. S. S1
Schmidt, C. E. ELECT
Schmidtmeyer, H. A. EM3
Scott, G. L. TM3
Sebourn, L. E., Jr. TM3
Sharrock, D. P. RM2
Shields, W. S. EM3
Simpkins, J. D. TM1
Simpson, R. T. F1
Small, R. E. CMMA
Smith, J. C. CRMA
Smoak, H. A. EM1
Spencer, D. H. EM2
Stevens, R. F. TM3
Sullivan, E. F, Jr. LTJG
Wallace, W. L. SC3
Waller, J. J. QM2
Welch, J. LTJG
Welch, F. MOMM1
Wetsel, A. F. MOMM2
Whitcomb, H. O. EM1
Wilson, J. H. TM2
Wolf, M. A. MM3
Young, J. H. RM2
Zabs, R. L. S1