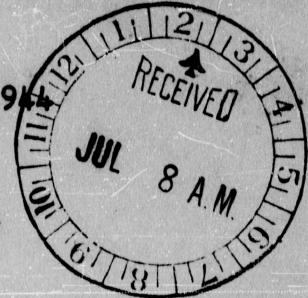


U.S.S. L.S.T. 314
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

AHT/ra

Serial: 002-3

13 June 1944



SECRET

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LST 314
To: Secretary of the Navy

Via: (1) Commander Task Group 124.3
(2) Commander Task Force 124
(3) Commander Task Force 122
(4) Commander Twelfth Fleet
(5) Commander in Chief, United States Fleet

Subject: Loss of ship; Report of

Reference: (a) Secret Dispatch 121440B
(b) Article 841(3) United States Naval Regulations

1. Supplementing reference (a), the following full report on loss of U.S.S. LST 314 is submitted as required by reference (b).

On 9 June 1944 a convoy consisting of five ships, with Lieutenant Commander S. H. PATTIE as S.O.P.A. and HMS BEAGLE as escort, formed in Weymouth harbor with orders to proceed to Beach Omaha, in accordance with assault follow-up plan of Western Naval Task Force Commander.

At 0232 this ship was torpedoed and was sunk at 0305.

At 2000 it was reported to the Captain that condition two (2) watch was set, as well as, material condition "Yoke"; At 0111 Lt(jg) Gordon E. KNOWLES, the Officer of the Deck, reported that flares were being fired on port and starboard bow and also, a stern. The sky was clouded and the weather slightly foggy and it was difficult to ascertain from where these flares were fired.

At 0232 on course (p.s.c.) 196° true and speed 10 knots, this ship was torpedoed apparently by E-boats. The concussion caused the port side from the deck-house to the stern to shear away from the ship. Fires broke out on the tank deck abaft the beam and water began

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U.S.S. L.S.T. 314
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File
ComLST314/Op-23(1)

AHT/ra

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to flood the crew's quarters and main engine room. All of this was instantaneous with the explosion.

Fire alarm was passed but there was no pressure on fire mains. The Captain ordered all hands to the bow as the stern was rapidly settling. At 0240 three rafts and number two (2) boat were lowered into the water. All other life boats and rafts were damaged. At 0241 the Captain ordered all hands to abandon ship. This was done in an orderly fashion and all hands were off the ship at 0255. At 0300 after the Captain had ascertained all hands had abandoned ship, he lowered himself into the water. At 0305 the ship sank and disappeared. Survivors were picked up by HMS BEAGLE several hours later and the dead were buried at sea, two of which were from this ship.

The ship sank in thirty fathoms of water approximately in position: 00° 53'.2 West Longitude; 49° 46'.5 North Latitude.

It was impossible to obtain a copy of the log as the bridge was inaccessible due to fires and failure of lighting facilities. The communications officer was also unable to obtain the registered publications, but it is believed these were destroyed by fire which swept the deck house.

It is believed by this command that this ship was hit by three (3) torpedoes, two of which entered the starboard side of the ship; the reason for this belief is because so many holes were discovered at various places simultaneously and two holes were seen by this command. One exploded on the port side in the shaft alley and the other, below the galley passage-way. At 0300 another explosion and jar was felt and this is believed to be the third torpedo.

The survival of Navy personnel was approximately fifty-three percent. Most of the casualties were due to exposure as the majority of the personnel

Op-23(1)

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were in the water for approximately two and one-half hours; the water temperature to the best of knowledge was 58° F. It is believed that some survivors may have been picked up by E-boats as it was observed that E-boats came close aboard survivors.

This command wishes to commend his officers and men on their various acts of courage and bravery which exemplified the highest traditions of the Navy. Without their splendid cooperation, the casualties may have been greater than they were.

A. H. Tuttle
A. H. TUTT

First Indorsement

Op-23(1)
29 June, 1944

CTF 124.3
FPO, New York

From: Commander Task Group 124.3
To: Commander Task Force 124.

1. Forwarded. It appears that, under the circumstances, the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LST-314, was powerless to do anything to save his ship and that he exercised good judgement in abandoning ship. The later rescue of a large proportion of his crew is commendable.

B. H. ...
B. H. ...

00858

14 JUL 1944

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SECRET
TO: USS LST 314
ltr., ComLST314/Op-23(1).
Serial 002-B, dated 13
June 1944

From: Commander Eleventh Amphibious Force.
To: The Secretary of the Navy.
Via: Commander Task Force ONE TWO TWO.
Subject: Loss of ship; Report of.

1. Forwarded. It is considered that the conduct of the
Commanding Officer of LST 314 was in keeping with the best traditions
of the naval service.

J. L. Hall Jr
J. L. HALL, Jr.

File No.
CTF122/A16-3

Serial: 001501

SECRET

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to
CO USS LST 314 Secret
Serial 002-B dated
13 June 1944.

Navy 002
Grand Fleet Post Office
New York, N. Y.

17 JUL 1944



From: Commander Task Force ONE TWO TWO.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet
Via : (1) Commander Twelfth Fleet.
Subject: Loss of ship; report of.
1. Forwarded.

AM 21 JUL 1944

A. D. Struble

A. D. STRUBLE,
Chief of Staff.

Reg. No. *Om 558*
L.S. No. *8.63*

UNITED STATES FLEET
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE
20 GROSVENOR SQUARE
LONDON, W.1

Please refer
to file: A16-3

Serial *001612*
SECRET

JUL 27 1944

End--4 to
CO USS LST 314 sec.
ser.002-B of 13 June 44.

From: Commander Twelfth Fleet.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S.Fleet.

Subj: Loss of ship; report of.

1. Forwarded.

L. V. Cantrell
L. V. CANTRELL,
By direction.

1944 AUG 2 8 45
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
FLAG OFFICE
RECEIVED

No