SECRET

ACTION REPORT

USS PARTRIDGE

ATO 138

NO SERIAL

29 JULY 1944

ACTION REPORT - USS PARTRIDGE - LOSS OF

COVERS TORPEDOING AND SINKING OF SHIP BY GERMAN E-BOAT ON 11 JUNE 1944 WHILE EN ROUTE TO NORMANDY - TASK FORCE 128

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UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



11 September 1944

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

From:

F-48

To:

Secret Mail Room.

Subject:

Distribution of CO USS PARTRIDGE letter of 29 July 1944, Serial omitted. (Subject: Action Report of Loss of Ship - 11 June 1944 - Normandy, FRANCE.)

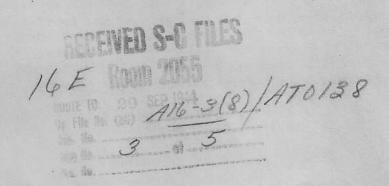
1.

Please have subject report distributed as follows:

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Authority NNO 968 33

U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (ATO-138) c/o Fleet Postoffice New York City, N.Y.

SE-C-R-E-T

29 July 1944

From:

The Commanding Officer.

To:

Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Via:

(1) Commander Tug Control (CTG 128.6) (2) Commander Naval Forces in Europe.

Subject:

Action Report: U.S.S. PARTRIDGE - loss of.

Reference:

(a) Article 712, U. S. Navy Regulations.

(b) Naval Commander Western Task Force Operation Order 2-14. (ONWEST TWO)

Enclosures:

(A) Casualty Report, submitted by Chief Machinist J. K. Bradley, U. S. N., Chief Engineer, U.S.S. PARTRIDGE. - 9.3

(B) Communication Report, submitted by Ensign T. B. Buffum, U. S. N. R., Communication Officer, U.S.S. PARTRIDGE. 7.6

1. submitted:

In compliance with reference (a), the following report is

At approximately 0500 June 10, 1944, the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE, a member of the Towing Unit, as stipulated in reference (b), left Portsmouth, England, enroute to U. S. sector of the French coast with a whale unit in tow. The PARTRIDGE was in company with five other tugs with tows, and the second ship in column. All went well, with no unusual incidences occuring until about 0200 June 11, 1944, when a flurry of 20 MM. tracer fire was seen well back on the starboard quarter. No ships or wakes could be seen, and the distance was indeterminable. At this time general quarters was sounded, battle stations were manned. At approximately 0215 the ship was rocked by a tremendous explosion, and sank in forty(40) to sixty (60) seconds. First impressions were that the ship had struck a mine, as there were no enemy vessels detected at the time of the explosion. It was later confirmed that the ship had been hit by a torpedo from a German E-boat. As the ship was in condition able at this time, it is believed the torpedo struck portside amidships in the vicinity of the fireroom, exploding the boilers and the magazine, and thereby causing it to sink so rapidly. The survivors were rescued by the H.M.C.S. PRESCOTT, and were afforded excellent care and treatment while aboard that vessel. The ship was sunk approximately ten milesoff the coast of France.

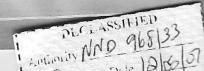
2. The following officers and men performed outstanding work in the rescue of survivors and are commended for their actions:

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Ensign Thomas B. Buffum, Jr., USNR Ch. Mach. Jesse K. Bradley, USN DONOVAN, Timothy J., QM 2/c USNR DOUGHERTY, Ellis C., SF 2/c USNR

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U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (ATO - 138) c/o Fleet Postoffice New York City, N.Y.

Ste-c-r-e-t

29 July 1944

3. The service records, health records, and pay accounts of all personnel were placed ashore at the U. S. NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS RECEIVING BASE, VICARAGE BARRACKS, Plymouth, Devon, prior to sailing, but all ships records and logs were lost.

4. Enclosures (A) and (B) are herewith forwarded for your information and guidance.

James C. W. White Lieut., U.S.N.R.

cc: COM SER FOR LANT

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U.S.S. PARTRIDGE ATO-138

23 June 1944

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

From: Senior Officer Present, U.S.S. PARTRIDGE.
To: Commander, U.S.Naval Forces in Europe.

Subj: Casualty Report for U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (ATO-138).

Ref: (a) Art. 1138 Navy Regulations.

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following report is submitted for the subject named vessel:

COONEY, Joseph P., BEAL, Lloyd G., GOSSMAN, Joseph (n) ISOM, Vernon G., PRILLAMAN, Clarence F.,	U. S. N. R. 834 64 17 298 96 55 381 40 46 265 85 03	Bos'n. D-M StMlc CBM(PA) SClc CKlc
	WOUNDED	
WHITE, James C.W., AYERS, Paul E., BUFFUM, Thomas B., Jr. RICH, Michael B., Jr.	U. S. N. R. U. S. N. R. U. S. N. R. U. S. N. R.	Lieutenant Lieutenant (jg) Ensign Ensign
ALTABET, Sam I., AMES, Williard H., Jr. CLEMENTS, William F., DOUGHERTY, Ellis C., FAY, John F., FEENEY, Joseph P., FREEMAN, William G., GARDENER, Virgil H., GEDWILLAS, Voctor J., JACOBSON, Henry O., JAKUBCZAK, Frank J., KIRKMAN, Dalton, C., KIRBY, Ernest (n) MENDELLO, Joseph F., MENDELLO, Angelo J., MENARD, Stanley C., MENZER, John O., MESSELL, Joseph H., MESSINA, Agostino (n) NORDING, Robert J.,	664 17 28 411 16 10 243 74 51 614 50 12 710 38 53 705 34 75 306 24 66 757 57 54 647 04 96 811 69 29 609 11 36 656 84 69 835 52 46 643 33 58 643 33 57 761 09 61 811 18 23 802 13 85 812 12 52 809 62 44	Y3c 29 SM1c WT1c SF2c S1c SM2c S1c CM3c RM2c Bkr3c S1c CM2c MM3c S1c S1c S1c S1c S1c S1c S1c
		0

4) ENCLOSURE A

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U.S.S. PARTRIDGE ATO-138

23 June 1944.

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

Subj.

Casualty Report - continued.

	MOUNDED	
NUCLFORA, Vincent M., NUTT, Joseph (n) O'BRIEN, James (n) O'NEAL, Roy P., PICOTT, Joseph S., RIKER, Albert W., ROBBINS, James W., SMITH, William W., SMITH, Lloyd T.,	809 61 70 761 86 34 809 61 66 864 21 73 875 16 02 808 71 74 328 68 86 706 64 13 833 77 25	S1c S1c S1c RdM3c RdM2c SK2c Cox. MM2c S1c
	MISSING	
ALLEN, Wilbur A., BURZYNSKI, Mieczysleus CASEY, James H., COSTON, Leroy Jr., DENNIS, Frank J., DENT, Horace G., DIX, Harry M., BOYLE, CHARLES (n) BOYLE, Frank E., DUNCAN, George L., FETTER, Clarence M., Jr. FILIZINIA, Henry (n) GRANDE, Nicholas A., GUTIERREZ, Ernest J., HOWE, Palmer R., JAEGER, Donald J., JOHNSTON, Raymond H., LANDRY, Raymond J., MELNICH, John (n) NORRIS, Robert W., PALOUYAN, Jacob (n) PROESCHEL, Morris E., PROSSER, Pee D., ROSS, Herschel E., SCHERER, John M., SCHOOLEY, Wilmer E., STACK, Edward J., WARD, Eddie L., Jr. ZMPERT, Alexander F.,	642 81 16 212 68 10 312 08 00 830 55 76 614 71 50 835 63 13 705 36 59 300 31 12 814 15 13 705 30 94 812 80 77 835 61 92 818 40 41 382 81 54 268 94 44 811 59 49 410 46 87 645 80 33 811 19 07 636 10 43 611 00 84 875 17 61 262 75 03 627 12 62 403 52 93 614 65 64 642 80 20 666 45 70 811 00 69	RM3c PhM1c M**3c StM3c Y1c F1c WT2c Cox. F1c QM3c F1c S1c F2c RM1c WT2c CM3c CM2c StM1c F1c SoM3c WT2c RdM3c RM2c F1c QM2c F1c QM2c F1c GM3c RM2c F1c GM3c WT3c WT3c

U.S.S. PARTRIDGE ATO-138

23 June 1944

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

Subj. Camualty Report- continued.

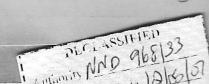
2. The Personnel listed as Dead were buried at sea, by the Commanding Officer. A/Lt.Comdr. W. J. McIsaac, R.C.N.V.R., of H.M.C.S. PRESCOTT.

J. K. BRADLEY, MACH., USN USS PARTRIDGE (AT-138)

cc: @rig. & 1 copy to ComNavEu. CTF 122; Ctf 124; Ctf 125 C.O. U.S.S. PARTRIDGE

C-O-P-Y





From: Thomas B. Buffum, Jr., Ensign, USNR, Communications

Officer, U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (ATO-138)

To: Chief of Naval Operation (DNC-RPS)

Subject: Publications, loss of.

Reference: (a) RPS 4(A)

1. On 11 June 1944 the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (ATO-138) was torpedeed and sunk at approximately 0215 while enroute from Britain to France. She sank within 40 to 60 meconds of the time she was hit, about 10 miles off the French Coast in approximately 20 fathoms of water.

- 2. At the time all publications aboard were in weighted bags in locked safes in the wardroom or on the bridge.
 - No possibility of compromise existed.
- 4. Prior to 1 June 1944, all except necessary publications were put ashore for safe keeping. These publications have been transferred to Sub-RPIO, Exeter, UK. Sub-RPIO, Exeter is forwarding a copy of the transfer report. (Their transaction #193, dated 13 July 1944)
- All publications except those transferred to Sub-RPIO, Exeter, were lost with the ship.
- 6. The Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE is hospitalized and unable to write any reports at this time.

Thomas B. Buffum, Jr. Ensign, USNR.

cc: Lt. James C. W. White

(ENCLOSURE B)

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