

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

84511

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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:

CominCh	5
F-105; F-48; F-30; F-46; FX-413	
Vice CNO	5
Op-02; Op-16; Op-16E; Op-20G; Op-23	1
BuPers (Page 1 and Encl. (A) only)	1
BuShips	1
Naval War College	1
General Board	1
Naval Aide to the President	1

*G. C. Gill*  
G. C. GILL.

BURN WHEN NO LONGER REQUIRED

RECEIVED S-C FILES

16E Room 2055

DATE TO: 20 SEP 1944

OF FILE NO. (44)

FILE NO.

FILE NO.

FILE NO.

3 of 5

A16-3(8)/ATO138

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

**SECRET**  
S-E-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 2-44. (ONWEST TWO)

Enclosures: ✓ (A) Casualty Report, submitted by Chief Machinist J. K. Bradley,  
U. S. N., Chief Engineer, U.S.S. PARTRIDGE. - p. 3  
✓ (B) Communication Report, submitted by Ensign T. B. Buffum,  
U. S. N. R., Communication Officer, U.S.S. PARTRIDGE. p. 6

1. In compliance with reference (a), the following report is submitted:

At approximately 0500 June 10, 1944, the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE, a member of the [REDACTED] 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 occurring 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 miles off the coast of France.

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

**FILMED**

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.

29 July 1944

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~~S-e-c-r-e-t~~

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

cc: COM SIER FOR LANT

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C-O-P-Y

File P-6

U.S.S. PARTRIDGE ATO-138

23 June 1944

C-O-N-F-I-D-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:

DEAD

COONEY, Joseph P.,	U. S. N. R.	Bos'n. D-M
BEAL, Lloyd G.,	834 64 17	StMlc
GOSSMAN, Joseph (n)	298 96 55	CBM(PA)
ISOM, Vernon G.,	381 40 46	SClc
PRILLAMAN, Clarence F.,	265 85 03	CKlc

WOUNDED

WHITE, James C.W.,	U. S. N. R.	Lieutenant
AYERS, Paul E.,	U. S. N. R.	Lieutenant (jg)
BUFFUM, Thomas B., Jr.	U. S. N. R.	Ensign
RICH, Michael B., Jr.	U. S. N. R.	Ensign
ALTABET, Sam I.,	664 17 28	Y3c
AMES, Williard H., Jr.	411 16 10	SMlc
CLEMENTS, William F.,	243 74 51	WTlc
DOUGHERTY, Ellis C.,	614 50 12	SF2c
FAY, John F.,	710 38 53	Slc
FEENEY, Joseph P.,	705 34 75	SM2c
FREEMAN, William G.,	306 24 66	Slc
GARDENER, Virgil H.,	757 57 54	CM3c
GEDWILLAS, Vactor J.,	647 04 96	RM2c
JACOBSON, Henry C.,	811 69 29	Bkr3c
JAKUBCZAK, Frank J.,	609 11 36	Slc
KIRKMAN, Dalton, C.,	656 84 69	CM2c
KIRBY, Ernest (n)	835 52 46	MM3c
MENDELLO, Joseph F.,	643 33 58	Slc
MENDELLO, Angelo J.,	643 33 57	Slc
MENARD, Stanley C.,	761 09 61	Slc
MENZER, John O.,	811 18 23	Slc
MESKELL, Joseph H.,	802 13 85	Slc
MESSINA, Agostino (n)	812 12 52	S lc
NORDING, Robert J.,	809 62 44	Slc

(4) ENCLOSURE A

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23 June 1944.

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

Subj. Casualty Report - continued.

WOUNDED

NUCIFORA, Vincent M.,	809 61 70	Slc
NUTT, Joseph (n)	761 86 34	Slc
O'BRIEN, James (n)	809 61 66	Slc
O'NEAL, Roy P.,	864 21 73	RdM3c
PICOTT, Joseph S.,	875 16 02	RdM2c
RIKER, Albert W.,	808 71 74	SK2c
ROBBINS, James W.,	328 68 86	Cox.
SMITH, William W.,	706 64 13	MM2c
SMITH, Lloyd T.,	833 77 25	Slc

MISSING

ALLEN, Wilbur A.,	642 81 16	RM3c
BURZYNSKI, Mieczysleus	212 68 10	PhM1c
CASEY, James H.,	312 08 00	M43c
COSTON, Leroy Jr.,	830 55 76	StM3c
DENNIS, Frank J.,	614 71 50	Ylc
DENT, Horace G.,	835 63 13	Flc
DIX, Harry M.,	705 36 59	WT2c
DOYLE, CHARLES (n)	300 31 12	Cox.
DOYLE, Frank E.,	814 15 13	Flc
DUNCAN, George L.,	705 30 94	QM3c
FETTER, Clarence M., Jr.	812 80 77	Flc
FILIZINIA, Henry (n)	835 61 92	Slc
GRANDE, Nicholas A.,	818 40 41	F2c
GUTIERREZ, Ernest J.,	382 81 54	RM1c
HOWE, Palmer R.,	268 94 44	WT2c
JAEGER, Donald J.,	811 59 49	CM3c
JOHNSTON, Raymond H.,	410 46 87	CM2c
LANDRY, Raymond J.,	645 80 33	StM1c
MELNICH, John (n)	811 19 07	Flc
NORRIS, Robert W.,	636 10 43	SoM3c
PALOUYAN, Jacob (n)	611 00 84	WT2c
PROBSCHER, Morris E.,	875 17 61	RdM3c
PROSSER, Pee D.,	262 75 03	RM2c
ROSS, Herschel E.,	627 12 62	Flc
SCHERER, John M.,	403 52 93	QM2c
SCHOOLLEY, Wilmer E.,	614 65 64	Flc
STACK, Edward J.,	642 80 20	RM3c
WARD, Eddie L., Jr.	666 45 70	SC2c
ZAPERT, Alexander F.,	811 00 69	WT3c

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C-O-P-Y

File P-6

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.

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

C-O-P-Y

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CONFIDENTIAL

14 July 1944

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 torpedoed and sunk at approximately 0215 while enroute from Britain to France. She sank within 40 to 60 seconds 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.

3. 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)

5. 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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