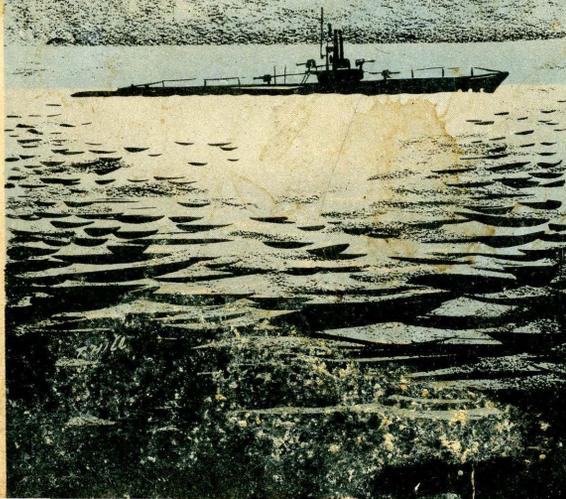


C.E. Wunsch

U. S.
**SUBMARINE
LOSSES**

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WORLD WAR II



TO THOSE whose contribution meant the loss of sons, brothers or husbands in this war, I pay my most humble respect and extend my deepest sympathy. As to the 374 officers and 3131 men of the Submarine Force who gave their lives in the winning of this war, I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths.

MAY GOD REST THEIR GALLANT SOULS.

From speech given in Cleveland, Navy Day 1945 by Vice Admiral C. A. Lockwood, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, January 1943 - January 1946.

GUDGEON (SS 211)

Armed with the pride borne of her successes on eleven previous war patrols, GUDGEON, under Lt. Cdr. R. A. Bonin, sailed from Pearl Harbor on 4 April 1944 to conduct her twelfth patrol in an open sea area in the northern Marianas. She left Johnston Island on 7 April 1944, after having topped off with fuel, and was never heard from again.

Originally scheduled to leave her area on 16 May, she was ordered on 11 May to depart her area in time to take station for a special assignment. An acknowledgement for this message was required and when none was received, it was asked for again on 12 May. On 14 May, her special assignment was given to another submarine, and GUDGEON was told to return to Midway. She should have arrived at Midway about 23 May but failed to do so and on 7 June she was reported as presumed lost.

GUDGEON's area was the space from 17°N to 21°N, and 143°E to 147°E but if she arrived earlier than 22 April 1944, she was to patrol the rectangle from 21°N to 24°N, 143°E to 147°E until that time. Using normal cruising speed, she would have arrived in the area assigned about 16 April. Assuming that nothing irregular happened enroute, she might be expected to have been in the northern area from 16-22 April. On 18 April, enemy planes claimed that they dropped bombs on a submarine. "The first bomb hit a bow, the second bomb direct on bridge. The center of the submarine burst open and oil pillars rose." The position given for this attack is 166 miles bearing 13°T from "Yuoh" Island. No island approaching the spelling or sound of this word can be found in the Pacific, and it is assumed that a mistake has been made either by the Japanese or in translation of the position. If the island referred to could be Maug, the position given would be in the middle of the area in which GUDGEON should have been at the time specified. The attack described cannot be correlated with



R. A. Bonin

any known attack on a U. S. submarine near this time, but it is felt that the possible errors in assuming that this attack sank GUDGEON are too great to list as anything but a possibility.

On 12 May 1944, a number of submarines patrolling the Marianas reported that the enemy engaged in intensive anti-submarine tactics in about 15°-15'N, 145°-30'E. Early in the afternoon, SANDLANCE states, "while patrolling off Saipan looking for convoy, we heard about forty depth charges eight to ten miles away." Later SANDLANCE received three bombs and twenty-one depth charges herself. SILVERSIDES heard both the first attack and the attack made on SANDLANCE. TUNNY heard depth charging during the afternoon. No submarine returning from the area reported having been attacked on 12 May except SANDLANCE. Japanese data for the attack gives little information save that it was made by planes in cooperation with ships. With so many submarines in the

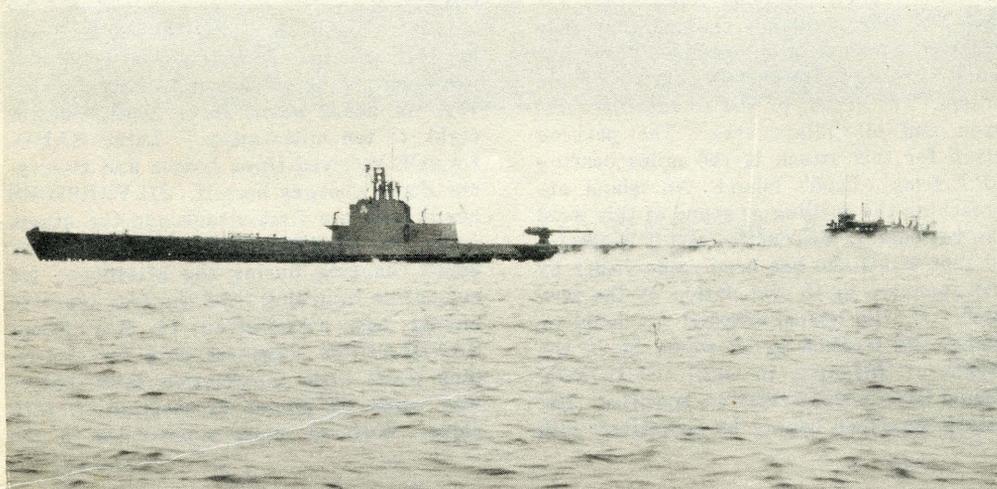
vicinity, and the enemy conscious of their presence, as they undoubtedly were, the attack which was not on SANDLANCE might easily have been on a false contact.

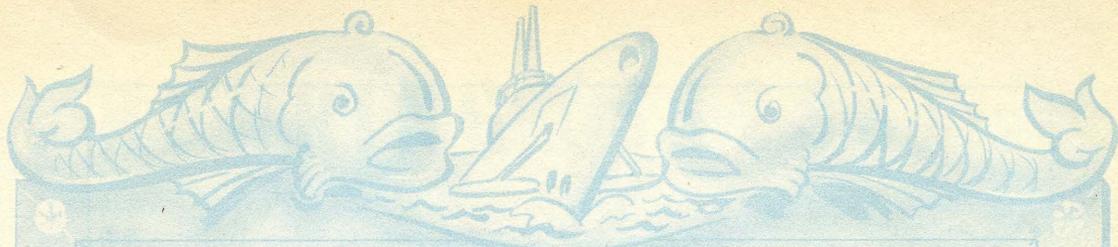
The probability as to the cause for GUDGEON's loss is that she was depth-charged, bombed, or both. The attack of 12 May occurred slightly south of GUDGEON's area, but it was not unusual for submarines to leave their areas temporarily for tactical reasons. Since the anti-submarine measures in the Marianas were so intense, it is not unlikely that GUDGEON would be unable to transmit a receipt for the message of 10 May for several days. All of these conclusions are presumptive, and there is a great likelihood that GUDGEON was lost during an unrecorded enemy attack.

During her first eleven patrols, GUDGEON was a most active submarine. She sank 25 ships, for 166,400 tons, and damaged 8 more, for 41,900 tons. She started for the Empire but four days after the attack at Pearl Harbor, and there sank a freighter and a submarine. By sinking the Japanese submarine I-173 on 27 January 1942, GUDGEON became the first United States submarine in history to sink an enemy combatant ship. She patrolled the South China Sea in her second war run and sank a large freighter-transport and a medium freighter. Her third patrol was as member of the forces fighting the Battle of Midway. She inflicted no damage in the

Battle. Passing from Pearl Harbor to Fremantle, Western Australia for her fourth patrol, GUDGEON patrolled the Truk area enroute. Here she sank three freighters and a freighter-transport, all of fairly large size. Her fifth patrol was in the Bismarck Archipelago, and resulted in the sinking of three freighters and damage to another.

GUDGEON patrolled Davao Gulf, Ambon Island and Timor Island on her sixth patrol. She made no attacks on this patrol, but did reconnoiter the latter two islands. In the Java Sea and Strait of Makassar on her seventh patrol, GUDGEON sank two tankers and two freighters and damaged a third freighter. Her eighth patrol covered a passage from Fremantle to Pearl with principal patrol in the Philippine areas. She sank the largest (17,500 ton) transport ship the Japanese had, a small freighter-transport, a trawler, and damaged a freighter. GUDGEON patrolled Saipan and Rota on her ninth run, and sank a freighter and damaged another freighter and patrol craft. The East China Sea north of Formosa was GUDGEON's area during her tenth war patrol. She sank a large transport, a small freighter, and the coastal defense vessel WAKAMIYA on 23 November 1943. She also damaged a large tanker. In the same area for her eleventh patrol, this vessel sank a large transport and a sampan, and damaged a second sampan. GUDGEON was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the period covering her first eight patrols.





U. S. S. GUDGEON (SS-211)

Name	Rate	Name	Rate
ABBOTT, O. A.	TM3	MC KENNA, J. R.	TM3
ANKENY, W. (n)	QM3	MC LALLEN, J. W.	TM3
BALL, J. R.	S1	MC NICOL, W. F.	RM3
BARRETT, M. P.	GM3	METZGER, L. L.	TM1
BIRCHFIELD, B. H.	MOMM3	MIDGLEY, D. R.	LT
BLESSING, J. H.	TM1	MORRIS, E. (n)	MOMM3
BONIN, R. A.	LCDR	MURPHY, W. J.	EM3
BOSSONG, J. G.	EM2	NICKEL, H. C.	MOMM1
CARNEY, J. R.	SM3	NORRIS, M. P.	EM3
CHRISTIAN, R. O.	TM3	ORFILA, H. F.	QM3
COGHLAN, J. W. S.	LTJG	OSTLUND, W. C.	LTJG
COLLINS, R. C.	LT	PATRIQUIN, H. F.	SC2
COPELAND, C. B., Jr.	EM2	PATTERSON, T. E.	CEM
CRANDALL, G. E.	EM2	PIENIADZ, F. J.	RT2
DICKENSON, B. W.	ENS	PILLER, J. A.	S1
DODSON, E. H.	EM3	PINKLEY, A. D.	LTJG
DONOVAN, J. P.	TM3	POWLES, J. M.	CPHMA
EVANS, J. W.	MOMM1	REMALEY, W. D.	RM1
EVERHART, A. R.	Y3	RICE, J. R.	TM3
FEIKERT, W. E.	MOMM1	SENNEWALD, W. J.	MOMM3
FERNANDEZ, A. (n)	STM2	SEWELL, M. A.	S2
FOURNIER, J. A.	EM3	SHULTS, L. (n)	MOMM2
GARRETT, H. O.	EM2	SIMON, R. P.	TM2
GAUGHAN, E. C.	MOMM2	SPONHEIMER, W. H.	S1
HALL, V. E.	MOMM1	SULLIVAN, O. J.	MOMM1
HAMMOND, K. L.	MOMM3	SWINSON, J. P. W.	STM2
HEGERFELD, L. G.	TM2	TAYLOR, R. H.	F2
HENRY, W. R.	F1	TAYLOR, S. H.	S1
HENSLEY, E. C.	MOMM2	THOMAS, C. F.	MOMM3
HEYES, B. L.	LTJG	UPDIKE, H. E.	TM3
HITT, R. M.	GM3	VANCE, N. (n)	S1
HUGART, R. E.	TM2	VAN NORDEN, F. E.	EM2
KELLER, D. W.	RM3	WALKER, J. M., Jr.	RM2
KELLER, N. C.	S2	WATERS, H. A.	MOMM2
KOHUT, S. (n)	CMOMMA	WATSON, G. J.	EM3
KRUEGER, K. P.	RM2	WEBSTER, E. A., Jr.	F1
LANGDALE, L. A.	SC2	WHITE, T. J.	FC3
LEFFERTS, G. W., Jr.	MOMM3	WHITELOW, J. (n)	MOMM2
LEWIS, R. J.	S1	WORTHINGTON, W. W., Jr.	EM2
MC CORQUODALE, D. B.	LTJG	ZIMMERMAN, C. A., Jr.	GM3

