

(B) NARRATIVE.

21 March.

- 0003 Exchanged calls by SJ with BERGALL. BERGALL wanted to chit-chat by SJ. Had a hard time trying to convince my old professor in the BERGALL that we were right in the beginning of the attack phase trying to put into practice a few of his teachings.
- 0007 BERGALL convinced. Finally got SJ operator back on the target. Our 1-A Radar Tech has just learned the Morse Code and gets a greater kick out of sending than tracking a target.
- 0013 Came right to start opening the track. This was a planned attack, but as we were all anxious to remove the clutter from the after nest which had not been fired after commissioning.
- 0022 Target slowly slides through periscope against dark land background. Target zigged 15 degrees toward. Target on track at standard speed.
- 0031 Target zigged back to base course leaving us 2500 yards from the track spread of planned 1000-1500 yds. Dropped down to 45 ft.
- 0034-47 With TOC and SJ in perfect agreement, all torpedoes set on 4 track, 40 starboard track, gyros rolling up on 180. Range 3100 yards, commenced firing full three torpedo salvo at 1-1/2 knot speed spread.
- 0036 Down to periscope depth.
- 0037 Target entered left edge of moon streak and definitely identified as a MITSUBISHI MATSU class DD with a slender stack well aft under the mainmast and large open space between it and the bridge structure and a single gun barrel forward. By periscope formula this ship measured to be 290-295 feet long.
- 0038-10 Observed and heard one hit in target amidships. Hit was a good sized explosion with a grey flash and a towering mushroom of black smoke followed by a small orange fire. Sound reports no screws.
- 0040 Surfaced. While taking LT sweep at 40 feet. SJ had a weak echo at 3700 yards on the bearing of the target when it was at the time the watch got to the bridge the target had faded from the screen and nothing was in sight from the bridge except a high cloud of black smoke.
- 0041 Commenced opening scene of attack. Wanted to take a good close look but decided it was not worth the risk. In twelve war patrols, this is the first attack that the commanding officer has been aboard when something has been gotten for nothing.
- 0136 Patrolling coast to the south at 7-5 miles at 5 kts.