

(B) NARRATIVE.

21 March.

- the SC-S-1, and a second small Sugar Dog of about 500 tons not very distinct against the land background. Set up on BRITISH HAWK but did not consider him worthy of pursuit.
- 0712 SC seemed to be coming symmetrically at about 1500 yards, with a SC centered circle on the bow.
- 0716 SC displaying flag over stern the four pennant at the top followed by three flags giving us a 25° angle on the bow.
- 0717 SC giving us about 10° angle on the bow. Did not believe that he hit us sighted as he was not pinging on us.
- 0718 SC still showing a 10° angle on bow at about 900-1000 yards. Commenced coming down to 200 feet. Rigged for Depth Charge and Silent Running. Still not convinced that SC had seen us, but was probably coached on by a plane and smoke float. Rigged in one sound head.
- 0724 At 200 feet. SC passed directly overhead with screws heard distinctly in all compartments. Wishing that this was just another drill off Rottneest Island, eased on down to 220 feet.
- 0724-30 First of 21 depth charges, much too close. Estimated on either side of bow and above at about 200 feet. Ship bodily knocked from 220 feet to the bottom at 270 feet. These really jarred the core of my teeth. Great showers of ~~spunk~~ and paint chippings. All normal lights knocked out. Light bulbs shattering like icicles on an autumn morning. Much rattling of deck plates and loose gear flying around.
- 0725 Conning Tower hatch fluttering like a check valve. Took two complete turns on it. Navigator calmly combing the light bulbs out of his hair as he peers through the gloom to see if the Control Room is still there.
- 0726 All stop. Laying on the bottom and taking it. One close one blew the door between the Engine Rooms closed. FER reports a bad water leak. AER dogs-door down. AER reports a bad air leak. FER throws the locking bar across the door. Both rooms believe the other one doomed.
- 0728 Control reports red lights on three hatches and both Fuel Ballast Tank vents. Compartments reporting sea valves backed off from one to three turns. Forward Room reported 5 bent gyro spindles. Only able to get one out before first depth charge went off.