

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION REPORT

ORIGINAL

USS MACKENZIE

DD 614

NO SERIAL

17 MAY 1943

ANTI-SUBMARINE ACTION BY SURFACE SHIP, REPORT OF.

FORWARDS WITHOUT COMMENT 2 ASW-1 FORM
REPORTS COVERING ACTION OF 16 MAY 1943
WHILE OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY IN COMPANY
WITH USS LAUB IN LAT. 33.55 N, LONG. 20.35 W.
(C.O. D. B. MILLER)

DD614/A16-3/A9

U. S. S. MACKENZIE (DD614)

10-ap

May 17, 1943.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.

Via : (1) The Commander Destroyer Squadron SIXTEEN.
(2) The Commander Destroyer's ATLANTIC FLEET.
(3) The Commander-in-Chief, ATLANTIC FLEET.

SUBJECT: Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship -
Report of.

Enclosure: ✓ (A) ASW-1 (Anti-submarine Action by Surface
Ship) CONFIDENTIAL.

1. In accordance with existing instructions, enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

D. B. Miller
D. B. MILLER.

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ANTISUBMARINE ACTION BY SURFACE SHIP

U. S. S. MAC KENZIE (DD614) Date May 16, 1943 Time 1st contact 0420 GCT
33-55N
 Lat. 33-55N Long. 20-35W Course 090°T. Speed 19 kts. Base 090°T.
~~Course~~ course

INSTRUCTIONS

- (a) ATTACK FIRST—Then collect data for this report!
 (b) Do not "gun deck" this report. If data cannot be estimated with accuracy enter a dash in the space for which no data are available.
 (c) Draw circle around the appropriate entry in this report wherever suitable.
 (d) Ships equipped with DRT submit pencil tracing of ship's track from time of first contact to termination of operation.
 (e) If more than one attack was made on same submarine, submit a separate form for each attack.
 (f) If Range Recorder used, submit trace.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF CONTACT

EMPLOYMENT OF SHIP:	LIGHT:	SEA:	WIND:	SUB FIRST REPORTED BY—
Patrol.	Sunny.	Smooth.	Force <u>4</u>	Attacking ship.
Escort of convoy. No.	Clear.	Whitecaps.	Direction.	Other ships.
Inner A/S screen.	(Overcast.)	(Moderate.)	<u>225°</u> T.	Aircraft.
Intermediate A/S screen.	Rain.	Heavy. Rel.	(Radar.)
Outer A/S screen.	Fog.	Water.	DEPTH OF	Range <u>7800</u> yds.
Independent. with LAUB	(Moonlight.)	Temp. <u>66</u>	WATER <u>200</u> fms.	

If in company of other units, position relative thereto:

4000 yds. on stbd. beam of U.S.S. LAUB

Estimated sound range of the day yds.

Sound gear in use when contact made:

Listening—Echo ranging.

VERIFICATION OF CONTACT:

Prop. noises no

Width of target

Movement of target Stbd. to Port.

Type of echo Good, Strong at 1800 yds.

Doppler: Inclination opening (Closing) None.

Small—Moderate—Great.

SIGHT:	TORPEDO SIGHTED:	SHIP TORPEDOED:	FIRST SOUND CONTACT:
Periscope.	Rel. bearing	Rel. bearing	Range <u>2700</u> yds.
Conning tower.	Track angle	Dist.	Bearing <u>104°</u> T. or Rel.
Hull.			
Range			

REMARKS:

0420 SG Radar Contact at 7800 yds. Bearing 132°T.
 Radar Contact lost at 2700 yds. Bearing 104°T. (Sub Submerged).
 Sound Contact gained immediately. Strong echo.
 Dropped 10 Depth Charges.

NOTE: Radar operator making initial contact, HOLLIDAY, W.C., RdMLc, 321-19-45

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2. ATTACK

TIME	RANGE	BEARING	OWN COURSE	OWN SPEED	
0350	7800	132°T	090°T	19 Kts.	Relative speed at loss of contact
	1600	095°T	-	15 "	Range at loss of contact 100 yds
	600	065°T	-	15 "	Time of dropping first charge 0439
	200	045°T	-	15 "	At time of drop: Own. co. 045°T; spd. 15
					Assumed sub speed 300°T at 500 yds. turned to 220°T.
					Assumed sub course
					Estimated sub depth (Shallow) Medium—Deep.
					Was marker buoy dropped? no

CHARGE No. (Indicate duds)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Time of drop from 1st charge														
Depth setting	250	200	150	150	250	250	250	200	150	150				
Size impulse charge			1 1/2oz	1 1/2oz		20oz	20oz		1 1/2oz	1 1/2oz				

EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE TO SUB. (NOTE—Do not confuse the brown residue from depth charge explosion with oil on water.) Heavy explosions heard and felt at 45 Min. and 54 Min. after attack.

Cause unknown. Also felt by LAUB 8000 yds. away.

Bodies—Debris—Oil sample—Recovered. Where forwarded

TIME BETWEEN FIRST CONTACT ON THIS TARGET AND THIS ATTACK 19 Min.

If no further attacks made, time between last attack and abandonment of search Further attack made.

Reason search abandoned

Number charges remaining

3. GENERAL REMARKS (Use Additional Sheet if Necessary)

(Describe evasive tactics if possible)

Sub submerged when ranged closed to 2700 yds, making an "S" turn in the meantime. After diving held course until range closed to 500 yds., then turned toward.

ANTISUBMARINE ACTION BY SURFACE SHIP

U. S. S. MAC KENZIE (DD614) Date May 16, 1943 Time 1st contact 0420 GCT
 Lat. 38-55N Long. 20-35W Course Turning Speed 15 Base
 kts. Convoy course 090°T

INSTRUCTIONS

- (a) ATTACK FIRST—Then collect data for this report!
 (b) Do not "gun deck" this report. If data cannot be estimated with accuracy enter a dash in the space for which no data are available.
 (c) Draw circle around the appropriate entry in this report wherever suitable.
 (d) Ships equipped with DRT submit pencil tracing of ship's track from time of first contact to termination of operation.
 (e) If more than one attack was made on same submarine, submit a separate form for each attack.
 (f) If Range Recorder used, submit trace.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF CONTACT

EMPLOYMENT OF SHIP:	LIGHT:	SEA:	WIND:	SUB FIRST REPORTED BY—
Patrol.	Sunny.	Smooth.	Force <u>4</u>	(Attacking ship.)
Escort of convoy. No.	(Clear)	Whitecaps.	Direction.	Other ships.
Inner A/S screen.	Overcast.	(Moderate.)	<u>225°</u> T.	Aircraft.
Intermediate A/S screen.	Rain.	Heavy.	Rel.	Radar.
Outer A/S screen.	Fog.	Water.	DEPTH OF	Range <u>500 Yds.</u>
Independent with LAUB	(Moonlight.)	Temp. <u>66</u>	WATER <u>2000</u> Fms.	

If in company of other units, position relative thereto:

LAUB searching about 4000 yds. away.

Estimated sound range of the day yds.

Sound gear in use when contact made:

Listening—(Echo ranging.)

VERIFICATION OF CONTACT:

Prop. noises

Width of target

Movement of target

Type of echo Strong, Fuzzy, many water noises.

Doppler: Inclination opening—Closing—None.

Small—Moderate—Great.

SIGHT:	TORPEDO SIGHTED:	SHIP TORPEDOED:	FIRST SOUND CONTACT:
Periscope.	Rel. bearing	Rel. bearing	Range <u>500</u> yds.
Conning tower.	Track angle	Dist.	Bearing <u>250°</u> T. <u>3700</u> Yds.
Hull.			
Range			

REMARKS:

16-20049-1

After having made one attack, was turning to reattack when made contact at 500 yds. Received only about three (3) good echoes.

NOTE: Sound operator making initial contact on second attack, PHILLIPS, J. A., jr., SoM2c, 394-67-76.

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2. ATTACK

TIME	RANGE	BEARING	OWN COURSE	OWN SPEED	
	500 yds.	250°T	Turning	15 Kts.	Relative speed at loss of contact
					Range at loss of contact 300 yds.
					Time of dropping first charge 0443
					At time of drop: Own. co. 270°T; spd. 15
					Assumed sub speed
					Assumed sub course 060°T.
					Estimated sub depth: Shallow—Medium—(Deep.)
					Was marker buoy dropped? No.

CHARGE No. (Indicate duds)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Time of drop from 1st charge														
Depth setting	250	200	150	250	200									
Size impulse charge			14oz											

EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE TO SUB. (NOTE—Do not confuse the brown residue from depth charge explosion with oil on water.) See report of 1st. attack.

Bodies—Debris—Oil sample—Recovered. Where forwarded

TIME BETWEEN FIRST CONTACT ON THIS TARGET AND THIS ATTACK 23 Min.

If no further attacks made, time between last attack and abandonment of search 2 hours & 53 Minutes

Reason search abandoned Mission did not permit loss of more time.

Number charges remaining

3. GENERAL REMARKS (Use Additional Sheet if Necessary)

(Describe evasive tactics if possible)

JUN 10 1943 AM

File
Serial

DESTROYER SQUADRON SIXTEEN
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

U. S. S. PARKER, FLAGSHIP
IN CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CONFIDENTIAL

FIRST ENDORSEMENT
CDS16/A16-3/hs

May 24, 1943.

From: The Commander Destroyer Squadron SIXTEEN.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

Via: The Commander Destroyers, Atlantic Fleet.
The Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship -
U.S.S. MACKENZIE, May 16, 1943.

1. Forwarded.

2. In view of the heavy underwater explosions heard by both MACKENZIE and LAUB some forty-five and fifty-four minutes after the depth charge attack, it is believed that the submarine was severely damaged, if not destroyed, in this action.

3. It is noted that the two ships left the vicinity about three hours after the first attack when the positive nature of the contact made it advisable to search for at least twelve hours or until wreckage had been found. The decision to leave and to proceed to CASABLANCA was made by the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LAUB (Commander Task Group 62.1) who believed that his orders to proceed to that place did not admit of further delay.

Thos L. Wattles
THOS. L. WATTLES.

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3124-43

Refer to
Serial

A16-3/FF13-6

UNITED STATES FLEET
DESTROYERS, ATLANTIC FLEET

01050

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

Care Fleet Post Office,
New York, N. Y.

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to:
CO, MACKENZIE ltr. DD614/
A16-3/A9 of May 17, 1943.

24 JUN 1943



From: Commander Destroyers, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Anti-Submarine Action By Surface Ship -
U.S.S. MACKENZIE (DD614), May 16, 1943.

1. Forwarded.

2. The Type Commander considers that the radar plot should have given information sufficient to open effective fire with the main battery at a range of about four thousand yards. Alertness with positive and quick decisions in conjunction with flexibility in the use of offensive weapons and their control are essential to successful action against enemy submarines.

3. A copy of the basic correspondence with enclosure (A) has been forwarded to the Atlantic Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Unit, Boston.

M. L. Deyo
M. L. DEYO

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CINCLANT FILE UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

A16-3(13)/()

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CARE F. P. O., NEW YORK, N. Y.

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26 JUN 1943

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THIRD ENDORSEMENT to
CO MacKENZIE ltr. DD614/
A16-3/A9 of 17 May 1943.

From: Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet.
To : ✓ Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship -
U.S.S. MacKENZIE (DD614), 16 May 1943.

Enclosure: ✓ (B) CTG 62.1 serial 0165 of 20 May 1943 with
endorsements thereto.
✓ (C) LantASW Unit serial 0501 of 8 June 1943.

1. Forwarded for information.

C. J. Cater
C. J. CATER,
By direction.

Copy to:
ComDesLant (with copy encl.(C) less recorder trace and track chart)
ComDesRon 16 "
CO MacKENZIE "
CTG 62.1 "

1943 JUN 28 13 20
COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

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COPY

AL6-3(7)
Serial 0501
9/jjc

8 June 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Atlantic Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Action Report U.S.S. MackENZIE; analysis of.

Reference: (a) Action Report U.S.S. MackENZIE dated May 6,
1943.
(b) Instructions for Anti-Submarine Warfare,
Surface Craft.

Enclosure: (A) Subject Analysis.
(B) Recorder Trace.
(C) Track chart. *Handwritten signature/initials*

1. Enclosures (A), (B) and (C) are forwarded herewith.

2. This rather sad pair of attacks brings up forcefully the need for emphasis in training on regaining contact after attack. Loss of this promising contact must be attributed solely to inexperience and lack of study of methods advocated in reference (b). While last indications were that the target was crossing to the left, MackENZIE turned right immediately after attack and ran out ranging on her own wake and depth charge disturbance, which effectively screened the submarine escaping to the northwest. The northwest area was never searched by MackENZIE, though possibly it was by LAUB. LAUB'S movements are not reported, but instead of taking part in a coordinated attack she appears to have played the part of a disinterested bystander. From the available evidence it appears that the submarine thereafter remained in the area immune from attack and took two pot shots at the searching ships.

/s/P. R. HEINEMAN.

ENCLOSURE (C)

COPY

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ANALYSIS OF ACTION REPORT

U.S.S. MACKENZIE

Attack at 0239, LZT, May 16, 1943. Employment: Independent.
Latitude: 20-35 N. Longitude: 33-55 W.

Weather Conditions: Sea moderate - wind force 4.
Sound Conditions : Very good.

Range at which contact was obtained: 7800 yards (radar)
2700 yards (sound)
Range at which contact was lost : 100 yards.

Radar contact at 7800 yards was approached, disappearing at 2700 yards; sound contact being gained immediately. The target moved left. Attack was delivered with 10 charges set to 150-250 feet.

The recorder trace shows a quarter-on submarine echo, shortening to beam-on. This is borne out by the increase in range rate from 12 to 14 knots, and indicates the target turning left, being on course about 315° T. at the last. Since target bearing was 045° T. at range of 200 yards and MACKENZIE attacked on course 045° T. lead was insufficient and the pattern exploded well astern of the submarine. Explosion trace indicates firing was late. In the case of the obvious turn toward as in this case pattern should be fired early by recorder.

Submarine - no damage. There was no evidence of damage. Lead was insufficient and firing was late.

ENCLOSURE (A) TO
LANT A.S.W. Unit
SERIAL 0501
DATED 8 June 1943

8

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ANALYSIS OF ACTION REPORT

U.S.S. MackENZIE
(continued)

Attack at 0243, LZT, May 16, 1943.

Other data same as previous attack.

Range at which contact was obtained: 500 yards.
Range at which contact was lost : 300 yards.

While circling to re-attack contact was made at 500 yards and attacked with 5 charges set to 150-250 feet. Two heavy explosions were heard 45 and 54 minutes after the attacks.

By placing the severed ends of the recorder paper from the two attacks together it becomes self-evident that MackENZIE obtained contact astern on her own depth charge disturbance after the first attack, held it while running out, then turned and attacked it. Since she was in a tight turn the range rate indication is useless. The track chart indicates attack delivered in a different spot, but the chart appears to have been constructed later and is definitely not a D.R.T. trace. The submarine evidently escaped to northwestward after the first attack, that being her last indicated course. The northwest area was not covered by MackENZIE on her subsequent search. Evidently the submarine remained in the area and took opportunities on two separate occasions to fire a torpedo at one or both of the searching ships. The explosions were probably torpedoes detonating at the end of their run.

Non-submarine target. Depth charge disturbance was attacked.

Search was abandoned after 2 hours and 53 minutes.

ENCLOSURE (A) TO
LAND A.S.W. UNIT
SERIAL 0501
DATED 8 JUNE 1943