

DDAO/100-3/176  
Serial (11)

U.S.S. PHELPS

(U-)

**DECLASSIFIED**

22 February 1944

From: The Commanding Officers  
 To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
 Via: (1) The Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE,  
 (2) The Commander Task Group 51.11,  
 (3) The Commander Task Force 51,  
 (4) The Commander Central Pacific Force,  
 (5) The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship - report of.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Confidential Letter 2CL44 of 1 January 1944.

Enclosure: (A) Submarine action report. P 2

In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

*D. J. HARTMAN*  
 D. J. HARTMAN

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ANTI-SUBMARINE ACTION BY SURFACE SHIP

U.S.S. PHELPS (DD-160) Date 15 Feb. 1944 Time 1st Contact 1712  
Lat. 09° - 50' N Long. 156° - 35' E Course 270° (T) Speed 10 kts

INSTRUCTIONS

- (a) ATTACK FIRST - THEN COLLECT DATA FOR THIS REPORT!
- (b) DO NOT "GUN DECK" THIS REPORT - IF DATA CANNOT BE ESTIMATED WITH REASONABLE ACCURACY ENTER A DASH IN SPACE FOR WHICH NO DATA IS AVAILABLE.
- (c) DRAW A CIRCLE AROUND THE APPROPRIATE ENTRY IN THIS REPORT WHEREVER SUITABLE.
- (d) SHIPS EQUIPPED WITH DRT SUBMIT PENICIL TRACKING 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, OMITTING PARAGRAPH 1 FOR ALL ATTACKS SUBSEQUENT TO THE FIRST.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF CONTACT

| EMPLOYMENT OF SHIP      | WEATHER AND LIGHT |           | SEA       | WIND      |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PATROL                  | DAYLIGHT          | SUNNY     | SMOOTH    | FORCE 3   |
| ESCORT OF CONVOY        | NIGHT             | CLEAR     | WHITECAPS | DIRECTION |
| INNER A/S SCREEN        | TWILIGHT          | OVERCAST  | MODERATE  | 065° T    |
| INTERMEDIATE A/S SCREEN | EVENING           | RAIN      | HEAVY     | 205 Rel   |
| OUTER A/S SCREEN        | MORNING           | FOG       |           |           |
| INDEPENDENT             |                   | MOONLIGHT |           |           |

IF IN COMPANY OTHER SHIPS, INDICATE POSITION RELATIVE THERETO. Circular screen of DD's, AT's and SC's disposed around 1st, 2nd and 10 formation. Zigzagging. At time of contact adjacent DD's were on starboard quarter and port bow, distance 200 yards. PHELPS was #1 in screen.

ESTIMATED SOUND RANGE OF THE DAY 2000 yards.

SOUND GEAR IN USE WHEN CONTACT MADE - Echo ranging with starboard & port G.C.

2. NATURE OF CONTACT

|               |                  |                 |                |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| STENT         | TOUR             | TORPEDO SIGHTED | SHIP TORPEDOED |
| PERISCOPE     | PROPELLERS HEARD | REL BEARING     | REL BEARING    |
| CONNING TOWER | SOUND RANGE      | TRACK ANGLE     | DIST.          |
| HULL          |                  |                 |                |

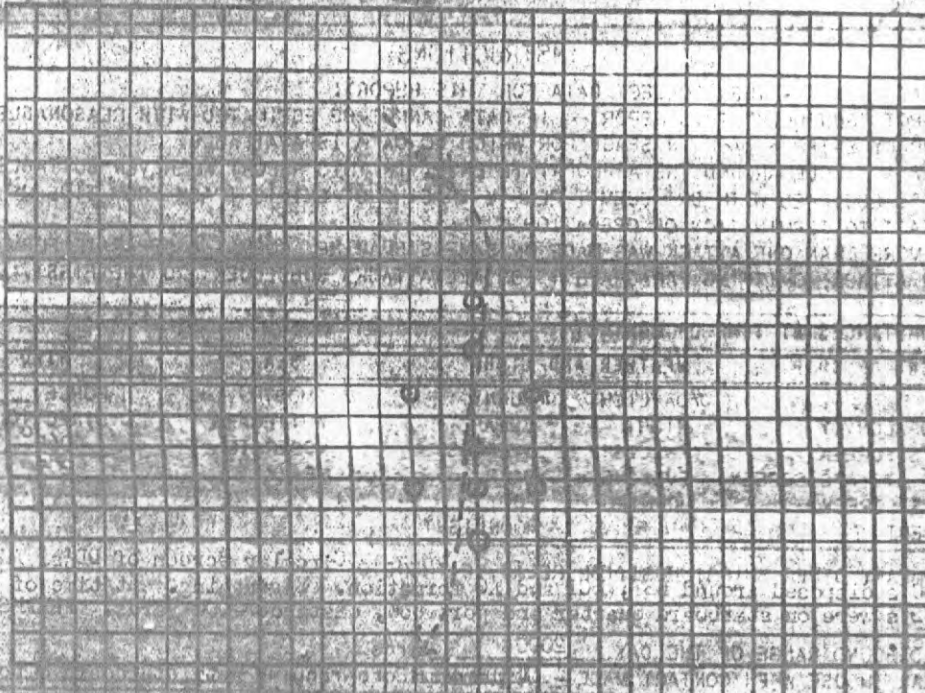
WAS SUB FIRST REPORTED BY (a) Attacking ship; (b) Other ships; (c) Aircraft? Attacking ship.  
DID RADAR INDICATE CONTACT? No.

REMARKS: Initial bearing of contact was 210° T. Headed immediately to that bearing, increasing speed to 15 knots. It was noted that bearing and distance of contact placed it very near to wake of adjacent screening destroyer, USS MILLER, on port hand. Fact was then verified that no other ship had contact. Consideration was given to possibility of contact being caused by MILLER's wake. But when up doppler and a 14 knot range was reported (PHELPS had not yet attained 15 knot speed) there was no alternative but to attack. Sound operator reported wake to left. Target course estimated at about 090° T. At 700 yard range, applied 15° lead angle and came to course 225°. At 500 yard range marked up doppler, reduced lead angle and came to course 215°. Fired medium full pattern on Sound Recorder. Lost contact at 350 yards.

3. BARRAGE PLAN

Note: Diagram is in 25-yard squares.

INSTRUCTIONS: (a) Indicate position of dropping each charge placing 1st charge in position indicated on diagram; (b) Indicate any duds; (c) Sketch in estimated track of submarine relative to barrage. Show evasive tactics if possible; (d) Attach chemical residue photos on the same page, if available.



| CHARGE NO.                 | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TIME OF DROP FROM 1st CHGE | 0   | 4   | 8   | 12  | 16  | 20  |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| DEPTH SETTING              | 250 | 300 | 350 | 400 | 450 | 500 | 550 | 600 | 650 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| WEIGHT                     | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

OWN COURSE, 1st CHARGE 275° SPEED 15 kts. SUB. COURSE 030° SPEED A kts

ESTIMATED SUB. DEPTH medium, deep, medium Was marker buoy dropped? NO

EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE TO SUB. NO Do not confuse the brown residue resulting from depth charge explosion with oil on water.

4. TIME BETWEEN FIRST CONTACT AND THIS ATTACK 4 min

(a) IF NO FURTHER ATTACKS MADE, TIME BETWEEN LAST ATTACK AND ABANDONMENT OF SEARCH 21 min

(b) IF SEARCH ABANDONED, SEARCH ABANDONED AS ORDERED BY TAU Commander 1805

(c) IF CHARGES REMAINING 16

5. GENERAL REMARKS (USE ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY): Conducted search after attack with negative results. USS SAGE followed and reported a fair contact about 500 yards from area depth charged by PHELPS. SAGE attacked and dropped pattern. At 1805 PHELPS and SAGE directed to rejoin formation, and MACDONOUGH took over search for a period long enough to prevent submarine overtaking formation.

In Reply  
Refer To:

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON ONE, PACIFIC FLEET



A16-3  
Serial 011.

28 February, 1944.

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
PHELPS Contr. Ltr. DD360/A16-3/  
S76 Ser.012 of 22 Feb., 1944.

From: The Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet. ←  
Via : (1) The Commander Task Group 51.11.  
(2) The Commander Task Force 51.  
(3) The Commander Central Pacific Force.  
(4) The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
Subject: Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship -  
report of.

1. Forwarded. The contact was doubtful, and is now believed to have been a wake. The action of the PHELPS in making the attack was correct.

2. As the PHELPS was flagship of the entire disposition, the MACDONOUGH was detailed to remain with the contact until two hours after sunset and then rejoin. Contact was never regained by the PHELPS, or made by the MACDONOUGH. The contact obtained by the SAGE is believed to have been made on the water disturbed by PHELPS' depth charge, as SAGE dropped in immediate vicinity of where PHELPS had dropped.

  
E.R. MC LEAN, Jr.

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A16-3(3)

A16-3(3)  
Serial 039

COMMANDER GROUP TWO  
FIFTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

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SECOND ENDORSEMENT to  
PHELPS conf. ltr. DD360/  
A16-3/876 serial 021 of  
22 February 1944.

1<sup>st</sup> MAR 1944

From: Commander Task Group FIFTYONE POINT ELEVEN  
(Commander Group TWO, FIFTH Amphibious Force).  
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.  
Via : (1) ~~Commander Task Force FIFTYONE.~~  
(2) Commander Central Pacific Force.  
Subject: Anti-Submarine Action by Surface Ship -  
report of.

1. Forwarded. The routing has been changed to  
comply with paragraph 30 of Pacific Fleet Confidential Letter  
2CL-44.

*H. W. Hill*  
H. W. HILL.

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