

#36 ALLIED COMBATANT SHIP LOSSES

2

NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ORIGINATOR	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRIORITY
FROM <u>FROM SIXTEEN</u>	FOR ACTION	COMINGH	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>3 MAY 1942</u>	FOR INFORMATION	OPNAV COMSOUWESPACFOR	ROUTINE
FOR CODEROM <u>1694/1038</u>			PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>BUSH/PORTER</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			ROUTINE

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

#30340 COR 2310

ROUTED BY FULTON

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRIORITY.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

GUNBOAT MINDANAO SUNK BY ENEMY BOMBING TWO MAY X
NO CASUALTIES XX

COPY DELIVERED TO OPNAV CODEROM

COG: 38.....

RECORD COPY: 16.....23.....CH0.....200P..... *V. A. D.*

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

JAN 16 1973

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Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

FCC PHONE

FOLLOWING RECEIVED VIA BALTIMORE UNIT 0532 GMT
SS BRITISH WORKMAN TORPEDOED POS 44.08 N 50.53
WEST AT 0515 GMT

TOR COMM OFF 0550/3 DE

COMINCH ACTION

PLOTTED

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>ALUSMA CAMEO</u>	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>29 APRIL 1942</u>			DEFERRED
TON CODEBOOK <u>1947</u>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>ROBERTS/DRAKE</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY <u>PHILLIPS</u>			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

FULTON

290936 NCR 8099

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	ECT
TEXT			

BRITISH SUBMARINE CASUALTIES DURING LAST FEW WEEKS:

P-36 PANDORA UPHOLDER TEMPEST LOVTOR SUNK.

P-34 SEVERELY DAMAGED.

COMINCH...ACTION

RECORD COPY 16...BADC...CNO...200P...FILE

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OSD Letter, 0-3-78

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>ALUSHOB COLOWBO</u>	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			PRIORITY
DATE <u>11 APRIL 1942</u>			ROUTINE
TOR CODEROOM <u>0827</u>	INFORMATION		DEFERRED
DECODED BY <u>HARRISON</u>			PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY <u>D ALLEN</u>			ROUTINE
			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

ROUTED BY ROBINSON

101420
120445 NCR 7688

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

REFER MY 091320.*

FOLLOWING NOT YET OFFICIALLY RELEASED. ALSO BOMBED AND
SUNK 9TH OFF EAST COAST CEYLON HERMES, HOLLYHOCK, VAMPIRE
AND FOUR MERCHANT SHIPS NOT YET IDENTIFIED.

* Conf.

British - P.G.

1090 TON DP
(1917 class)

ACTION: COMINCH.....

RECORD COPY; 200....16....38....

200P.....CNO.....

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JAN 16 1973

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM ALUSNOB TANGIER	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			RRRR
DATE 10 APRIL 42			ROUTINE
FOR CODEROOM 2049/00	INFORMATION		DEFERRED
DECODED BY YOUNGDALE			PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY GILKER			ROUTINE
			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

FULTON

091540 HCR 6989

36

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

TUNIS REPORTS THAT INVESTIGATIONS THERE AND AT BIZERTA DO NOT DISCLOSE MOVEMENTS OF LARGE FRENCH NAVAL UNITS. HMS HAVOC WAS BEACHED AND DESTROYED NEAR TUNIS ON 6 APRIL. NUMBER OF HER SURVIVORS INTERRED AT LACHOUAT REPORTED AT 250 OR 260. AXIS BASE FOR N T BOATS AND TWO MAN SUBMARINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR TARIFA.

DISTRIBUTION

16...ACTION

COMINCH...10/11....

FILE

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>ALUSHA LONDON</u>	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE DEFERRED
DATE <u>9 APRIL 42</u>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
TOR CODEWORD <u>0659/9TH</u>			ROUTINE
DECODED BY <u>JERMAN</u>			DEFERRED
PARAPHRASED BY <u>ELTHORP</u>			

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

LT. KELLY

081512 NCR 6616

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

APRIL 8TH DAILY SERIAL

posted
BRITISH SOMERSHIRE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICE DAMAGED BY EITHER MINE OR
TORPEDOE AT 1437 YESTERDAY POSIT 32-13 NORTH 26-34 XXX EAST.

GLENSHIEL SERIAL 4 PRESUMED SUNK. BRITISH LAN ROBS TORPEDDED APRIL 2ND
POSIT 15-55 NORTH 69-26 EAST. MUNCASTER CASTLE SERIAL 1 SUNK. BRITISH
GARDARA AND DARDANUS SUNK BY 3 JAPANESE CRUISERS AT 0220 APRIL 6TH POSITION
18-00 NORTH 82-20 EAST. *has been posted*

NO ACTIVITY KG 41 OBSERVED YESTERDAY.

ADMIRALTY REQUESTS NAMES OF BRITISH NAVAL RATINGS WHO ARE SURVIVORS OR
CASUALTIES OF MERCHANT SHIP SINKINGS BE FORWARDED WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

16.....ACT.

CIVILIAN...15/11...37...38...0P-20...200...P1A...00...FILE...

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JAN 16 1973

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37143

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>ALUSO COLOMBO</u>	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE RRRRR DEFERRED
DATE <u>9 APRIL 1942</u>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
TOR CODEROOM <u>0211</u>			ROUTINE
DECODED BY <u>SPDR</u>			DEFERRED
PARAPHRASED BY <u>HILL</u>			

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

ENS THOMPSON

081445 NCR 6501

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME

DATE

TIME

GCT

TEXT

MY 060730*, BRITISH PLANE LOSSES NOW STATED 12 HURRICANES FOUR
FULMARS 2 CATALINAS 4 NAVY SWORDFISH.

* PROBABLY 060732

COMINCH.....ACTION

RECUP: 16.....38.....200.....P1A.....03.....CNO.....20P.....

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081445

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ARDA FORCES (Estimated)

BB's U.S.S. WARD U.S.S. WARD (East Indian Flt.)	AO's	U.S.S. TRINITY
CA's? U.S.S. HOUSTON		U.S.S. PEGASUS
U.S.S. EXETER		U.S.S. GEO. G. HENRY
CL's U.S.S. BOISE	AV's	U.S.S. COLUMBIA
U.S.S. PHOENIX		U.S.S. CHILDS
H.M.S. NEWCASTLE		U.S.S. W.B. PRESTON
H.M.S. DANAE		U.S.S. HERON
H.M.S. DURBAN	TENDERS	U.S.S. BLACKHAWK
U.S.S. DUBOIS		U.S.S. HOLLAND
H.M.A.S. HOBART		U.S.S. GOLD STAR
N.E.I. TROMP		
N.E.I. HEEMSKIRK	MISC.	U.S.S. TASHITA, P-3
U.S.S. HENRY		U.S.S. TULSA "
U.S.S. JAWA		U.S.S. ISABELL "
N.E.I. SUMATRA		U.S.S. WHIPPOORWILL, AM
		U.S.S. LARK "
DD's U.S.		
DES DIV 57	DES DIV 58	DES DIV 59
ALLEN	BULMER	JOHN D. FORD
BUSBY	BARKER	JOHN
J.D. EDWARDS	PARROT	PITTSBURY
WHIPPLE(F)	STEWART(F)	PAUL JONES (Desron F)
U.S.S. JUPITER	H.M.S. EXPRESS	H.M.A.S. ARUNTA
U.S.S. EMBASSY	U.S.S. EMBASSY	H.M.A.S. WARRAMUNGA
		H.M.A.S. VAMPIRE
N.E.I. PETER DE WIS	N.E.I. ISAAC SWEEPS	N.E.I. KORTENHARR
N.E.I. HANKERT	N.E.I. VAN GEMERT	N.E.I. PIET WELN
N.E.I. VAN NPS	N.E.I. EMBASSY	

Plus 3 TBD's (?)

SS's N.E.I., A possible total of 22? 7

U.S.				
SUBDIV 21	SUBDIV 22	SUBDIV 203	SUBDIV 202	SUBDIV 201
SALMON	SNAPPER	FINE	SEA RAVEN	S-37
SEAL	STINGRAY	PICKEREL	SEA DRAGON	S-38
SKIPJACK	STURGEON	PERCH	SEA WOLF	S-39
SARGO	SCULPIN	PERMIT		S-40
SAURY	SAILFISH	PORPOISE		S-41
SPEARFISH	SWORDFISH	TARPON		
		SHARK		

Note: SUBDIV 53 (S-42 to 47 inc.) enroute this area.

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM ADMIRALTY	FOR ACTION	BAD WASHINGTON	PPPPPPPPPP
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE DEFERRED
DATE 14 MARCH 1942	INFORMATION	ACNB	PPPPPPPPPP
TOR CODEROOM 1356 /			ROUTINE DEFERRED
DECODED BY / BUSH			
PARAPHRASED BY			

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

140138A CCR 4657A

(36)

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

YOUR 1545Q/13.

THERE IS IMMEDIATE DANGER OF PRESS STORY FROM AUSTRALIA BREAKING IN AMERICA WHICH WE KNOW HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY ONE NEWSPAPER IN LONDON. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THIS STORY ^{OR} WILL ALSO HAVE REACHED USA OR MAY DO SO AT ANY MOMENT. IF THAT IS SO, IT SEEMS NOW TO BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT A COMMUNIQUE PROPOSED IN MY 2020A/12 SHOULD BE ISSUED IN WASHINGTON AND IN LONDON AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO-DAY. IT IS IN ANY CASE CERTAIN THAT WE SHALL HAVE TO ISSUE STATEMENT REGARDING BRITISH LOSSES EARLY TO-DAY MARCH 14TH. REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY AND TIME FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF COMMUNIQUE IN NAVY DEPARTMENT AGREE.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

RECEIVED FROM BAD

JAN 16 1973

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 1942

Date

(Release 1:00 P.M. EWT)

NAVY DEPARTMENT COMMUNIQUE NO.

The Navy Department issued the following communique based on reports received up to 12:00 NOON (EWT) March 14, 1942.

FAR EAST

Joint Admiralty and Navy Department Communique. Although full information is not yet available it is now possible to give some account of events in the Java Sea on 27th February and subsequent days during Japanese invasion of Java.

On afternoon of Friday February 27th an Allied Force consisting of H.M.A.S. PERTH, H.M.S. EXETER, the U.S.S. HOUSTON and Dutch Cruisers DE RUYTER and JAVA were at sea north of Sourabaya. The Allied cruisers were accompanied by destroyers H.M.S. ELECTRA, H.M.S. JUPITER and H.M.S. ENCOUNTER and Netherlands KORTENAER. This force was under the sea command of Admiral Decorman whose flag was flying in DE RUYTER. The whole Naval force in the area was under the strategic control of Admiral Helfrich of the Royal Netherlands Navy.

At 4:14 P.M. on February 27th this Allied Force made contact with a Japanese force about half way between Bawean Island and Sourabaya. The Japanese force consisted of at least two NATI Class cruisers of 10,000 tons armed with ten 8-inch guns and a number of other cruisers. The Japanese cruisers had with them 13 destroyers organized in two flotillas.

Action was joined at extreme range. Almost at once one of the Japanese destroyer flotillas launched an attack but this was driven off by the fire of Allied cruisers and one of the enemy destroyers was seen to be hit by shells from H.M.A.S. PERTH. Soon afterwards the other Japanese destroyer

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flotilla delivered a torpedo attack. While action was being taken to avoid these torpedoes H.M.S. EISTER was hit by an 8-inch shell in a boiler room. This reduced her speed and forced her to drop out of line. Only one of the torpedoes launched in this attack took effect. This hit the Netherlands destroyer KORTENAER and she sank.

The three British destroyers were ordered to counter attack the Japanese destroyers who were retiring under cover of a smoke screen. Very little information is available about the result of this counter attack. H.M.S. JUPITER reported seeing only two enemy destroyers both of which she engaged with gunfire. H.M.S. ELECTRA was not seen after she had disappeared into smoke screen and it is presumed that she was sunk. As soon as Allied cruisers, except H.M.S. EISTER, who was unable to keep up, drew clear of smoke they again engaged the enemy, this time at shorter range. Less than half an hour later the enemy cruisers turned away under cover of a smoke screen. It was seen that one of the enemy's heavy 8-inch gun cruisers had been hit aft and was burning fiercely.

Admiral Deoorman led his force about and chased the enemy to North Eastward but he failed to regain touch with enemy in fading light. After night-fall the Allied cruisers sighted four enemy ships to westward and engaged them with unknown results.

Admiral Deoorman attempted to work around these enemy ships in order to locate the convoy which was expected to the Northward. This was found to be impracticable owing to high speed of the enemy and Admiral Deoorman then turned his force to Southward to close the coast of Java intending to sweep to Westward along the coast in an attempt to intercept Japanese invasion convoys.

Half an hour after Allied force had turned to Westward along the Java coast H.M.S. JUPITER was disabled by an under water explosion. She sank four hours later. H.M.S. JUPITER was not far from the mainland of Java

and a number of survivors have already reached Australia.

At 11:30 P.M. when Allied cruisers were about 12 miles north of Rambang two enemy cruisers were sighted between our ships and the coast. They were at once engaged and number of hits were secured on the enemy. The DE RUITER was hit by one shell. Afterwards the DE RUITER made a large alteration of course presumably in order to avoid torpedoes fired by enemy. The other Allied cruisers were conforming when underwater explosions occurred simultaneously in cruisers DE RUITER and JAVA. Both these Dutch cruisers blew up and sank at once.

It is impossible to estimate with accuracy the damage inflicted upon the enemy during these actions of February 27th. Observers in H.M.A.S. PERTH consider that one Japanese 8-inch gun cruiser was sunk, a second 8-inch gun cruiser damaged and a destroyer sunk. It has also been reported that a cruiser of the WAGAMI Class was set on fire and three destroyers seriously damaged and left on fire or sinking.

H.M.A.S. PERTH and U.S.S. HOUSTON, who had received some damage, reached Tanjong Priok at 7 o'clock the morning of Saturday February 28th.

With the enemy in command of sea and air north of Java in overwhelming force the Allied command was faced with the problem of extricating the remaining Allied ships from a very dangerous situation. The way to Australia was barred by the 600 mile long Island of Java with the Straits at either end of it under enemy control.

After dark on 28th February H.M.A.S. PERTH and U.S.S. HOUSTON left Tanjong Priok with the intention of passing through Sunda Strait during dark hours. During the night an enemy report from H.M.A.S. PERTH was received which indicated that she and U.S.S. HOUSTON had come into contact with a force of Japanese ships off St. Nicholas Point at about 11:30 P.M. Nothing however has been heard of H.M.A.S. PERTH or U.S.S. HOUSTON since that time.

The same night H.M.S. KINTER who was capable of only half speed left Sourabaya accompanied by H.M.S. ENCOUNTER and U.S.S. POPE. On forenoon of Sunday March 1st H.M.S. KINTER reported that she had sighted three enemy cruisers steering towards her. No further word has been received from H.M.S. KINTER or from H.M.S. ENCOUNTER or U.S.S. POPE. The Dutch destroyer EVERTSEN encountered two Japanese cruisers in Sunda Strait. She was damaged and was beached.

The destroyer H.M.S. STROMBOLD and Sloop H.M.A.S. YARDA are also missing and are presumably lost.

It has not been possible to form any estimate of damage inflicted on the enemy by these ships during the above described actions.

Next of kin of missing personnel attached to the USS HOUSTON and USS POPE will be notified as soon as information is received by the Navy Department.

The U.S.S. HOUSTON was commanded by Captain A. H. Rooks, USN and the U.S.S. POPE was commanded by Lieutenant Commander W. C. Blinn, USN.

There is nothing to report from other areas.

** ** *

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>COM 15</u>	FOR ACTION	COMINCH	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>20 FEB. 1942</u>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM <u>1925/1941</u>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>BERRY</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY <u>GLUNT</u>			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

201850 CCR 2349

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

MY 192030 SURCOUF STILL OVERDUE X SS THOMPSON LYKES INSPECTED AND INTERVIEWED X SEARCH OF AREA REVEALED NO EVIDENCE AND DISCONTINUED AT SUNDOWN NINETEEN FEBRUARY X INJURY TO STEAMSHIP INDICATES STRIKING HEAVY OBJECT X CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE COMPLETE LOSS OF SURCOUF X

ACTION

F-1

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JAN 16 1973

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