



★ Lt. Comdr. Frank M. Whitaker, USN, Spokane, Wash. (posthumously): As commanding officer of Torpedo Squadron 17 in the Marshalls area from 29 January to 2 February 1944, he led his squadron on two pre-dawn glide bombing attacks, without fighter escort, against enemy air installations at Kwajalein and Engebi. Despite devastating antiaircraft fire, his squadron so damaged the airfields that they were useless to the enemy. On a second assault the same day he attacked and sank a merchant vessel.



★ Lt. (jg) William F. Chamberlain, USNR, Aberdeen, Wash. (missing in action): Supporting other planes in an attack upon a submarine, he pressed home his bombing run in the face of a tremendous barrage of antiaircraft fire. His bombs hit the base of the sub's conning tower, causing a terrific explosion, and it sank in less than two minutes. He righted his plane, which had caught fire, and made a turn into the wind, thereby insuring a safer landing for his crew.

### British Honor 5 Officers And Men of U. S. CVE

The British Government recently decorated three American naval officers and two enlisted men who served aboard a U. S. escort carrier defending a convoy. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Comdr. (then Lt. Comdr.) William M. Drane, USN, Clarksville, Tenn.; Lt. Comdr. (then Lieut.) Howard S. Roberts, USNR, Whittier, Calif., and Lt. (jg) William F. Chamberlain, USNR, Aberdeen, Wash.; the Distinguished Service Medal to James O. Stine, ARMC, USNR, Ozark, Mo., and Wrex C. Boyd, AOM2c, USNR, Las Vegas, Nev.

### Pilot Dies as Plane Dives Into Ocean

Ensign Jaffe P. Ebarb, USNR, of Zwolle, La., was killed yesterday afternoon when the Navy land plane he was piloting crashed into the sea south of Virginia Beach.

He was engaged in routine flight maneuvers at the time of the accident, it was announced by the Fifth Naval District Public Relations Office. Neither the plane nor the body had been recovered late yesterday.

Ensign Ebarb is survived by his father, Paul Ebarb, of Zwolle.

## Baby Flat Tops' Play Big Role In Driving Subs From Atlantic

By HAMILTON W. FARON  
WASHINGTON, July 16.—(AP)—“Baby flat tops” are playing a major part in driving Axis submarines from the Atlantic, the Navy revealed today in telling how fliers from a single escort carrier beat off two Nazi wolf-pack attacks on convoys, probably sinking ten U-boats.

Two “certain kills”—submarines from which a total of 43 prisoners were picked up by U. S. destroyers—were credited to planes from the stubby and ugly little carrier. Eight other U-boats disappeared, being straddled by bombs, probably they sank without tangible evidence of destruction.

Secretary Knox, speaking

at a luncheon in honor of Brazilian journalists, declared that the campaign against the submarine menace in the North Atlantic has tended to drive the undersized craft south. He said the United States and Brazilian Navy now are operating as a unified force off the coast of Brazil, “which has become one of the fighting fronts against the submarines.”

Throughout the battles against the two wolf-packs—approximately 38 hours of fighting—merchant vessels guarded by the little “Carrier B” and its planes plodded slowly eastward with vital supplies. Not a merchant vessel was damaged.

Surfaced in the dusk, apparently in preparation for an attack as darkness fell, the first submarine was bombed by one of the escort carrier's planes. Depth bombs straddled the U-boat, which was not seen again. But a “kill” was not claimed—one anti-sub pilot explained that “to get credit for a kill you've got to bring back the submarine's periscope or the captain's hat.”

Slipping along in the darkness, the wolf-pack pursued the convoy throughout the night, then moved in for an attack at dawn, when half-light outlines transports and cargo ships but conceals low lying superstructures of a submarine.

Dead ahead of the convoy the second submarine was attacked by planes in semi-darkness. Anti-aircraft guns barked as a plane dived in to attack. But the dive continued; the anti-aircraft guns were silenced; two bombs apparently hit the U-boat's stern; the raider circled crippled for an hour, then sank stern first.

Meantime another plane, this time a Wildcat fighter, en route to aid the Avenger bomber in that fight, had spotted another U-boat. Other Avengers were called and again the submarine commander ordered a fight. Again the planes were victorious. Depth bombs exploded on all sides of the U-boat and it sank stern first, but again without tangible evidence of a “kill.”

At noon a fourth submarine, cruising boldly on the surface, was spotted. Depth bombs struck on its port side, it settled beneath the surface without forward movement. No positive evidence of a “kill” was obtained.

### Six Anti-sub Groups Get Unit Citations

Six anti-submarine task groups, including 14 ships and five composite squadrons, which operated with the escort carrier USS *Bogue* as flagship, have been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action against enemy subs in the Atlantic area in 1943 and 1944.

Carrying out powerful and sustained offensive action during a period of heavy German *U-boat* concentrations which threatened our flow of supplies to the European theater of operations, these anti-sub groups tracked the packs relentlessly and sank a notable number of U-boats. The gallantry and superb teamwork of officers and men were largely instrumental in forcing the complete withdrawal of enemy submarines from supply routes essential to the maintenance of our military supremacy.

Since the award was made to the task groups and not to the individual ships, only the men who served as members of the respective task groups during specified periods are entitled to wear the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon (with star). They will be individually notified by BuPers of the award.

In addition to the *Bogue*, the units in the task group were the destroyers *Dupont*, *George E. Badger* and *Lea*; the destroyer escorts *Francis M. Robinson*, *Haverfield*, *Janassen*, *Svenning*, *Wilsite* and *Willis*; the destroyer-sweeper *Wesson*; the destroyer-transport *Barker*; *Clemson*, *Clencie* and *Osmond Ingram*, and VCs 9, 19, 42, 68 and 95.

★ Lt. (jg) Stewart E. Doty, USNR, Camarillo, Calif.: While engaged in anti-sub patrol, he sighted a U-boat and immediately launched a vigorous attack. Despite withering blasts of enemy gunfire, he released several accurate depth charges which exploded just off the sub's port quarter, seriously damaging and probably destroying the vessel.

★ James H. Finch, ARMC, USNR, Leesburg, Fla. (missing in action): As radioman of a torpedo bomber in action against a U-boat, he kept all equipment operating in the face of accurate antiaircraft fire and aided his pilot in pressing home a bombing attack which completely destroyed the sub.