

41 Germans Captured in Atlantic

WASHINGTON — (AP) — In a series of anti-submarine battles in the North Atlantic, the planes of a single baby aircraft carrier recently successfully attacked 10 German submarines, definitely destroying two and probably destroying eight others, and delivered two convoys safely across the Atlantic to American forces poised for action against Hitler Europe.

The story of the gallant little flat top, officially designated only as "Carrier B," was told by the navy today in a detailed account of how these auxiliary floating air fields are helping to clinch victory for the United Nations.

Altogether, the carrier's accomplishments included attacks on 11 submarines, dispersing of two wolf packs which struck at different times, the capture of 41 German prisoners and the safe delivery of the vital war goods.

"All ships in the convoys protected by escort carrier 'B' reached their destinations undamaged," the navy proudly announced.

"It is believed this record of defense and attack over a similar period of time has not been equalled by any other vessel in the history of anti-submarine warfare."

The baby flat top required 24 hours to break up the determined assault of subs of the first pack. The offensive of the second pack encountered was ended in 14 hours.

There was little doubt considerably more than the two kills officially credited were actually achieved.

Submariners say to get credit you've got to bring back the submarine's periscope or the captain's hat.

The first of the definite kills was accomplished by the flat top's planes in the final attack on the first wolf pack.

"Again, far off the convoy's port quarter," the navy related, "another Avenger pilot spotted a surfaced U-boat directly beneath him.

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First of Kills

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"Again far off the convoy's port quarter," the navy related, "another Avenger pilot spotted a surfaced U-boat directly beneath him. This was almost certainly the same sub attacked only a short time previously. The Avenger, kicking over into a vertical dive, hit the jackpot by placing all bombs in his salvo directly under the U-boat's stern.

"The wounded sub immediately submerged, but, damaged beyond control, resurfaced quickly at a steep angle. Still in this position, it started to sink again, hopelessly out of control. Then it resurfaced and crewmen popped out of the conning tower to surrender, 12 minutes after it had been first sighted by the avenger's pilot.

"A U. S. escort destroyer promptly raced to the spot. The evidence of this kill consisted of 21 enlisted prisoners, two minor officers and the submarine's skipper. The U-boat sank from under them during the rescue.

"Later, by radio, the avenger pilot claimed the submarine captain's hat. This claim was evaluated and allowed.

"Escort carrier had not only stunned and dispersed the wolf pack, but no sub had approached the convoy closer than 15 miles."

The second sure kill resulted from a 28-minute fight between four of the Grumman Avengers and two Grumman Wildcat fighters co-operating with bombing and strafing attacks to destroy the sub and bring home part of its crew.

Isolated Actions

The story indicated that there were only two wolf pack groups of submarines hit but that in addition to those continuing fights, there were actions with isolated subs during the crossing.

The navy called that final fight "a beautiful exhibition of timing, quick punching and coordination which destroyed the submarine and resulted in the capture of 17 survivors by a United States destroyer.

"An Avenger pilot spotted the surfaced sub shortly after noon. Other Avengers and Wildcats quickly reached the scene. They dealt it a continuous series of bomb and strafing attacks. The U-boat tried to submerge, but an Avenger dropped a load of 'eggs' so accurately that it was blown to the surface out of control.

The hawklike planes attacked with machine guns and more depth charges, a salvo of which landed squarely on the stricken sub. The U-boat blew up so violently that only 17 of her crew survived."

The navy explained that the little carriers are either ships converted from hulls of merchant vessels or else built from the keel up as carriers with merchant hulls.

They are being turned out in steadily increasing numbers.

Sink 10 Subs

Given Credit.

1943

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The story of the gallant little flat top, officially designated only as "Carrier B," was told by the navy today in a detailed account of how these auxiliary floating air fields are helping to clinch victory for the United Nations in the vital battle of the Atlantic.

Wolf Packs Dispersed

Altogether, the carrier's accomplishments included attacks on 11 submarines, with 10 sunk or probably sunk, dispersing of two wolf packs which struck at two different times at war-torn cargo ships, the capture of 41 German prisoners and the safe delivery of the vital war goods.

"All ships in the convoys protected by escort carrier 'B' reached their destinations undamaged," the navy proudly announced. "It is believed that this record of defense and attack over a similar period of time has not been equalled by any other vessel in the history of anti-submarine warfare."

The baby flattop required 24 hours to break up the determined assault of the subs of the first wolf pack. The offensive of the second pack encountered was ended in 14 hours. There was little doubt that considerably more than the two kills officially credited were actually achieved. The navy reported pointed out that where results are described as "very probable" or "probable" there is an excellent chance that the submarine was destroyed. Submariners say that to get "credit" you've got to bring back the submarine's periscope or the captain's hat—and that's hard to do from an airplane!

USS BOGUE (CVE-9)

26 Sept. 1942 to 23 Aug. 1943

with the VC-9 Squadron aboard

Lt. Cmdr. Richard S. Rogers, F4F

Fighter Pilot was Awarded the DFC.

Lt. (jg) Robert L. Stearns, TBF-1

Torpedo-Bomber Pilot was Awarded the DFC.