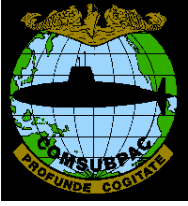


USS Darter (SS 227)



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS DARTER (SS 227)

October 24, 1944 - No Men Lost

On September 1, 1944, DARTER, commanded by CDR D.H. McClintock, left Brisbane for a period of training en route to her fourth war patrol. She topped off with fuel at Darwin on September 10 and departed on the same day to perform routine reconnaissance duty in the Celebes Sea from September 14 to 24.



Proceeding then to the South China Sea with DACE, commanded by CDR B.D. Claggett, DARTER formed a coordinated attack team with that vessel. The period from October 12 to 24 was productive of many targets and attacks for DARTER, and she sank 9,900 tons of enemy shipping and damaged 19,900 tons in this time.

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USS Darter's bell was attached to Submarine Barracks flagpole at Pearl Harbor for many years. It has since been removed with whereabouts unknown. This photo was taken by Submarine Sailor Jim Phillippi sometime in the early 1960's. Jim was later lost when USS Thresher (SSN 593) went down in April, 1963.

In the early morning of October 23, 1944, both DARTER and DACE contacted and tracked a large enemy force heading north through Palawan Passage en route to engage our forces in the battles for Leyte Gulf. They attacked while the enemy were unable to alter course appreciably and in brilliant pre-dawn submerged attacks, sank the heavy cruisers ATAGO and MAYA, and so severely damaged the heavy cruiser TAKAO, that she was useless for the rest of the war. During daylight, DARTER tried a submerged attack on TAKAO, which had been stopped, but was driven off by screening destroyers. Thus a night coordinated attack plan was drawn up by the two boats.

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Admiral Charles Lockwood pinning the Bronze Star Medal on Commander David H. McClintock, Commanding Officer of the USS Darter (SS-227), for sinking the Japanese minelayer, IJN Tsugaru, on June 29, 1944. Captain McClintock received the Bronze Star Medal from Secretary of the Navy, John L. Sullivan, "For heroic service as Commanding Officer of the USS Darter during the Third War Patrol of that vessel in enemy Japanese controlled waters from June 21 to August 8, 1944. Demonstrating expert seamanship and determination, Commander McClintock launched a torpedo attack which resulted in the sinking of a forty-four hundred-ton enemy minelayer. In addition, he skillfully maneuvered his ship to evade severe depth-charge counterattacks and brought the Darter safely to port. His inspiring leadership, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." He was authorized to wear the Combat "V." (Photo and information provided by Dave "Grog" Carpenter)

Since she could not surface to take sights, DARTER was forced to navigate on a 24-hour-old dead reckoning plot. At 2200 TAKAO got underway, and DARTER began a surface attack. Detecting two radars sweeping, she decided to do an end around, and then make an attack at radar depth. At 0005 on October 24, 1944, DARTER grounded on Bombay Shoal, and making 17 knots at the time, rode up to a draft of nine feet forward. Efforts to get off the reef were unsuccessful, and a message was sent to DACE requesting assistance.

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DACE closed DARTER and, after confidential gear had been smashed and classified matter burned, the men of DARTER were transferred to DACE. This was all done before dawn, and there were no losses of DARTER personnel.

DARTER's four patrols (including her last) resulted in 23,700 tons of enemy ships being sent to the bottom, and 30,000 tons being damaged. She began her patrolling career south and west of Truk in January and February 1944. She damaged a freighter on this first patrol. In the second patrol of this vessel, she covered the area in and around the Celebes Sea; she sank a freighter here. DARTER's third patrol was again in the eastern Celebes Sea, and she sank the large mine layer TSUGARU on June 29, 1944. She was credited with sinking the heavy cruiser ATAGO and damaging the heavy cruiser TAKAO on the night of October 23, 1944 shortly before she stranded. DARTER was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the last patrol.