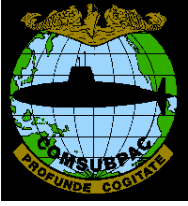


USS Flier (SS 250)



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS FLIER (SS 250)

August 13, 1944 - 78 Men Lost

FLIER, commanded by Cmdr. J.D. Crowley, left Fremantle, Western Australia on August 2, 1944 to conduct her second war patrol. Her area was east of Saigon, French Indo-China, and she was to pass through Lombok Strait, Makassar Strait, the Celebes Sea, Sibutu Passage and the Sulu Sea in proceeding to her station. By evening of August 13th she had come through the Sulu Sea and was transiting Balabac Strait, south of Palawan, P.I. when, at 2200, disaster struck. Suddenly a terrific explosion, estimated to have been forward on the starboard side, shook the ship.

Several of the men on the bridge were injured, and the Commanding Officer was thrown to the after part of the bridge, where he regained his senses a moment later. Oil, water and debris deluged the bridge. There was a strong smell of fuel, a terrific venting of air through the conning tower hatch, and the sounds of flooding and of screaming men below. Lt. Liddell, the Executive Officer, had stepped below the hatch to speak to Cmdr. Crowley; he was blown through it, and men poured out behind him. Within 20 or 30 seconds FLIER sank while still making 15 knots through the water. The Commanding Officer's opinion is that the explosion was caused by contact with a mine.



USS Flier (SS 250)

Those men who survived have stated that a few men were seen in the water after the ship went down. The word was passed for all survivors to gather together, however not all presumed survivors reappeared. The first impulse was to swim to Comiran Island, but when the question was weighed, and the possibility of falling into Japanese hands was considered, Crowley decided to strike out for the coral reefs to the north-westward. Meanwhile Lt. Knapp became separated from the group and was not seen or heard again. The sky was overcast, and it was difficult to swim toward the objective at all times; an occasional flash of lightning helped to keep the swimmers oriented. After moonrise, at 0300 on August 14th, maintaining proper direction was easier.

All this time Lt. Casey had been unable to see, having been partially blinded by oil. At about 0400 he became exhausted and the others were forced to leave him. Commander Crowley realized that the only hope for anyone lay in swimming at best speed, and all hands were told to do the best they could toward land, which was now in sight. Madeo now began to fall behind, and was not seen after 0500.

At 1330 five of the group, Cmdr. Crowley, Lt. Liddell, Ens. Jacobson, Howell and Baumgart reached a floating palm tree and used this to aid themselves in remaining afloat and pushing toward land. This group came ashore on Mantangule Island at 1530 and were met there by Russo, who had swum the entire distance. At 1700 Tremaine was found on the eastern end of the island by Lt. Liddell. A lean-to was constructed and the night was spent on the beach.

In the days following, plans were laid to obtain food and water and to make contact with friendly natives. A raft was made of drifted bamboo lashed together, and the party began working from island to island, with Palawan the ultimate objective. On 19 August they contacted natives who led them to an U.S. Army Coast Watcher Unit on Palawan. This unit made its communication facilities available to the group, and arrangements were made for evacuation by submarine. On the night of August 30 the survivors from FLIER embarked in two small boats, and, having made their way safely around a Japanese merchant ship anchored near the rendezvous point, were picked up by REDFIN early in the morning of 31 August.

FLIER's first patrol was conducted west of Luzon in June 1944. She sank four freighters, and damaged a fifth freighter and a tanker for 19,500 tons and 13,500 tons damaged.

Sailors Lost On USS FLIER (SS-250) 8-13-1944

Abrahamson, A. J. MOMM2
Anderson, V. J. TM2
Baehr, H. A. ENS
Banchemo, G. J. MOMM2
Banks, C. CK3

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Barron, P. F. RM2
Bivens, W. H. S1
Bohn, T. L. EM3
Borlick, E. A. MOMM1
Brtooks, W. J. CMOMM
Brubaker, E. S. F1
Canady, E. MOMM1
Casey, J. E. LT
Christensen, C. J., Jr. S1
Clawson, C. W. S1
[Cosgrove, R. J. TM2](#)
Courtright, C. L. S1
Cowhey, W. F. EM1
Cowie, J. W. EM3
Cushman, R. A. MOMM2
Daggy, W. H. MOMM3
Daros, P. A. MOMM1
Donovan, T. A. TM2
Dorricott, W. E., Jr. Y2
Dressell, E. W. QM2
Elder, J. E. Y2
Ericson, H. G. EM3
Falowski, F. W. EM3
Fender, F. E. MOMM1
Fite, B.V. RM3
Freeman, W. D. S1
Gaideczka, P. A. PHM1
Galinac, J. J. GM3
Gerber, C. A. TM1
Getchell, M. G. BKR3
Grimshaw, J. W. MOMM2
Gwinn, K. L. CTM
Hardy, G. W. BM2
Heller, E. W. S1
Holtyn, H. S. MOMM2
Hudson, E. W. CMOMMA
Kantor, S. TM3
Kisamore, O. W. MOMM3
Klock, W. J. CRMA
Knapp, P. LT
Kucinski, J. W. EM1
Laderbush, G. R. TM2
Lambert, R. A. TM3
[LeRoy, J. MOMM1](#)
Lindeman, B. O. TM1
Madeo, G. F. F1

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Mayer, P. S. ENS
McCoy, E. H. S1
McLane, V. C. MOMM3
Miner, H. A. ENS
Moench, V. I. S1
Murawski, V. J. F1
Myers, H. L. EM1
Nicholson, , J. G. TM3
Nordhof, D. H. RM2
Parker, C. W. EM1
Payne, C. S1
Phillips, G. W., Jr. MOMM3
Poole, M. CEMA
Pope, C. D. CGMA
Pourciau, K. J. S1
Reynolds, W. L. LTJG
Ricciardelli, M. N. MOMM1
Rose, R. C. SM1
See, D. N. F1
Skow, A. L. SC3
Snyder, J. E. MOMM1
Taylor, J. C. EM1
Turner, J. C. STM1
Vest, P. A. MOMM2
Vogt, J. F. TR2
Wall, L. P. TM1
Westmoreland, J. E. SC1

Survivors

Baumgart, E. R. MOMM3
Crowley, J. D. CDR
Howell, A. G. CRTA
Jacobson, A. E., Jr. LTJG
Liddell, J. W., Jr. LT
Miller, W. B. MOMM3
Russo, J. D. QM3
Tremaine, D. P. FCR2