

Serial 0562

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21 March 1945.

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to:  
 USS TUNA Conf Ltr. A16-3  
 Serial 01 dated, 13 March  
 1945. Report of Thirteenth  
 War Patrol.

From: The Commander Submarines, SEVENTH FLEET.  
 To: The Commander in Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.  
 Via: The Commander, SEVENTH FLEET.  
 Subject: U.S.S. TUNA (SS203) - Report of Thirteenth War  
 Patrol - Comment on.

1. The Thirteenth War Patrol of the TUNA, under the command of Commander E. P. STEPPANIDES, U.S.N.R., was conducted in the SOUTH CHINA SEA off the west coast of BORNEO during the first phase, and in the MAKASSAR STRAIT Area during the second phase.
2. A special mission on the second phase was completed on 3 March. This is the subject of a separate report.
3. From 31 January to 13 February reconnaissance duty was performed in connection with American re-occupation of the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
4. The award of the Submarine Combat Insignia is authorized for this patrol.
5. The TUNA has made her last offensive war patrol, and now becomes a "tame" submarine whose function it will be to train our own forces. She has distinguished herself during a long and valiant period which commenced when war was declared. The Commanding Officer, Officers and Crew are congratulated upon this arduous and well conducted last war patrol of a gallant ship.

JAMES FIFE.

PC5-13/A16-3

SUBMARINE SQUADRON EIGHTEEN

Serial 0224

Care of Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California  
15 March 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
U.S.S. TUNA (SS203)  
Report of Thirteenth  
War Patrol.

From: The Commander Submarine Squadron EIGHTEEN.  
To: The Commander-in-Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.  
Via: (1) The Commander Submarines, SEVENTH FLEET.  
(2) The Commander SEVENTH FLEET.  
Subject: U.S.S. TUNA (SS203) - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.

1. The Thirteenth War Patrol of the TUNA under the command of Commander E.F. STEFFANIDES Jr., U.S. Naval Reserve, consisted of two special missions and a thirteen day coordinated attack group patrol in the South China Sea Areas.
2. Area coverage was good but no targets worthy of torpedo fire were encountered.
3. The U.S.S. TUNA was clean and shipshape upon her return from patrol. The morale of the officers and crew is high. Her material condition, considering her age and long service is good. All major defects will be remedied during the normal repair period.
4. The Squadron Commander congratulates the commanding officer, officers and crew of the TUNA on a well conducted patrol.

STANLEY P. ROSELEY.

U.S.S. TUNA (SS203)

SS203/A16-3

Care of Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
13 March 1945.

SERIAL: 01

C O N F I D E N T I A L

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via : Official Channels.  
Subject: U.S.S. TUNA, Report of War Patrol No. Thirteen.  
Enclosures: (A) Subject Report.  
(B) Track Chart. (Comsubs 7. holt only).

1. Enclosure (A), covering the Thirteenth War Patrol of this vessel, during the period 6 January to 13 March 1945, is forwarded herewith. Special Missions were conducted during the periods 26-30 January and 2-4 March. Separate reports were submitted on these missions due to the classification of the subject. The period 30 January to 13 February was spent patrolling in the South China Sea areas.

E. P. STEPHANIDES, Jr.



(A) PROLOGUE.

TUNA arrived Brisbane, Australia, from Twelfth War Patrol 15 December 1944. Normal refit was accomplished by the relief crew of SubDiv 53 and Sub repair Unit #134. Post repair trials and deep dive were conducted 30 December 1944, and the training period extended from 2-5 January 1945. During this period no exercise torpedoes were fired. Completed loading 5-6 January, and ready for sea 6 January.

(B) NARRATIVE.

6 Jan.

1345 K Underway from New Farm Wharf, Brisbane.

6-11 Jan.

Enroute Darwin, Australia conducting section dives and emergency drills.

12 Jan.

0700 K Took pilot aboard and commenced transit Torres Strait.

1453 K Completed transit. Pilot left ship.

1939 K Submerged.

1947 K Surfaced.

13 Jan.

1003 K Made hand dive, simulating hydraulic failure.

1016 K Surfaced.

1410 K Lookout sighted periscope on port beam. Went ahead "emergency" and put contact astern. Contact considered "doubtful".

1721 K Sighted PV type plane - distance 8 miles. Exchanged recognition signals. (Plane Contact #1).

1738 K Sighted masts of a ship thru high periscope - bearing 160°T - distance 8 miles. Air coverage was being given this ship by the PV previously sighted.

14 Jan.

2103 K Plane contact on BJ radar bearing 190°T - range 8 miles.

2104 K Sighted running lights of a low flying plane. (Plane Contact #2). Plane closed to 4 miles, then turned away.

15 Jan.

0650 K Made rendezvous with ML 814 and proceeded to Port Darwin, Australia.

1000 K Moored alongside U.S.S. COUGAL in Port Darwin. Received 25,000 gallons fuel oil and voyage repairs from U.S.S. COUGAL.

U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol

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U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.

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1545 K Underway from alongside U.S.S. COUCAL.  
1615 K Anchored in harbor.

16 Jan. At anchor, making adjustments and repairs to Master Gyro.  
(See list of defects)

17 Jan.  
1218 H Underway from Port Darwin, Australia.

18 Jan.  
0520 H Made trim dive.  
0533 H Surfaced.  
1805 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 10 miles.  
1806 H Sighted "Pete" type plane - range about 9 miles.  
(Plane Contact #3).  
1807 H Submerged as range continued to close. Do not believe we  
were sighted.  
1833 H Surfaced and commenced uneventful passage to East of Timor  
Island.  
2355 H Transmitted TUNA serial 1 to CTG 71.1.

19-21 Jan. Enroute patrol area making daily trim dive.

22 Jan.  
0502 H Made SJ land contact on Bawean Island bearing 252<sup>OT</sup> - range  
about 50 miles.

0617 H Submerged.  
0637 H Surfaced.  
0815 H Sighted "Rufe" type plane coming out of a low, heavy cloud.  
SD radar was on at the time, but its first indication was  
6 miles, as plane was flying low. (Plane Contact #4).

0816 H Submerged.  
0818 H Two explosions overhead upon passing 80 feet. Not close.  
0819 H One explosion overhead upon passing 120 feet. Close.  
0845 H At periscope depth. Plane sighted circling about 2 miles  
to southward. "Rufe" type planes maintained air coverage  
of the area throughout the day.

1925 H Surfaced in low overcast and cleared area.

23 Jan.  
0635 H Submerged off Southern entrance to Karimata Strait.  
1913 H Surfaced and commenced uneventful passage of Karimata Strait.

24 Jan.  
0623 H Submerged 15 miles west of Serutu Island, covering Karimata -  
Singapore shipping route.  
1917 H Surfaced.

U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.  
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25 Jan.

- 0445 H Converted #5 FBT to MBT.  
0507 H Submerged to flush out MBT.  
0529 H Surfaced.  
0628 H Sighted ship on horizon in morning twilight thru high periscope. Put contact astern and at.  
0635 H Submerged. (SJ was unable to pick up target prior to dive). Target identified as two masted sailing vessel of about 20 tons displacement. (Ship Contact #1).  
0834 H With range of about 6,000 yards, made battle surface and closed to investigate.  
0840 H Fired about 10 rounds of 20 MM across bow and target immediately lowered sails.  
0855 H Went alongside and obtained ship's papers. Papers showed crew to consist of 11 men - 10 Malaysians and 1 Chinese. The cargo was foodstuff (about 500 lbs), being taken to Tambelan Island. Decided not to sink target and at  
0915 H Proceeded to patrol area.  
1045 H Sighted a small ship thru high periscope - bearing 010°T. (Ship Contact #2).  
1048 H Submerged and headed toward. Target identified as small fishing junk of approximately 10 tons. Passed close aboard for periscope observation and at  
1340 H Surfaced and proceeded to assigned area.  
Made passage between Gr. Natuna Island and S. Natuna Island during the night.

26 Jan.

- 0652 H Submerged.  
0837 H Surfaced.  
1115 H Sighted unidentified plane - bearing 070°T - distance about 15 miles. (Plane Contact #5).  
1116 H Submerged to avoid detection.  
1225 H Surfaced.

27 Jan.

- 0357 H Friendly radar interference on SJ - bearing 094°T.  
0410 H Exchanged recognition signals and calls with U.S.S. PETCHI (SS313).  
1505 H Submerged.  
1833 H Surfaced.  
2016 H Friendly radar interference on SJ - bearing 125°T.  
2018 H Exchanged recognition signals and calls with U.S.S. BLUEGILL (SS242).  
2210 H Sighted "Sally" type plane in bright moonlight flying low distance about 4 miles and heading toward. Submerged. (Plane Contact #6). No indication on APR.  
2300 H Surfaced.



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U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.

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28-30 Jan.

Conducting Special Mission.

31 Jan.

0000 H In assigned area.  
1105 H Submerged.  
1324 H Surfaced.  
1900 H Put port shaft out of commission to make repairs to serious leak in #2 Main motor cooler; also to dry out #2 Main Motor which showed zero ground as results of above leakage. (See list of defects).

1 Feb.

0640 H Submerged. Port shaft still out of commission.  
0650 H Put bow plane rigging motor out of commission to make repairs to clear zero ground. (See list of defects).  
1254 H Surfaced.  
1300 H Submerged.  
1658 H Bow plane rigging motor back in commission.  
1859 H Surfaced and commenced closing coast of Borneo.  
1930 H Port shaft back in commission.  
2200 H Assigned new area to work as coordinated attack group with BARBEL and BLACKFIN, C.O. of TUNA O.T.C.  
2355 H Transmitted TUNA serial 3 to CTG 71.1.

2 Feb.

Enroute new area.  
1913 H Submerged.  
1920 H Surfaced.

3 Feb.

0230 H In assigned area - proceeding Eastward toward Banguay Strait.  
0617 H Sighted unidentified plane in morning twilight - bearing 270° range about 4 miles. Submerged. (Plane Contact #7).  
0619 H When passing 80 feet - one explosion close aboard and overhead. Gave us a bad shaking, but no damage.  
1540 H Heard one distant explosion.  
1907 H Surfaced.

4 Feb.

0609 H Submerged for patrol off Banguay Channel.  
1902 H Surfaced.

5 Feb.

0550 H Submerged for patrol off Banguay Channel.  
1440 H Sighted what appeared to be a small float type plane thru periscope (possibly "Raife") - distance about 6 miles. (Plane Contact #6).



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U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.

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1912 H Surfaced. SJ radar out of commission. (See list of defects).

6 Feb.

0626 H Submerged.

1945 H Surfaced. SJ radar back in commission.

2030 H Exchanged recognition signals and calls with BLACKFIN(SS322)  
Transmitted TUNA serial 4 to CTC 71.1.

7 Feb.

0300 H Assigned new area to BLACKFIN (TUNA to be North of 7°30'N and BLACKFIN to South of that latitude).

1030 H Plane contact on SD radar 17 miles (Plane Contact #9).

1033 H Made sight contact on unidentified plane - distance 14 miles. Plane did not close so remained on surface.

1223 H Friendly sub surfaced ahead at range of 5,000 yards.

1225 H Exchanged calls with BLACKFIN.

1426 H Submerged.

1847 H Surfaced.

2220 H Transmitted TUNA serial 5 to CGC 71.1.

8 Feb.

0632 H Submerged.

1201 H Surfaced.

1424 H Submerged.

1613 H Sighted unidentified plane thru periscope - distance 8 miles. (Plane Contact #10).

1840 H Surfaced.

9 Feb.

Patrolling in assigned area with CHARR and BLACKFIN.  
C.O. of CHARR is O.T.C.

0627 H Submerged.

1209 H Surfaced.

1234 H Positive periscope contact - bearing 105°T - range about 2,000 yards. Went ahead "emergency" and put contact astern.

1305 H Submerged and closed position of periscope sighting.

1830 H Surfaced.

2000 H Reported periscope contact to CHARR and BLACKFIN.

10 Feb.

0900 H Submerged.

1801 H Surfaced.

2100 H Assigned new area.

11 Feb.

Enroute assigned area.

1220 H Plane contact on SD radar - distance 8 miles. Plane not sighted but submerged to avoid detection. (Plane Contact #11).

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U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirtieth War Patrol.

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- 1243 H Surfaced.  
1455 H Plane contact on SD radar - distance 8 miles. Submerged.  
(Plane Contact #12).  
1631 H Surfaced.
- 12 Feb.  
0500 H In assigned area.  
0627 H Submerged.  
1524 H Heard 3 distant explosions.  
1919 H Surfaced.  
1955 H Plane contact on SJ radar - range 10,000 yards - crossing  
astern. Submerged. (Plane Contact #13). At time of dive  
APR showed saturation pip on 176 megacycles.  
2013 H Surfaced.  
2114 H Received contact report of enemy task force from U.S.S.  
FLOUNDER.  
2117 H Commenced pursuit at maximum speed.
- 13 Feb.  
0549 H Plane contact on SJ radar - bearing 250°T - range 10,000  
yards and closing fast. Submerged. (Plane Contact #14).  
APR showed saturation pip on 176 megacycles.  
0622 H Surfaced and continued pursuit.  
1000 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 8 miles. Submerged.  
(Plane Contact #15). Plane had closed to 5 miles when SD  
mast went under. No IFF.  
1023 H Surfaced.  
1035 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 19 miles. Contact did  
not close so remained on surface. (Plane Contact #16).  
1057 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 17 miles. Did not close  
so remained on surface. (Plane Contact #17).  
1153 H Plane Contact on SD radar - range 16 miles. Three pips  
were visible on screen. (Plane Contact #18). No IFF.  
1156 H Range closed to 8 miles. Submerged. Planes were not sighted  
prior to dive.  
1219 H Surfaced.  
1350 H Received aircraft contact report of enemy task force giving  
its position about 100 miles north of TUNA's position.  
1354 H Sighted "Betty" type plane - bearing 230°T - range about 7  
miles - heading toward. Plane was flying low and was not  
picked up on SD radar. (Plane Contact #19). Submerged.  
Decided to discontinue pursuit.  
1806 H Surfaced.  
2155 H Received orders to start return to Base.
- 14 Feb.  
Enroute Australia.  
1701 H Submerged.  
1811 H Surfaced.



## U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.

15 Feb.

- 1608 H Made land contact on Gc. Natuna Island - bearing 281<sup>OT</sup> - range 40 miles.  
 1621 H Submerged.  
 1916 H Surfaced.

16 Feb.

- 0639 H Submerged 30 miles East of Tambelan Island.  
 1450 H Sighted small sailing sampan on Easterly course - range 4 miles. (Ship Contact #3).  
 1934 H Surfaced.

17 Feb.

- 0621 H Submerged off Western approach to Karimata Strait.  
 1942 H Surfaced and commenced uneventful passage of Karimata Strait.

18 Feb.

- 0154 H Friendly radar interference on SJ - bearing 175<sup>OT</sup>.  
 0213 H Exchanged recognition signals and calls with U.S.S. HOE (SS258).  
 0652 H Friendly radar interference on SJ - bearing 100<sup>OT</sup>.  
 0658 H Exchanged recognition signals and calls with U.S.S. HAWKBILL (SS366).  
 0705 H HAWKBILL asked us to come alongside to receive P.O.W.  
 0725 H Received Jap P.O.W. from HAWKBILL.  
 0820 H Submerged.  
 0828 H Surfaced.  
 1154 H Sighted three unidentified planes, flying low on Southerly course, in heavy overcast - bearing 280<sup>OT</sup> - range 9 miles. (Plane Contact #20). Submerged.  
 1251 H Surfaced.

19 Feb.

- 0618 H Sighted what appeared to be a picket boat or small patrol craft in heavy rainsquall and low overcast at a range of 4,000 yards. Went ahead full speed, turned away and avoided. Do not believe we were sighted. (Ship Contact #4)  
 1101 H Submerged.  
 1500 H Surfaced.

20 Feb.

- 0100 H Commenced passage between Saleier Island and Tana Djampea.  
 0437 H Contact on SJ radar - bearing 345<sup>OT</sup> - range 3,800 yards. Ship very small (Ship Contact #5). Tracking showed target on course 140<sup>OT</sup> - speed 4 knots. Target not considered worthwhile.  
 0535 H Submerged.  
 1304 H Surfaced.

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21 Feb.

0548 H Submerged.

0649 H Surfaced.

22 Feb.

0958 H Submerged.

1006 H Surfaced.

1710 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 6 miles and closing.  
Unable to sight plane in overcast. Submerged. (Plane  
Contact #21).

1725 H Surfaced.

23 Feb.

0303 H Submerged.

0312 H Surfaced.

0406 H Made rendezvous with EWAS ML 807 and proceeded to Port Darwin,  
Australia.

0748 H Moored alongside Boom Jetty, Port Darwin.

Received 65,000 gallons fuel oil, and approximately 6,000  
pounds of provisions.

24 Feb.

1431 H Underway from Port Darwin, Australia.

1722 H Submerged.

1742 H Surfaced.

25 Feb.

1705 H Submerged.

1814 H Surfaced and commenced uneventful passage to East of Timor  
Island.

26 Feb.

1319 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 8 miles and closing.  
Unable to sight plane because of heavy overcast and rain.  
(Plane Contact #22).

1320 H Submerged.

1340 H Surfaced.

27 Feb.

1657 H Submerged.

1808 H Surfaced.

28 Feb.

0605 H Submerged 15 miles West of Cape Mandar, Celebes.

1855 H Surfaced.

1 March

1132 H Plane contact on SD radar - range 14 miles. (Plane Contact #23).

1133 H Sight contact on large unidentified plane - bearing 175<sup>OT</sup>  
range about 15 miles.

1134 H Lost contact with plane.



C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

U.S.S. TUNA - Report of Thirteenth War Patrol.

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2 - 4 March

Conducting Special Mission.

5 March

0609 H Submerged.  
0755 H Surfaced.  
1702 H Submerged.  
1820 H Surfaced.

6 March

0557 H Submerged 15 miles West of Cape William, Celebes.  
0901 H Surfaced.  
1838 H Sighted Marasende Island.  
1902 H Sighted small sailing sampan close aboard. Avoided.  
(Ship Contact #6).  
1930 H Searchlight display in distance - bearing 085°T. Believed to be at Macassar City.

7 March

0939 H Sighted what appeared to be a patrol craft or a submarine thru high periscope. (Ship Contact #7).  
0942 H Submerged and headed toward. Target identified as small junk lying to in a rough sea.  
1117 H Surfaced and closed.

Sea too rough to go alongside, but, on passing close aboard, observed crew to consist of six dark skinned natives. Judging from the excessive rolling of the junk, there was little, if any, cargo aboard.

1140 H Proceeded toward Lombok Strait.

1658 H Submerged.

1847 H Surfaced and commenced transit of Lombok Strait in heavy rain and low overcast.

2353 H Abeam Nusa Besar Island. Strong radar interference on 195 megacycles.

Encountered huge swells from Southwest in Southern approach to Lombok.

0500 H Sea very rough with 30 knot wind from the West.

1700 H Weather abating.

9 - 12 March

Enroute Fremantle, Australia making daily trim dives.

13 March

Arrived Fremantle.