



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS CAPELIN (SS 289)

November 23, 1943 - 76 Men Lost

Returning from her first war patrol after only 17 days out, CAPELIN (Cmdr. E.E. Marshall) came into Darwin 16 November 1943 with a defective conning tower hatch mechanism, excessively noisy bow planes, and a defective radar tube. These flaws were corrected to the satisfaction of the Commanding Officer, and the ship she then departed for her second patrol on 17 November. Her area was in the Molukka and Celebes seas, and she was to pay particular attention to Kaoe Bay, Morotai Strait, Davao Gulf and trade routes in the vicinity of Siao, Sangi, Talaud and Sarangani Islands. She was to leave her area at dark 6 December.



Nothing has been positively heard from CAPELIN since she departed. However, BONEFISH reported having seen an U.S. submarine on 2 December 1943. This position is in the area assigned to CAPELIN at this time. An attempt to reach CAPELIN by radio on 9 December 1943 elicited no response.

On 23 November an American submarine was attacked off Kaoe Bay, Halamaera. However, the Japanese state that this attack was broken off, and the evidence of contact was rather thin. The only positive statement that can be made is that CAPELIN was lost in Celebes Sea, or in Molukka Passage or the Molukka Sea, probably in December 1943. Enemy minefields are now known to have been placed in various positions along the north coast of Celebes in CAPELIN's area, and she may have been lost because of a mine explosion. In

USS Capelin (SS 289)

her 17-day first patrol, CAPELIN sank two Japanese medium freighters for 7,400 tons of merchant shipping. This first patrol was conducted among the islands immediately west of New Guinea.

Sailors Lost On USS CAPELIN (SS-289) 11-23-43

Arney, B. Y. S2
Ball, C. M. SM2
Beck, C. I., Jr. CTM
Blair, G. R. EM3
Bragg, P. C. QM3
Britton, R. L. LTJG
Brown, E. S., Jr. S1
Butler, M. H. CRM
Callahan, F. T. CYA
Callahan, J. J., Jr. MOMM2
Cavanaugh, J. P. S1
Cheatham, E. STM1
Clifford, E. R. TM2
Colyer, C. W. TM1
Cross, J. L. MM1
Crowley, J. D. F1
Defreytas, C. F. EM3
Devine, W. F. TM3
Devine, W. J. TM2
Dill, P. L. TM3
Eklund, L. T. FC3
Everhart, C. L. PHM1
Ganley, J. F., Jr. CMOMMA
Gillen, P. J. MOMM2
Grabnickas, P. SC2
Hicks, M. J. EM2
Holt, J. W., Jr. CEMA
Jacobs, D. MM3
Keaton, L. O. TM3
Kennedy, D. G., Jr. EM1
Klein, I. I. EM2
Koziol, J. W. F2
Krall, E. J. EM1
Lafferty, W. A. S1
Landres, L. A. CMOMM
Lange, D. W. S1
Lester, E. J. MOMM1
Lewitt, W. M. RM3
Lutley, J. L. F1
Maddox, J. W. TM3

USS Capelin (SS 289)

Madey, A. EM1
Marshall, E. E. CDR
Mason, W. B., Jr. LCDR
Melvin, G. R. S1
Moeller, O. F. TM2
Morgan, H. F. RM1
Norris, E. A. MM3
Novotny, C. R. EM1
O'Donnell, M. B. RM3
Olsen, S. R. MOMM1
O'Neal, T. E. TM2
O'Neil, C. F. LTJG
Perry, F. STM2
Pettigrew, H. E, Jr. MOMM1
Pilkinton, W. N. RT2
Powell, R. MOMM1
Raminski, W. E. MOMM1
Rhodes, J. E., Jr. MOMM2
Roberts, C. W. MOMM1
Robertson, E. D. LCDR
Sharer, W. A. LT
Simon, H. GM1
Smith, L. C. MOMM2
Smith, R. L. RM2
Smolenski, E. J. S1
Snyder, N. W. F2
Stasik, W. W. MOMM2
Steege, E. H. TM1
Stickle, R. G. EM2
Terrell, R. W. MOMM2
Thibeault, J. L. TM3
Uhlmann, R. C. LT
Vassar, C. L., Jr. SC1
Vaughn, C. W. S1
Wellman, E. E. F1
Winkler, H. H., Jr. QM3