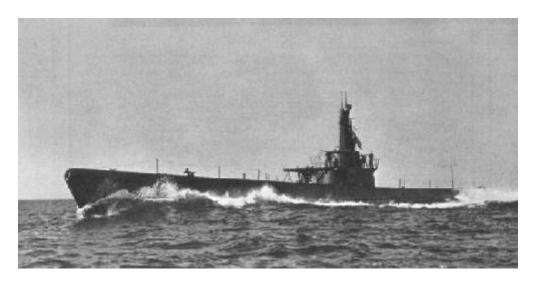


Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

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 shop 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 Siaoe, 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

Original Source here: http://www.csp.navy.mil/ww2boats/capelin.htm

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