

USS Shark (SS 314)



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS SHARK (SS 314)

October 24, 1944 - 87 Men Lost

Joining SEADRAGON and BLACKFISH at Pearl Harbor, the second SHARK (Cmdr. E.N. Blakely) left that place on September 23, 1944, and proceeded to Saipan to begin her third war patrol. The three vessels left the latter island on October 3rd to conduct a coordinated attack group, called Blakely's Behemoths.

On October 22nd, SHARK reported having contacted four large enemy vessels. She still had her full load of torpedoes aboard, so had not made an attack. SHARK addressed no further messages to bases, but on October 24th, SEADRAGON received a message from her stating that she had made radar contact with a single freighter, and that she was going in to attack. This was the last message received from SHARK.

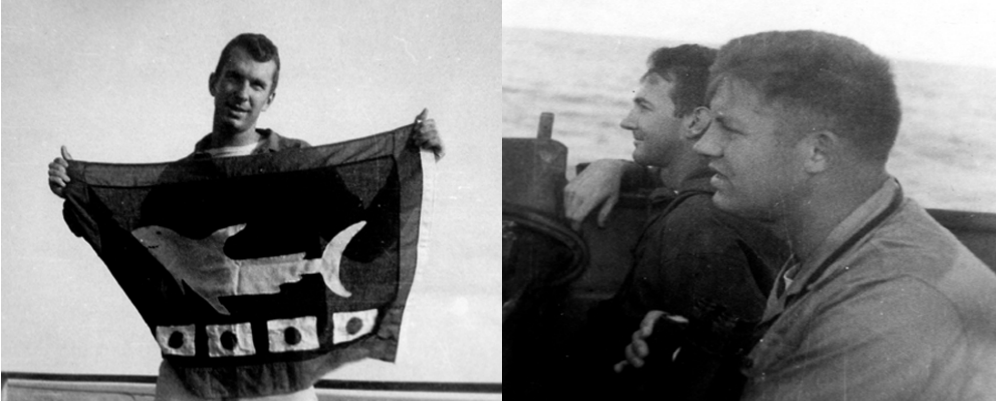
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*Marvin Oothoudt RMI (upper left),
Ensign Shefcheck (bottom, second from left),
CRMA Perrin (bottom right),
RMI Allen Ellioitt (bottom left - survivor)*

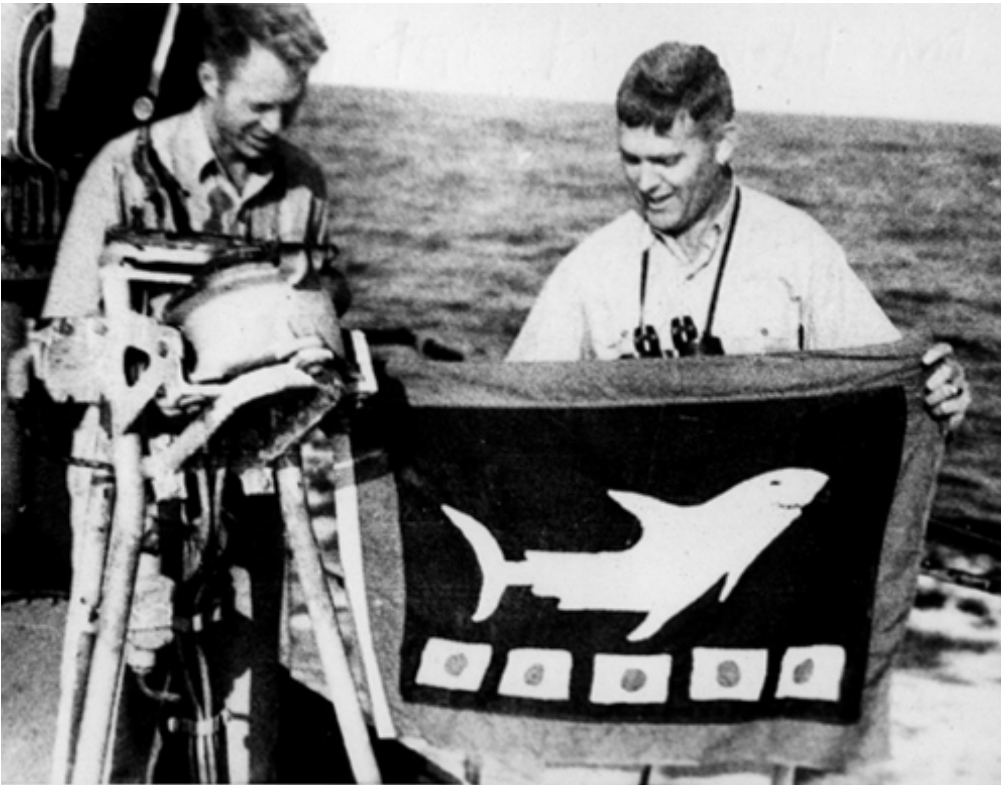
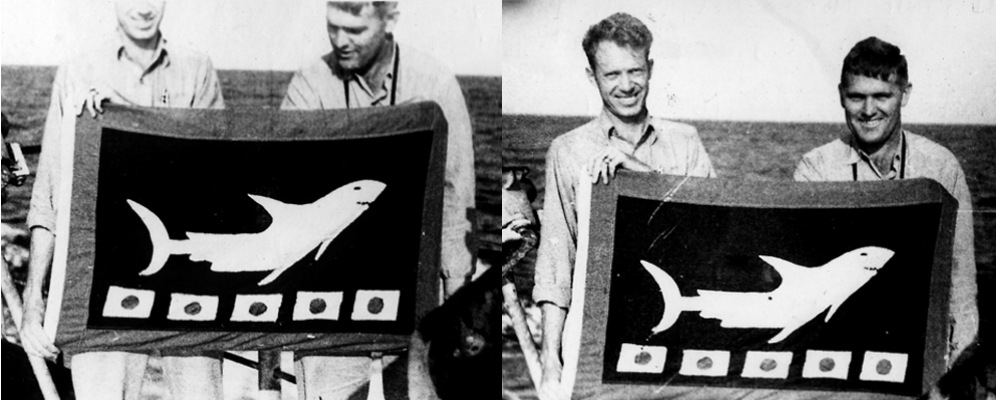
However, on November 13, 1944, a dispatch originated by Commander Naval Unit, Fourteenth Air Force, stated that a Japanese ship en route from Manila to Japan with 1800 American prisoners of war had been sunk on October 24th by an American submarine in a torpedo attack. No other submarine reported the attack, and since SHARK had given SEADRAGON a contact report only a few hours before the sinking, and could not be raised by radio after it, it can only be assumed that SHARK made the attack described, and perished during or after it.

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Five prisoners who survived and subsequently reached China stated that conditions on the prison ship were so intolerable that the prisoners prayed for deliverance from their misery by a torpedo bomb. Because many prisoners of war had been rescued from the water by submarines after sinking vessels in which they were being transported, U.S. submarines had been instructed to search for Allied survivors in the vicinity of all sinkings of Empire-bound Japanese ships. SHARK may well have been sunk trying to rescue American prisoners of war. All attempts to contact SHARK by radio failed and on November 27th she was reported as presumed lost.

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A report from the Japanese received after the close of war on antisubmarine attacks records the attack made by SHARK on October 24, 1944. Depth charges were dropped 17 times, and the enemy reports having seen "bubbles, and heavy oil, clothes, cork, etc." Several American submarines report having been attacked on this date near the position given, but in view of the fact that none reported the attack on the convoy cited above, this attack is considered the most probable cause of SHARK's loss.

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SHARK sank five ships, totaling 32,200 tons and damaged two, for 9,900 tons prior to her last patrol. Her first patrol was in the area west of the Marianas. SHARK sank two freighters, a transport and a large tanker, and damaged a freighter. In her second patrol in the Bonins, SHARK sank a medium freighter.

SHARK is the second U.S. Submarine to bear the name in WWII - An earlier [SHARK \(SS-174\)](#) carried the name part of her life and was also lost.

Sailors Lost On USS Shark II (SS-314) 10-24-1944

Adams, S. D. ENS
Adamson, J. M. F1
Babig, J. W. TM1
Bailey, D. E. EM2
Baker, C. M. S1
Barrett, J. J. SC1
Baton, C. A., Jr. EM2
Black, H. R., Jr. SM1
Blakely, E. N. CDR
Borusiewicz, W. E. GM3
Brown, C. R. TM3
Brown, L. M. CPHMA
Buckey, W. E., Jr. S1
Burns, J. E. MOMM2
Burns, R. "T" MOMM1
Cerruti, R. M. RT1
Chilcote, O. G. MOMM1
Click, R. F. MOMM2
Constantinos, W. A. RM3
Cupper, H. A. MOMM2
Davis, J. A., Jr. LT
Davis, J. S. MOMM2

USS Shark (SS 314)

Delehanty, M. A. F1
Dobson, L. G. SC3
Doyen, L. J. TM2
Drury, F. C. MOMM1
Dryer, P. L. MOMM1
Dupuy, H. H. TM3
[Elko, A. TM3](#)
[Ferguson, L. H. RM3](#)
[Giles, A. L. MOMM1](#)
Harper, J. D., Jr. LCDR
Hawthorn, W. E. CMOMMA
Hoffman, R. C., Jr. F2
Hooker, R. E. STM1
Houston, S. SM2
Hudgins, B. C., Jr. TM1
Huffman, J. R. S1
Hunting, E. N., Jr. LT
Josephs, A. T. EM2
Jurovaty, S. MOMM2
Kibbons, C. V. CTM
Kirstein, A. E. LT
Kneib, T. F. MOMM2
Krecker, S. S. MOMM2
Lawson, K. E. S1
Leecy, R. A. CTMA
Leonard, C. U. S1
Lewis, W. T. ENS
Luedemann, F. F1
Lyons, D. B. RM2
MacDonald, R. S. LT
MacIntyre, J. C. F1
Masincupp, B. T. RM3
Muntz, R. W. Y3
Olson, W. E. S1
Ongerth, W. R. GM2
[Oothoudt, M. D. RM1](#)
Paulsen, W. O. CEM
Perkins, R. E., Jr. RM1
[Perrin, I. C. CRMA](#)
Perry, J. M. F2
Pittmann, G. W. CK2
Polikowski, M. RM3
Porter, W. W. CMOMMA
Reed, F. E. CEMA
Reich, K. A. FC3
Reilly, F. S. CSM

USS Shark (SS 314)

Reinthal, R. H. FC2
Ridgeway, A. L. EM1
Satterfield, H. A. EM3
Schuermann, L. B. CMOMMA
Scutiero, A. E. EM3
Selig, J. L. QM2
Shaffer, D. E. Y1
Shaw, B. F. SC2
[Shefchek, H., Jr. ENS](#)
Simko, W. A. EM3
Thommen, H. H. TM3
Tien, K. R. TM3
Tiller, F. S. EM1
Turner, W. H. LTJG
Wall, W. R. TME2
Wansky, R. W. BM1
Wells, R. W. TM3
Williams, M. L. SC3
Zidziunas, J. J. MOMM3