

SS364/A12-1

Serial 107

U.S.S. HAMMERHEAD (SS364)
Care Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California

30 October 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: U.S.S. HAMMERHEAD (SS364) - Ship's History.

Reference: (a) AlPac 202 of 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Subject History.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (A) is
forwarded herewith.

Frank M. SMITH.

Copy to:
CinCPac.

THE U.S.S. HAMMERHEAD SS 364
BUILT BY MANITOWOC SHIPBUILDING COMPANY

MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN

KEEL LAID MAY 5, 1943

LAUNCHED OCTOBER 24, 1943

COMMISSIONED MARCH 1, 1944

SHIP'S HISTORY

ENCLOSURE (A)

The HAMMERHEAD was built by the Maintowoc Shipbuilding Co., commissioned on 1 March, 1944 with Lieutenant Commander J. C. MARTIN, U. S. Navy, as commanding Officer. She subsequently was placed in a floating drydock and towed to New Orleans, La. She reported for duty in the U. S. Fleet on 8 April 1944 and proceeded to Balboa, C.Z. for training.

On 5 May 1944 she reported for duty in Submarines, Pacific Fleet and departed Balboa, C.Z. She then trained in the Pearl Harbor area until 6 June 1944.

HAMMERHEAD departed Pearl Harbor on her first war patrol on 6 June 1944, in company with the STEELHEAD and PARCHE. She arrived in her area, off Formosa, on 30 June. Her first engagement with the enemy was on 9 July 1944 when she sank a 100 ton sampan type patrol craft by gunfire. On 19 July and again on the 25th she was ineffectively bombed by aircraft. Her first torpedo attack was made at 0853 on 29 July 1944. She failed to get any hits from three torpedoes fired at a coastal oiler in latitude 20°-59' N, long. 121°-27' E and was depth charged and bombed in return. Early in the morning of 30 July 1944 the HAMMERHEAD contacted a convoy of about 14 ships with 5 escorts in position latitude 20°-52' N, long 120°-55' E and proceeded to sink a large AK similar to the KAMSAI MARU, 8600 tons and to damage two other AKs of 6200 tons each. In the evening of 30 July she transited BALINGTANG Channel and headed for FREMANTLE, Western Australia. On 4 August she reported to Commander Submarines, Southwest Pacific. On 17 August she arrived at FREMANTLE, Western Australia, for her first refit. During this patrol she had had a total of 25 enemy aircraft contacts.

After a normal refit and rest period the HAMMERHEAD departed on her second war patrol, on 9 September 1944. This patrol was spent in the JAVA and south China seas. After dark on 1 October 1944 she went in between South Furious Shoals and St. Josephs Rock to the vicinity of UNUKAN BAY (6°-22' N - 116°-21' E). On this night she contacted a convoy of 5 large ships and 3 escorts. She proceeded to sink two large cargo ships of 7500 tons, a medium cargo ship of 4000 tons and to damage or probably sink an AO of 5000 tons. During the early morning of 20 October 1944 she made another surface attack on a 6 ship convoy with 3 escorts. In this attack she sank two cargo ships of 7500 tons and after pulling out and reloading she returned and sank another of 7500 tons. On 21 October 1944 she was directed to return to FREMANTLE, Western Australia, where she arrived on 2 November 1944.

After the usual refit and rest period the HAMMERHEAD departed for the SOUTH CHINA Seas on 25 November 1944 on her third patrol. At 2245, 7 December 1944, she attacked a convoy near latitude 4°-12' N, long. 111°-30' N. No hits were made with 6 torpedoes. At midnight the convoy was again attacked and two hits blew up a 5000 ton tanker. At 2238 on 18 December, 1945, she attacked another convoy in latitude 13°-51' N, long. 117°-17' E but failed to get any hits. Reconnaissance duty was performed from 16 December to 3 January in support of PHILIPPINE Invasion operations. She arrived in FREMANTLE, Western Australia on 17 January 1945.

On 10 February 1945 the HAMMERHEAD departed for her fourth war patrol with Commander George H. LAIRD, U. S. Navy as Commanding Officer. This patrol was conducted off the Indo-China Coast. On 23 February 1945 while within one mile of DOI NOI Island, she succeeded in sinking a DE with a "down the throat" shot. Illness of the Commanding Officer terminated this patrol and the HAMMERHEAD arrived in Subic Bay, Philippine Island, on 3 March 1945.

She departed Subic Bay on her fifth war patrol on 10 March 1945 with Commander Frank M. SMITH as Commanding Officer. This patrol was also conducted off the Indo-China Coast. On 29 March 1945 at 0315, after a submerged approach on a convoy of 2 ships and 7 escorts she sank an escorting destroyer, damaged a destroyer escort and received a severe depth charging in return. This was the last attack by a submarine on a convoy along the central Indo-China Coast, there being no enemy traffic afterwards. HAMMERHEAD returned to Subic Bay for refit on 6 April 1945.

After a normal refit and rest period she departed Subic Bay on 30 April 1945 for the Gulf of Siam, on her sixth war patrol. Arriving in the Central part of the Gulf of Siam in the early morning of 6 May 1945, she proceeded to sink a 2800 ton tanker loaded with aviation gas. The following day she missed in two attacks on a 1000 ton cargo ship. At noon on 14 May 1945 an attack on an AK failed, but at 0130 the following morning, after an escort had driven her off by gunfire, the escort engaged with the COBIA while the HAMMERHEAD sunk the TOTTORI MARU, 5725 tons. Torpedoes expended, she proceeded to FREMANTLE, Western Australia, for refit, arriving 24 May 1945.

After a normal refit, rest and training period, she departed FREMANTLE, Western, Australia, on 21 June 1945, for the Gulf of Siam and her seventh war patrol. On 10 July 1945, in the Central Gulf of Siam, the HAMMERHEAD sank an escort of 250 tons and a cargo ship of 880 tons. On 15 July 1945, she was part of a 4 ship coordinated attack group in which the BLUEFISH sank a Japanese submarine. On 28 July, while enroute Subic Bay an army aviator was rescued from his small boat in the central South China sea. She arrived Subic Bay 1 August 1945 and departed on the second, enroute Saipan. She arrived on 10 August 1945 and departed the 11th for Pearl Harbor.

At 1207 on 15 August 1945 the HAMMERHEAD executed "Cease Firing". On 21 August 1945 she arrived Pearl Harbor and departed Pearl Harbor on the 23rd enroute Navy Yard, Mare Island, California. She arrived at the Navy Yard on 30 August 1945 for overhaul prior to being placed in the Reserve Fleet. The following data on the career of the HAMMERHEAD IS SUBMITTED.

Japanese Merchant ships sunk	11	64,605
Japanese Combatant ships sunk	3 (1DD, 1DE, 1PC)	<u>2,850</u>
Total tonnage sunk		67,455
Japanese Merchant ships damaged	3	17,400
Japanese Combatant ships damaged	1 DE	<u>800</u>
Total tonnage damaged		18,200
Total tonnage sunk and damaged		85,655
Successful patrols made		7
Aviators rescued		1
Miles steamed on patrol and enroute		78,700