

USS Kete (SS 369)



*Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet*

# *USS KETE (SS 369)*

## *March 20, 1945 - 87 Men Lost*

Departing Guam on March 1, 1945, KETE (Lt. Cmdr. Edward Ackerman) headed for her second patrol in the vicinity of the Nansei Shoto (island chain). In addition to performing a normal patrol, KETE had orders to submit special weather reports, and to carry out rescue service during an air strike by carrier based planes.



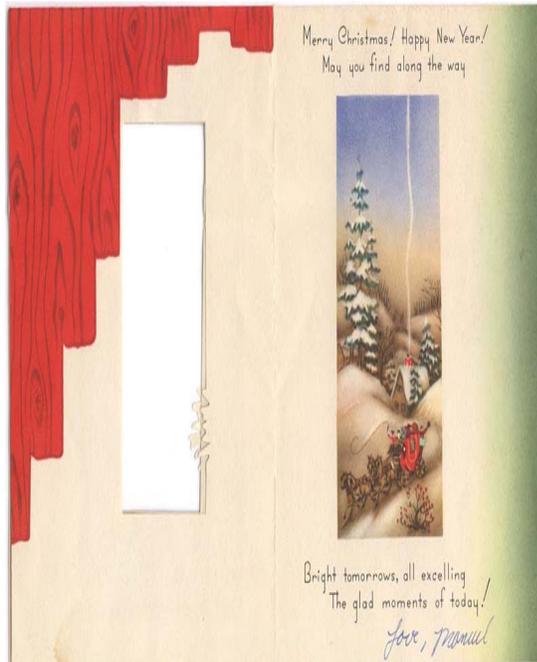
On the night of March 10, 1945, KETE reported having sunk three medium sized freighters on the previous night. She reported on the night of March 14th that she had fired four torpedoes which missed a small enemy cable laying vessel, and that she had only three torpedoes remaining aboard. In view of the small number of torpedoes left, KETE was directed to depart her area on March 20th, and proceed to Pearl Harbor for refit, stopping at Midway en route for fuel. On March 19th, she acknowledged receipt of these orders. On March 20th she sent in a special weather report. This was the last message received from her. At normal cruising speed she should have arrived at Midway about March 31, 1945. When she was neither sighted nor heard from by April 16, 1945, she was reported as presumed lost.

USS Kete (SS 369)



rifles, and ground all  
we do is march. I might  
not wear my sword  
out saluting their officers  
around here. I got liberty  
last Sunday but it wasn't  
much to do up to now  
so I got back about  
light saloon full of guys  
It better be so good  
fuck and tell Bobbie and  
Carol & said hello  
Manuel.

working my butt off now  
everyday. Set up a 11:30  
and go to bed at 9:30.  
we made our first submarine  
ship jump today. Like to  
have brated my life. How  
are your dogs getting along  
& don't reckon that they  
are big enough to train  
yet. I hope they make  
some good dogs. How you  
been down to the house  
lately. All five sun for  
the last month is just



**In 1943 S1 Manuel L. Efferson mailed this letter home to his brother Leslie. In 1944 he mailed the Christmas card to his brother. (Images provided by Efferson family).**

## USS Kete (SS 369)

the war gives no positive evidence to what happened to KETE; none of the attacks on U.S. submarines occurring within the period from March 20th to March 31st 1945, was made in a position in which KETE was likely to be.

There were a few mine lines in the Nansei Shoto Chain but, since KETE was already east of the islands at the time of her last message on March 20th and was heading home, loss through a mine is considered highly improbable. It is known that a number of enemy submarines were in the area through which KETE was required to pass en route to Midway. RO-41 was sunk east of Okinawa by an U.S. destroyer on March 23, 1945, and two other Japanese submarines were sunk southeast of Okinawa near this date. Conditions attendant to KETE's loss suggest a likelihood that one of these submarines might have torpedoed and sunk her and been unable to report the attack before being sunk. Thus, KETE must be considered probably a loss due to an unreported enemy attack. She is credited with sending three medium freighters, totaling 12,000 tons, to the bottom on this last patrol. During her first patrol, conducted in the East China Sea, KETE encountered no enemy targets.

### *Sailors Lost On USS KETE (SS-369) 3-20-1945*

Abts, L. A. EM1  
Ackerman, E. LCDR  
Adams, J. C., Jr. LTJG  
Apking, J. D. FC3  
Bergadine, D. L. MOMM3  
Blodgett, L. E. S1  
Braniger, F. W. CMOMM  
Brooks, C. QM2  
Burnside, W. H., Jr. LTJG  
Callahan, P. C. F1  
Cobrin, B. EM3  
Cole, H. M. RM3  
Cooper, E. EM2  
Crowley, R. W. RM2  
Crutchfield, C. R., Jr. LTJG  
Dawson, W. H. CK3  
Deiningger, F. R. F1  
Derrah, H. W. Y1  
Dietrich, H. O. CCS  
Dortche, C. F. STM1  
Drake, D. L. LT  
Dul, W. TM3  
[Efferson, M. L. S1](#)  
Egen, D. P. S1  
Fenton, D. G. LTJG  
French, H. CMOMM

USS Kete (SS 369)

Friesen, B. CMOMM  
Fuller, R. S. MOMM3  
Glynn, J. F., Jr. S1  
Griswold, F. J. S1  
Gunzinger, J. H. RT1  
Gwinn, E. E., Jr. EM3  
Haag, B. H. ENS  
Hart, R. A. S1  
Hartbank, G. E. MOMM3  
Hayden, P. O. TM1  
Henderson, E. COX  
Hines, J. L. TM2  
Holshouser, J. R. CTM  
Hooper, S. L. RM3  
Katz, A. J. EM2  
Kelly, N. W. EM3  
Kensler, E. N. TM3  
Kotelman, W. E. RM3  
Kraut, R. P. EM2  
Laister, J. L. MOMM3  
Litzenburger, F., Jr. GM3  
Logsdon, E. BKR1  
Lowery, B. B. MOMM2  
Lynn, C. W., Jr. MOMM2  
Malko, G. R. S1  
Marsico, A. T. F1  
Martini, F. CSM  
McLendon, B. E. MOMM2  
Messenger, G. R. S1  
Moccabee, S. A. SC2  
Moore, C. L. S1  
Morrison, H. F. MOMM1  
Newton, A. V. MOMM1  
O'Brien, J. A. CMBA  
O'Connor, M. A. EM3  
Page, G. T. MOMM1  
Peterson, C. J. S1  
Piper, I. V. MOMM2  
Price, G. O. MOMM2  
Pushee, D. C. QM3  
Racer, R. R. S1  
Reimers, F. F. LT  
Richards, F. A. GM1  
Schemm, G. J. QM3  
Schenavar, M. D. MOMM2  
Schumacher, P. F. EM1

USS Kete (SS 369)

Simpson, O. H. CPRMA  
Snyder, J. I. EM2  
Spikes, R. H. LT  
Starr, J. G., Jr. MOMM1  
Thomas, F. L., Jr. CRM  
Thompson, G. R. S1  
Thoprn, K. GM3  
Van Dam, P. C. TM2  
Villalba, S. H. F1  
Waggoner, J. S. CEM  
Wallick, R. A. TM2  
Walling, F. S. TM2  
Westphall, J. A. LT  
Wilson, G. W. TM1  
Woodward, G. I. RT2