

USS Triton (SS 201)



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS TRITON (SS 201)

March 15, 1943 - 74 Men Lost

The fourth of our submarines lost in the Solomons-Bismarck area in the early part of 1943, TRITON, commanded by Lt. Cmdr. G. K. MacKenzie, Jr., left Brisbane on 16 February 1943 to begin her sixth patrol in that area. She hunted for traffic between Rabaul and Shortland Basin on her way north, and began to patrol the equator on 23 February.



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<p>CLASS OF BRIDGE This is a full-time position and is not to be filled by a substitute unless the address is given.</p>	<h1>WESTERN UNION</h1>	<p>SYMBOLS CL=Class Letter MT=Overnight Telegram LC=Delayed Cable MLY=Cable Night Letter Ship Station</p>
<p>A. N. WILLIAMS MANAGER</p>	<p>NEWCOMB CARLTON MANAGER OF THE BRIDGE</p>	<p>J. E. WELLS FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT</p>

The flag also shows in the circle how on telegrams and day letters in STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt in STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

368Y AU 74 GOVT

ARLINGTON VIR 127P APR 22 1943

MRS ELNA PHELPS MCKENZIE

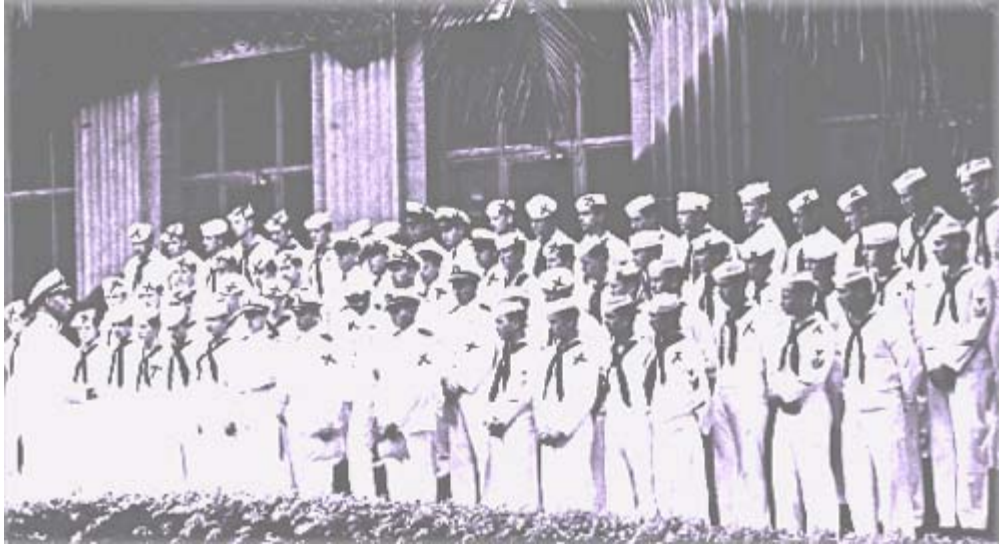
1085 JEFFERSON AVE CHULAVISTA CALIF

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT DEEPLY REGRETS TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND
LOYD CHARLES MCKENZIE, TORPEDOMAN FIRST CLASS USNAVY IS MISSING FOLLOW-
ING ACTION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY AND IN THE SERVICE OF HIS
COUNTRY. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR GREAT ANXIETY BUT DETAILS
NOT NOW AVAILABLE AND DELAY IN RECEIPT THEREOF MUST NECESSARILY BE
EXPECTED. TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES PLEASE DO NOT DIVULGE
THE NAME OF HIS SHIP OR STATION.

REAR ADMIRAL RENDALL JACOBSON CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CUSTOMERS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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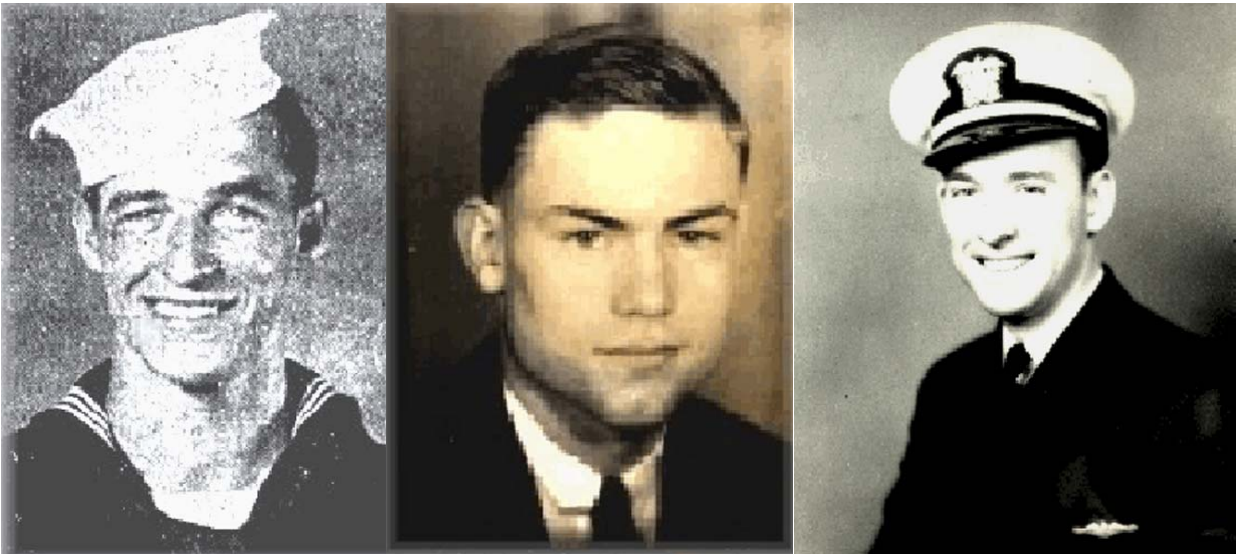
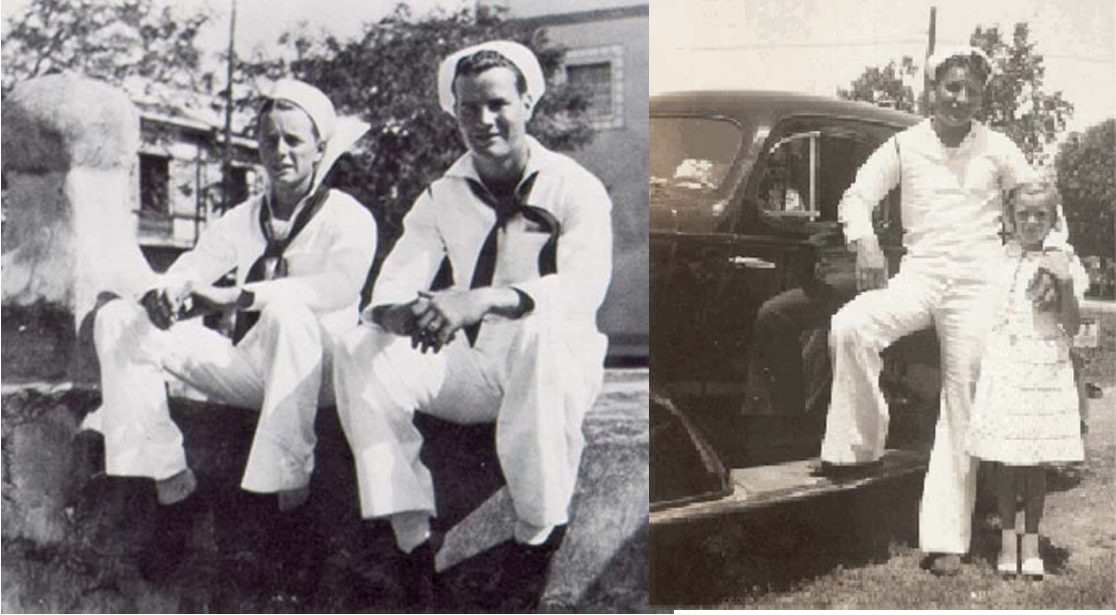


She reported on 26 February having seen smoke on 22 February, and had obtained evidence of enemy radar on Buka. Moving westward, she patrolled areas Northwest of SNAPPER and southeast of TRIGGER from 26 February to 6 March, when she left her area to attack a convoy in TRIGGER's area. Her report on 7 March, amended by another 8 March, stated that the convoy had been composed of 5 ships and 1 DD escort.

She reported their speed and course and the fact that she had sunk two AK's of the convoy and damaged another, claiming 3 hits out of 6 torpedoes fired at noon 6 March. A circular torpedo run forced her deep, where she was depth charged by the destroyer. She had later tried two night attacks, one dawn attack, and one afternoon attack, all without success, and was returning to her area at the time she sent the message. About eight hours after this message came, TRITON transmitted another telling of another night attack on the convoy. She claimed 5 hits of 8 torpedoes fired, and, although she could not observe results due to gunfire and attack by the escorting destroyer, she believed two more freighters to be sunk.



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The last word received from TRITON came on 11 March 1943 when she reported, "Two groups of smokes, 5 or more ships each, plus escorts...Am chasing." She was ordered to stay south of the Equator, and was informed of the area (an adjacent one) assigned to TRIGGER.

On the morning of 13 March TRITON was told that three enemy destroyers had been sighted southeast on a northerly course. She was informed that they were probably on a submarine hunt or were a convoy cover and had missed contact.

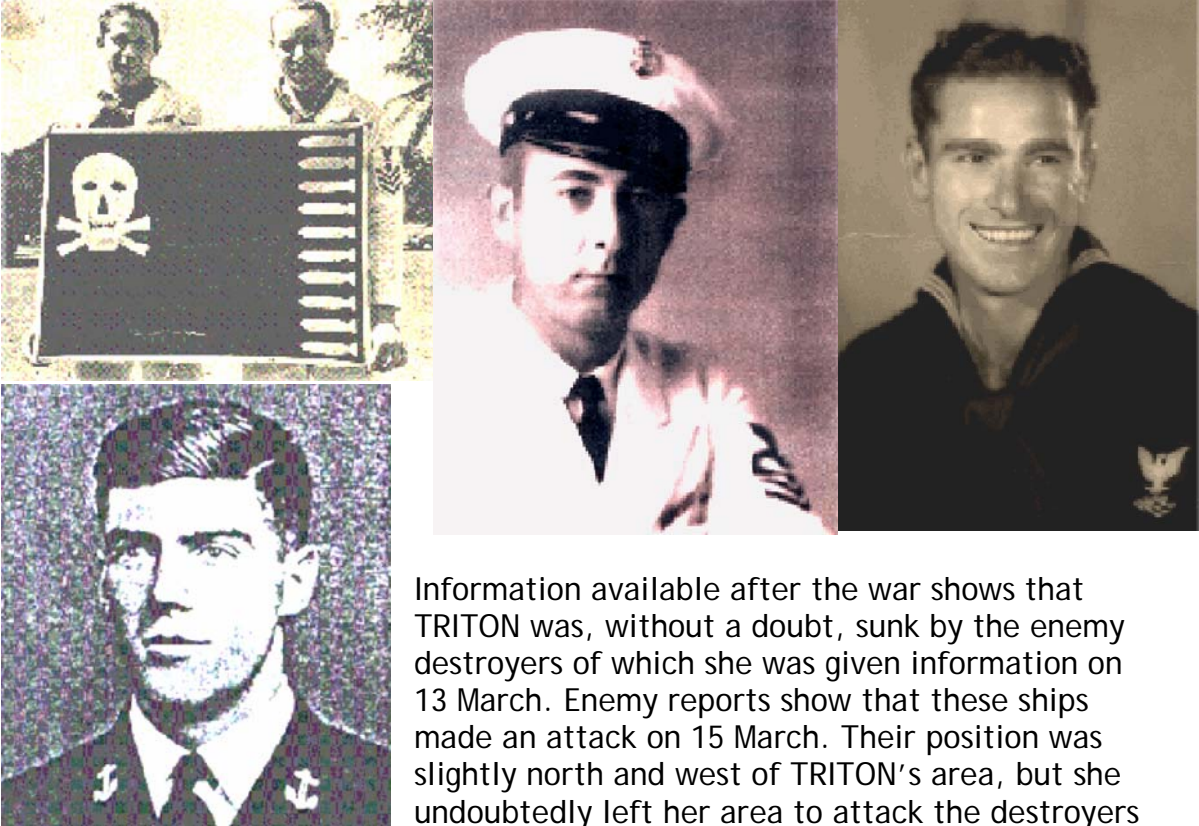
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TRITON, on 16 March, was ordered to change her area slightly to the east. TUNA and GREENLING were placed in adjacent areas (to the south and west, respectively) on 22 March, and all were to disregard areas when on the chase, and to avoid when encountering a submarine. TRITON was told to clear her area on 25 March 1943, and return to Brisbane. When she failed to make her report of position, new results, and estimated time of arrival when it was expected, she was ordered to do so. No report was received and she was reported as lost on 10 April 1943.



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Information available after the war shows that TRITON was, without a doubt, sunk by the enemy destroyers of which she was given information on 13 March. Enemy reports show that these ships made an attack on 15 March. Their position was slightly north and west of TRITON's area, but she undoubtedly left her area to attack the destroyers or the convoy they were escorting. The report of the attack by the destroyers leaves little doubt as to whether a kill was made, since they saw "a great quantity of oil, pieces of wood, corks and manufactured goods bearing the mark 'Made in U.S.A'." In addition, TRIGGER, in whose area this attack occurred, reported that on 15 March she made two attacks on a convoy of five freighters with two escorts. At this time she was depth charged, but not seriously, and she heard distant depth charging for an hour after the escorts had stopped attacking her. Since she was only about ten miles from the reported Japanese attack cited above, it is presumed that she heard the attack which sank TRITON. Apparently by this time the destroyers had joined their convoy.

TRITON was a most active and valuable member of the Submarine Force prior to her loss. In total, she is credited with sinking 16 ships, totaling 64,600 tons, and damaging 4 ships, of 29,200 total tons. Her first patrol, conducted around Wake Island, resulted in no damage to the enemy, but her second, in the northern part of the East China Sea, was very productive. In ten days she sank two freighters and damaged a freighter-transport and another freighter. She went back to the East China Sea for her third patrol, and again was most successful. She sank a trawler, two freighters, a freighter-transport, two sampans, and a submarine. The latter was I- 64, torpedoed south of Kyushu on 17 May 1942. TRITON's fourth patrol was made in the Aleutians. During it, she is credited with sinking two escort-type vessels.

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On her fifth patrol, TRITON went into the Solomon area. She sank a tanker, and two freighters, in addition damaging a tanker of 10,200 tons and a freighter. She was credited with having sunk two medium freighters on her last patrol.

Sailors Lost On USS TRITON (SS 201) 3-15-1943

Aldrich, Ralph Edwin, Jr. F2	Ashton, Thomas Edward, Jr. EM3	Ballou, William Edward CEM
Barnes, Frank Kenneth S1	Barton, Edward John CTM	Basso, Louis Dominick F1
Booth, Raymond F2	Booth, William Lewis CFC	Boyd, Stephen "S" EM2
Bruderer, Werner Larry MOMM1	Bush, Arlyn F1	Christy, Frederic Howard SC2
Clement, Virgil Clifford S1	Coley, Henry Perry MOMM1	Cooper, Jack Wendel S1
Cotton, Clarence CCSTD	Crutchfield, Jack R. LT	Dabney, John Davis OC3
Dotson, Leonard Dazzo EM1	Eichmann, John H. LT	Fedorchak, Joseph MOMM1
Fields, Hoyt Sherlock EM3	Fielitz, Ray Daniel TM2	Ford, George TM3
George, Donald Roger TM3	Grooms, Ben Joe PHM1	Hale, Donald Eugene S1
Hall, Donovan Gilbert CMOMM	Harbold, Robert Leslie S1	Harmon, Floyd Ray S1
Herstich, Martin Lewis, Jr. TM1	Hobbs, Lee Henry EM3	Hogg, Jesse "T"., Jr. GM3
Holland, Clyde, Jr. MOMM2	Holquist, Donald Edmond William CMOMM	Howie, Gilbert John, Jr. RT1
Isom Lyman Leroy F1	Jones, Marsh CQM	Klekotka, Alexander John MOMM1
Klimosewski, Johnny Paul MOMM1	Landers, Charles Wilfred F1	Larkins, Walter Harvey FM1
Lawler, John Wylie F1	Lines, Walter Ellsworth MOMM2	Long, Percy Eugene TM2
Mackenzie, George K. LCDR	Martin, William Boyd, Jr S1	Mc Calop, Hermon Thurmon MA1
Mc Clure, Kenneth George S1	Mc Kenzie, Lloyd Charles TM1	Meade, Jack RM2
Nixson, Russell Bedsworth S1	Olvey, Russell Bender Y2	Ottersen, Roy Ottis TM1
O'Sullivan, Cornelius LTJG	Page, Robert Eugene RM3	Parks, Edward S., Jr. LTJG
Peeler, Willie Lee F1	Petrun, John MOMM2	Poyneer, Charles Francis RM1
Ross, Burnel Cassius S1	Schlabecker, Harry Roland TM1	Schneider, Leonard Mark F2
Severance, Edwin Sr. John CMOMM	Shannon, John Francis F2	Sheperd, Laurence F1
Sorenson, Vernon LT	Thompson, Thomas Charles EM1	Trowbridge, Raymond Edward EM2
Van Roosen, Hugh C. LTJG	Visnich, George SM2	Ward, William Allen MOMM1
White, Ferguson Burnett QM2	Wycoff, Donald Edward MOMM2	