



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS ALBACORE (SS 218)

November 7, 1944 - 85 Men Lost

ALBACORE with Lt. Cmdr. H.R. Rimmer in command, left Pearl Harbor on October 24, 1944, topped off with fuel at Midway on October 28, and departed there for her eleventh patrol the same day, never to be heard from again. Her area was northeast of Honshu and south of Hokkaido, and because of the danger of mines, she was ordered to stay outside of waters less than 100 fathoms deep.

She was to depart her area at sunset on December 5, 1944, and was expected at Midway about December 12th. When she had not been seen or heard from by December 21st despite the sharpest of lookouts for her, she was reported as presumed lost.

Enemy information available now indicates that ALBACORE perished by hitting a mine. The explosion occurred on November 7, 1944, while ALBACORE was submerged, and was witnessed by an enemy patrol craft. The craft reports having seen much heavy oil and bubbles, cork, bedding and various provisions after the explosion.



Prior to her loss, ALBACORE had been a very successful submarine, especially in her engagements with Japanese combat vessels. Her record of enemy combatant ships sunk is the best of any U.S. submarine. She sank a total of 13 ships, totaling 74,100 tons, and damaged five, for 29,400 tons, during her first ten patrols. She began her series of patrols with one at Truk in September

1942, damaging two freighters and a tanker. On her second patrol, near New Britain, ALBACORE sank a transport, and, on 18 December 1942, the Japanese light cruiser TENRYU. Her third patrol was in the Bismarck Archipelago; ALBACORE sank an escort vessel and a destroyer. The latter was OSHIO sunk near the New Guinea coast on 20 February 1943. During her fourth patrol, again in the Bismarck-Solomons-area, ALBACORE was able to inflict no damage on the enemy herself, but she sent contact reports which enabled GRAYBACK to sink several enemy ships. In her fifth patrol, ALBACORE covered the same area and damaged a transport. She patrolled the Truk area on her sixth war run, sinking one freighter and damaging another.

ALBACORE's seventh and eighth war patrols were both in the area north of the Bismarck Archipelago during the period from mid-October 1943 to the end of February 1944. In her seventh patrol she sank a freighter and in her eighth a transport. In addition, during her eighth patrol on January 14th, ALBACORE sank the Japanese destroyer SAZANAMI. ALBACORE was ordered to patrol west of the Marianas and in the Palau area during the Allied invasion of these places in June 1944. On June 19th she intercepted a Japanese task force proceeding from Tawi Tawi anchorage, in the Sulu Archipelago, toward Saipan to engage our surface forces in the first Battle of the Philippine Sea. ALBACORE torpedoed and sank the aircraft carrier TAIHO. In addition, she sank a small freighter on this ninth patrol. ALBACORE conducted her tenth patrol near the southern coast of Shikoku, Japan. Here she sank a medium freighter, a medium tanker and a large patrol craft. ALBACORE has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for her second, third, eighth and ninth patrols, the ones in which she sank enemy combatant vessels.

Sailors Lost On USS ALBACORE 11-7-1944

Barber, W. H., Jr. S1
Baumer, K. R. GM2
Bigelow, H. F., Jr. ENS
Blackmon, E. B. CPHM
Bower, W. W. LT
Brannam, A. R. MOMM2
Burch, H. H. RT1
Cado, N. J. S1
Carano, J. J. MOMM3
Carpenter, C. L. MOMM1
Carpenter, J. S. STM2
Carracino, P. C. F1
Chapman, D. S. S2
Childress, D., Jr. FCS3
Childs, F. H., Jr. TM1
Collom, P. A. TM2
Crayton, A. C. MOMM2

Cugnin, J. E. TM3
Culbertson, J. W. EM3
Davis, P. H. EM1
Davis, R. E. GM3
Daye, F. W. MM3
Delfonso, J. TM3
Dewitt, J. L. TM2
Dunlap, J. T. MOMM1
Eskew, C. H. RT3
Fortier, J. F., Jr. LTJG
Fullilove, G. H., Jr. S1
Gant, J. W. MOMM3
Gennett, J. P. CEMA
Gibson, W. H. SC1
Gilkeson, J. F. LTJG
Hall, C. C. F1
Harrell, J. K. QM3
Hill, R. D. SC1
Hudgins, A. D. F1
Hughes, D. P. TM3
Hutchinson, E. E. TM3
Johnson, B. P. EM2
Jones, S. P. QM2
Kaplafka, G. S1
Kelley, N., Jr. SM1
Kincaid, M. K. F1
Kinon, V. E. F1
Krizanek, J. M. MOMM2
Kruger, A. S. S2
Lang, W. E., Jr. LT
Little, J. A. EM3
Manful, K. W. S1
McKenna, P. K. S1
McNeill, W. A. STM2
Mercer, J. N. CEM
Moss, L. D. GM2
Naudack, R. J. TM2
Nevarez, E. S1
Northam, J. H. S1
Nystrom, F. R. S1
O'Brien, R. J. F1
Peterson, E. H. CTM
Pierlinger, C. F., Jr. TM2
Porter, J. T. MOMM1
Reed, J. W., Jr. S1
Riley, F. A. LT

Rimmer, H. R. LCDR
Roberts, "A" "B" CQMA
Rowe, J. E. S1
Shoenthal, P. CRMA
Sisk, G. M. SC2
Spratt, J. L. MOMM2
Stanton, A. L. CMOMMA
Starace, R. J. EM1
St. Claire, H. W. MOMM3
Stephenson, J. H. EM2
Strattan, M. C. Y2
Tanner, E. R. MOMM1
Tesser, W. G. EM3
Tomich, P. R. RM3
Traynor, C. E. LTJG
Walker, T. T. LT
Weisenfluh, E. EM2
Welch, J. D. EM3
West, R. A. MOMM2
Willans, W. J. MOMM2
Wilmott, L. A. F1
Wood, D. R. RM2