

USS Herring (SS 233)



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

# *USS HERRING (SS 233)*

## *June 1, 1944 - 83 Men Lost*

HERRING, under Lt. Cmdr. D. Zabriskie, Jr., left Pearl Harbor on May 16, 1944 to conduct her eighth patrol in the Kurile Islands. On May 21st she topped off with fuel at Midway and departed for the Kurile region. No word was received from HERRING direct after her departure from Midway, but she did accomplish a rendezvous with BARB on May 21, 1944.

These two boats were to patrol the Kurile Islands area cooperatively, and at the rendezvous, as recorded in BARB's report of her eighth war patrol, the areas for which each was to be responsible were delineated. A few hours after leaving HERRING early on the afternoon of May 31st, BARB made contact with two Japanese merchantmen. While developing the contacts BARB heard distant depth charging, which she took as an indication that HERRING was making an attack.

Later that evening BARB picked up a prisoner who revealed that HERRING had sunk the escort vessel of the convoy BARB had been attacking. The ship sunk was ISHIGAKI, a new type DE built in 1942, and it was sunk with one torpedo hit. The sinking resulted in the scattering of the three-ship convoy and two ships, which subsequently passed near BARB, were sunk by her. Post-war information reveals that HERRING sank the third merchantman of the convoy.



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On June 3, 1944 orders were sent to BARB and HERRING directing them to stay outside of a restricted area in which friendly surface ships would be operating during the Marianas Campaign. A receipt was required for this message, but none was heard from HERRING. BARB was unable to contact her after May 31st. Consequently on June 27th, Midway was directed to post a sharp lookout for HERRING, which might be returning without ability to transmit by radio, and was expected by July 3rd or 4th. When she had not appeared by July 13, 1944, HERRING was reported as presumed lost.

Japanese information indicates that HERRING was sunk on June 1, 1944, two kilometers south of Point Tagan on Matsuwa Island in the Kurilies. The report states that two merchant ships, HIBURI MARU and IWAKI MARU, were sunk by American torpedoes while at anchor at Matsuwa. In a counterattack, a shore battery scored two direct hits on the conning tower, and "bubbles covered an area about 5 meters wide, and heavy oil covered an area of approximately 15 miles." The position of this attack was around 150 miles from the position where HERRING met BARB: the attack occurred on the day after the BARB picked up her prisoner. BARB and HERRING were the only U.S. submarines in the area at the time and BARB did not make attacks reported by BARB and by the Japanese, HERRING has been credited with four ships and 13,202 tons sunk for her last patrol.

For her first seven patrols, HERRING sank nine ships, totaling 45,200 tons, and damaged two, totaling an additional 8,400 tons. Her first four patrols were in the Atlantic, the first three off the coast of Spain, and the fourth near Iceland. The first netted an Axis freighter, while on the second HERRING saw no enemy ships. Her third patrol saw her sink Nazi U-163 and her fourth was again unproductive of enemy targets. Her fifth patrol was the passage from the United Kingdom, where she had been based for her Atlantic patrols, to New London, Conn., thence to Pearl Harbor. She patrolled the East China Sea on her sixth war run, and sank two large transports, a freighter, and a small escort type vessel. HERRING's seventh patrol was in the area just south of the Japanese home islands; here she damaged a destroyer type vessel.

### *Sailors Lost On USS HERRING (SS-233) 6-1-1944*

Anderson, F. H. RT2  
Anderson, J. L., Jr. MOMM2  
Armstrong, J. E. RM1  
Balestrieri, S. ENS  
Blair, J. L. F1  
Blevins, J. T. S1  
Boucher, L. J. S1  
Brennan, J. J. TM1

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Bronder, J. J. SC2  
Brown, W. J. S2  
Burkett, T. CK1  
Burton, C. E. MOMM2  
Campbell, N. STM2  
Carroll, M. D. CMOMMA  
Carter, R. A. TM3  
Chouinard, R. J. TM1  
Christopherson, R. W. TM1  
Compton, J. N. LT  
Cook, A. J. MOMM2  
Cunningham, E. P. ENS  
Cushion, H. L. EM1  
Dawkins, J. R. MOMM1  
Devenport, R. E. TM3  
Edginton, F. K. MOMM3  
Eitelbach, W. J., Jr. MOMM1  
French, G. W. MOMM3  
Gagnon, D. R. F2  
Gregory, J. L. TM3  
Groshens, C. G. EM2  
Grote, C. H. RM3  
Guerra, A. A. PHAR  
Harper, P. TM3  
Haskell, R. G. MOMM2  
Hill, B. G. S1  
Hofman, W. A. LTJG  
Isbell, L. H. SC3  
Johnson, J. M. MOMM2  
Johnson, L. K. S2  
Johnson, S. L., Jr. RM2  
Kelley, E. A. EM2  
Kostai, M. F., Jr. LTJG  
Leahy, E. L., Jr. LT  
Lewis, W. E. TM3  
Loftis, R. H. MOMM1  
Mack, R. L. RM3  
Mason, W. J. LCDR  
Mayes, J. B. SM3  
McCreary, J. W., Jr. CQMA  
McLendon, W. R. TM3  
Merriman, J. A., Jr. SOM2  
Millis, R. S. CEM  
Mitchell, G. R. EM3  
Much, H. B. F1  
Odom, L. F2

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O'Howell, H. J. CMOMM  
Payne, R. E. GM2  
Pepera, G. J. FC2  
Perkins, J. G. S1  
Poland, C. E. SM3  
Potvin, O. P. QM3  
Pressnali, W. B. ENS  
Price, S. H. EM2  
Riley, C. E. MOMM2  
Robbins, D. L. MOMM3  
Rockwell, E. E. EM1  
Ryan, D. E. MOMM3  
Saarm, A, H. MOMM3  
Schmidt, C. A. F1  
Smiley, W. K. GM3  
Stern, W. S1  
Stoneking, R. R. SC3  
Sutherland, J. A. F1  
Swanson, F. A. Y2  
Twigg, A. W. EM1  
VanMatri, V. H. EM3  
Vreeland, L. M. COX  
Wagoner, G. E. FCS1  
Walker, C. D. MOMM2  
Walsh, J. R. EM3  
Way, K. K. S1  
Wilson, H. R. TM2  
Wuertele, E. C. S1  
Zabriskie, D., Jr. LCDR