

SS323/A16-3

U.S.S. CAIMAN (SS 323)

Care of Fleet Post Office
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19 August 1945.

Serial (025)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Submarine Division TWO SIXTY TWO.
(2) Commander Submarine Squadron TWENTY SIX.
(3) Commander Submarines, SEVENTH Fleet.
(4) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: U.S.S. CAIMAN (SS 323) - Report of Fourth
War Patrol.

Enclosures: (A) Subject report.
(B) Track Chart (ComSub7thFlt only).
(C) Top Secret report of Special Missions
(ComSub7thFlt only).
(D) Report of interrogation of several
native craft crews. (ComSub7thFlt only).

1. Enclosure (A), covering the fourth war patrol
of this ship conducted in the Java, Flores, and South China
Seas during the period 22 July to 19 August 1945; is
forwarded herewith.

DECLASSIFIED-ART. 0445, OPNAVINST 5510.1C

BY OP-0909C DATE 5/25/72

W. L. FEY, Jr.

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(A) PROLOGUE

U.S.S. CAIMAN

WAR PATROL NO. FOUR

Arrived Fremantle, West Australia, 27 June 1945, from 3rd War Patrol and was assigned to Commander Submarine Division 302 for administration and to A. T. & R. C. #6 and S.R.U., Navy 137, for refit.

During refit the following major changes were made: S.T. radar and directional APR were installed, two 40MM guns were installed on the bandstands and one 20MM gun was installed on the main deck forward, and a silencer was installed on the low pressure blower.

The officers and crew returned from recreation leave on 12 July 1945, at which time Lieut. W.F. BENNETT, United States Navy Reserve, and Lieut.(jg), R.G. ROECKELIN, United States Navy Reserve, were detached and Ensign M.F. FILLIUS, Jr., United States Navy Reserve, reported for duty.

During readiness for sea period deep dive, sound and electronic tests were made. The sound test necessitated re-drydocking the ship. Three days were spent in training which included day and night approaches, firing of three exercise torpedoes, firing of 5"/25 and 40MM guns at towed target, firing of MK 27 and 28 torpedoes. Captain P.H. ROSS, United States Navy, was aboard for two days and a night as training officer.

In loading ship 70 extra rounds of 5" ammunition were stored in the forward torpedo room at the expense of two torpedoes. This arrangement enables us to carry 167 rounds of 5" ammunition.

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(B) NARRATIVE

U.S.S. CATMAN

WAR PATROL NO. FOUR

List of officers and chief petty officers attached:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/RATE</u>	<u>NO. PATROLS</u>
FEY, William L., Jr.	Lieut. Comdr.	4
McGUINNESS, W. A.	Lieut. Comdr.	4
EMERY, J. H., Jr.	Lieutenant	4
PETERSON, J. V.	Lieut. (jg)	4
O'NEAL, W. H.	Lieut. (jg)	3
LAKE, E. W.	Lieut. (jg)	14
PETRAT, W. F.	Ensign	2
FILLIUS, M. F., Jr.	Ensign	1
JACKS, H.P.K.	Lieut.; RANVR	2
NICOLSON, L. de S.	Lieut.; RANVR	3
JONES, John Emanuel	CMC (SS)	7
SAXON, Robert L.	CMC (SS)	7
COTE, John F.	CMC (SS)	8
MALIKOWSKI, Stanley P.	CPM (SS)	4
KISH, William B.	CMOMM	1

NOTE: ALL TIMES ITEM (ZONE MINUS NINE).

22 July

1450 Underway from Fremantle, West Australia, for
4th war patrol in accordance with CTG 71.1
OpOrd no. 97-45.
1600 Conducted practice gunshoot at towed target.
1830 Made trim dive.
1900 Commenced making night approaches on 3 ship
target group.
2400 Released targets and set course for LOMBOK
STRAIT, via safety lane.

23 July

0000 Enroute LOMBOK STRAIT.
1200 Posit: Lat. 29-47 S
Long. 113-24 E
1415 Sighted submarine; probably Southbound HMS
TRENCHANT.

24 July

0000 Enroute LOMBOK STRAIT.
1200 Posit: Lat. 25-09 S
Long. 112-29 E

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(B) NARRATIVE

U.S.S. CATMAN

WAR PATROL NO. FOUR

25 July

0000 Enroute LOMBOK STRAIT.
1105 Made training dive.
1200 Posit: Lat. 20-00 S
Long. 112-58 E
1410 Made training dive.
1625 Made training dive.

26 July

0000 Enroute LOMBOK STRAIT.
0448 Exchanged recognition signals with Southbound
U.S.S. BLUEFISH.
1105 Made training dive.
1200 Posit: Lat. 15-08 S
Long. 114-36 E
1255 Made training dive.
1625 Made training dive.

27 July

0000 Enroute LOMBOK STRAIT.
0724 Sighted object; thought to be upper works of
friendly merchantman. Avoiding action unnecessary.
1000 Made training dive.
1200 Posit: Lat. 10-06 S
Long. 115-40 E
1336 Made training dive.
1555 Made training dive.
1615 Made training dive.
1947 Contacted BALI ISLAND on SJ radar at 65,000 yards.
2230 Commenced transit of LOMBOK STRAIT; experiencing
heavy rips and violently confused seas plus
a 4 to 5 knot southerly current.
2352 Passed the LOMBOK gun battery without incident,
probably because of rainfall over SW tip of
LOMBOK ISLAND.
2355 Adjusted course to close coast of LOMBOK in
vicinity of KOMBAL BAY.

28 July

0000 Underway in LOMBOK STRAIT heading for entrance
to KOMBAL BAY.

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(B) NARRATIVE

U.S.S. GILMAN

WAR PATROL NO. FOUR

- 0150 Rounded FREMANAN ISLAND and headed for coast in vicinity of town of INHAR. NOTE: As we have time to spare we will make a close inshore patrol from here to BIMA BAY investigating the various known JAP anchorages on the way.
- 0600 About 2 miles off SULAI ISLAND, dipped down into entrance of ALAS STRAIT, but discovered nothing on either side.
- 0730 Headed for SATONDA ISLAND.
- 1012 Came alongside native boat about 8 miles north of MOYO ISLAND for interrogation of natives by AIB officers. Results included in separate report. No cargo aboard.
- 1130 Found nothing in vicinity of SATONDA ISLAND so headed for SANGGAR BAY.
- 1200 Posit: Lat. 7-59 S
 Long. 117-46 E
- 1201 Sighted U.S.S. CABRILLA and closed her to communicate via semaphore.
- 1245 Came alongside native boat for interrogation of natives by AIB officers. Results included in separate report. These natives were fleeing the CELEBES area because of wholesale confiscation of their boats by the JAPS. No cargo aboard.
- 1332 Sighted British submarine, probably HMS STUBBORN.
- 1600 Made careful search inside SANGGAR BAY and discovered nothing, so headed for BIMA BAY.
- 1900 Found nothing in entrance to BIMA BAY except small sailboats. Considered that these boats were too close to shore for going alongside. Had hoped to obtain information on the shipping situation at BIMA from one of them.
- 2018 Headed for entrance to FLORES SEA safety lane.

29 July

- 0000 Underway in FLORES SEA enroute entrance to safety lane.
- 0730 Entered safety lane.
- 1100 Brought two small native boats alongside for interrogation of natives by AIB officers. Results included in separate report.

• 1200 Posit: Lat. 6-45 S
Long. 120-34 E

30 July

0000 Underway in FLORES SEA safety lane.

0200 Headed North for MOLUCCA SEA.

0937 Made trim dive.

1200 Posit: Lat. 4-52 S
Long. 123-25 E

1930 Headed for East coast of CELEBES ISLAND North
of KENDARI BAY.

31 July

0000 Underway in MOLUCCA SEA off East coast of
CELEBES ISLAND North of KENDARI BAY.

0534 Dived for all day submerged patrol.

1200 Posit: Lat. 3-49 S
Long. 122-31 E

1951 Surfaced.

11 August

0000 Underway off coast of CELEBES ISLAND North
of KENDARI BAY.

0537 Dived for all day submerged patrol.

1200 Posit: Lat. 3-50 S
Long. 122-32 E

1621 Felt scraping and bumping along starboard side
of hull, followed by a slight bouncing movement
of boat. A sounding taken a moment later indi-
cated 15 fathoms and another 30 fathoms. The
15 fathom sounding is at variance with chart.
Believe that we touched an uncharted pinnacle
in posit: Lat. 3-48.5S, Long. 122-31E. The
suspected pinnacle must be quite small as
earlier we had been in almost the same position.
Damage sustained.- 1 pit log sword arm ruined.

1954 Surfaced.

2 August

0000 Underway off East coast of CELEBES ISLAND North
of KENDARI BAY.

0537 Dived for all day submerged patrol.

1200 Posit: Lat. 3-52 S
Long. 122-34 E

1947 Surfaced.

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(B) NARRATIVE

U.S.S. CAIDIAN

WAR PATROL NO. FOUR

3 August

0000 Underway off East coast of CELEBES ISLAND North
of KENDARI BAY.
0541 Dived for all day submerged patrol.
1200 Posit: Lat. 3-51 S
Long. 122-33 E
1955 Surfaced.

4 August

0000 Underway off East coast of CELEBES ISLAND.
North of KENDARI BAY.
0100 Departed this vicinity enroute JAVA SEA.
1200 Posit: Lat. 4-15 S
Long. 123-25 E
1710 Between BUTON and WANGI WANGI ISLANDS, brought
one of four native boats alongside for inspection
and interrogation of crew by AIB officers.
Results included in separate report. Cargo:
trivial. Did not deem it worthwhile to inspect
others.

5 August

0000 Underway in FLORES SEA enroute JAVA SEA.
1200 Posit: Lat. 6-50 S
Long. 120-07 E
1350 Sighted plane; SD contact at 18 miles.
1352 Plane tentatively identified as PBM. Fired
recognition pyrotechnic. Plane continued
to head straight at us.
1354 Plane still heading straight at us - no IFF or
VHF. Although fairly sure that he is friendly,
am not sure he understands the situation. We
are just clear of the safety lane; further this
particular blind bombing zone recently was
changed to an air-surface zone. As he insists
on heading straight in - Dived.
1448 Surfaced.
1733 Brought small native craft alongside for interro-
gation of crew by AIB officers. Unfortunately
no one in the boat understood MALAY. No cargo
aboard.

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(B) NARRATIVE

U.S.S. CAIMAN

WLR PATROL FOUR

6 August

0000 Underway in FLORES SEA enroute JAVA SEA.
0655 Detected SJ radar interference ahead.
Challenged but received no response.
0705 Confused signals on SJ radar.
0747 Again detected SJ radar interference. No
success in exchanging recognition signals.
1200 Posit: Lat. 7-06 S
Long. 117-29 E
1203 Sighted U.S. submarine in high periscope.
1206 Submarine dived; apparently he is planning an
attack with us as target. Changed to course
90 degrees from his bearing and went to four
engine speed. This will frustrate him if he
is really trying to attack.
1224 Sighted the other submarine surfacing.
1255 Finally exchanged recognition signals via SJ
radar and identified him as U.S.S. CHUB.

7 August

0000 Underway in FLORES SEA enroute JAVA SEA.
0628 Dived for all day submerged patrol North of
LITTLE MASALEMBO ISLAND.
1200 Posit: Lat. 5-23 S
Long. 114-26 E
2030 Surfaced

8 August

0000 Patrolling North of LITTLE MASALEMBO ISLAND.
0647 Dived for all day submerged patrol North and
West of LITTLE MASALEMBO ISLAND.
1200 Posit: Lat. 5-28 S
Long. 114-24 E
2021 Surfaced.

9 August

0000 Patrolling North of LITTLE MASALEMBO ISLAND.
0200 Headed for SEKALA ISLAND.
0750 Brought native boat alongside for inspection
and interrogation of crew by AIB officers.
No cargo aboard.
1200 Posit: Lat. 6-14 S
Long. 116-17 E
2000 Off SEKALA ISLAND.
2200 Accomplished Special Mission.

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(B) NARRATIVE

U.S.S. CAIMAN

WAR PATROL NO. 100

10 August

0000 Enroute CAPE BENDOH,
1200 Posit: Lat. 6-04 S
 Long. 114-20 E
1330 Brought 2 masted PRAU alongside. Manned by
native crew. Craft's papers revealed a
cargo of 12 tons of salt and 1½ tons of
miscellaneous items from SURABAYA consigned
to JAPS in BANDJERMASIN. When ordered to
jettison the cargo, the master of this craft
claimed that his boat would capsize. His
suggested solution was to sink the craft and
put the crew on a BORNEO bound sailboat, and
for the AIB officers to take him to AUSTRALIA
as a volunteer. Took crew aboard and sank
PRAU with 40MM. Incidentally, 18 bottles of
whiskey were confiscated.
1635 Sighted Catalina.
1826 Brought 2 masted PRAU alongside. Cargo consisted
of 7000 coconuts consigned to MADURA. Ordered
crew to jettison cargo, but did not wait for
completion of job. These natives were in too
great a state of terror to be of any interrogation
value.

11 August

0000 Enroute CAPE BENDOH.
0642 Dived for all day submerged patrol off
CAPE BENDOH.
1200 Posit: Lat. 6-33 S
 Long. 111-29 E
2035 Surfaced. Headed for CAPE BREBES.

12 August

0000 Enroute CAPE BREBES.
0510 Made SJ contact on target that tracked at
10 knots. Hoped that we had a target from
SEMARANG, but was unable to make him out in
the darkness. Just before dawn detected
another target on same general bearing.
Dawn revealed two British submarines, the HMS
THOROUGH and TACITURN. Was very thankful
that the initial contact was not multiple.
Learned that there were no ships in SEMARANG
ROADSTEAD.

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U.S.S. CATHARTIS

WAR PATROL NO. FOUR

0750 Brought native boat alongside for interrogation. No cargo. Put crew of FRAU which we sank aboard this craft and arranged for it to go to BCRITO.

0800 Resumed inshore patrol.

0830 Brought native boat alongside for inspection and interrogation of crew by AIB officers. No cargo.

1200 Posit: Lat. 6-42 S
Long. 110-10 E

2300 Off CAPE BREEVES

2336 Headed for KARIMATA STRAIT.

13 August

0000 Enroute KARIMATA STRAIT.

0215 Sent message to CTF 71 reporting results of Special Missions.

1054 Brought native boat alongside for inspection and interrogation of crew by AIB officers. Cargo trivial.

1200 Posit: Lat. 4-35 S
Long. 109-11 E

1643 Sighted derelict aground alongside EAST DISCOVERY SHOAL LIGHT HOUSE.

2005 Commenced transit of KARIMATA STRAIT.

2100 Received two messages from CTF 71. First message directed us to rendezvous with USS HAWKBILL to the East of the ANAMBAS ISLANDS and transfer our passengers. Second message directed us to join HAWKBILL in a coordinated gun attack upon TERAMPAH.

14 August

0000 Transitting KARIMATA STRAIT.

0400 Cleared KARIMATA STRAIT.

1200 Posit: Lat. 00-10 N
Long. 107-59 E

1307 Sighted plane. SD contact 10 miles. Plane not positively identified, possibly search plane.

15 August

0000 Underway off MIDAI ISLAND awaiting rendezvous instructions.