

21.3.44 - No. 3

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

Further successful attacks on Japanese supply shipping are reported by H.M. submarines operating in Far Eastern waters.

During recent patrols a total of seven ships including two of medium size and two of small size were sunk.

In addition a supply ship of large size and one of medium size were torpedoed and severely damaged. A smaller vessel which was attacked by gunfire was driven ashore and burst into flames. It was still burning five hours later.

One of the medium sized supply ships was torpedoed and sunk off the Nicobar Islands and the other was destroyed in the Straits of Malacca.

Off the east coast of Sumatra one of H.M. submarines fought a brisk gun action with a large river steamer scoring more than twenty hits on the enemy vessel. When last seen the steamer was stopped, burning fiercely, and in a sinking condition.

In the same area a small supply ship laden with motor transport was sunk by torpedo.

Off Sabang the northern tip of Sumatra a hit by torpedo was scored on a large supply ship. Avoiding action by H.M. submarine prevented observation of the full results of the attack.

Another of H.M. submarines attacked an escorted convoy in the Straits of Malacca and obtained two hits by torpedo on a vessel of medium size. Close inshore a small supply ship was engaged with gunfire and hit repeatedly. Enemy shore batteries opened fire on H.M. submarine but without causing any damage.

H.M. submarines which carried out these successful attacks were under the command of

Lieut. Commander L.W.A. Bennington, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N.

Lieut. Commander R.L. Alexander, D.S.O., R.N.

Lieut. Commander A.F. Collett, D.S.C., R.N.

Lieut. Commander R.M. Favell, R.N.

Lieut. D. Lambert, D.S.C., R.N.

Lieut. J.P. Angell, R.N.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.