

L11/S76

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
SERVICE SQUADRON

90/lkw

Serial 00227

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

28 FEB 1945

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
CNB SO SOIS SUB-AREA
Sec. ltr., EF13-50/S81
Ser. 00413 dated 21
February 1945.

From: The Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific Force.
To : The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.
Subject: U.S.S. SERPENS Loss of - Additional Bomb Data.
1. Forwarded.



FORREST CLOSE

By direction

Copy to:
CNB SO SOIS.

030745 30023

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File
EF13-50/S81
Serial: 00413

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
COMMANDER NAVAL BASES
SOUTH SOLOMONS SUB-AREA

40/DFC/jdw

21 FEB 1945

S- [REDACTED]

From: Commander Naval Bases, South Solomons Sub-Area.
To : The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.
Via : Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific Force.

Subject: U.S.S. Serpens Loss of - Additional Bomb Data.

Enclosure: (A) S.S. E. A. Burnett - Bomb Shipment Record.
(B) S.S. James B. Francis - Bomb Shipment Record.

1. The information reported herein supplements the testimony recorded in the Naval Court of Inquiry report on the loss of the U.S.S. Serpens (AK-97). The information pertains to the identification and history of the 350 pound Torpex Depth Bombs, Mark 54 which were being loaded.

2. The bombs had been stored at Guadalcanal in the custody of companies attached to the 353rd Army Ordnance Battalion. Officers of the Battalion report the records show the following:

301 Torpex Depth Bombs 350 lb. Mark 54 were taken over from the 13th Army Air Force about 1 August 1944 at the Koli Bomb Dump.

2668 Bombs were actually received from the S.S. E.A. Burnett at the Koli Bomb Dump about 13 October 1944.

1149 Bombs were actually received from the S.S. James B. Francis at Kukum Bomb Dump about 3 November 1944.

There were loaded on the U.S.S. Serpens at the time of the explosion:

187 Bombs from the 13th Air Force.
2587 Bombs from the S.S. E.A. Burnett.
625 Bombs from the S.S. James B. Francis.

Bombs from the S.S. James B. Francis were being loaded on the U.S.S. Serpens at the time of the explosion.

3. Information concerning the identification and history of the bombs received from the 13th Air Force is not now available at Guadalcanal. Records which may identify this lot are reported to be at the new headquarters of the 13th Air Force.

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In reply refer to Initials
and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

Op-23-N-RW
(SC)A17-24/AK97
Serial 00132923

24 MAR 1945

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~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

From: Chief of Naval Operations,
To : Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.

Subj: Record of Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry
Convened at the USNAB, Guadalcanal, British
Solomon Islands by order of Commander, Naval
Base, South Solomons Sub-Area, United States
Pacific Fleet, South Pacific Force. (Doc. No. 159522)

Encl: (A) Advance Copy of Record of Court of Inquiry
into Loss of USS SERPENS (AK97).

1. Enclosure (A) forwarded herewith for study, comment
and return. Comment in particular in regard to the bomb
loading rig referred to in Finding No. 13 and shown in
Exhibits 14 to 19 is desired.

V.D. Chapline
V.D. CHAPLINE
By Direction.

032445 30061

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
COMMANDER NAVAL BASES
SOUTH SOLOMONS SUB-AREA

S.S. E. A. Burnett - Bomb Shipment Record

The following information concerning the 350 pound Depth Bombs Torpex Mark 54 is shown on Subordinate Command, Service Force U. S. Pacific Fleet Confidential Memorandum Serial 02545 of 1 September 1944. Enclosure (A) Loading List S.S. E. A. Burnett, Voyage P.D. 854 - Departed Portland Area about 22 August 1944.

2663 - Depth Bombs Mark 54 shipped complete on BOSO 89556.

The Ocean Manifest and Hatch Stowage List of the E.A. Burnett P.D. Voyage 854 shows this information. Bombs were received from N.A.D. Hawthorne, Nevada. Ship loaded at Locoda, Oregon.

Quantity of Bombs	O/BL	R.R. Car No.	R.R. B/L	Lot No.	Stowage #2 Lower Hold
279	2096-P	SOOL 43598	5556528	2003	AFT
279	2089-P	SOU 33684	5556526	2003	AFT
279	2090-P	ATSF 141017	5556527	2003	Sq. AFT
279	2093-P	BLE 91111	5556523	2003	AFT
279	2088-P	PLE 35149	5556524	2003	Square
279	2087-P	RI 141720	5556525	2003	AFT A/O
279	2094-P	NP 15012	5556529	2003	AFT P/S
152	2092-P	B/O 465526	5556522	2003	AFT A/O
279	2095-P	SP 84339	5556521	3010	L/H
<u>2384</u>					

(ENCLOSURE A)

22006

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
 SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
 COMMANDER NAVAL BASES
 SOUTH SOLOMONS SUB-AREA

S.S. James B. Francis - Bomb Shipment Record

The following information concerning the 350 pound Depth Bombs Torpex Mark 54 is shown on Subordinate Command, Service Force U. S. Pacific Fleet Secret Memorandum Serial 00954 of 16 September 1944. Enclosure (A) Loading List S.S. James B. Francis, Voyage P.D. 885 - Departed Aberdeen, Washington about 4 September 1944. Loaded at Grays Harbor.

1129 - Depth Bombs Mark 54 shipped as Partial on BOSO 96065.

The Ocean Manifest of the S.S. James B. Francis P.D. Voyage 885 shows this information. Bombs were received from N.A.D. Hawthorne, Nevada. Ship loaded at Aberdeen, Washington.

Quantity of Bombs	O/BL	R.R. Car No.	R.R. B/L	Invoice	Lot No.	Stowage
288	1110-P	PRR 77194	7650432	45 3901	3002	#3 LH
288	1111-P	ATSF 136209	7650436	45 3905	3002	#3 LH
286	1109-P	NP 27199	7650435	45 3904	3002	#3 LH
267	1108-P	P/LE 30022	7650434	45 3903	3002	#3 LH
1129						

Bombs No. 102710 A

(ENCLOSURE B)

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File
EF13-50/S81

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
COMMANDER NAVAL BASES
SOUTH SOLOMONS SUB-AREA

40/DPC/jdw

Serial:

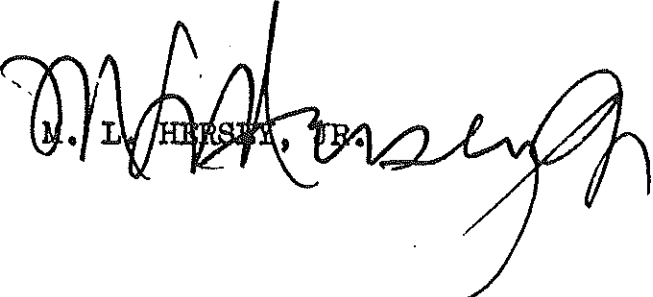
~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Subject: U.S.S. Serpens Loss of - Additional Bomb Data.

4. Data concerning the shipment of bombs received on the S.S. E. A. Burnett are shown in Enclosure (A).

5. Data concerning the shipment of bombs received on the S.S. James B. Francis are shown in Enclosure (B).


M. L. HERSBY, JR.

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