

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

U.S.S. ERIE,  
Willemstad, Curacao, N.W.I.  
November 17, 1942.

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. ERIE.  
To: Commanding Officer, H.N.M.S. Van Kinsbergen.  
Subject: Action of H.N.M.S. Van Kinsbergen at the Time of the  
Torpedoing of the U.S.S. ERIE.

1. As Commanding Officer I wish to express to you my profound appreciation for your action in rescuing officers and men of the U.S.S. ERIE at the time the vessels was torpedoed off Willemstad, Curacao, N.W.I. November 12, 1942.

2. By smartly launching a boat from the H.N.M.S. Kinsbergen as you proceeded to adjust your patrol station these survivors, thrown into the water by the explosion, were rescued in the shortest possible time after the torpedoing. All of these officers and men were injured, some of them were in a serious condition, and were heavily coated with oil. I understand that your orders to your boat were to pick up survivors and then proceed into port as you were continuing your escort duties.

3. Not only did you initiate these rescue operations but when in the patrol sector previously occupied by the ERIE and you noted that vessels in the vicinity were firing into the area of the men in the water, you placed the Van Kinsbergen between the firing vessels and the endangered men. The action taken by you in this case undoubtedly saved the lives of some of the officers and men in the water.

4. You had joined the escort group off Willemstad, Curacao, shortly before the torpedoing of the ERIE and had been assigned a station, but had not received all orders and instructions to escorts. In part, these orders were approximately as follows:

"When an escort vessel is absent from her station adjacent escorts will close the interval so as to equalize the protection about the convoy".

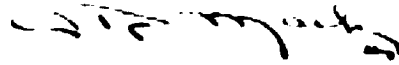
"On contact, adjacent escorts will immediately join in the search for the enemy, giving consideration to the desirability of searching the area between the probable enemy position and the convoy".

"Rescue survivors in permissible circumstances".

Although you had not received these orders and instructions from me as Escort Commander while acting in accordance with such instructions and other general requirements of escort of convoys, you were able to give protection to my officers and men in the water.

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5. I consider that the performance as noted above, of the H.N.M.S Van Kinsbergen under your command and immediate direction, was highly commendable.



A.R. MACK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy.

Copy to:

Algemeen Militaire Commandant  
CAFAC