

DECK LOG REMARKS for November 10-12, 1942

USS ERIE (PG-50)

(Torpedoed by the U-163 on 12 November 1942, while escorting convoy TAG-20 in the Caribbean Sea)

These remarks are transcribed from the Erie's 1942 Deck Log that is housed at the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

"Remarks" in the entire log for 1942 are handwritten in pencil, and the pages for November are unnumbered (hence the blank space on each daily entry). The only changes that I have made in transcribing these "Remarks" is to bold the times within the daily watch time segments which are written up by each Officer of the Deck, and to write out "degrees" instead of using the symbol.

It is important to note that, in a subsequent report on the torpedoing of the Erie, Captain Andrew R. Mack amended a number of the notes he copied from the Quartermaster's Note Book into the Deck Log for 12 November.

United States Ship Erie

Tuesday 10 November 1942

ZONE DESCRIPTION: +4

REMARKS.

00 - 04

Anchored in Five Island anchorage, Port au Spain Trinidad, BWI, in seven fathoms of water with forty-five fathoms of chain to port anchor. Boiler # 1 in use for auxiliary power. **0030** Shore Patrol returned aboard.
[Signed] AW Levi

04 - 08

Anchored as before. **0502** Underway on various courses at various speeds to clear Five Island anchorage, enroute Port au Spain, Trinidad, BWI to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. **0520** Set material condition Afirm (modified). **0555** Set action condition III. Fired AA batteries for testing purposes. **0750** Commenced patrol station, base course 325 degrees Av St 300 Av RPM ____
[Signed] AW Levi

08 -12

Steaming as before. **0800** Mustered crew on stations; no absentees. **0910** Made daily inspection of magazines and powder samples; conditions normal. **1028** Made weekly test of automatic sprinkling system; conditions satisfactory. Ave steam 300 Ave rpm 180.3
[Signed] EC Peterson

12 -16

Steaming as before. **1400** Escort plane reported radar contact, distant 8 miles, bearing 075 degrees T. Ave Stm 300 Ave rpm 180.7
[Signed] F. Greenwood

16 - 18

Steaming as before. **1645** Secured degaussing coils. **1750** Darkened ship. Ave stm 300 Ave rpm____.
[Signed] JB Elliott

18 - 20

Steaming as before. **1830** Convoy changed course to 297 degrees T and pgc. **1845** Convoy changed course to 277 degrees T and pgc. Ave steam 300 Ave RPM 180.2
[Signed] T.P. Lowndes

20 - 24

Steaming as before. **2200** Changed course to new standard speed 14.4 kts, 170 rpm. Av. Stm. 300 Av. rpm 173.3.
[Signed] KE Johansson

United States Ship Erie

Wednesday 11 November 1942

ZONE DESCRIPTION: + 3 ½

REMARKS.

00 - 04

Steaming on various courses at standard speed of 14.4 knots, 170 RPM, patrolling station as escort for convoy enroute Port au Spain, Trinidad, BWI to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, base course 272 degrees T and 278 pgc, speed 8.5 knots. Ship darkened. Material condition A (modified) and action condition III set.

0200 Set clocks ahead 30 minutes to conform to + 3 ½ time zone. Av St 300 Av RPM 170.6.

[Signed] AW Levi

04 - 08

Steaming as before. **0544** General Quarters. **0553** Condition "Afirm" set. **0633** Secured from General Quarters. Set condition "Afirm" (modified). Lighted ship. Ave stm 300. Ave rpm ____.

[Signed] EC Peterson

08 - 12

Steaming as before. **0810** Mustered crew on stations; no absentees. **0845** Made inspections of magazines and powder samples; conditions normal. **0912** Engineering department held steering casualty drill. **1032** Convoy changed course to 230 degrees T. **1049** Changed convoy course to 238 degrees T.

1103 Exercised crew at fire drill. **1117** Secured from fire drill. Ave Stm 300. Ave rpm 170.5.

[signed] F. Greenwood

12 - 16

Steaming as before. Ave steam 300. Ave rpm 170.1.

[signed] JB Elliott

16 - 18

Steaming as before. Sighted Orchilla Is[land] bearing 270 degrees T. Ave steam 300 Ave RPM 170.1.

[Signed] T.P. Lowndes

18 - 20

Steaming as before. **1835** Darkened ship. **1855** Changed convoy course left to 218 degrees T. **1944** Changed convoy course to 238 degrees T. Av stm 300, av rpm 170.2.

[Signed] KE Johansson

20 - 24

Steaming as before. **2115** Changed base course of convoy to 270 degrees T and 271 degrees Pgc. Av St 300. Av RPM ____.

[Signed] AW Levi

United States Ship Erie

Thursday 12 November 1942

ZONE DESCRIPTION: 3 ½

REMARKS.

00 - 04

Steaming on various courses at standard speed of 14.4 kts., 170 rpm, patrolling station as escort for convoy enroute Trinidad, BWI to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Base course 270 degrees T and 271 degrees pgc. Boiler # 1 on the line. Ship darkened. Action condition III and material condition "Afirm" (modified) set. Convoy speed 8.5 kts. **0215** Changed base course to 280 degrees T and 281 degrees pgc. Ave steam 300. Ave rpm 169.6.

[Signed] E.C. Peterson

04 - 08

Steaming as before. **0508** Sighted Isle de Las Aves light bearing 357 degrees T, distance 17 miles. **0600** Sounded General Quarters. **0655** Secured from General Quarters. Ave stm 300. Ave rpm 170.2.

[Signed] F. Greenwood

08 - 12

Steaming as before. **0810** Mustered crew on stations; no absentees. **0915** Made daily inspection of magazines and powder samples; conditions normal. **0955** Sighted Bonaire Island bearing 354 degrees T & 355 degrees pgc. **1030** Rain squall set in; visibility decreased to 200 yards. C/s [Changed speed] to 100 rpm, 8 kts. **1040** Rain squall passed over. C/s to 170 rpm, 14.3 kts. Ave stm 300 Ave rpm 167.5.

[signed] JB Elliott

12 - 16

Steaming as before. **1253** Sighted Little Curacao Lt. [Light] bearing 307 degrees T. **1300** Convoy changed course to 290 degrees T. **1527** Changed speed to 12 knots, 150 RPM. **1540** Changed speed to 11 knots, 130 RPM. **1550** Changed speed to 14.4 knots, 170 RPM. Ave steam 300 Ave RPM 166.

[signed] T.P. Lowndes

16 -18

Steaming as before. **1630** Subsidiary convoy joined formation. **1655** Changed convoy course to 300 T. **1732** Captain took the conn. Right standard rudder to investigate spray on starboard beam, distant about 2000 yards; sighted torpedo. Immediately followed by left full rudder when two other torpedoes sighted approaching from abaft stbd. beam. Sounded siren. **1733** With ship swinging left, received torpedo hit on stbd. quarter, followed immediately by fire. All engines stopped; all power lost. Second explosion aft of slightly less intensity. Ready powder ammunition charges in #4 gun shelter commenced exploding. Regained electrical power, steering control and partial use of main engines. All engines ahead 1/3. All engines ahead standard. **1738** USS Spry made depth charge attack. **1740** Ship took heavy list to stbd. and trimmed down by the stern. **1745** Two severe explosions in # 4 gun shelter. **1749** Severe explosion in #4 gun shelter. **1750** Severe explosion in #4 gun shelter. **1755** All engines stop. Lowered three motor whaleboats to search for casualties in water and to trail ship. Relieved by Captain as O.O.D.

[signed] KE Johansson

United States Ship Erie

Thursday 12 November 1942

ZONE DESCRIPTION: 3 ½

REMARKS.

Notes copied by the Commanding Officer from Quartermaster's Note Book.

16 - 20

Steaming as before on various courses patrolling station under boiler # 1. Base course 290 degrees T 291 pgc, standard speed 14.4 knots (170 rpm). **1655** Changed convoy course to 300 degrees T 301 pgc. **1733** Ship torpedoed on starboard quarter. Fire broke out astern. All engines stopped. no power 1738 USS Spry made depth charge attack. **1740** Ship listing to starboard, down by stern. Some power gained starboard engine in use. **1744** Stopped starboard engine. Cut in # 2 boiler. **1745** Explosion in after magazine (2 explosions). **1749** Explosion in after magazine. **1750** Explosion in after magazine. **1755** All engines stopped. **1800** Lowered boat with injured. **1801** Ahead on port engines heading toward beach north of Willemstad. **1810** Spry passed alongside port playing fire hoses on ship. **1812** Commenced heaving powder over the side from #3 ready room. **1818** Stopped all engines. **1820** Main deck aft under water. **1823** Back full. Ship beached. **1825** Oil on water afire. **1826** All hands abandon ship.

[signed]

A.R. Mack
Capt. USN