

U. S. S. ERIE

November 23, 1942

From: Commanding Officer.
To: The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Change in Status, Missing to Killed in Action, of
Officer Casualties U. S. S. ERIE, November 12, 1942.

Reference: (a) CAFAC despatch 130547 to Secnav from CO ERIE.
(b) CAFAC despatch 192357 to Bupers from C.O. ERIE.

1. By reference (a) six officers were reported missing after the torpedoing of the U. S. S. ERIE on November 12, 1942. By reference (b) the report of Kunkle, George Owen, Lieutenant, U. S. N. R., was changed from "missing" to "killed in action."

2. The following facts are established by statements of officers and men on board at the time of the torpedoing:

LLOYD, A. L., Lieutenant Commander, (SC), U. S. N. R.:

He was in the vicinity of the wardroom at the time of the first explosion. He came on deck badly burned and jumped overboard. He was either on a life raft and collapsed, falling off the raft, or he was alongside the raft and then disappeared. He was between the ship and the raft alongside and then went down and was not seen again.

WENTZ, Ned J., Lieutenant, (SC), U. S. N.:

He had been on deck shortly before the torpedoing. He was seen to go below decks to the vicinity of his stateroom. His stateroom was partially demolished by the explosion, burned and partially flooded with oil and water.

PETERSON, Ernest Carl, Lieutenant, U. S. N.

GORSUCH, Gilbert Franklin, Lieutenant, (DC), U. S. N.

GREENWOOD, Frank, Lieutenant (jg), U. S. N. R.:

These officers had been seen on deck on the same side of the ship and just aft of the area destroyed by the torpedo shortly before the explosion.

Lieutenant Peterson had come below and stated to Captain Levi that he was going to his room to rest for a few minutes. Captain Levi believed that Lieutenant Gorsuch and Lieutenant (jg) Greenwood had also come below decks to the wardroom stateroom country before the explosion.

The staterooms of these officers were demolished by the torpedo explosion.

3. A period of about seven days has elapsed since all escort vessels, motor torpedo boats, and rescue boats which were in the area have returned to Willemstad, Curacao, or entered Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

4. Based on the evidence given above the Commanding Officer believes that the officers listed in this letter were killed in action, and so reports them.

5. This report modifies the report made in reference (a). The next of kin have not been notifies.

A. R. MACK.

Copy to:
Bupers