

SECRET.

From..... The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. WALKER.

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Date..... 5th May, 1944.

No. K3/61

To..... The Senior Officer, 8th Escort Group, H.M.S. KEPPEL..

Report of Proceedings.



R.A. 59.

All times are Zone minus 2.

The following report is submitted in accordance with A.C.I. Article 45.

WALKER left the KOLA INLET with DIADEM, wearing flag of C.S. One, ACTIVITY, FENCER, MILNE (D3) KEPPEL (E.G.S.) and other destroyers of the 8th Escort Group and Home Fleet and H.M.S. LOTUS, on 28th April 1944 to escort Convoy R.A. 59 to Loch Ewe. Destination was later altered to the Clyde except for 2 ships.

2.- WALKER fuelled from NOREG on 30th April subsequently joining the "forward line" to relieve Fleet Destroyers in turn as they fuelled.

3.- At 2000/30th William S. Thayer No 33 was torpedoed. WALKER was in position L at the time. "Artichoke" was ordered. For the purpose of the operation the ships taking part in "Artichoke" were detailed in advance (in operation orders). Of these LOTUS was ordered not to take part. WALKER turned to sweep astern in accordance with the instructions but was the only ship to do so. It would appear that WALKER may have missed a signal cancelling the operation for all the ships concerned.

4.- While passing between the second and third columns the rear ships of the port wing column opened fire to port. Presumably at a periscope or in the direction of a torpedo track. Escorts to port dropped charges.

5.- On completion of the sweep astern WALKER joined KEPPEL in "Observant" round the wreck. The Robert Eden and later WHITEHALL picked up survivors. Robert Eden twice opened fire on "wakes" but it is considered that these were bogus as nothing was seen or otherwise located by Escorts.

6.- INCONSTANT and BOADICEA subsequently arrived on the scene. WALKER was ordered to join BOADICEA to pick up survivors.

7.- The stern of the torpedoed ship was afloat, the fore part being completely blown away. The remains was lying beam on to the wind. BOADICEA lowered a boat and also embarked some survivors over her bows on the lee side. WALKER went alongside on the weather side and embarked the remaining 49 survivors. All were Russians. The embarkation was effected in about 4 minutes without much difficulty. A little damage was sustained but this only amounted to a bent stanchion, a broken bottle screw slip and a very small crack in the bow plating above water. Three of the survivors were slightly injured by the torpedo explosion.

8.- WALKER and BOADICEA were subsequently ordered to sink the derelict. BOADICEA set it on fire with gunfire. WALKER steamed past and lobbed two charges from the port throwers set shallow. A beautiful straddle was achieved and the wreck sank a few minutes later.

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9.- (S.O.) INCONSTANT and WHITEHALL screened the Rescue Vessel (Robert Eden).

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10.- At 0800/1st May INCONSTANT and WHITEHALL were detached to resume their station on the Convoy, WALKER continuing to screen Robert Eden until she was up to her station, WALKER then assumed position I.

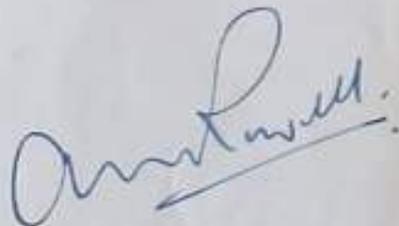
11.- At 2240 3rd May FENCER, screened by WALKER (S.O. Destroyers) WHITEHALL and BOADICEA, was detached to Greenock.

12.- FENCER detached her screen on reaching the Clyde Light Vessel. WALKER, WHITEHALL and BOADICEA arrived at Greenock at 1730.

13.- Report in accordance with A.C.I. No. 45 Section 5 is attached hereto as enclosure No. 1.

14.- Copies of revelant signals, other than "general" are forwarded herewith as enclosure No 2. Reports under other Sections are blank.

15.- Report in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1179/43 is being forwarded separately.



Lieutenant Commander
Royal Navy.

Encl:- Enclosure No 1.
Enclosure No 2.

Dist:- The Senior Officer 8th Escort Group.

-8.



Copies of Signals.

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WALKER Russian Admiral would much appreciate numbers of Officers and Ratings survivors on board

V

FENCER

010943.

FENCER Your 0943. Six Officers and fortythree Ratings. One Officer and two Ratings have minor injuries others all perfectly fit.

V

WALKER

011045.

Chulkov I have four Officers and thirty men. How many have you. I appoint you Chief of your men. I have reported to Abramoff. We also have the following Americans. Three Merchant Officers one Navy Officer eleven Merchant Crewfourteen Navy Gun Crew. Total survivors 63.

V

Bespoloff in No 35.

011320.

Bespoloff in No 35 We have five Officers three Chiefs forty A.B.'S one Midshipman. We have no Americans.

V

Chulkov in WALKER

011505.

C.S.I. Diadem (R) S/E R.A.59, C-in-C W.A., V.A.D.H.F., C-in-C Rosyth, N.O.I.C.Greenock, P.O.C.O.S., Admiralty.

V

C-in-C H.F.

Top Secret. My L31004 April, and your 020039 May FENCER is required to proceed Greenock for early disembarkation of Russian Admiral. As soon as situation permits request you detach FENCER with two or more Western Approaches Destroyers to proceed direct to Clyde. Request you give VERULAM, VIRAGO, and Ulysses priority when detaching Fleet Destroyers to return to Scapa.

021215.

E.G.S C-in-C H.F. 021215. In view of my 62 passengers which include 49 Russians and the resultant overcrowding request WALKER may be considered when FENCER'S screen is detailed. Have ample fuel for all speeds.

V

WALKER

021914.

General No 12 Escorts will disperse as follows times will be promulgated later. (a) FENCER WHITEHALL WALKER BOADICEA to Clyde (b) DIADEM ULYSSES VERULAM VIRAGO to Scapa. (c) ACTIVITY D.3. with third D.F. to Scapa (d) 6th E.G.S remainder of 8th E.G. and Lotus continue with R.A.59.

V

C.S.I.

031143.

WALKER (R) BOADICEA WHITEHALL V Following has been made begins. My position 56 25 N 07 26 W. WALKER WHITEHALL BOADICEA in company. E.T.A.Clyde Light 1500. Ends.

V

FENCER

050800.

WALKER (R) BOADICEA WHITEHALL V Intend detaching you on arrival at Clyde Light. Please make your own E.T.A.and Gate Signal.

V

FENCER

05082L