

SUBMARINE: The Hunter Is Hunted as the U. S. S. Batfish Stalks And Kills Off a Class 1 Japanese U-Boat

By Comdr. Edward L. Beach, U. S. N.

CHAPTER XVI. Batfish.

U. S. S. Batfish got under way from Pearl Harbor on December 30, 1944, on what was to be her sixth war patrol.

On February 9, while she was patrolling in Babuyan Channel, south of Gamiuin Island, the radar operator sounds a warning. Something in his radar arouses his attention—he looks closely—there it is again—and again. It is not a pip which he sees; it is there, he would not, wait to sing out, "Radar contact," and thereby immediately mobilize the ship for action.

This is something more difficult to evaluate. A faint shimmering of the scopes—a momentary unsteadiness in the green and amber cathode ray tubes—which comes and goes. Almost unconsciously he times them and notices the bearing upon which the radar head is trained each time the faint wobble in the normal "grass" presentation is noticed.

A few moments of this, and "Captain to the conn!" No time to wait on ceremony. This particular lad wants his skipper and he wants him badly.

The radar operator points to his scope. "There it is, sir! There it is again! I just noticed it a minute ago!"

Danger and Glory. The captain stares at the instrument, weighing the significance of what he sees. This is something new, something portentous—there is a small stirring in the back of his mind—there seems to be a half-remembered idea there, if he can only dig it up—then, like a flash, he has it.

If he is right, it means they are in grave danger, with a chance to come out of it and maybe add another scalp to their belts; if he is wrong, what he is about to do may make a bad situation infinitely worse. But Jake Fyfe knows what he is doing. He is not playing some far-fetched hunch.

"Secure the radar!" he orders. "What do you think it is?" Fyfe asks the lad.

"It looked like another radar to me, captain." The reply is given without hesitation.

"What else?"

The boy is at a loss for an answer, and Jake Fyfe answers his own question:

"Japanese submarine!"

Submarine vs. submarine! The hunter hunted! The biggest feat of our submarine warriors during World War II was that an enemy submarine might get the drop on them while they were making a passage on the surface.

It would be quite simple, really. All you have to do is to detect the other fellow first, either by sight or by radar; submerge on his track and let go the fish as he passes. All you have to do is to detect him first.

The most outstanding record of enemy subs sunk was the one hung up by Batfish, beginning that fateful February 9.

The process of deduction by which Fyfe arrived at the conclusion that the source of the radar peculiarities was an enemy submarine was not at all illogical.

The wavering of his radarscope was probably due to the presence of another radar. It was known that the Japs had radar, though of an inferior type to ours.

If this radar came from a vessel as large as a destroyer he should have been detected on Batfish's radar before the emanations from his low-powered radar had been noticed. Since the radar waves had been the first to be picked up, it followed that the ship producing them must be small and low on the water. Yet it must be a valuable ship, sufficiently important to rate one of the relatively few radar sets the Nips possessed. Hence, a submarine.

The Chase Begins. The reason why Fyfe ordered his own radar temporarily secured was simply to deny the Jap the same information which he himself had just received.

"All ahead full! Right full rudder!" Batfish leaps ahead and steadies on a course calculated to get to the north of the approaching enemy vessel. She runs for a short time, every now and then checking the situation with her radar.

Finally, Jake Fyfe figures his position is about right. Batfish turns toward the enemy and ghosts in.

Closer and closer comes the unsuspecting enemy sub. It is so dark that as yet he cannot be seen by the tense bridge party. As the situation develops, it is apparent that he will pass through the firing position at just under 2,000 yards' range. This is a little long for optimum torpedo fire, but Fyfe wants to take no chances of being detected. On he comes—only a little more now—then from the conning tower, "On the firing bearing, captain!" This from the exec.

"Let them go when ready. Shoot on radar bearings. I still can't see him from up here." From the skipper.

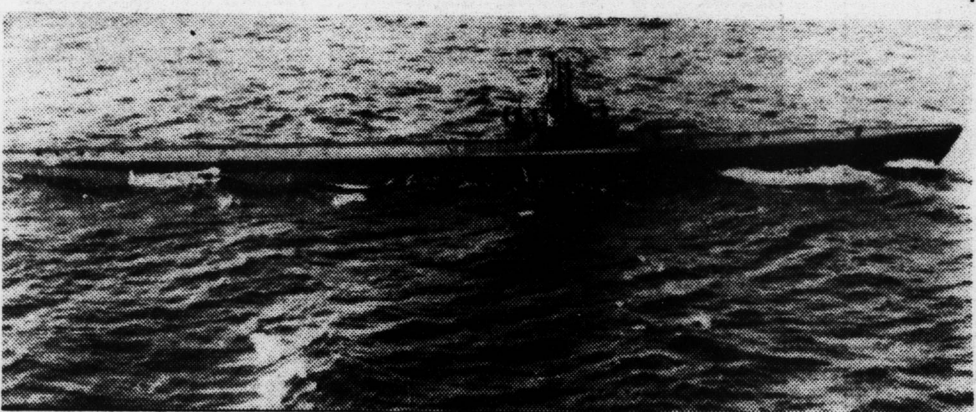
Silently, four torpedoes are loosed into the water. Four new waleless electric fish start their run toward the target. They have 1,800 yards to go; it will take a while.

But they miss, all four torpedoes. The whole careful and well-executed approach—wasted! What can have gone wrong?

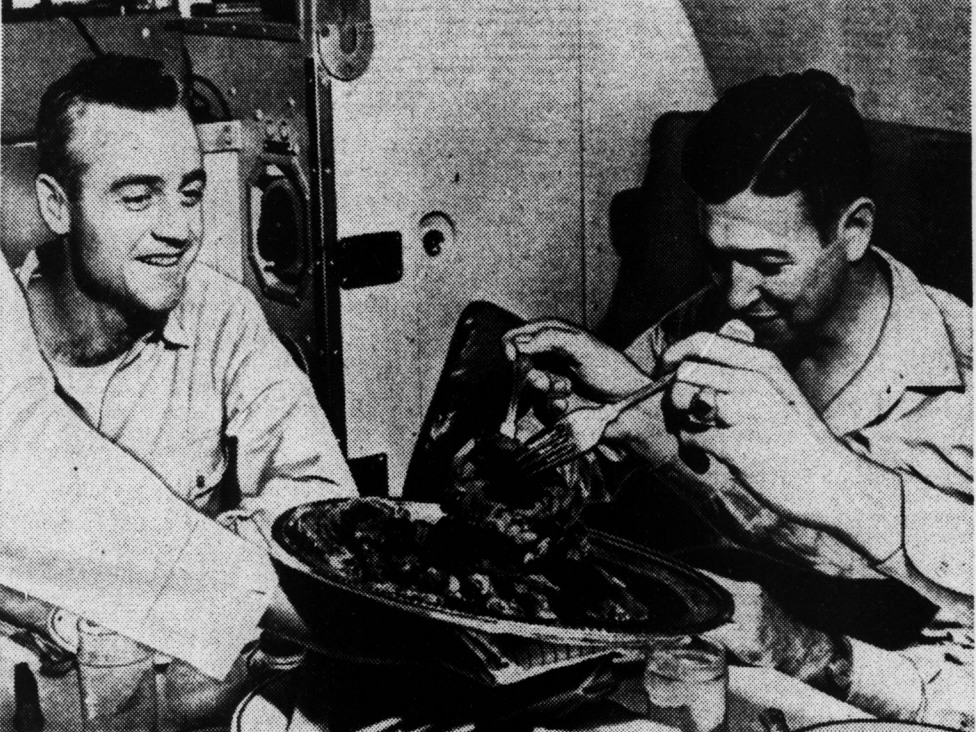
The question is answered by Plot, dramatically. "Target has speeded up! Speed now 14 knots!"

But the target continues serenely on his way, giving no sign of being aware of having been fired on. Maybe Batfish will be able to try again.

No sooner thought than tried. The four murmuring diesels of one hunter lift their voices, and the submarine slips away through the water, seeking another position from which to launch her deadly missiles. But by this time, of course, the target has passed beyond Batfish, and in order to regain firing position it will be necessary to execute an end around.



HUNTRESS OF THE SEA—It was this submarine, Batfish, commanded by John Fyfe, which taught the Navy how a submarine can hunt an enemy submarine in the most thrilling and chilling of all sea actions. —U. S. Navy Photo.



DINNER FOR A SUBMARINER—Comdr. John K. Fyfe, skipper of Batfish, smiles as a steward's mate serves juicy steak in the submarine's wardroom. The officer on Comdr. Fyfe's left is Lt. Comdr. Walter Small, who later took command of the vessel. —U. S. Navy Photo.

tack, crediting to his superior radar the fact that he had been alerted before the Jap, and trusting to his belief that he could keep the enemy from detecting him. His plan is to get up ahead of the other submarine and to head in toward him while the unsuspecting Nip is pounding along in nearly the opposite direction.

All the while, Batfish is racing through the black night at full speed. She has pulled off ahead of her quarry, just within maximum radar range in order to be outside range of the less-efficient radar carried by the enemy, and she is rapidly overhauling him.

Several more minutes pass. Fyfe is on the point of asking for more information, when again the bridge speaker blares its muffled version of Sprinkle's voice (C. K. Sprinkle, executive officer): "Captain, we've got him on zero two zero, making 14 knots. Range is seven oh double oh, and distance to the track is two five double oh. This looks pretty good to me. Recommend we come left and let him have it!"

"Okay, Sprink. Give me a course to come to." The captain's voice has assumed a grim finality, a flat quality of emotionless decision.

A few more tense moments pass. Again the speaker near the skipper's left elbow reproduces Sprinkle's familiar voice. "He's crossing our bow now. Range, four oh double oh."

At 1,500 yards the keen eyes on Batfish's bridge distinguish a blur in the gray murk, and at 1,000 yards the sinister outline of a Japanese I class submarine is made out—the first time during the whole evening that the enemy has actually been sighted. He wallows heavily in the slight chop of the sea—low, dark, and ungainly.

At 1,000 yards the Jap is broadside to Batfish; Fyfe's plan has borne fruit, for his own bow is exactly toward the enemy, and he has all the advantage of sighting.

Sudden Danger. Almost immediately the telephone talker standing under the conning tower hatch shouts loudly, so that his message is heard in the conning tower as well as on the bridge:

"Number one did not eject! Running hot in the tube!"

Something has gone wrong. The torpedo should have been pushed out of the torpedo tube by the high-pressure air ejection system. Instead, it has stuck in the tube, and the torpedomen forward can hear it running in the tube.

This is critical, for it will be armed within a matter of seconds, and then almost anything could set it off. Besides, the motor is overspeeding in the tube and it could conceivably break up under the strain and vibration—which might itself produce sufficient shock to cause an explosion.

The skipper's reaction is instant. "Tubes forward, try again, by hand. Use full ejection pressure!" Full pressure is used only when

ring at deep submergence, but this is an emergency.

"No. 1 tube fired by hand. Tube is clear!" The very welcome report is received after a few anxious seconds with a profound sense of relief.

"Resume fire." But the exec has not needed that command. No. 2 torpedo is already on its way, followed a few seconds later by No. 3.

The watchers on Batfish's bridge had hardly expected anything quite so dramatic as what they saw. One torpedo must have hit into a magazine or possibly into a tank carrying gasoline. The Nip

sub had simply exploded, with a brilliant red-and-yellow flame which shot high into the night sky, furiously outlined against the somber, sober grayness.

And as quickly as the flame reached its zenith, it disappeared, as 2,500 tons of broken, twisted Japanese steel plunged like a rock to the bottom of the ocean.

And before Batfish returned to base, two more Jap submarines were sent to the bottom by her torpedoes.

Copyright, 1952, by Edward L. Beach. Published by Henry Holt & Co., Inc. Distributed by the Register and Tribune Syndicate, Inc. (To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

Gov. McKeldin said the following assumptions could safely be made of Gen. Eisenhower's policies as President:

1. A search for corruption "some of which has not even been suspected. . . . Many who think they have fixed things with the office of the Attorney General and escaped their just penalties may find their cases reopened."

2. The Korean war "no longer will be secondary to the defense plans for Europe. It will become the Nation's most important problem."

3. Incitement of rebellion will be encouraged in Communist dominated countries and Nationalist Chinese troops used perhaps for hit and run strikes against Chinese Communists.

4. Cuts in the budget and taxes and the consolidation of Government departments, including the firing of personnel in the "higher salaried brackets" who got their jobs for political reasons.

5. Plans will be paid against a recession that "might be normally expected."

Lightning Hits Umbrella. HALIFAX, Canada (P)—Two Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, women had a narrow escape when a bolt of lightning struck the umbrella carried by Mrs. E. Purchase. Accompanied by another woman, she was walking along the street when the lightning "made a sizzling sound" and blue flame shot from the steel tip.

Regularly \$5.95
UKULELES
\$2.89
Xmas packaged and complete with plastic bag, instruction book and pick.
Downtown Store Only
JORDAN'S
Corner 13th and G Streets N.W. ST. 9400
OPEN 9:15 to 6 Mon. and Fri., 12:30 to 9

2 Teen-Age Boys Held In Automobile Theft And Break-In Spree

Two teen-age boys today were being held for Juvenile Court action after a car theft and spree of break-ins last night, Park Police reported.

One of the youths is a 16-year-old now on court probation for robbery, police quoted him as saying. The other is 13 years old and also admits a Juvenile Court record. Both live in the Northeast Washington.

Their activities last night occurred mostly along Pennsylvania avenue S.E., police said. A cruise in a stolen tagless automobile took them around Hains Point where a \$171 holdup occurred. Park Police said they are all but certain, however, that the youths are not involved in that case.

Man Holds Up Couple. The robbery report was made by Thomas J. Dalton, 35, of 3807 Florence drive, Alexandria, who said a man held him up with a revolver as he was parked with a woman companion on Ohio drive. Mr. Dalton said the holdup man jumped from another car.

According to Park Police Sgt. C. P. Apfelbeck, the boys admitted these escapades last night: Entering a loan company in the 600 block of Pennsylvania avenue S.E., but taking nothing but coin wrappers; breaking into a nearby new-car dealer's building and stealing a revolver after bumping a show-room automobile into a wall; breaking into another car dealer's place, but doing nothing more than tossing a rack of car keys into an alley, and stealing a used car from Potomac Motor Sales, 1473 Pennsylvania avenue S.E.

Unloaded Pistol Recovered. The 16-year-old youth was spotted by Police Pvt. A. V. Conover on South Capitol street near Bolling Air Force Base, behind the wheel of the stolen car. The youth admitted breaking into a nearby car, owned by an Air Force special investigator, stealing its contents around but taking nothing. He said he had been trying to remove the license plates of another parked car just before Pvt. Conover arrived.

The policeman, who was looking for leads to the Hains Point hold-up, said he recovered an unloaded revolver from the glove compartment of the stolen car, and one cartridge in the youth's pocket.

The 13-year-old was picked up after police interviewed the 16-year-old. Both deny the robbery of Mr. Dalton.

7 Russians Ordered Out Of Japan Leave By Ship

TOKYO, Nov. 27.—Seven Russian citizens left Japan today at the order of the Japanese government.

Among them were the Tass News Agency correspondent, Evgenii Semionovich Egorov, and the Pravda correspondents, Alexi Ivanovich Kozhin and Igor Dmitrievich Ryzhov.

Others who boarded the Dutch ship Tjipanas for the first leg of the journey to Moscow were Victor P. Timofeev, Soviet film export association representative, and Egorov's wife and two children.

The Japanese Justice Ministry ordered them to leave because Russia has not taken steps to end the technical state of war with Japan which has existed since World War II.

About 50 members of the Soviet mission in Japan are still in this country. The government has taken no steps to force them to leave.

Viet Minh Are Cautious In Indo-Chinese Attacks

By the Associated Press

WITH FRENCH UNION FORCES AT NA SAN, Indo-China, Nov. 27.—Cautious Communist-led Viet Minh forces threw light probing attacks at this surrounded fortress last night.

A brisk skirmish on the defense perimeter lasted about 15 minutes. Casualties on both sides were light.

The French command has been expecting an all-out assault by at least 18,000 enemy encircling the key stronghold. It believes the Viet Minh suffered extreme casualties in the air attacks which may have forced a change in plans.

A spokesman said French fighter planes, attacking targets on the basis of information supplied by a prisoner yesterday, destroyed a Viet Minh regimental command post less than 2 miles from Na San. Senior officers stress however, that a major assault can come at "any moment."

Sister Kenny's Condition Still Listed as Critical

By the Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov. 27.—Sister Elizabeth Kenny's doctor says he expects the famed poliomyelitis specialist, suffering from a blood clot on the brain, to reach a crisis in four or five days but he said her chances of recovery were "very slender."

He gave this information in a medical bulletin from her home at Toowoomba, 60 miles west of here.

The physician, Dr. John Ogden, says he expects the famed poliomyelitis specialist, suffering from a blood clot on the brain, to reach a crisis in four or five days but he said her chances of recovery were "very slender."

The 66-year-old nurse suffered the attack of cerebral thrombosis last Friday.

OPS Information Office Headed by McClanahan

By the Associated Press

W. W. McClanahan, jr., has been named director of the Office of Price Stabilization public information division, OPS Chief Tishie Woods said yesterday.

Mr. Woods named Mr. McClanahan to succeed Max R. Hall, who resigned early this month to join the Mutual Security Agency.

Mr. McClanahan, 38, is a native of Springfield, Tenn., and a former managing editor of the Nashville Tennessean and the Toledo Times.

Delivery Man Reports He Was Robbed of \$58

A drugstore deliveryman told police last night he had been robbed of \$58 after making his deliveries in an apartment house at 3020 Tilden street N.W.

Nathaniel Cunningham, 30, employed by the Woodley Pharmacy, 3527 Connecticut avenue N.W., said he was stopped at the back door of the apartment by a light-skinned colored man, about 28 years old. The man pointed a nickel-plated revolver at him, took his money and \$15 in checks, and ran.

Shower Doors Tub Enclosures Custom Built By Miles Glass Co.

LI. 6-1234 JA. 2-1234

D. C. Co-ed Finds Skull Of Fish Believed to Be 250 Million Years Old

By the Associated Press

DELAWARE, Ohio, Nov. 27.—An Ohio Wesleyan University co-ed has found part of the skull of a fish that scientists believe may be 250 million years old.

Thelma Cook of Washington, D. C., a senior majoring in zoology and botany, found the skull plate imbedded in a 60-pound boulder while on a geology field trip in a nearby gravel pit.

The fish, macropalaeichthys, sometimes grew to lengths of 30 feet. It was heavily armored on the outside and had no bones on the inside.

Miss Cook's discovery is considered particularly important because it is a complete skull plate. Few of these have been found, although other Ohio Wesleyan students have found pieces of other ancient fish in the area.

German Police Smash Big Black Market Ring

By the Associated Press

FRANKFURT customs police said yesterday they had smashed one of West Germany's biggest postwar black market rings in a raid which yielded six and a half tons of green coffee beans and 18,000 pairs of nylon stockings.

At least 11 persons were reported arrested in the raid yesterday at Frankfurt's big market hall.

You Have a Full Orchestra at Your Piano . . . with the
Clavioline
Reproduces with amazing fidelity the tonal quality of more than thirty different musical instruments
Now with an easy-to-play single keyboard instrument you have a full orchestra . . . perfect instrumental reproduction with just a flick of the finger. This amazing electronic musical instrument is a French invention—by Constant Martin of Versailles—just now available in America. It will enchant the amateur musician, furnish wonderful new home entertainment, thrill audiences in concert, radio, supper clubs, restaurants, or wherever music is played or heard.
\$395
● Reproduces the tonal qualities of more than 30 different musical instruments.
● Has 36-note keyboard with five octave range.
● Can be turned one-half tone up or down.
● Weighs 47 pounds complete in a single compact, portable unit.
Come in and let us demonstrate the Clavioline . . . play it yourself . . . the performance will truly amaze you. Our Organ Department, 8th Floor, Downtown Store.

JORDAN'S
Corner 13th and G Streets STerling 9400
OPEN 9:15 to 6, Monday & Friday 12:30 to 9

Bond's HUMDINGER COAT SALE
Tell your friends!
Tell your neighbors!
Rush to Bond's!
Get your COAT of COATS!
\$50 . . . \$55 . . . \$60 COATS
38⁹⁰
all going at
Special Purchase! Drastic reductions! Poodlecloths, broadcloths, cashmere-and-wools, suedes! Right now—at the height of the season, get in on Bond's spectacular coat sale! You'll find coats magnificently tailored by the country's top makers! You'll find boxy, fitted, flared and belted styles . . . a brilliant color display! But be early—they'll go fast at this wonder-low price! Sizes 8 to 18.
Open Friday and Monday, 9:30 Until 9
Bond's 1335 F STREET N.W.