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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Japanese submarine I-35, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Takeo YAMAMOTO, IJN, was sunk by one or more American destroyers in the afternoon of 23 November 1943, in the near vicinity of the island of TARAWA of the GILBERT group of islands in the Central Pacific area.

While enroute to the SAMOA-FIJI island area they received word to the effect that an American task force was bombarding the island of TARAWA and they were ordered to proceed to the GILBERTS and attack this force.

In the late afternoon of 22 November 1943, while approaching the island, they received a depth charge attack from an airplane. Early the next morning they received other depth charge attacks which continued all morning and well into the afternoon. These attacks increased in intensity and great damage was sustained which forced the ship to surface. As they surfaced they met a withering attack by gunfire from two American destroyers. The conning tower was reduced to shambles. Water and oil from the tanks poured into the ship. Immediately after surfacing she lost buoyancy and sank.

With the exception of the three survivors, who were seriously wounded, all members of the gun crew who reached the upper deck were killed instantly by gunfire. The survivors were picked out of the water by the crew of a boat lowered by one of our destroyers. They were taken to HAWAII, hospitalized and later brought to the UNITED

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STATES for interrogation. A preliminary interrogation was held while they were in the hospital at HAWAII.

The information contained in this report was obtained solely from the three prisoners of war and should be judged accordingly.

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CHAPTER IX. OTHER SHIPS

I-174 Prisoner OHATA served on this ship from July, 1941, until April, 1942. The information he gave concerning this ship is therefore applicable to that period.

DETAILS.

Built at SASEBO in 1938 or 1939.

Displacement - 1700 to 1800 tons.

Length - 328 feet.

Draft - 13 feet.

Color - Black.

Number of hatches - Four. One above the engine room, one above forward crew's quarters, one fore and one aft for loading torpedoes. A demountable derrick for the loading of torpedoes is disassembled and fastened down under the decking when not in use.

Winches - Two. 1 at the bow and 1 at the stern.

Anchors - Two. Weight about 2 tons each.

Rudder - One.

Net Cutter - Fitted, but not used.

Tanks - Eleven.

Periscopes - Two. Prisoner stated one was used in day time and one in the night time.

Degaussing equipment - Fitted, on the outside of the hull.

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Diesel Engines - Two. Type or horsepower unknown.

Motors - Two. Type or horsepower unknown.

Fuel Capacity - About 400 tons.

Complement - 72 men and 8 officers.

Average age of crew - 25 years.

Medical Section - Doctor's rank was Lt. or Lt. (jg),

1 pharmacist's mate.

Maximum Speed - 21 knots, range 6000 miles.

Minimum Cruising Speed - Usually at 6 knots.

Maximum Submerged Speed - 8 knots.

Minimum Submerged Speed - 2 to 5 knots.

Safety Depth - Usual, 165 feet.

Diving Angle - Usual 2°. Emergency 5°.

Diving Time - Unknown, but faster than the I-35

which was from 1½ to 2 minutes.

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DECK GUN.

Bore 4.7 inches. Calibre 45.

Gun crew - 10 men.

Maximum Angle of Elevation - 30°

Maximum Angle of Depression - 15° below horizontal.

Effective Lateral Arc - 300°

Normal Loading Angle - 15° above horizontal.

Rate of Fire - About 5 in 2 minutes.

Range Finder - Mounted on the bridge. Length 6½
feet.

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Two A/A machine guns, one mounted on the bridge, the other mounted on the deck aft of the conning tower. Size or calibre unknown. Crew of 5 men. Neither the deck gun, nor the machine guns had ever been fired against an enemy while the prisoner was aboard.

TORPEDOES.

Torpedo Tubes - Four bow. Two stern. 10th year plunger type. Torpedoes discharged from the tube by a plunger.

Torpedo Type - 6th Year Type. Diameter 21 inches.

Torpedo Speed - 30 knots. Range 5500 yards.

Torpedo Storage - Number carried, 12. Six in the tubes, 4 under the forward torpedo room floor plates and 2 under the aft torpedo room floor plates.

OTHER DETAILS.

Radio - Equipped. Used telescopic mast.

Radar - Not equipped.

Asdic - Fitted, but not used due to danger of being detected.

Hydrophones - Fitted on both sides of the ship forward.

Each unit had 6 or 7 microphones.

High Air Pressure Lines - 2,845 lbs. per square inch.

Number of flasks unknown.

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Oxygen - Pressure, 2,133 lbs. per square inch.

Number of bottles on board unknown.

Photography - Pictures were taken through the periscope and were developed on board.

Three 4.7 inch binoculars were mounted on the bridge.

The I-174 was attached to the 6th Fleet, 3rd Squadron, 11th Division.

This submarine operated in the MARSHALL Is. and HAWAIIAN area from December, 1941 until February, 1942. She then went to the northern area and patrolled the vicinity of DUTCH HARBOR until 1 April. Subsequent operating areas are unknown.

I-54

This ship was used for training cruises in home waters until late in the year, 1941. In November of that year she operated in the south CHINA, JAVA, SUMATRA areas, returning to KURE in April, 1942. Prisoner YAMASHITA states this submarine sank 3 vessels including two cargo ships and one tanker of 10,000 tons each while they were operating in the JAVA-SUMATRA area.

DETAILS.

Built - 1931.

Displacement (Surface) - 1300 tons.

Dimensions - 360' O.A. x 20' x 13'.

Fuel Capacity - 150 tons.

Fuel Consumption - 20 tons per day.

Maximum Surface Speed - 19 knots.

Maximum Submerged Speed - 6 knots.

DECK GUN.

Same type as that mounted on I-35, but lacked the improvements. The gun on the I-35, could be moved easier and quicker, both vertically and transversely.

Bore - 4.7".

Calibre - 40.

Muzzle Velocity - 2600 ft. per second.

There were no other guns mounted on this submarine.

TORPEDOES.

6th Year Type.

Torpedo Tubes - Six, 4 in the bow, 2 in the stern.

Torpedo Stowage - Six outside the tubes.

Radar - Not fitted.

Listening Devices - Hydrophones only.

I-34

This submarine was engaged at the same time as the I-35 in the northern area carrying supplies to KISKA. As the submarines travelled independently, the number of trips she made was not known. It is believed she also carried about 25 to 30 tons each trip.

I-53

This ship operated with I-54 in South Pacific waters as mentioned elsewhere in this report.

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KATORI (Cruiser). Flagship of the 6th Fleet and was based at TRUK and KWAJALEIN.

YASUKUNI MARU. Tender for the 6th Fleet. She carried a reserve supply of fuel oil and was based at KWAJALEIN.

TOA MARU. Tanker attached to the 6th Fleet and was based at KWAJALEIN.

SAN CLEMENTE MARU. Tanker, and was based at KATAOKA, SHIMUSHU Is. in the KURILES.

ASAHI. Repair ship which was based at KWAJALEIN.

IWATE, IZUMO and YAKUMO (Cruisers) These three ships are attached to the Home Defense Squadron and are used as Naval College training ships.

YAHAGI (Cruiser). Old cruiser converted to submarine tender attached to the 6th Fleet.

OYODO (Cruiser). Reported at KURE in April, 1942.

YUBARI (Cruiser).. Reported at YOKOSUKA in March, 1942.

NACHI (Cruiser). Flagship of the 5th Fleet.

MYOKO (Cruiser). Member of Cruiser Division 5.