

Disk 6, RM 7/2017

**Außerheimische Kriegsführung, Op. Funksprüche, 7. Mai – 31. Dezember 1941**  
**Warfare abroad, operational W/T messages, 7 May – 31 December 1941**

383.jpg

Berlin, 29 November 1941

Top secret!

I. Cyphered W/T (officer)

To U-boat supply ship Python  
 for information: Schiff 41

Received from U 126:

1) Report: 0915 GMT London-cruiser sighted on course to rendezvous, catapults plane. Oil supply hose cut, boat dives because of plane, according to instructions from Bauer on ship. Own Arado not usable, therefore no reconnaissance. Ship tries to move away and guide enemy [into position] above [U-]boat, after that salvoes to stop at 200 hm. Stopped to entice enemy to come closer [while] under camouflage. Own speed 10 sm because of piston change. Circling plane Nanni Nanni Jota using flag signals. Answer by ship: "Polyphemus" plus RRR message on 600 m. Waiting an hour and signal exchange with flags and [concerning] name with cruiser moving to and fro at 150 hm and with plane. Then the enemy turns away and opens fire at 165 hm; shots well placed. Third salvo achieves hit and causes fire on airplane deck. Resistance impossible since enemy beyond reach of weapons and continues to sail away at high speed. Therefore turned away at highest speed, used smoke, hoisted flag, scuttled ship with explosives in order to save most of crew. U-boat sighted by plane, had to dive, aerial bombs. Due to fire by enemy and hits only 2/3 of boats with 200 men put to water, rest swimming or on rafts. Enemy sailing away, plane circles site of sinking once. U-boat takes on 55 men under deck, 52 men on deck, rest in 6 boats that can be towed [and are] full to their limit. Until now assuming type of ship kept secret.

2.) On the morning of 24 November taken over by Python which is discharged 1800. Captain and entire crew on Python, apart from 7 fallen which are known by name. First Officer seriously wounded, no danger to his life. Kasch on U126.

Naval War Staff

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