

200 Depth Charges Beat a Davy Jones Dirge For Last U-Boat Bagged Off East Coast

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BOSTON, May 14—The last German U-boat bagged off the East Coast was caught in 125 feet of water by more than 200 depth charges from Navy warships.

With startling accuracy, the submarine was located within a matter of minutes after it had fired a torpedo into the American collier, Black Point, which sank within twenty-five minutes after the daylight attack within sight of land off Point Judith, R. I., on May 5. Twelve lives were lost in what is believed the last sinking of a merchant vessel off the United States coast.

A destroyer, two destroyer escorts and a frigate participated in killing the undersea craft about ten miles at sea. The destroyer, which was headed for port, turned out to the attack a few minutes after word of the sinking at 5:40 P. M. was flashed. One of the escorts had located the submarine, which dived to the bottom, and dropped depth charges as the destroyer raced up.

During the night the ships' detectors showed the U-boat was attempting to move, and at 4 A. M. more depth charges were dropped. At daylight three Navy blimps joined the party and dropped smoke bombs to mark the U-boat's position.

Sounders determined that the submarine moved again during the forenoon of May 6, but it is not known whether the craft tried to move under its own power or whether it had been knocked out and carried a short distance by the tide. To be on the safe side, more depth charges were dropped.

The haze and fog over the spot cleared about noon and shortly after debris started floating to the surface. Cork and other parts of the interior of the craft were found, along with a chart table and clothing.

A Navy diver descended to the ocean floor and found the submarine's conning tower smashed and a great split in its side. Bodies were strewn about. The diver reported that a buoy, which one of the ships had put down to mark where it was believed the submarine rested, was exactly over the conning tower.

The 5,353-ton Black Point was en route to Boston after leaving a convoy and was unescorted as it steamed up the coast. The U-boat attack in the last hours of the war indicated that the Nazis had more or less abandoned mass attacks on convoys but lay in wait within the coastal area to pick off single, unescorted vessels.