Lt. J. C. Ellis
14 January 1946

**THE TEN WAR PATROLS OF THE USS GROWLER**

**FIRST WAR PATROL**

Covered the period of late May and early June, 1942, in the water in and around the Aleutians. The *GROWLER* attacked three anchored destroyers. The destroyers included two of 3,400 tons each, which were sunk; and one of 17,000 which was damaged. These attacks occurred on 5 July, about five miles northeast of Kiska Harbor. The cruisers were believed to have been leaving Kiska. The Japanese destroyers retaliated by firing several torpedoes at the *GROWLER*, which rocked her considerably, upset the ship's observation plans, and robbed the *GROWLER* of initiative in evasion tactics. The *GROWLER*'s periscope was also damaged in the attack.

**SECOND WAR PATROL**

During late August and early September, 1942, the *GROWLER* was on patrol along the East Coast of Formosa. During this period, she sank 26,946 tons of Japanese shipping, including one tanker, two freighters, one passenger freighter, and one small ship.

**THIRD WAR PATROL**

During late November and early December, 1942, the *GROWLER* was on patrol along the East Coast of New Ireland, covering the Japanese shipping lanes from Truk to Rabaul. The area was thoroughly covered, the *GROWLER* steaming a total of 4,896 miles, but only eight enemy vessels were sighted, and none of these contacts could be developed.

**FOURTH WAR PATROL**

During the month of January, 1943, the *GROWLER* patrolled the area North of Rabaul, sunk or damaged 13,500 tons of enemy shipping, and suffered a seriously damaged bow when she rammed a 2,500 ton Japanese gun boat. On this patrol, the *GROWLER* was credited with inflicting these losses on the enemy: One freighter of 5,000 tons, one gun boat of 2,500 tons sunk, and one 6,000 ton freighter damaged. It was on the night of 6–7 February when the *GROWLER* rammed the Japanese gun boat. In this action, the *GROWLER* lost her Commanding Officer, her Junior Officer of the Deck, and one look-out. In addition, two look-outs were wounded by heavy machine gun fire, which took place during the engagement.

**FIFTH WAR PATROL**

After having her bow repaired at a Submarine Base, the *GROWLER* started her Fifth patrol on 13 May, 1943. During the forty-seven days spent in the general area surrounding Northern New Guinea, she sank one 4,400-ton freighter and damaged a 7,350 ton freighter of the Juyo Maru class. In one attack on a Japanese convoy, the *GROWLER* was seriously depth charged, and was forced by considerable minor damage to discontinue the attack, in order to make repairs.

**SIXTH WAR PATROL**

The *GROWLER* inflicted no damage on the enemy during this patrol, which (late July to mid-September) was conducted in the Bismarck-Solomons Sea area. She made an unsuccessful torpedo attack on a trawler, had numerous aircraft contacts, and lost an unidentified ship in a rain squall.

**SEVENTH WAR PATROL**

This patrol was conducted in the Bismarck-Solomons Sea area, but was abandoned rather early in the patrol because of material casualties and a poor storage battery. Good area coverage was conducted during the short period covered (early October to early November, 1943), but no attacks were made, and the patrol was not considered "successful" for the combat insignia award.

**EIGHTH WAR PATROL**

From mid-February to mid-April, 1944, the *GROWLER* patrolled in the East China Sea area, but was handicapped by effective Japanese anti-submarine activity. Of the fourteen contacts made during the period, ten were definitely identified by the Commanding Officer as anti-submarine patrol vessels. The *GROWLER* inflicted the following damage on the enemy: sank or damaged 3,250 tons of enemy shipping. This included one small Naval auxiliary sunk, and one 3,000 ton freighter damaged. Heavy seas were encountered throughout the patrol, and bridge personnel took a “continual beating” from the weather.

**NINTH WAR PATROL**

This patrol was conducted in the Marianas–Eastern Philippine–Luzon Straits area, from mid-May to mid-July, 1944. The *GROWLER* first patrolled the waters off the Marianas, just prior to landing on Saipan. She performed life guard missions during the strike itself, and later spent some time guarding the Surigao Strait, while awaiting the return of the Japanese fleet from patrol of the Philippine Sea. The *GROWLER* sunk or damaged 10,500 tons of Japanese shipping, including one large tanker of 10,000 sunk; and one escort vessel of 500 tons damaged.

**TENTH WAR PATROL**

Was conducted in area from Luzon to Formosa from 11 August through 26 September 1944. In the attack group, in addition to the *GROWLER*, was the *PAMPANITO* and the *SEALION*. The *GROWLER* expended 23 torpedoes in aggressive patrols with two Japanese convoys. Japanese ships sunk during the patrol included one 10,000 ton troop transport, and three destroyers, or a total of 15,300 tons of shipping sunk. Japanese ships damaged included three large freighters of about 7,500 tons each. During the patrol, the *GROWLER* steamed about 10,900 miles.