

USS BEALE DDE 471

Cuban Missile Crisis October, 1962

The following account submitted to the USS Beale Website describes the detection of the Soviet submarine B-59

JOHN DASPIT

ATN3, (AC) Sonar, cook, photographer, part time ECM and Nav.

On Oct 26, the P2v7s, LQ-8 was on a routine shipping surveillance patrol to the Leeward Passage and back from NAS Leeward Point. (Gitmo) We incidentally detected a snorkeling submarine by its exhaust plume and located it. Determined the course and speed and thought that it might be headed for Gitmo. As her side number (B-59) and here type were unknown, the CTF "gate guard" at Gitmo were advised to expect the "one that got away" from the Quarantine ASW destroyer that had interrupted the passage of the other three Foxtrots. As always, the aviation ASW types were happy to reciprocate and "hand off" to the surface types as we would benefit from the hand off by the USS Vesole, North of Havana on a Soviet Hotel Type (Ballistic Missile type) that we would track up the West Coast of Florida.

NOTE: Ed Bales was curious and so went into our NSA briefing papers and found the attached cable which describes John's sighting. I was curious how he knew the side number (B59) when the sub was snorkeling with the conning tower under water. The cable indicates it was based on the course and speed. We sure had a lot of resources in that area. Today the Navy doesn't have enough ships to do anything close to that.

The following is a declassified FLASH Precedence NAVAL MESSAGE

(When filled in)

NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE FLASH FLASH	(ACTION) (INFO)	RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
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Z 261951Z

FM CTG 81.5

TO ZEN/COMASWFORLANT
ZEN/CTF 81

INFO CINCLANTFLT

CNO

ZEN/CTG 81.1

ZEN/CTE 81.1.3.1

CTG 136.2

CTG 83.2

CTF 136

CTE 81.5.1.1

C O N F I D E N T I A L

AMPLIFYING REPORT ONE

A. MY 261947Z NOTAL

1. WOODPECKER FIVE REPORTS SINKER 26-34N 65-47W INVESTIGATING,
MAINTAINING MAD CONTACT.

2. SUSPECT THIS CONTACT TO BE C-19 BASED ON SINKER COURSE AND SPEED
MY 252251Z.

3. UNODIR WILL PROSECUTE AS C-19.

33/92/COG

SECNAV 00 09 09B 03 31 32 34 05 6 07 94(6) IP JCS/US
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