

firm MAN (Maschinenfabrik-Augsburg-Nürnberg) in the 1930s. After some hasty repairs and bearing a generous inventory of spare engine parts, Harder returned to sea for her second war patrol off Honshu in late August and in 14 days made nine attacks, which netted Harder a total of five ships for 15,000 tons in the post-war accounting. Once again, the ship suffered engine problems throughout the patrol but returned safely to Pearl Harbor, via Midway, on 7 October 1943.

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The best detail of the USS HARDERâ€™s war record I found on the web is contained on the page linked above.

Patrol reports, for HARDERâ€™s first two, are [here](#) and [here](#). Those reports were found at [a page where a number of links](#) take you to submarine war patrol reports. A lengthy synopsis of HARDERâ€™s patrols, listing subs in company and with information on her targets is found [here](#).

The USS HARDER (SS-257) was lost at sea during combat on August 24th, 1944 under depth charge attack of Luzon in the Philippines. Some info from the sub in company, [USS HAKE \(SS-256\)](#), indicates [the HARDERâ€™s loss](#). CDR Dealeyâ€™s citation reads:

Rank and organization: Commander, U.S. Navy. Born: 13 September 1906, Dallas, Tex. Appointed from: Texas. Other Navy awards: Navy Cross with 3 Gold Stars, Silver Star Medal.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Harder during her 5th War Patrol in Japanese-controlled waters. Floodlighted by a bright moon and disclosed to an enemy destroyer escort which bore down with intent to attack, Comdr. Dealey quickly dived to periscope depth and waited for the pursuer to close range, then opened fire, sending the target and all aboard down in flames with his third torpedo. Plunging deep to avoid fierce depth charges, he again surfaced and, within 9 minutes after sighting another destroyer, had sent the enemy down tail first with a hit directly amidship. Evading detection, he penetrated the confined waters off Tawi Tawi with the Japanese Fleet base 6 miles away and scored death blows on 2 patrolling destroyers in quick succession. With his ship heeled over by concussion from the first exploding target and the second vessel nose-diving in a blinding detonation, he cleared the area at high speed. Sighted by a large hostile fleet force on the following day, he swung his bow toward the lead destroyer for another â€œdown-the-throatâ€• shot, fired 3 bow tubes and promptly crash-dived to be terrifically rocked seconds later by the exploding ship as the Harder passed beneath. This remarkable record of 5 vital Japanese destroyers sunk in 5 short-range torpedo attacks attests the valiant fighting spirit of Comdr. Dealey and his indomitable command.

Thatâ€™s quite an accomplishment. Our submarines, strategically, were mostly in place to cut off supplies and troops. They took on the combatants when they had to.

Two books about the USS HARDER, [“Through Hell and Deep Water”](#) by VADM Charles Lockwood, USN and COL Hans Adamson, USAF, (published in 1956) and [“The Destroyer Killer”](#) by Edwin Hoyt tell of the war record this storied submarine.

USS DEALEY (DE-1006)

In honor of Samuel Dealey, the [USS DEALEY \(DE-1006\)](#) was commissioned on June 3rd, 1954, as the lead ship of the [DEALEY Class of destroyer escorts](#). USS DEALEY (DE-1006) was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and made cruises to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and around South America, exercising with navies from that part of the world. One of her duties assigned was to [“escort” Russian merchants into Cuba](#), observing their cargo loads, and wait for their departure, to observe the differences. She was decommissioned July 28th, 1972 and transferred to the Uruguayan Navy the same day, being re-commissioned as *ROU 18 De Julio (DE-3)*. I suspect I operated with DE-3 during UNITAS XXIV in 1983, as I recall doing surface gunnery exercises with a Uruguayan ship. If that was the case, then [this sea story](#) happened while in company with the ex-USS DEALEY. The USS DEALEY’s website is [here](#).

Bonus link: [the Sub Art site](#).

Category

1. Navy

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Author

admin