

Naval Torpedo Station,

Newport, R.I.

Nov. 30, 1903.

Sir:

1. In obedience to verbal orders, I respectfully report on attack of the submarine torpedo boats PLUNGER, ADDER and MOCCASIN, with the surface torpedo boats MORRIS, No. 1 and No.2, on the evening of the 18th instant.

2. The boats, with the exception of the PLUNGER, which put back on account of mishap, ran out in column headed by the MORRIS to a point off Beaver Tail light about one mile North of Brenton Reef light-vessel, and, turning, headed in for the attack so as to pass Castle Hill light shortly after 7.30 p.m. It was a clear, star-light night, but with fresh Northerly wind blowing, making quite a choppy sea.

3. In coming in, starting ten minutes ahead of the other boats, the ADDER ran over to the Conanicut shore, while the MOCCASIN followed the surface boats in mid-channel, the speed being about four knots. The following times were noted:-

7:47 p.m. Castle Hill light abeam.

7:49 MORRIS picked up by outer search-light, Ft. Adams.

7:50 No. 1 picked up by do

7:54 No.2 picked up by do

7:56 Outer search-light on MOCCASIN, but apparently not picked up, as it was on her only an instant.

11/30/03.

7:59 p.m. MORRIS picked up by inner search-light, Ft. Adams.
 8:03. Outer light, Ft. Adams, abeam.
 8:06 Second light, Ft. Adams, abeam.
 8:07 MORRIS picked up by Torpedo Station light.

4. I noticed that the Ft. Adams lights were not so good or so well handled as they were during the attack on the 11th instant, but I am informed that both submarine boats were picked up. From observation, I am of the opinion that, in clear weather, a successful attack in this harbor by the submarine boats can be assured only by running entirely submerged, although by coming to the surface only once or twice and just long enough to verify navigation, I believe they would stand a good chance of getting in undiscovered.

Very respectfully,

Archibald H. Davis,

Lieutenant, U. S. N.,

Assistant Inspector of Ordnance.

Inspector of Ordnance in Charge,

Naval Torpedo Station,

Newport, R.I.

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Naval Torpedo Station,

Newport, R.I.

Nov. 30, 1903.

DAVIS, A. H.,

Lieut., U.S.N.

SUBJECT:

Submarine and surface tor-
pedo boat night maneuvers,
Nov. 18, 1903.

Very respectfully,

Richard H. Brown

Lieutenant, U.S.N.

Assistant Inspector of Ordnance.

Inspector of Ordnance in Charge,
Naval Torpedo Station,
Newport, R.I.