

U.S.S. PLUNGER,
Naval Torpedo Station,
Newport, R.I.

Nov. 19, 1903.

Sir:

1. At 6:30 o'clock on the night of Nov. 18, 1903, I started to take the Submarine Boat PLUNGER out to Castle Hill for the purpose of coming in harbor under water, to find whether or not she could get by the Fort Adams search-lights.

2. Started to trim down in basin at 6:05, and found water too shallow to trim her completely down. The sea being rather choppy outside the slip, blew out auxiliary tank until it was apparently empty, and also part of main ballast tank, to give her buoyancy enough to enable her to get out into stream and trim down there. On filling main ballast preparatory to trimming, the tank, when full, gave the boat negative buoyancy, and she sank to bottom, showing that though the auxiliary tank appeared to be blown out, it was not. On coming to the surface attempted to trim down again, but found the sea came over her low conning tower in such a way that it was impossible to judge the reserve amount of buoyancy she had.

3. On going ahead with the motor I found, shortly after starting, that the boat was dragging on bottom, though not stuck fast. I blew out the main ballast and headed out for Fort Adams, but, due to the delay in trimming and getting out

11/19/03.

there, found that it was too late to get outside the harbor before the other boats started in, and as the seas came over her conning tower in such a way as to render it inadvisable to keep the conning tower hatch open I could show no light, so decided that the safest plan under the conditions was to returned to the Torpedo Station, which I did.

4. During the run in the conning tower was kept closed, and I steered the boat from deck, but the choppy nature of the sea kept her practically submerged all the way in, showing that in that kind of a sea the boat is a very poor sea boat in a partially submerged condition.

Very respectfully,

Chas. P. Nelson

Lieut., U.S.N.,

Commanding.

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

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Naval Torpedo Station,
Newport, R.I.

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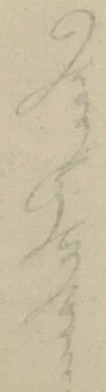
NELSON, C. P.,
Lieut., U.S.N.,
Commanding.

SUBJECT:

Rel. to passing by search-
lights into harbor in a sub-
merged condition, Nov. 18, 1903.

4. During the run in the conning tower was kept closed.
It is particularly submerged condition.
and I steered the boat from deck, but the choppy nature of the
sea kept her practically submerged all the way in, showing
decided that the safest plan under the conditions
keep the conning tower hatch open could show
her conning tower hatch a way and render it
before she started, and as she was over
phases.

Very respectfully,



Lieut., U.S.N.

Commanding.

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

B.