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File: SS200/A16-3  
Serial: # 023

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U. S. S. THRESHER.  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.,  
July 30, 1943.

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : The Commander Submarines, PACIFIC FLEET.  
Subject: Report of Special Mission.  
Enclosure: (A) Special Mission Report.  
1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

*Harry Hull*  
HARRY HULL.

DECLASSIFIED - OPNAV INST 5500.30  
DATE 10 Oct 60  
*J. Kier*

Ordn  
Box # 55802RS  
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File:  
Serial:

U. S. S. THRESHER.

S-E-C-R-E-T

REPORT OF SPECIAL MISSION

July 9, 1943  
Time (ZT -8)

- 0312 Approaching west coast of NEGROS in very bad visibility. Surface radar picked up land dead ahead at about 45,000 yards range.
- 0454 Dove about six miles off shore. Finally identified land and fixed position. From a southwesterly approach CAMON POINT looks much like an island until within about 2½ miles when the low land between it and the mainland begins to appear.
- 0737 Sighted tops of destroyer coming up from the southeast paralleling the coast about 3½ miles off shore. THRESHER was then about 3000 yards off the beach. Circled away from destroyer.
- 0815 Destroyer disappeared to the northwest.
- 0835 Destroyer reappeared in about same position where last seen and lay to off CAMON POINT.
- 0950 Destroyer disappeared once more to the northwest and was not again seen. Reconnoitered all bays and beaches north and south of CAMON POINT as thoroughly as possible in the variable visibility prevailing.
- 1200 POSIT: Lat 9°-34.1' N; Long 122°-23.7' E.
- 1618 Sighted sailboat close to beach just north of CAMON POINT. Sailboat followed the CAMON shore line and turned into the small bay south of the point. The Commando Lieutenant looked at this boat through the periscope and agreed that it probably contained his associates. He added that it was the most likely sort of "barge" to be encountered here and that there was little or no fishing in this spot.
- 1816 Started closing CAMON POINT preparatory to surfacing. We had decided that the destroyer's presence indicated that though the Japs might be suspicious they were not in control of the beach here, otherwise they would have avoided any suggestion of fore-knowledge in order to trap the submarine. We asked the Commando Lieutenant if he still wanted to carry out the original plan in spite of indications of possible compromise. He laughed and said, "On yes - I must".

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July 9, 1943 (Cont'd.)  
Time (ZT -8)

- 1859 Surfaced about 3000 yards due west of CATMON POINT and headed in on the motors trimmed down with deck nearly awash. Pale quarter moon astern with slight haze overhead.
- 1912 Sighted sailboat standing out from CATMON POINT. Pointed this out to the Commando Lieutenant and decided with him that he should make directly for the sailboat.
- 1916 Put over one-man rubber boat. The Lieutenant headed for the sailboat. Maneuvered to keep rubber boat between sailboat and THRESHER until receipt of identification signal from the Lieutenant.
- 1930 Received the "all's well" signal from the sailboat and twisted around to be headed out to sea while the sailboat approached. Another sailboat with dark sails was now seen coming out from CATMON POINT astern of the first.
- 1947 First sailboat alongside. Commenced transfer of gear from forward torpedo room.
- 2000 First sailboat departed fully laden. This one had large outriggers and small capacity.
- 2015 Second and larger sailing vessel capable of carrying 15 tons came alongside. Resumed transfer of gear.

The Commando Major previously landed by the USS GUDGEON had come aboard from the first sailboat. He had been as suspicious as we until he picked up our Lieutenant, for in addition to the Destroyer a Zero plane had been overhead most of the day.

The Major had men stationed up and down the beach on the other side of the extreme tangents to north and south. On the approach of any ships they would warn us by signal lights.

The guerrilla leader said that there were about 7000 Jap soldiers back in the hills and that skirmishes were frequent. Their greatest needs were ammunition and medical supplies so we gave them everything we could in these lines (see list below).

The question of cigarettes and magazines came up. The Commanding Officer was somewhat in a quandry about such items. We were delighted to give everything we had to these men who are doing a fine job at the daily risks of their lives; at the same time the Commanding Officer was anxious to avoid any move which might compromise either the men ashore or the means of supplying them. In the end it was left to the discretion of the Commando Major who accepted all the articles with great relish. All the cigar-

U. S. S. THRESHER.

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July 9, 1943 (Cont'd.)

Time (ZT -8)

ettes, matches, soap, razor blades, candy, etc. were voluntary contributions from the crew of the THRESHER and attest their admiration for the Commandos and the work they are doing.

A suitcase full of intelligence documents was brought aboard and will be forwarded via the proper channels.

A simple recognition challenge and reply would have eased tension on both sides. A signal of this sort for future meetings was arranged with the Commando Major. It will be transmitted orally via the Intelligence Officer at our destination.

- 2023 Finished loading second sailboat. All Commandos left the THRESHER. Mission completed.  
 2038 Underway clearing the area at four-engine speed.  
 2045 Received ComSubs 7th Fleet's Serial Nine.

List of additional items furnished commandos:

- (1) Medical supplies (especially quinine and sulpha drugs.
- (2) 4 Colt pistols; spare pistol clips; belts for same; spare Tommy gun clips; 25 hand grenades; 3 cases of .30 ammunition.
- (3) 150 cartons of cigarettes, matches, soap, toothpaste, razor blades, magazines.
- (4) Food as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Milk, pwd.	50 lbs.	Sardines, can	63 lbs.
Butter, tinned	12 "	Luncheon Meat, can	35 "
Luncheon Meat	75 "	Ham, canned	60 "
Jam, tinned	48 "	Cheese	25 "
Crabmeat	33 "	Lobster	38 "
Tomatoes	74 "	Coffee	100 "
Corned Beef Hash	125 "	Bouillon Cubes	2 "
Rice	200 "	Salmon	48 "
Sugar	100 "	Evap. Milk	87 "
Potatoes, (dehyd)	80 "	Spaghetti	30 "
Salt & Pepper	2 "		