

ADDRESSES

A

Name

March 1st / 44.

Street

left Halifax to

City

go reverse. Hope

Telephone

we come back

Name

soon but not

Street

much chance.

City

Telephone

March 10/44.

Name

Our first action.

Street

Rank V- 845

City

at 8:20 P.M. after

Telephone

quite a battle.

Name

Dr. Lambert

Street

assisted. Took

City

23 survivors

Telephone

aboard. They

A

ADDRESSES

Name were very
Street grateful to be
City picked up. God
Telephone help the poor

Name devils we
Street couldn't pick
City up. They seem
Telephone cheerful. I am

Name surprised at
Street being so well
City treated. One chap
Telephone is fifteen years

Name old. They still
Street think that Germany
City will win but I
Telephone am not so sure

ADDRESSES

A

Name about the U-Boat

Street warfare.

City March 14th

Telephone pulled into

Name Derry & discharged

Street our prisoners

City as per.

Telephone

Name March 16th

Street out to sea

City again on jated.

Telephone

Name March 26th

Street Into Derry again.

City Did not have

Telephone any action

ADDRESSES

B

Name Apr. 5/44

Street out to sea

City again. Wonder

Telephone how well

Name make out this

Street time.

City

Telephone April 14th

Name best ferry

Street again today &

City he came out

Telephone record best.

Name we took 17

Street surveys. this

City time. This sub

Telephone No - 0448. 2

B

ADDRESSES

Name was smaller
Street than the 1st one.

City The survivor

Telephone aren't as

Name Cheerful as the

Street not sure.

City We are just off

Telephone the mouth

Name of the Bay of

Street Biscaya. It's

City really a hotbed

Telephone of action. We

Name are with the

Street "Biter" an A/C

City Carrier which is

Telephone acting as bait

ADDRESSES

B

Name I think hoping to
Street draw the Quibs.
City It seems to be

Telephone very successful.

Name We are making
Street quite a name
City for ourselves.

Telephone We ~~have~~ have

Name been sinking one

Street sub a month.

City Hope we get

Telephone back to Canada

Name soon. I can't say

Street that I like so

City much action. War

Telephone is really a

B**ADDRESSES**

Name *horrible thing.*

Street

City *April 20/44.*

Telephone

Name

Street

City

Telephone

Name

Street

City

Telephone

Name

Street

City

Telephone

*Still hunting for the
but I guess we
have had this
months quota.
It's been three
weeks since we
have seen land.
It's going to be
good to go
astore again.
April 20/44
Back again*

B

ADDRESSES

Name May 5/44
 Street In again after
 City a short trip of
 Telephone 10 days. No
 Name sent this time.
 Street thought we had
 City one a couple
 Telephone of times though
 Name
 Street June 26
 City Into Plymouth
 Telephone to refuel. Think
 Name we got another set
 Street but not sure.
 City Invasion seems
 Telephone to be going ok.

ADDRESSES

B

Name June 30/44.
 Street Pretty close to
 City Coast of France
 Telephone today. Closest
 Name we have been in
 Street yet. De Coastal
 City batteries fired on
 Telephone us. Had smoke
 Name screen & got away.
 Street could see our
 City planes bombing
 Telephone quite plainly.
 Name think that I
 Street will do a
 City little letter
 Telephone winter. That's

B

ADDRESSES

Name all for today.
 Street
 City July 1/44
 Telephone everything first
 Name today that
 Street I will write
 City you a letter, dear
 Telephone I have a funny
 Name feeling that
 Street something is
 City going to happen.
 Telephone
 Name July 2/44
 Street That funny
 City feeling I had
 Telephone much love for

ADDRESSES

B

Name pretty good. We
 Street picked up H.F.
 City from submarine
 Telephone last night &
 Name went to action
 Street stations. It was
 City almost on the
 Telephone surface rising
 Name on her decided.
 Street She came up on
 City in fact I passed
 Telephone within a few
 Name feet of us
 Street going down our
 City port side. I
 Telephone could have

B

ADDRESSES

Name reached out &

Street touched her

City this case. She

Telephone had a device

Name like a pipe to

Street up in front of

City her periscope

Telephone to suck in

Name air for her

Street diesel motors.

City We fired on

Telephone her & she

Name went across our

Street stern. We

City Couldn't pick

Telephone

ADDRESSES

C

Name lay up on our

Street asdic & after

City searching for her

Telephone we gave it

Name up. It all

Street happened so fast

City we really didn't

Telephone have a chance

Name to get her. We

Street were very lucky.

City she didn't get

Telephone trapped. If

Name she had we

Street would be under

City 40 fathoms of

Telephone water right now

C

ADDRESSES

Name

July 17/44.

Street

quite a bit

City

of Home sea

Telephone

passed. We

Name

have been back

Street

to "Derry" since

City

for whole

Telephone

days. Nothing

Name

much doing.

Street

we had action

City

stations twice

Telephone

today. I also

Name

claim change.

Street

going into the

City

color tonight

Telephone

just off Brest

ADDRESSES

C

Name

July 21/44.

Street

action stations

City

again tonight

Telephone

We were

Name

attached by

Street

glider bomb.

City

We were sure

Telephone

lucky. Our

Name

numbers shot

Street

down about

City

100 yards away.

Telephone

One of the

Name

other ships with

Street

us was hit.

City

26 injured 1 dead

Telephone

23 missing.

C

ADDRESSES

Name Finally our
Street own planes came
City out or closed
Telephone them away

Name I was sure
Street glad to see
City the R.A.F.
Telephone Hope our luck

Name holds out
Street Aug
City July 17/44.
Telephone sailed from

Name Derry, heading
Street in the Bay of
City Biscay. It's
Telephone a real hot.

ADDRESSES

C

Name led of U-Boats
Street Tripdove boat &
City German Destroyers.
Telephone There will be

Name action, 2 feel
Street sure
City July 20/44
Telephone Our patrol

Name is off Bordeaux
Street a German naval
City base. Our air-
Telephone Craft report

Name that there are
Street two "Narvik"
City destroyers two
Telephone U Boats, two

C

ADDRESSES

Name minesweepers

Street waiting to come

City out. I think that

Telephone there are two

Name of our destroyer

Street by a cruiser

City close by.

Telephone

Name Aug 21/44

Street shelled by

City shore batteries

Telephone again. This

Name has been the

Street third time for

City us. They had

Telephone

ADDRESSES

C

Name have been at least

Street 12 inch guns.

City as we were

Telephone 12 miles away.

Name They landed

Street too close. One

City chap killed &

Telephone one injured.

Name on one of the

Street other ships, from

City straggled. The

Telephone Caswell's

Name for us. Lucky

Street Pwansua.

City

Telephone

C

ADDRESSES

Name Aug 24/44
Street Tonight we
City can see Bordeaux

Telephone going up in
Name planes. We
Street are sixty mile
City away but the

Telephone plane of the
Name pieces of demolition
Street lights up the
City whole valley for

Telephone a hundred
Name miles around.
Street we feel a
City little safer
Telephone now with

ADDRESSES

D

Name that place out
Street of the fight.
City where are a

Telephone great many
Name more down
Street here in the Bay.
City

Telephone Aug 25/44.
Name Allied planes
Street snatched two
City Narvik & Elbe

Telephone destroyers
Name tonight they
Street were heading
City right for Tusa.
Telephone going to try

D

ADDRESSES

Name to break through

Street I guess.

City Peter

Telephone just come

Name down from

Street Action Station -

City we had a sub

Telephone contact. It

Name got away after

Street sending a

City torpedo at

Telephone us. It went

Name past our stern.

Street I wonder how

City long our luck

Telephone will hold

out.

ADDRESSES

D

Name Aug 26/44.

Street Have just

City come from the

Telephone Quarter deck

Name after attending

Street Service for a

City burial at sea.

Telephone Earlier today

Name we sighted

Street a lone fighter

allied plane. It

Telephone circled us

Name 9 flew ahead

Street of us. We

City wondered why

Telephone

D

ADDRESSES

Name he was away
 Street out here all
 City alone. Shortly
 Telephone after leaving
 Name us we said
 Street him crash into
 City the sea. With
 Telephone both engines
 Name full ahead
 Street we headed for
 City the spot. On
 Telephone arrival there,
 Name we could see
 Street was a few
 City bits of wood.
 Telephone we circled

ADDRESSES

E

Name around 9
 Street presently saw
 City the fish
 Telephone come to the
 Name surface. We
 Street set our sea
 City boat away &
 Telephone picked him
 Name up. He was
 Street dead &
 City horribly broken
 Telephone up! His back
 Name was broken in
 Street several places
 City & his arms &
 Telephone legs also.

E

ADDRESSES

Name We took all
 Street his personal
 City gear from his
 Telephone body & sewed
 Name him up in a
 Street canvas shroud
 City at sunset
 Telephone tonight we
 Name gave him a
 Street Naval funeral
 City at sea.
 Telephone He was an
 Name American from
 Street Texas about
 City 22 years old
 Telephone when I saw

ADDRESSES

E

Name him there all
 Street mangled a
 City broken I could
 Telephone see ok so
 Name clearly the
 Street fertility of
 City this bloody
 Telephone cover. In this
 Name hip pocket there
 Street was a letter
 City probably from
 Telephone his girl friend
 Name maybe he read
 Street it before he
 City left the
 Telephone flying field

E

ADDRESSES

Name that's something
Street we will never
City I know.

Telephone

Name Dept Aug 31/44
Street

City attacked sub
Telephone contact today.

Name we are still
Street holding it.

City

Telephone Dept. /44

Name still attacking
Street contact with

City depth charges
Telephone

ADDRESSES

F

Name Brought up oil
Street & debris. we
City have the navigation

Telephone log book &

Name stockings with
Street the name

City "Schultz" on them.

Telephone He hasn't

Name pen-faced as
Street yet. I don't

City think he will.

Telephone He must be

Name pretty well

Street beat by now.

City

Telephone

F

ADDRESSES

Name

Oct 23/44

Street

Have received

City

Signal from

Telephone

handily

Name

stating we have

Street

~~stated~~ the

City

credit with

Telephone

the "St. John"

Name

on sinking

Street

the U-2/47.

City

That makes

Telephone

our third

Name

sub. We

Street

aren't doing

City

bad.

Telephone

F

ADDRESSES

Name

Oct 27/44

Street

Have sailed

City

from "Sibrialty"

Telephone

for "Derry."

Name

I sort of hate

Street

to leave this

City

wonderful

Telephone

weather. On

Name

the other hand

Street

it will speed

City

up, our getting

Telephone

home.

Name

I've been

Street

thinking a lot

City

about coming

Telephone

back. etc.

Wartime Diary of Robert Elwood Pearson, V-37150

HMCS Swansea K 328

01 Mar 1944 – 27 Oct 1944

01 Mar 1944 - Left Halifax to go overseas. Hope we come back soon but not much chance.

10 Mar 1944 - Our first action. Sank U-845 at 8:20 p.m. after quite a battle. St. Laurent assisted. Took 23 survivors aboard. They were very grateful to be picked up. God help the poor devils we couldn't pick up. They seem cheerful and are surprised at being so well treated. One chap is fifteen years old. They still think that Germany will win but aren't so sure about the U-boat warfare.

14 Mar 1944 - Pulled into Derry and discharged our prisoner ashore.

16 Mar 1944 - Out to sea again on patrol

26 Mar 1944 - Into Derry again. Did not have any action

05 Apr 1944 - Out to sea again. Wonder how we'll make out this time.

14 Apr 1944 - Met Jerry again today and he came out second best. We took 17 survivors this time. This sub No - U-448. It was smaller than the 1st one. The survivors aren't as cheerful as the 1st sub. We are just off the mouth of the Bay of Biscay. Its really a hotbed of action. We are with the Biter an A/C carrier which is acting as "bait". I think hoping to draw the subs. It seems to be very successful. We are making quite a name for ourselves. We have been sinking on sub a month. Hope we get back to Canada soon. I can't say that I like so much action. War is really a horrible thing.

20 Apr 1944 - Still hunting subs but I guess we have had this month's quota. It's been three weeks since we have seen land. It's going to be good to go ashore again.

22 Apr 1944 - Back again.

05 May 1944 - In again after a short trip of 10 days. No subs this time. Thought we had one a couple of times though.

26 Jun 1944 - Into Plymouth to refuel. Think we go another sub but not sure. Invasion seems to be going ok.

30 Jun 1944 - Pretty close to coast of France. Today closest we have been in yet. The Coastal batteries fired on us. Made smoke screen and got away. Could see our planes bombing quite plainly. Think that I will do a little letter writing. That's all for today.

01 Jul 1944 - Everything quiet today. Think that I will write you a letter, dear. I have a funny feeling that something is going to happen.

04 Jul 1944 - That funny feeling I had must have been pretty good. We picked up H.E. from submarine last night and went to action stations. It was almost on the surface running on her diesels. She came up on us fast and passed within a few feet of us doing down our port side I could have reached out and touched her periscope. She had a device like a pipe up in front of her periscope to suck in air for her diesel motors. We fire on her and she went across our stern. We couldn't pick her up on our asdic and after searching for her we gave it up. It all happened so fast we really didn't have a chance to get her. We were very lucky she didn't fire torpedoes. If she had we would be under 40 fathoms of water right now.

17 Jul 1944 - Quite a bit of time has passed. We have been back to Derry for 4 whole says. Nothing much doing. We had actions stations twice today. False alarms though. Going into the coast tonight just off Brest.

21 Jul 1944 - Action stations again tonight. We were attacked by glider bombs. We were sure lucky. Our gunners shot one down about 100 yards away. One of the other ships with us was hit. 26 inured 1 dead and 3 missing. Finally our own planes came out and cleared them away. I was sure glad to see the RAF. Hope our luck holds out.

17 Aug 1944 - Sailed from Derry, heading for the Bay of Biscay. Its a real hotbed of U-boats, Torpedo boats and German destroyers. There will be action, I feel sure.

20 Aug 1944 - Out patrol is off Bordeaux, a German naval base. Our aircraft report that there are two Narvik destroyers, two U-boats, two minesweepers waiting to come out. I thank God there are two of our destroyers and a cruiser close by.

21 Aug 1944 - Shelled by shore batteries again. This has been the third time for us. They must have been at least 12-inch guns as we were 12 miles away. They landed too close. One chap killed and one injured on one of the other ships from shrapnel. No casualties for us. Lucky Swansea.

24 Aug 1944 - Tonight we can see Bordeaux going up in flames. We are sixty miles away but the glare of the fires and demolition lights up the whole sky for a hundred miles around. We feel a little safer now with that place out of the fight. There are a great many more down here in the Bay.

25 Aug 1944 - Allied planes smashed two Narvik and Elbe destroyers tonight. They were heading right for us. Going to try to break through I guess. Later. Just came down from action stations - we had a sub contact. It got away after sending a torpedo at us. It went past our stern. I wonder how long our luck will hold out.

26 Aug 1944 - Have just come down from the Quarterdeck after attending service for a burial at sea. Earlier today we sighted a lone fighter allied plane. He circled us and flew ahead of us. We wondered why he was way out here. All alone. Shortly after leaving us we saw him crash into the sea. With both engines full ahead we headed for the spot. On arrive there all we could see was a few bits of wood. We circled around and personally saw the pilot come to the surface. We sent our sea boat away and picked him up. He was dead and horribly broken up. His back was broken in several places and his arms and legs also. We took all his personal gear from his body and sewed him up in a canvas shroud. At sunset tonight we gave him a naval burial at sea. He was an American from Texas about 22 years old. When I saw him there all mangled and broken I could see so clearly the futility of this bloody war. In this hip pocket there was a letter probably from his girlfriend. Maybe he read it before he left the flying field. that's something we will never know.

31 Aug 1944 - Attacked sub contact today. We are still holding it.

01 Sep 1944 - Still attacking contact with depth charges. Brought up oil and debris. We have the navigator's log books and stocking with the name Schultz on them. He hasn't surface as yet and I don't think he will. He must be pretty well beat by now.

23 Oct 1944 - Have received signal from Admiralty stating we have shared the credit with the St. John on sinking the U-247. That makes our third sub. We aren't doing bad.

27 Oct 1944 - Have sailed from Gibraltar for Derry. I sort of hate to leave this wonderful weather. On the other had it will speed up our getting home. I've been thinking a lot about coming back. Its hard to believe.