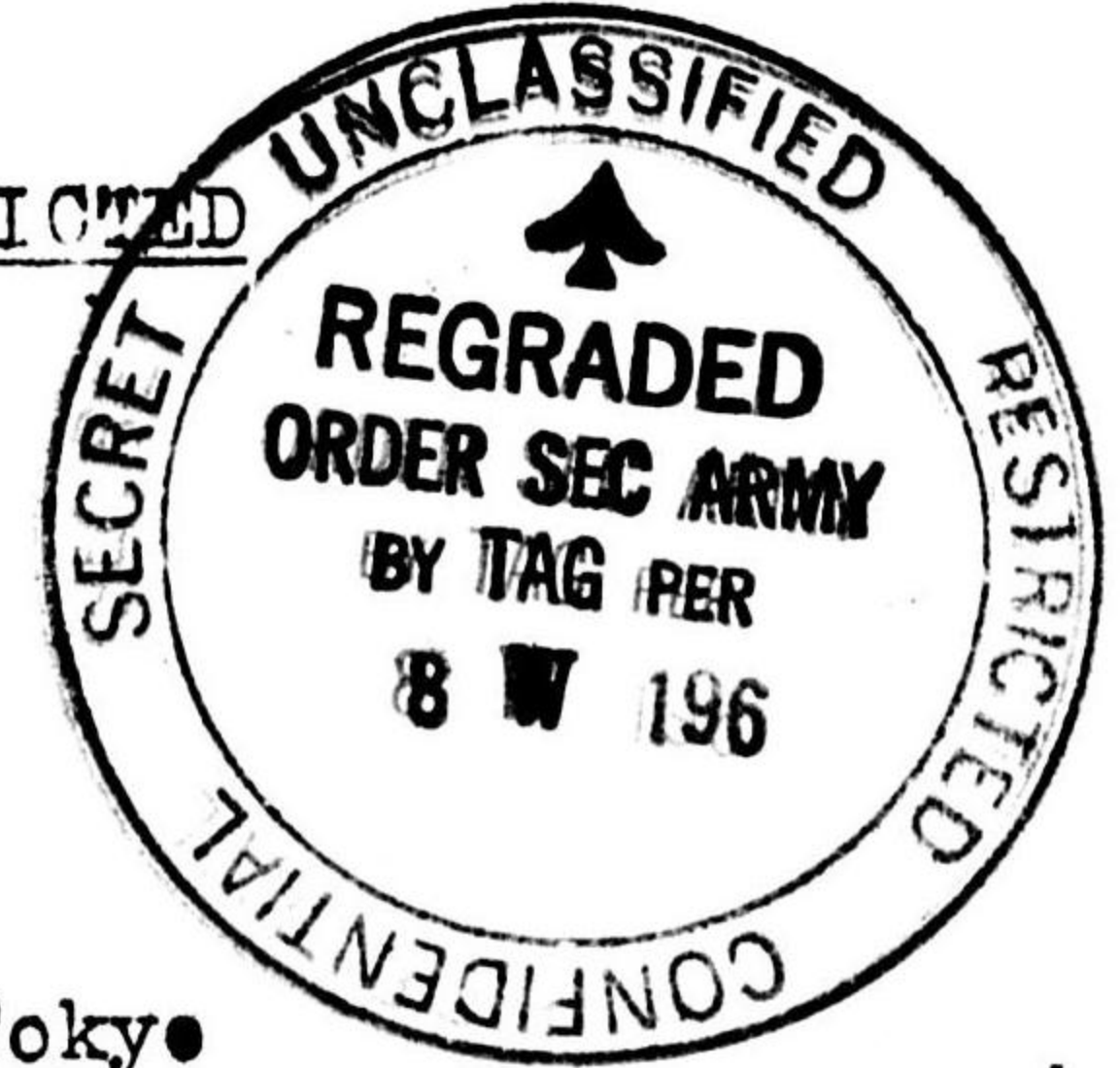


RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS
U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. (USSBS 465)
(NAV NO 107)

Place: Tokyo
Date: 7 November 1945

Division of Origin: Naval Analysis Division

Subject: Submarine Attacks on Japanese Convoys.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Commander SHIBATA, Otokichi, I.J.N. Staff Officer of 8th
Escort Convoy and 1st Escort Fleet.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Captain Steadman Teller, U.S.N.

Interpreter: None

Allied Officers Present: Captain C. Shands, U.S.N.

SUMMARY

Two successful submarine attacks on Japanese convoys
are described.

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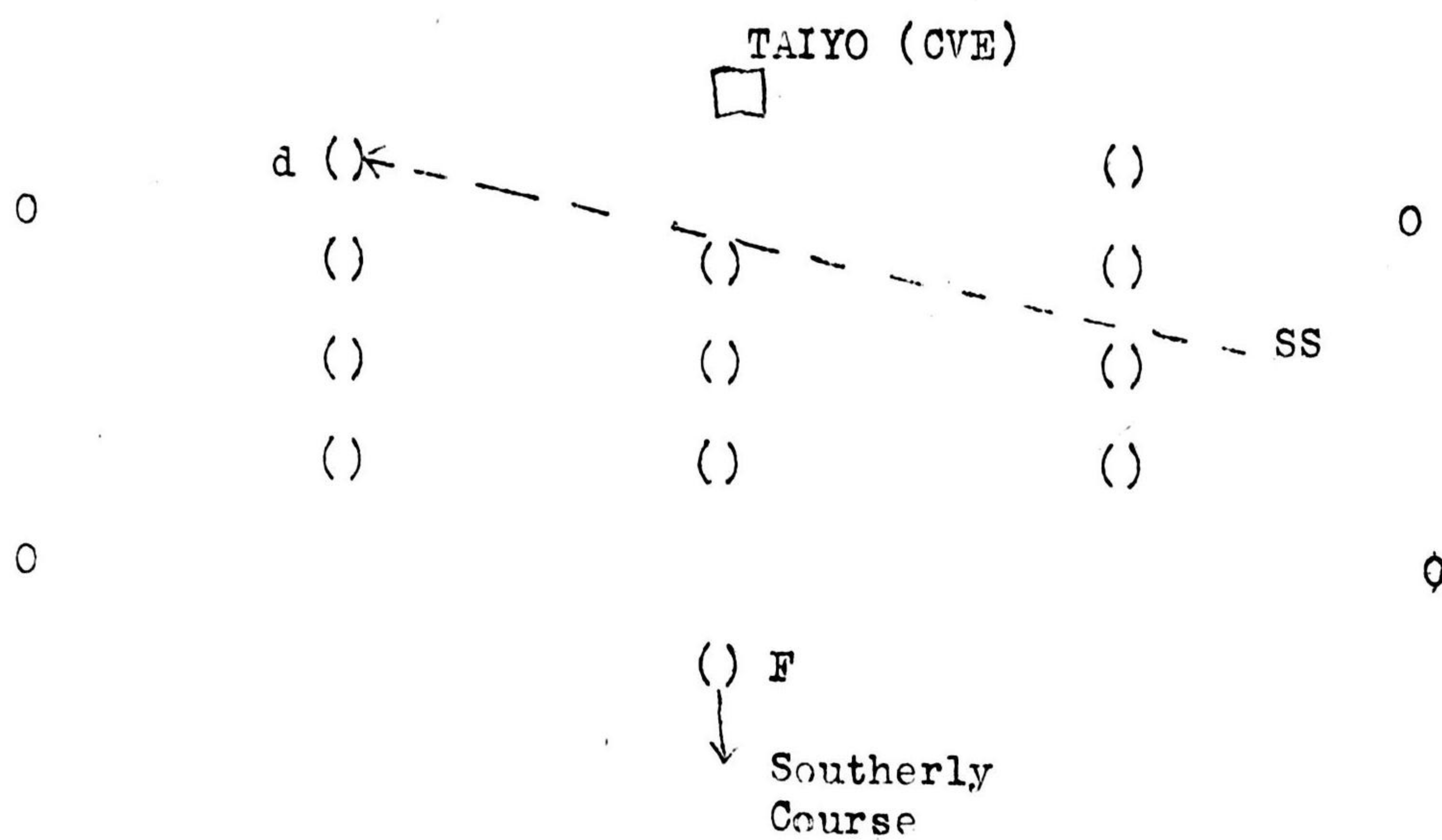
TRANSCRIPT

Transcript of interrogation of (Commander SHIBATA, Otokichi, IJN.)

- Q. Describe your personal experiences with U. S. submarine attacks on convoys.
- A. I was staff officer for Rear Admiral SATO, Commander 8th Escort Convoy. During the first 10 days of June, 1944 in approximate position Latitude 19° North Longitude 120° East our ~~convoy~~ consisting of 15 or 16 ships, 5 escorts and the escort carrier TAIYO was on a southerly course. Just after sunrise we received a torpedo attack from a submarine on the port beam. One torpedo passed through the formation struck and damaged a new 10,000 ton tanker, the last ship in the starboard column. The tanker was able to proceed under its own power to MANILA where it received temporary repairs then returned to JAPAN. Two escorts attacked this submarine for three hours with unknown results.

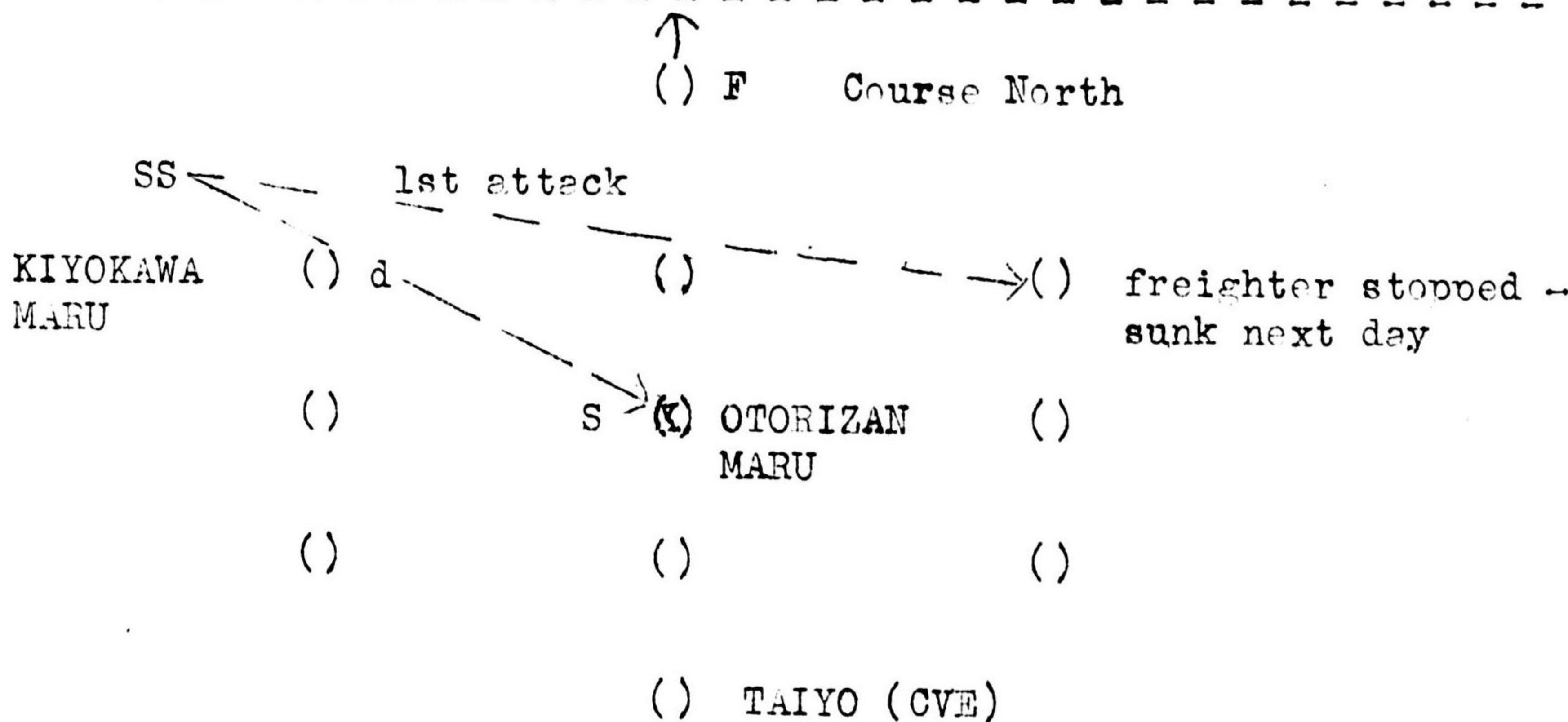
In mid July, 1944, a north bound convoy from MANILA to JAPAN was in position Latitude 16°25' North Longitude 117°20' East. The convoy consisted of 9 ships in three columns, 5 or 6 escorts and the carrier TAIYO. At about mid-night the 10,000 ton tanker OTORIZAN MARU, second ship in center column, was torpedoed. She was loaded with aviation gasoline and immediately caught fire, sinking later as a result. At the same time the leadingship in starboard column, a 8,000 or 9,000 ton freighter, was hit and stopped dead in the water. About one hour later the leading ship in port column, the 10,000 ton freighter KIYOKAWA MARU was attacked and damaged by a torpedo but was able to proceed under her own power. One escort was left to guard the freighter which was stopped but at 1500 the next day another submarine attack sank this freighter. Refer to plate #1 for action diagrams.

Transcript of interrogation of (Commander SHIBATA, Otokichi, IJN.)



SS = estimated position of attacking submarine
d = ship damaged

Submarine attack which occurred between 1 and 10 June, 1944,
just after sunrise in approximate position 19° North 120° East.



SS - estimated position of submarine at first attack
s - ship sunk
d - ship damaged

Midnight submarine attack on north bound convoy in mid-July,
1944, in approximate position 16°-25' North, 117° - 20' East.

Plate - 1