

Herbert Donald Burgess

From <https://uboat.net/allies/warships/ship/3393.html>

10th September 1939

“HMS Oxley (Lt.Cdr. Harold Godfrey Bowerman, RN) was torpedoed and sunk in error by HMS Triton (Lt.Cdr. H.P. De C. Steele, RN) about 28 nautical miles south-south-west of Stavanger, Norway in position 58°30'N, 05°30'E. HMS Triton picked up two survivors.

“Oxley was 4 nautical miles inside Triton's area due to a navigational error. Lt.Cdr Steel of Triton made 3 challenges which went unanswered then fired a green signal grenade which also produced no response. He therefore had to assume the sub was hostile and fired 2 torpedoes, sinking Oxley.

“The puzzling lack of response from Oxley was explained by Lt.Cdr Bowerman, who survived the sinking with one of the bridge watch: he stated he was called to the bridge following the sighting of Triton's signal grenade, but when he tried to answer, his grenade malfunctioned.

“The Officer of the Watch Lt. Manley, RNR, claimed to have answered Triton's challenge, but Bowerman was not sure this had been done properly. Before he could put things right, however, Oxley was struck by Triton's torpedo and he was catapulted into the sea together with one of the lookouts and Lt. Manley. Lt. Manley was seen in the water but when they could be picked up from the water he was gone.”

(Other details available on the internet)

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