

Stockholm, 28.6.19

Enclosed is report by Lieut. Sindall on this trip of the C.M.B. No. 4 of June 21st, when an effort was made to put Sokoloff ashore behind Bolshevik lines.

Terijoki, 22nd June 1919.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following report of operations of H.M. "C.M.B. 4" on the night of 21st June 1919, in accordance with orders received to proceed into Petrograd Bay and land courier.

Personal on board. Sub.Lieut. E.R. Sindall, R.N.R. in command; Sub.lieut. J.W. H Hampsheir, R.N.R.; Chief Motor Mechanic H. Beeley. R.N: M.B.R.; Contrbandist acting as Pilot; and Mon. Sokoloff, Courier.

10. p.m. June 21st: Towed out of Terijoki Harbour with small rowing boat in tow with which to land courier.

10.45 p.m. Started up and proceeded; boat grounded twice while turning; damage to shaft and propeller, if any, could not be ascertained. During outward passage engine running very badly.

11.45 p.m. Approached line of Forts. No sign of activity on part of garrison. Destroyer apparently at anchor, with steam, inside starboard hand fort.

12 midnight. Forts abeam to port and starboard distance 400 yards. Forts opened fire. Three 8-inch projectiles fell a stern. Turned sixteen points, engine nearly cut out, increased to 1050 revs. (24 knots) commenced zigzagging. Two 8-inch fell 30 yds. Astern of C.M.B. Cut boat adrift to increase speed. Seven or more fall of shot unobserved, probably over or astern. Shooting very erratic. First three shells did not burst; last few were shrapnel.

12.15 a.m June 22nd: Forts ceased firing. Reduced speed to ease engine, to 800 revs. No sign of activity on other forts passed on homeward passage.

12.35 am. Arrived Terijoki and anchored.

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Sub. Lieut. Hemsheir showed great promptitude in outing boat adrift, and C.M.M. Beeley during turning under fire when engine nearly cut out, nursed same extremely well. Observing both this officer and C.M.M. were working under pressure and strain, having on the night of June 17th carried out an attack under fire on the Cruiser OLEG, I wish to strongly recommend them.

Contrabandist proved no good under fire, being in a state of panic, unable to give directions as to steering etc.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E.R. SINDALL

Sub. Lieut. R.N.R.,
in command.