

*August 4, 1964*

12:22 P.M.

**Admiral U.S. Grant Sharp to General David Burchinal<sup>1</sup>**

[*Extract*]

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**General David Burchinal:** Hello?

**Admiral Grant Sharp:** Dave?

**Burchinal:** Yeah.

**Unidentified:** [*away from the phone*] At least nine.

**Burchinal:** Yeah [*unclear*]. Go ahead.

**Sharp:** Well, there apparently have been at least nine torpedoes in the water.

**Burchinal:** Right.

**Sharp:** All missed. All missed, and apparently two of their boats have been sunk, as far as we can tell.

**Burchinal:** Good. How many were engaged? Do you know?

**Sharp:** Let's see. There must have been a total of six engaged, I think. Not sure on that yet.

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1. Tape VN 01.10, National Military Command Center Tapes, Lyndon B. Johnson Library.

**Burchinal:** Any aircraft?

**Sharp:** You mean enemy?

**Burchinal:** Yeah.

**Sharp:** No, I don't . . . Wait a minute, now. I'm not so sure about this number of engaged.

**Burchinal:** Right.

**Sharp:** We'd have to check it out here.

**Burchinal:** O.K.

**Sharp:** It may not be that high. No, no report on . . . We did have a report on bogeys [enemy aircraft] at one time, but we haven't any confirmation of that.

**Burchinal:** Right. Were they sunk by gunfire or aircraft? Do you know?

**Sharp:** By gun, I think. [C.] *Turner Joy*.

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*Edit. Discussion of positioning aircraft in support.*

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**Burchinal:** Are they still exchanging fire?

**Sharp:** I've been so busy doing other things I haven't looked at the last-whether they're still shooting each other or not.

*Unclear background comment.*

**Sharp:** Huh? I can't . . . I don't see that they have. Here's another one now I just got, let me see. [*Reading report and summarizing*] Well, the *Maddox* says she's evaded about ten torpedoes. [*chuckles*] Two craft are sunk. No casualties to us and they got some ADs and A-4Ds on the scene. But they're having trouble with illumination. The *Turner Joy*, or one of the two, was given star shell illumination for the planes.

As far as we can tell there are only three [North Vietnamese] boats, but that doesn't count up to that many torpedoes, I don't think.

**Burchinal:** [*Unclear.*]

**Sharp:** Sounds to me like there are more boats than just three. Well, that's about the size of it, Dave.

**Burchinal:** O.K.

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