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# BIRD'S EYE VIEW



## DIRTY DOZEN U.S. NUKES

THE NUCLEAR THREAT posed by the Chernobyl disaster, as well as the danger from Sellafield, is as nothing compared to the everyday risks caused by nuclear submarine traffic in the Irish Sea.

The *USS Sam Rayburn* spent three days on the ocean bed off Cork after its reactor power plant sprang a leak, and only last weekend the U.S. finally admitted that the *Nathaniel Greene* was grounded in the Irish Sea two years ago.

These potentially catastrophic accidents are part of a disturbing pattern of incidents in the Tuskar Triangle over the past few years which Sir Garret, or whoever talks to Maggie about nuclear matters, might like to draw to her attention.

- April 1982. Kilkeel trawler *Crimson Dawn* dragged astern by unidentified sub. Fishermen cut nets to free trawler. Sub fails to surface during incident.
- April 1982. At Clogherhead, Co. Louth, trawler *Sharelga* sunk after being dragged astern by mystery object. Britain denies it was one of their subs. Three weeks later authorities admit it was.
- July 1982. The 30-foot yacht, *Fyfield Five*, en route to Warrenpoint, Co Down, sunk by mystery object in the Tuskar Triangle. Owner/skipper John Roberts, a former British naval officer, claims an object came up through his keel which looked like a periscope. The Danish ship which rescues him reports a sub in the area. Denial from Britain. The sub, *HMS Opposum*, turns up in port several days later with damaged superstructure.
- December 1982. English trawler *Algrie* snares British nuclear sub, *HMS Spartan*. Sub surfaces and orders *Algrie* skipper to cut his nets.
- January 1983. The French trawler, *Cite d'Aleth*, sinks six miles off Carnsore Point in perfect weather. All nine hands lost. Local fishermen claim it was sub sinking. Relatives in Brest form committee alleging cover-up.
- February 1983. French trawler, *Jeanne De Lorraine*, towed astern by unidentified sub. Forced to cut nets.
- Dunmore East fishermen claim sub caused capsizing of trawler. One man lost.
- March 1984. Unidentified sub drags Clogherhead trawler *Oriel* astern for two miles. Skipper cuts nets to free his boat.
- English trawler *South Stack* disappears in calm sea. Crew never found. Hollyhead coastguard mystified.
- July 1984. *USS Nathaniel Greene* loses its propellor in the Tuskar Triangle. Surfaces and is towed to Holy Loch by recovery vessel.
- August 1984. Unidentified sub drags Devon trawler *Joanne C* for three hours before breaking free.
- February 1985. Scottish trawler *Mhari L* disappears in the Tuskar Triangle in perfect weather. Wreckage found later leads to British proffering the unlikely explanation that she sank after catching her nets on an underwater phone cable to the Isle of Man.

In addition, there have been numerous reports of submarines sighted by fishermen and others in the Irish Sea. Hardly surprising given the constant traffic up and down to Holy Loch and Faslane.

Nuclear subs, besides carrying a reactor to give them power, along with a nuclear fuel supply, carry nuclear missiles which contain large amounts of that most deadly atomic stuff - enriched plutonium.

(Irish) The Phoenix 9 5 86

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