

likely owing to the lack of visibility and the confusion of the situation, that the *Rosewood* had been attacked. The commodore of the convoy reported to Heineman that the *Rosewood* "was still with the convoy." In fact, the ship had been torpedoed by U-409.³²

The last incident on 9 March occurred at about 2153Z hours, just after the *Rosewood* reported having been attacked. The *Dauphin* had sighted a U-boat. The Canadian corvette illuminated the area and headed for the position of the U-boat which had disappeared. No contact with the German vessel was obtained.³³

At daylight on 10 March, the *Rosewood* was absent from convoy. At 1150Z hours, it was learned that the tanker was astern of SC-121 and had "requested assistance." The *Bibb* was despatched astern of the convoy to search for the *Rosewood* and found the ship broken into two drifting hulks. There were no survivors. The American warship sank the remains of the *Rosewood* before returning to the screen of SC-121. Later, Heineman mistakenly concluded that the *Malantic* had been torpedoed by a U-boat which had gotten inside the screen from ahead or from the port bow, while the *Rosewood* had been attacked by another U-boat which had approached from astern or the port quarter.

By 1200 hours, SC-121's escorts, with the exception of the *Bibb*, which was astern of the Allied force, had all returned to their stations in the convoy's screen. At this time, numerous HF/DF bearings were being obtained by the Allied ships, but none of the transmissions appeared to be coming from positions close to SC-121. Most of them were thought to be coming from astern of the convoy. Nevertheless, at 0005Z hours, the merchant ship *Nailsea Court* reported over the radio that she was torpedoed, and an explosion was heard from within the convoy. She had been torpedoed by U-229. Three minutes later, U-405 torpedoed the merchant ship *Bonneville*. At 0010Z hours, another torpedo from U-229 hit the bow of the merchant ship *Coulmore*. At 1025Z hours, the merchant ship *Scorton* reported ramming a U-boat. This

was U-665, which escaped without damage. The convoy was illuminated and the escorts began to hunt for the U-boats. Nothing was found. The only contact occurred when the *Dauphin* heard on her sonar what was thought to be a torpedo. The Canadian warship altered course towards the location from which the torpedo was thought to have been fired and attacked with two depth charges, but no contact was established.³⁴

After the escorts had completed a search for the attacking U-boats, they returned to their stations. The *Dauphin*, screened by the USS *Greer*, was later sent astern to rescue the survivors from the torpedoed merchant ships. The two Allied warships were joined by the *Bibb* and the rescue ship *Melrose Abbey*. Ten members of the crews of the *Nailsea Court* and *Bonneville* were rescued, as were eleven men from the *Coulmore*, which was still afloat. The commander of the *Greer* believed that the men on the *Coulmore* had panicked and "had unnecessarily abandoned the ship." Later, tugs would be sent to salvage the *Coulmore*. The ship was successfully towed to Britain.³⁵ By 0937Z hours, the three warships and the *Melrose Abbey* had returned to SC-121.

There were no successful attacks on SC-121 during 10 March, although the U-boats remained in contact with the convoy. At 1807, U-336 reported being driven away from the convoy by a destroyer. At 2100, U-447 informed the BdU that her attack periscope and one of her electric motors were damaged. At 2350, U-229 radioed "convoy not found." Even though a number of U-boats were still maintaining contact with SC-121 during 10 March, the battle was over. The German command authorities decided to end the operation.³⁶

The U-boats were, no doubt, victorious in the battle for Convoy SC-121. The Germans believed that they had sunk nine Allied ships and damaged two others,³⁷ when in fact the number was twelve (*Egyptian*, *Impala*, *Guido*, *Fort Lamy*, *Vojvoda Putnik*, *Empire Lakeland*, *Leadgate*, *Milos*, *Malantic*, *Bonneville*, *Nailsea Court*, *Rosewood*), while the *Scorton* and *Coulmore* were damaged. No U-boats were lost. German success was in great part owing to