



Island intrigue

“Detonate!” thundered the Captain into the radio. There was strained silence on the bridge of the warship. The Captain held the radio to his mouth. It crackled and hissed. He stared through the wide window in front of him at the open sea. The first and second officers lined up behind him. They were all looking attentively towards him to see what would happen next.

Nothing happened. The Captain straightened. His dark-blue naval uniform sat perfectly. There was not a single hair out of place beneath his blue cap. He looked ahead defiantly. He waited a moment. “Will you detonate it, you fool!” he repeated. Some of the men who were lined up behind him jumped.

Übung 1 Unterstreichen Sie die Substantive im Text!

The Captain put down the radio. There was a smile on his face. On the small monitor in front of him, he followed the torpedo's progress through the water. He turned his gaze back to the window, looking for the orange buoy the target of the torpedo exactly 50 metres ahead. The waves were not particularly high on this late afternoon, but he could not see the buoy. “Vargas! Binoculars!” he ordered.

A young man stepped obediently to his side. “Yes, Captain, Sir!” he said.

“Don't shout in my ear, Winston!” scolded the Captain. He took the binoculars from the officer, shouting, “Give them to me!” Vargas thought it was better not to reply. He bowed his head and stepped back. This mission was supposed to advance his position on the



career ladder. At least, that was what he wanted. But would he ever be recommended for a promotion by this Captain? Before he could think any more about this, the Captain's harsh voice rang out again.

"Damnation, Laval! Let it off!"

"Captain? Now?" Laval asked hesitantly from behind his desk at the bridge.

"Now, or you'll be up before the military court for refusal to obey orders!" shouted the Captain. Laval pushed several switches. He was sweating. The torpedo was supposed to ignite itself on contact with the buoy. Why did the Captain want him to detonate it now, a good 200 metres before its proper target?

There was a dull thud through the window of the bridge. Then everything was quiet. There were dark-grey clouds in the air above the spot where the torpedo had exploded just below the surface of the water. The men on the bridge saw how the clouds slowly dissipated and disappeared.

ÜBUNG 2

Übung 2: Setzen Sie die Sätze ins Präsens!

1. The ship sailed into the harbour.

2. The Captain was angry.

3. The soldier gave him the binoculars.

4. The man wore a dark-blue cap.



5. The Captain wanted to detonate the torpedo.

6. The sailors saw the buoy in the distance.

“Captain, Sir! Reporting! Fishing boat hit near the buoy!” said a voice from the radio. Slowly, the Captain lifted the radio to his lips. With his other hand, he absent-mindedly smoothed the increased surface of his uniform jacket. At the top of his voice, he thundered, “You idiot! You were responsible for hitting the target! You should report to me in advance if there is something in the test area! Not after the torpedo has been detonated!”

Noisy crackling came from the loudspeaker. It was impossible to understand what the other man was saying. “Get yourself up to the bridge!” thundered the Captain and switched off the radio. He hurled it onto the floor behind him. A few helpful officers tried to retrieve it. “Leave it, men,” ordered the Captain gruffly.

Übung 3. Wie lauten die Infinitive der Verben?

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. fell | _____ | 6. shook | _____ |
| 2. said | _____ | 7. paid | _____ |
| 3. spoke | _____ | 8. told | _____ |
| 4. began | _____ | 9. got | _____ |
| 5. sank | _____ | 10. held | _____ |



From the way the Captain was standing, it was obvious that he was thinking. He held his head to one side and looked at the blue waves. He lifted the binoculars to his eyes again. Once again, his tone was harsh as he ordered, "Vargas, take two men and get the speedboat ready. Go out to the fishermen over there. Make sure that there are no witnesses."

Vargas blinked under his cap. He did not fully understand and asked, "Sir, excuse me, Sir .."

The other man interrupted him sharply, "Then wear a gas mask, you wimp! Quick, march!"

ÜBUNG 4 Übung 4. Lesen Sie weiter und beantworten Sie folgende Fragen zum Text!

1 Who does Vargas bump into?

2. Why does Vargas nod his head?

3. What colour is the soldier's hat?

4. What does the soldier do that shows that he is nervous?

5. Is the soldier normally very strong or very weak?
