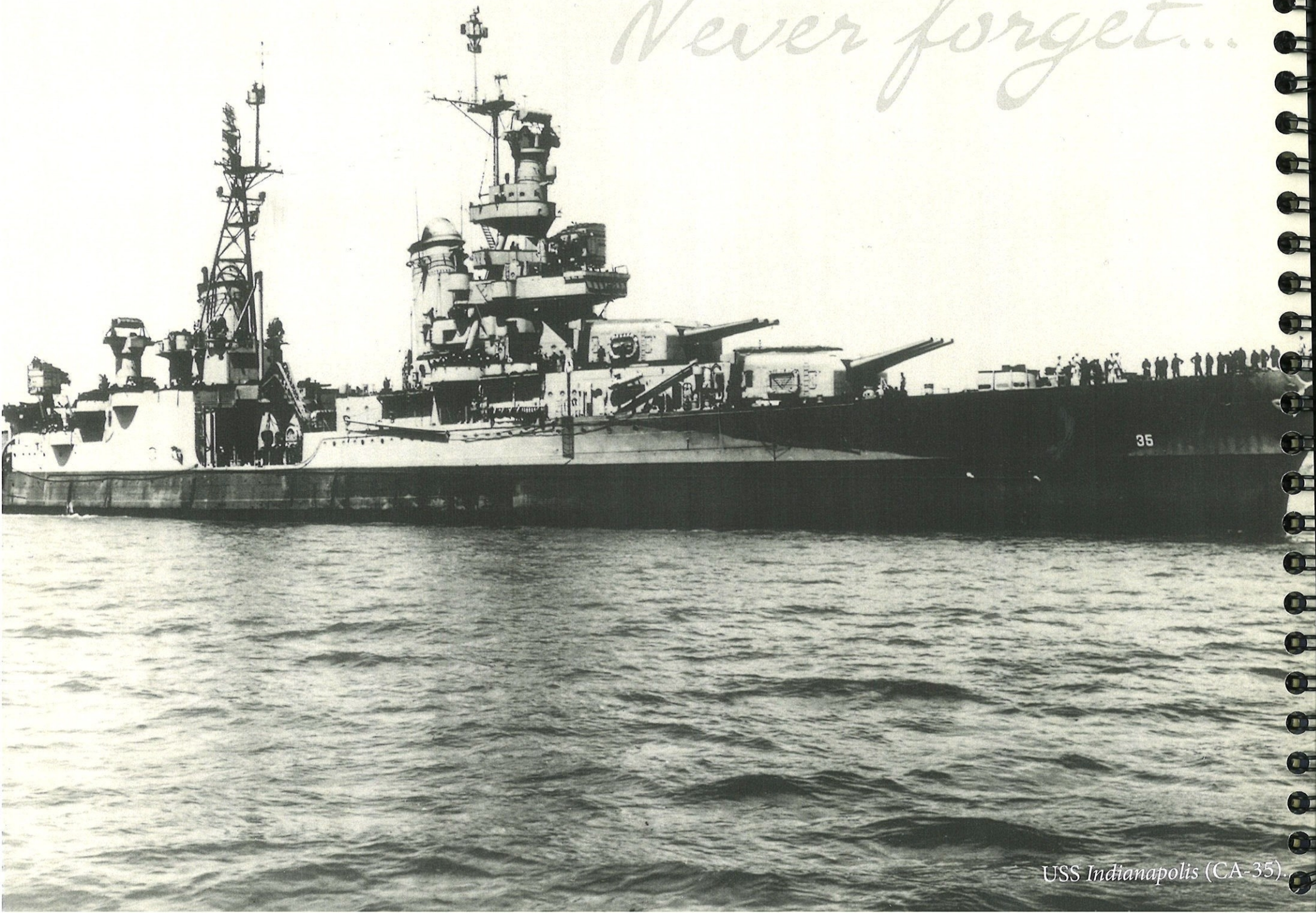


Never forget...

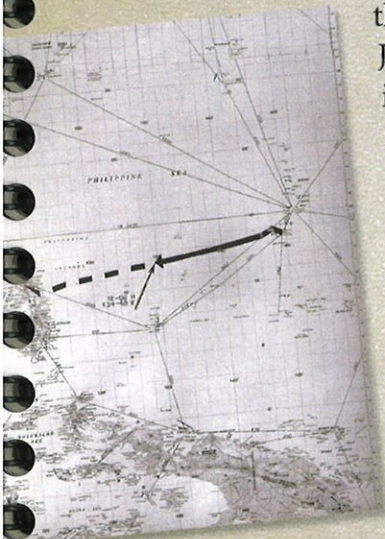


USS Indianapolis (CA-35).

USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) MUSEUM INTRODUCTION

On July 26, 1945, the USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) delivered key components for the world's first operational atomic bomb to the island of Tinian in the South Pacific. After completing this mission, the cruiser proceeded to the Philippines, to participate in war activities and the pending invasion of Japan.

A few minutes after midnight on July 30, 1945, the USS *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by the Japanese Submarine I-58 and sank into the sea in just 12 minutes, taking 297 men with her. Approximately 900 of the original 1,197 men on board were left floating in darkness, without lifeboats, in shark-infested waters. Due to communications problems, the ship was never missed. By the time the survivors were spotted by chance four and half days later, only 317 were left; the other crew members were victims of injury, exposure and shark attacks.



Map identifying location of sinking.



The USS *Indianapolis* deserves a place in history not just as one of the worst at sea naval disaster in history, but also for its pivotal role during and at the ending of World War II.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt on board the USS *Indianapolis* enters New York Harbor for the Presidential Review of the Atlantic Fleet. 1934.

The ship, a 610 foot, 9,800-ton Portland class heavy cruiser was commissioned in 1932. She was selected as his "Ship of State" by President Franklin D.

Roosevelt. During the war, the USS *Indianapolis* became the Flagship of the Fifth Fleet, endured a Kamikaze attack and was part of some of the most decisive battles of the war and earned 10 battle stars.

The USS *Indianapolis* Museum, located in the ship's namesake city, will provide a permanent home for the archives, artifacts and memories of all the men who served on this historic cruiser from 1932 to 1945.

The history of the USS *Indianapolis* must be remembered and memorialized for future generations. The time to do so is now—while some survivors are still with us. The story must be told to educate future generations about the sacrifices these heroes made for the "cost of freedom."

The USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) Museum is a non-profit 501c3 organization established in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Commissioning celebration Nov. 1932. (l. to r.) Mrs. W. R. Sinclair (sister of Lucy Taggart), Evelyn Chambers (niece of Lucy Taggart), Miss Lucy Taggart, commissioning sponsor (daughter of Senator Thomas Taggart) and former Mayor of Indianapolis and Indianapolis Mayor, Reginald Sullivan.

USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM MISSION, VISION & EDUCATION STATEMENTS

Mission:

The mission of the USS *Indianapolis* Museum shall be to educate future generations about the story of the USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35), from her commissioning to her tragic ending: the role she played in the Pacific Theater in World War II and the "cost of freedom" paid by those who served on her. The Museum seeks to present the past by collecting, preserving and exhibiting those artifacts that provide a direct link to the USS *Indianapolis* and the world in which she served from 1932 to 1945.

Through the acquisition of all documents, photographs and artifacts, the Museum will become "the central source" for research about the USS *Indianapolis*.

Vision:

The Museum will provide a place to celebrate the history of the USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) and it will educate and inspire current and future generations through the bravery, sacrifice and leadership of her crew and the courage and hope of her survivors.

Educational Mission:

Educate future generations about the personal achievements, sacrifices and the "cost of freedom" of those who served on the USS *Indianapolis*.

The educational mission will be achieved through interactive displays about personal stories and triumphs of the crew. Interactive displays will challenge students to answer questions

and to provide examples about how they would react and make decisions when faced with real everyday life situations and how to use the character traits exhibited by the men of the USS *Indianapolis*. Each of the following character traits will be defined.

Cost of Freedom	Bravery	Survival
Inspiration	Teamwork	Sacrifice
Leadership	Obligation	Courage
Spirituality	Hope	Friendship
Perseverance	"Never, never give up"	

The traveling Event Museum tours schools to educate students about the USS *Indianapolis* history and provides teachers with the opportunity to create a lesson using the character traits examples based on our educational mission. USS *Indianapolis* Museum staff and special guests are available to visit schools to give presentations and share the history with the students.

Museum staff can work with teachers on history and educational assignments. Recommended reading for students is *Left for Dead. A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis*. By Pete Nelson with a Preface by Hunter Scott.

Member: American Association of Museums



Students at Perry Meridian Middle School inspect USS *Indianapolis* model and displays.

EDUCATION AND TOURING EVENT MUSEUM

USS Indianapolis Museum traveling displays.

Underwriting the educational mission of the touring Event Museum is available for your organization.

Survivor Jimmy O'Donnell with students from Zionsville Middle School.

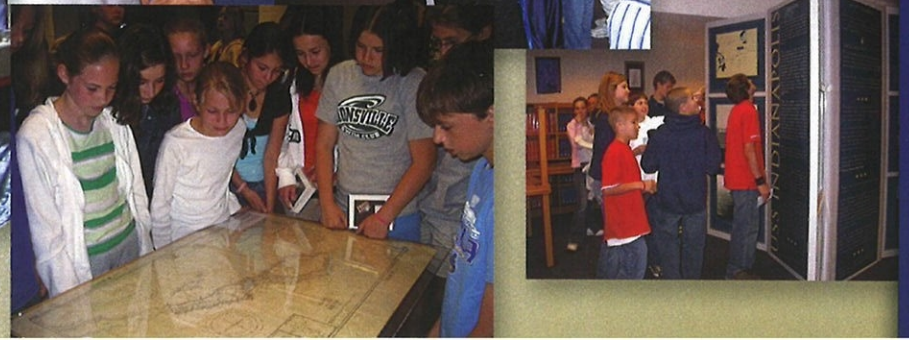
3



USS Indianapolis model (16 feet) on display at Perry Meridian Middle School.

I-58 map donated by Dr. Charles Fain.

Students tour the traveling displays.



WHY SUPPORT THE USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM

The USS *Indianapolis* Museum Board of Directors' purpose is to develop and build a museum in Indianapolis, Indiana. Through committed leadership, you can play an important role in helping get the museum underway.

- USS *Indianapolis* Museum would add another premier tourist destination for history, education and learning in Indianapolis.

- USS *Indianapolis* history connects to the city of its namesake.

- The USS *Indianapolis* Museum is not only for the city of Indianapolis, Indiana – there were crew members from all the United States at that time, except Vermont. This is not just an Indiana story; this is a United States of America story. The *Indianapolis* survivors have passed the watch to us and we have accepted. Our mission is to do our part raising the awareness of the impact of freedom in our lives and prepare future generations for their watch.

- *One third of Americans (100 million) say they have visited an art museum, a history museum, an aquarium, zoo, botanical garden or science and technology center within the past six months. Almost a quarter (75 million) say they have visited within the past year.*

- *Tourists who visit museums spend nearly twice as much on their travel as those who do not. Families on historic trips spend an average of \$722 per trip, excluding transportation to the destination.*
– American Association of Museums

- A permanent museum is needed to house the USS *Indianapolis* history, archives, collections, artifacts, photographs and memorabilia.

- Celebrate the 13 year history of the USS *Indianapolis* and its contribution to the “cost of freedom” from 1932 to 1945.

- Become a part of the community and enjoy the pride and exposure of being associated with the future of an internationally recognized museum.

- Be a supporter of a powerful educational mission, message and teachings for future generations.



USS *Indianapolis* was the Flagship of the Pacific Fifth Fleet. Photo of officers of CINPAC including USS *Indianapolis* Captain Charles McVay and one-time Indianapolis resident and Shortridge High School graduate, Admiral R. A. Spruance.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt on board the USS *Indianapolis* during his Good Neighbor Tour and to attend the Pan American Conference in Buenos Aires, November 1936.



USS *Indianapolis* delivered components of the first atomic bomb to the island of Tinian. Little Boy is being loaded on board the B-29 Enola Gay.



USS *Indianapolis* National Memorial.

WHY THERE WILL BE INTEREST IN A USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM



Last known photograph of the USS *Indianapolis* as she leaves Tinian July 26, 1945.

- The sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* represents one of the worst at-sea disaster in U.S. Navy history and the worst at-sea disaster of World War II.
- World War II history is on center stage as an interest category with all generations.
- Powerful educational message for all generations.

- People will be interested in learning more about the historic cruiser, those who served, its World War II contribution and viewing the thousands of artifacts, letters, photographs and memorabilia.
- The history of the USS *Indianapolis* as the "Ship of State" of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

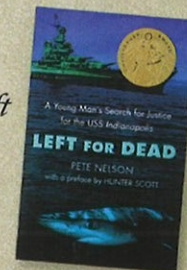
More than 20 books have been written about the USS *Indianapolis*.

Countless numbers of newspaper and magazine articles have appeared on the subject.

Through the efforts of teenager Hunter Scott in 2000, The United States Congress passed a resolution that USS *Indianapolis* Captain Charles McVay's military record should now reflect that he is exonerated for the loss of the USS *Indianapolis* and so many of her crew.

- The sunken Japanese Submarine I-58 responsible for the USS *Indianapolis* sinking was found and featured in a Discovery Channel program.

- Currently there is a full-length motion picture in production by Universal Studios, based on the USS *Indianapolis* history and the book, *Left for Dead* about the efforts of teenager, Hunter Scott to exonerate Captain Charles McVay.



- Discovery Channel sent noted undersea explorer Curt Newport out to locate the USS *Indianapolis*. While unsuccessful, the search was a Discovery Channel feature program.

- A&E and The History Channel continue to air their USS *Indianapolis* documentary program.

- There are more than 360 Navy and Maritime museums in the United States, 125 of them are dedicated to the history of a specific Navy ship or vessel.

- Interest in World War II Navy history is so high the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago raised \$35 million to restore the German U-505 submarine and to create a World War II pavilion at the museum.



Pilot Lt. Wilbur Gwinn and his crew who first spotted the survivors.



THE MUSEUM'S PROPOSED DISPLAYS, EXHIBITS & EDUCATION

- Crew Member Wall: The final sailing list.
There will be 1,197 individual wall components in a continuous row throughout the museum with one for each crew member. Each crew member wall will feature their personal story and history, photographs, personal affects, artifacts, memorabilia and stories from their family.
- USS *Indianapolis* in Peace Time 1930s.
- USS *Indianapolis*, "Ship of State" for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- USS *Indianapolis* 1932 to 1945 History Timeline.
- Captains of the USS *Indianapolis*.
- The Life of Captain Charles McVay.
- History of the Navy Officers and Commanders in the Pacific Theater.
Example: Biography and artifacts of Admiral Raymond Spruance, Commander of Fifth Fleet and Graduate of Shortridge High School in Indianapolis.
- Pearl Harbor Attack Starts World War II with the sinking of the USS *Arizona* and the Sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* Ends World War II.
Example: History of Ships Lost During World War II.
- USS *Indianapolis* Pacific Campaigns and "Ten Battle Stars" History.
- History and Timeline of Mission to Deliver Atomic Bomb.
- Memorial Wall, Display and Artifacts honoring those who lost their lives while serving on board.
- USS *Indianapolis* Sinking History and Timeline.
- Minorities serving on the USS *Indianapolis*.
Approximately 39 African-American sailors died instantly when the first torpedo hit the bow of the USS Indianapolis.
- Crew Survival in the Water.
- History of Rescue Ships and Hospital Ships with Personal Crew Stories and Artifacts.
- History of Rescue Aircraft and Personal Crew Stories and Artifacts.
- The Court Martial of Captain Charles McVay.
- Student, Hunter Scott's Work to have Congress Exonerate Captain Charles McVay.
- History of Atomic Bomb Development from Beginning to Hiroshima.
- History of Japanese Submarines with Special Feature on I-58, Commander and Crew.
- Role of the Japanese Kamikaze Attack in World War II.

Other Museum Main Features

- USS *Indianapolis* History Center and Library for Research.
- Theater for Video History of USS *Indianapolis* and Special Guest Lectures.
- Area for Traveling World War II Exhibits On-Loan From Other Museums.
- History of Indiana Navy Ships and Vessels.

THE MUSEUM WILL TELL THE PERSONAL STORIES OF THE CREW

Earl Henry Jr. was just six weeks old when he lost his father when the USS *Indianapolis* sunk. No one saw Lt. Commander Henry after the torpedoes hit the cruiser. Earl Henry Jr. travels the country attending community events and schools sharing the life of the father he never knew. Dr. Henry was the cruiser's dentist and the only Tennessee dentist who lost his life during World War II. Dr. Henry was a lover of birds and became an accomplished bird illustrator and painter very late in his short life. He painted only 30 pictures of birds. As a young boy, he combed wooded areas to bird watch and began collecting bird pictures from soda boxes. Dr. Henry learned to mount birds for study and imitate bird calls. The bird calls are the only sound Earl Henry Jr. has ever heard from his father's voice. Earl Henry Jr. sells prints and greeting cards featuring his father's bird paintings.



Painted by Lt. Earl Henry while on board the USS *Indianapolis*.



Earl Henry Jr. with his father's artwork collection.



Lt. and Mrs. Earl Henry dining two weeks before he departed on the last mission. Mrs. Henry delivered their son a few weeks later!

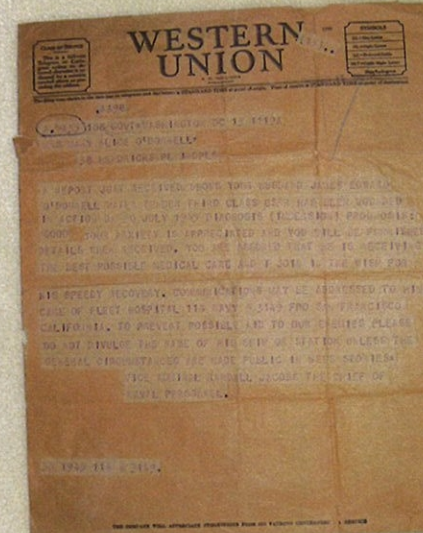


SELECTED ARTIFACTS FROM THE USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM



Commissioning flag from the 1932 commissioning ceremony at the Philadelphia Navy Yard,

Purple Heart Medal belonging to Survivor.



Western Union telegram informing spouse of Survivor, that he survived the USS *Indianapolis* sinking.



Oil soaked dollar bills Survivor Jimmy O'Donnell had in his pocket while in the water for five days.

USS *Indianapolis* ship bell. Bell was removed prior to battle to reduce weight. Bell weighs 800 lbs.



Military clothing belonging to USS *Indianapolis* crew member.



A crew member photo album from the USS *Indianapolis*.

SUPPORT FOR THE USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM



James "Jimmy" O'Donnell WT3
USS *Indianapolis* Survivor and Indianapolis Resident

As a survivor of the USS *Indianapolis*, I feel that a museum with all its memorabilia and artifacts telling the story of the ship and bravery of her crew and that "never give up" is very appropriate. It will be visited for generations to

come by people interested in the history of World War II and how our freedom in this country was won.

I feel it is very important to keep this story alive for the younger generation and the educational value.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor, Indiana



I want to express my support for your efforts to build a museum to preserve the memory of those lost in the USS *Indianapolis* tragedy nearly sixty years ago.

I have had the chance to visit with some of the remaining survivors. They convey in vivid detail and with emotion the events surrounding this naval disaster. We would be well served to capture this oral history in a way that can be shared with generations to come. The building of a museum in the

ship's namesake city is a fitting way both to pay tribute to the men of the USS *Indianapolis* and to educate our young people about the ship and the role its crew played in World War II.

I would encourage others to join me in support for this important undertaking. The museum will be a wonderful addition to the many memorials and historic exhibits honoring our veterans here in Indianapolis.

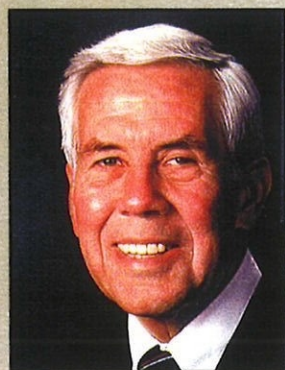


Bart Peterson
Mayor, Indianapolis

Indianapolis is home to a national memorial to the men of the USS *Indianapolis*. It stands prominently along the Downtown Canal Walk, where countless residents and visitors pause to remember the sacrifices of the "Greatest

Generation." It is a memorial in which I take great pride. The museum will be an ideal compliment to the memorial by educating future generations of the heroism and courage demonstrated by the sailors of the USS *Indianapolis*.

SUPPORT FOR THE USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM



Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator, Indiana

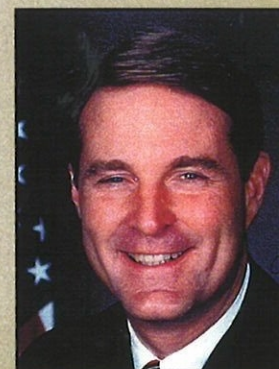
I was pleased to learn about the mission and plan to build a museum in Indianapolis to commemorate the role this great warship and its brave crew played in World War II. I commend the professional volunteers for taking on such a worthy project.

I have always believed in the importance of preserving the noble heritage of service and sacrifice borne by the Americans in times of war. The tragic fate of so many crew members of the USS *Indianapolis* during the final hours of World War II is an especially important event in this nation's

history that must be remembered by future generations of Americans. This museum will ensure that the sacrifices of these Sailors are never forgotten.

As a former Mayor of Indianapolis, I especially appreciate how our city's many fine memorials and museums contribute to the city's character and reputation. This museum would be a fitting complement to the USS *Indianapolis* memorial on the North Canal. I wish you and your organization every success in this endeavor.

Evan Bayh
United States Senator, Indiana



The fate of the USS *Indianapolis* changed the course of World War II and the bravery of those aboard and the mission must never be forgotten. The USS *Indianapolis* National Memorial recently erected along the Canal commemorates the tragedy and honors the survivors. While the memorial is a wonderful addition to this state, the need for future generations to learn about the mission

is essential. A museum filled with information, artifacts, and survival stories of the USS *Indianapolis* will be a fitting way to continue sharing the legacy for years to come.

I strongly support the efforts of the USS *Indianapolis* Museum and the Survivors Organization to build this museum, and I hope to be of assistance in anyway I possibly can.



Julia Carson, Member of Congress

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve in Congress. Among its greatest satisfactions is the power to do good, taking aim to right real wrongs, large and small. As I learned the details of the tragedy from the survivors and from a school child named Hunter Scott – how the crew performed distinguished and dangerous service; how the ship was forgotten; how the torpedoes tore through the hull; how the crew was lost, then some rescued; how they were discovered by chance – I decided that I would and should and could use a small part of the power of the people of Indianapolis to bring honor to those who came home and their shipments who did not.

Most of us will never be asked nor expected to put our lives on the line. The study of those who did and who gave so much in doing so bears our respectful attention in order that we may better learn the meaning-the shape-of sacrifice. The remarkable strength and inspiration offered here will contribute greatly to the undertaking. As this museum collects artifacts about the lore of the USS *Indianapolis* and communicates the crew's personal stories, we will be able to safeguard, share and pass along the lessons of this tragedy to a wider audience, to the generation ahead.

SUPPORT FOR THE USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM



Dr. Suellen Reed
Superintendent of Public Instruction

In Indiana's schools, we work to teach our students about the rich history of our state, our nation, and the world. We recognize that these stories from our past must be told to each new generation, so they might know and honor the efforts and sacrifices of those who came before us.

The service of the USS *Indianapolis* and her brave crew is an important part of this history. A museum dedicated to the USS *Indianapolis* would be a fitting and lasting tribute, a wonderful addition to our state, and a valuable educational opportunity for Hoosier students.

Mike Whelihan
State Adjutant Disabled American Veterans

On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Indiana, we are honored to assist your organization in creating a USS *Indianapolis* Museum. Since our organization is comprised of veterans who bear the scars of war, both physical and mental, it is only proper that we perpetuate the sacrifices of the made by the crew of the USS *Indianapolis*.



Stephen W. Short
Department Adjutant The American Legion, Department of Indiana

As a former U.S. History teacher, a veteran and a resident of the greater Indianapolis area, I can think of no greater tribute to our city and to our veteran population than to be home to a museum honoring the USS *Indianapolis*. Indianapolis is second only to our nation's capital in number and quality of memorials honoring our country's veterans.

I fully endorse the efforts of the USS *Indianapolis* Museum volunteers in their efforts to create a solemn and fitting tribute to these brave sailors and Marines who suffered on our behalf literally to the end of World War II. This worthy project should be supported by all Hoosiers.



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* Cover photo: PhoM 1/c Alfred J. Sedivi

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USS INDIANAPOLIS TEN BATTLE STARS

- ★ Bougainville and Salamaua-Lae Raids – February 1942
- ★ Aleutians Operations – March 1943
- ★ Gilbert Islands Operations – November 1943
- ★ Marshall Islands Operations, Kwajalein, Majuro and Eniwetok Atolls – January to February 1944
- ★ Asiatic-Pacific Raids, Yap, Palau, Ulithi and Woleai, March – April 1944
- ★ Marianas Operations, Battle of the Philippine Sea and capture of Saipan and Guam – June to August 1944
- ★ Capture of Tinian Island – July 1944
- ★ Western Caroline Operations – September 1944
- ★ Japanese Home Islands Raids, Honshu, Nansei Shoto and the capture of Iwo Jima – February 1945
- ★ Okinawa Gunto Operations – March 1945

USS INDIANAPOLIS OPERATIONAL HISTORY

1929

December. Navy Department formally named cruiser #35 as *USS Indianapolis*.

1930

March 31. Keel laid as light cruiser at Camden, New Jersey by The New York Shipbuilding Company.

1931

November 7. Cruiser launched. Christened by Miss Lucy Taggart, daughter of Senator Thomas Taggart, a former Mayor of Indianapolis.

1932

November 15. Commissioned at Philadelphia Navy Yard

1933

January 10. Sailed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and shakedown cruise.

Spring. President Franklin D. Roosevelt chose the *USS Indianapolis* as his "Ship of State" using her as his personal transport for trans-Atlantic and South American travel on numerous occasions. Many of the World's leaders and royalty toured her deck as guests of the United States. *USS Indianapolis* became a symbol of a dynamic, young America wherever she went in the world.

July 1. After a shakedown cruise, *Indianapolis* steamed to Provincetown, Massachusetts to Eastport and Bar Harbor, Maine to pick up

President Franklin D. Roosevelt from his Campobello Island summer home. She took the President to Annapolis, Maryland, the home of the US Naval Academy. After entertaining dignitaries, she departed for Philadelphia.

September 6. Carried C.A. Swansom, Secretary of the Navy on inspection tour of Pacific bases arriving at San Diego, California on October 27

November 1. Became flagship of Scouting Force, US Fleet.

1934

May 31. Arrived in New York and picked for President Roosevelt and numerous dignitaries for the Presidential Review of US Fleet in the Hudson River.

1935

Indianapolis participated in fleet war games in the Pacific.

1936

November 18. Picked up President Roosevelt at Charleston, South Carolina for the "Good Neighbor" tour of South America including the Pan American Conference in Buenos Aires. This was the first time in history that a serving President of the United States had visited outside North America. Returned to Charleston, South Carolina December 15.

1937 – 1938

Indianapolis participated in wartime training exercises.

1939

November. Entered Mare Island, California Naval Yard after having traveled over 215,000 miles since her commissioning.

1940

April. US Fleet moved to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as a deterrent to tensions between the United States and Japan.

1941

December 7. On bombarding exercises off Johnson Island, west of Hawaii. After Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, joined Task Force 12 in a futile search to find the attacking Japanese carrier force.

1942

*** January – March.** *Indianapolis* experiences first wartime action. Operated in South Pacific including Rabaul and Port Moresby. On February 20, the American force was attacked by two waves of Japanese bombers with 16 of 18 of the bombers shot down by US aircraft. In March, she returned to United States for refitting.

June. Escorted a convoy to Australia then returned to the North Pacific.

* Indicates Battle Star Award for Service

USS INDIANAPOLIS OPERATIONAL HISTORY (CONT.)

July. Joined Aleutians Fleet Force in defending Aleutians Islands after Japanese invasion. Shelled Kiska Island.

September – December. Returned to United States for refitting and overhaul.

1943

January. Returned to Aleutian Islands to support Allied landings against Japanese held islands.

February 19. Intercepted Japanese cargo ship *Akagane Maru*. Enemy ship blew up with massive force after hits from USS *Indianapolis*.

*** February – March.** Returned to Mare Island for major overhaul. *Indianapolis* is selected as the Flagship for Admiral Raymond Spruance, Commander, Fifth Fleet. Admiral Spruance was the victorious in the Battle of Midway.

November 10. Left Pearl Harbor for the opening of the Central Pacific Campaign and Operation Galvanic, the invasion of the Gilbert Islands.

*** November 19.** December Bombarded Island of Tarawa and Makin prior to Allied Landing. Confirmed enemy plane shot down.

December 7. Departed for Pearl Harbor with Fifth Fleet Staff to plan the Marshall Island invasion.

1944

*** January 31.** Bombarded Kawajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

*** March – April.** *Indianapolis* carried the Flay in company with Task Force 58 which raided the Western Carolines to support General MacArthur's operations in New Guinea. Participated in raid on Palau Islands. Confirmed second enemy plane downed, a torpedo bomber.

*** June 9 -13.** Became part of bombarding force against Tinian, Saipan and Guam. Capture of these islands brought Japan within range of B-29 bombers. *Indianapolis* hit by enemy 120mm shell which failed to explode.

June 19. Participated in Battle of Philippine Sea (Marianas Turkey Shoot). Confirmed enemy torpedo bomber downed. *Indianapolis* rescues many naval aviators whose aircraft ran out of fuel late in the night.

*** July 24.** Contributed fire support for the Allied landing on Tinian Island.

July 29. *Indianapolis* became the first US Navy ship to enter Apra Harbor, Guam since the start of the war. She took Admiral Spruance there to meet with the Marine and Army generals for the flag raising ceremony.

*** September.** Shelled Pelelin Island in Palau to support landings and Manus in the Admiralty Islands.

October. Returned to Mare Island for overhaul and refitting.

1945

January 14. With Admiral Spruance aboard, joined Task Force 58 off Japan and in February participated in Allied carrier strikes against the Japanese homeland.

*** February 20.** Arrived off Iwo Jima to again provide fire support for invasion.

February 25. Rejoined Task Force 58 and was stationed south of the Japanese mainland to furnish cover for carrier strikes against Tokyo.

March 14. Joined fast carrier force to strike at southern Japanese islands of Kyushu and Honshu.

*** March 24.** Took part in seven day pre-invasion bombardment of Okinawa. Confirmed six enemy planes downed and assisted with two other.

March 31. During the morning, *Indianapolis* is hit by Japanese kamikaze plane on the port side of the after-deck of the ship and fell into the sea causing little damage. The kamikaze released its bomb and it penetrated the ship's deck on the port quarter and exploded under causing severe damage. The bomb killed nine men and injured 26. Two holes were blown in the ship's bottom and several compartments were flooded. *Indianapolis* had a list to port but steamed under her own power to Mare Island and arrived in late April.

* Indicates Battle Star Award for Service

USS INDIANAPOLIS OPERATIONAL HISTORY (CONT.)

May – June. Underwent repairs and refitted with the latest radar and twin 20mm guns with electronic sights. One aircraft catapult was removed. While in dry dock at Mare Island, the War Department chose the ship to transport components of the atomic bomb to Tinian Island.

July 15. *Indianapolis* reported Hunter's Point Navy Yard in San Francisco to pick up atomic bomb components.

July 16. Early in the morning and under security and secrecy, the atom bomb components were loaded. The components included the firing mechanism and the major part of the uranium-235 nuclear material to be used in assembly of the atomic bomb, "Little Boy." Operation Bronx Shipment was the code name for the transfer of the components from the United States to Tinian Island. The firing mechanism was in a 15 foot long crate and the uranium-235 weighing 132 pounds was in two lead lined containers weighing 200 pounds each and measured 18 inches in diameter and 18 inches long. The crate was bolted down to the hanger deck and the uranium containers were secured to the deck in the admiral's cabin. The uranium containers were accompanied by two scientists posing as Army artillery officers.

Indianapolis sailed for Pearl Harbor at an average speed of 29 knots in the record 74.5 hour trip. After replenishing, it sailed for the island of Tinian and arrived July 26 to unload the secret cargo and personnel. *Indianapolis* then headed

South and made a brief stop at Guam to receive new orders.

July 28. Left Guam unescorted for the Leyte Gulf to join the *USS Idaho* for gunnery practice. From Leyte, she was to rejoin the fleet off Okinawa for the expected invasion of Japan. A single coded message was sent from Guam to Idaho advising her of the *Indianapolis*'s orders. The radio message was "garbled" and the *Idaho* did ask for a repeat of the message. The *Idaho* did not know *Indianapolis* was on her way.

July 30. At 12:14 AM, take two torpedo hits from Japanese Submarine I-58; one blowing away the *Indianapolis*'s bow and striking the starboard side in the machinery spaces near a powder magazine and one of her fuel oil bunkers. The electrical power was knocked out and a SOS was not sent. In 12 minutes, the *USS Indianapolis* sinks by the bow. It is believed that almost 300 men may have been killed immediately or went down with the ship. Of the 1,196 men on board it is estimated 900 hundred men made it into the water with 317 surviving to be rescued.

August 2. A Navy Lockheed PV-1 Ventura spotted debris and survivors over a 200 mile area and radioed his base at Palau. A Catalina PB-Y Flying Boat was dispatched and against Navy regulations landed the aircraft near some survivors and took as many men as possible on board and on the wings. 56 men were rescued.

August 3. Responding to the radio rescue calls,

the destroyers, *Cecil Doyle*, *Talbot*, *Dufilho* arrived at the scene. Auxiliary ships the *Ringness*, *Bassett* and *Register* came to the rescue. 317 survivors were rescued. The survivors were taken to the Peleliu and Samar in the Philippines and later all transferred to Guam for rehabilitation.

August 4. Destroy escort *Alvin C. Cockrill* and the destroyer *Aylwin* arrived but found no survivors.

August 5. The destroyer *Helm* and destroyer escort *Helm* arrived. The *Helm* found and buried at sea 28 bodies. Both ships cleaned up the area leaving just the thinning oil slick. At the end of the search, a radius of 100 miles of ocean or more than 31,400 square miles had been combed.

August 6. The atom bomb with components delivered by the *Indianapolis* was dropped by B-29 "Enola Gay" on Japanese city of Hiroshima.

August 13. Inquiry on the *Indianapolis* disaster begins on Guam.

August 14, 8:00 PM, EST. President Harry Truman makes radio announcement the Japanese have accepted the Allies' surrender terms.

August 14, 9:00 PM, EST. The sinking of the *USS Indianapolis* was announced on the radio. Newspaper reports were to follow.

September 2. Japan signed surrender documents on board *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay ending the World War II.



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