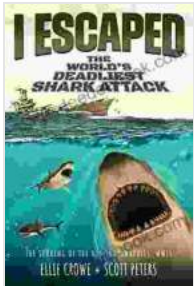


# The USS Indianapolis Disaster: A Tragedy in the Deep



## I Escaped The World's Deadliest Shark Attack: The USS Indianapolis Disaster, WW2 by Scott Peters

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 7290 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 114 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## The Final Voyage

The USS Indianapolis was a heavy cruiser of the United States Navy, commissioned in 1932. During World War II, she served in the Pacific Theater, participating in several major battles, including the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway, and the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

In July 1945, the Indianapolis was assigned to a top-secret mission: to deliver components of the atomic bomb "Little Boy" to the island of Tinian in the Marianas. The mission was successful, and the Indianapolis departed Tinian on July 26, bound for the Philippines.

## The Sinking

In the early morning hours of July 30, 1945, the Indianapolis was steaming through the Philippine Sea when she was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine I-58. The torpedoes struck the ship's starboard side, causing massive damage and flooding. Within minutes, the Indianapolis began to sink rapidly.

Of the roughly 1,196 men on board the Indianapolis, over 800 survived the initial sinking. However, they faced a perilous ordeal in the open water. Many of the men were wounded, and the survivors had little food or water. They were also exposed to the elements and to attacks by sharks.

### **Search and Rescue**

The Indianapolis was not reported missing until August 2, 1945, when she failed to arrive at her destination. The U.S. Navy immediately launched a search and rescue operation, but it took several days to locate the survivors.

When the survivors were finally found, they were in a desperate condition. Many had died from their wounds, exposure, or shark attacks. Only 316 men survived the ordeal.

### **Aftermath**

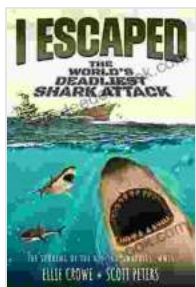
The sinking of the USS Indianapolis was the worst naval disaster in U.S. history in terms of the number of casualties. The disaster led to the development of new search and rescue procedures and to the adoption of the "abandon ship" protocol, which required all crew members to leave a sinking vessel as quickly as possible.

The sinking of the Indianapolis also raised questions about the U.S. Navy's command structure and decision-making during the final days of World War II. The disaster led to the resignation of Admiral William Halsey, Jr., who had been in command of the U.S. Third Fleet at the time of the sinking.

## Legacy

The USS Indianapolis disaster remains one of the most tragic events in American naval history. The disaster has been the subject of numerous books, articles, and documentaries. It has also inspired several works of fiction, including the novel "Jaws" by Peter Benchley.

The tragedy of the USS Indianapolis is a reminder of the dangers faced by those who serve in the military. It is also a reminder of the importance of proper planning and preparation in the face of adversity.



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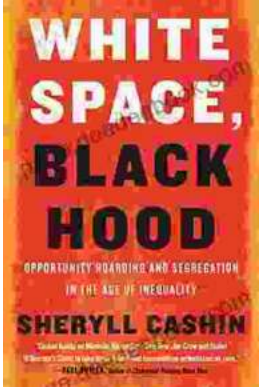
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