

R 396B



DECLASSIFICATION CONSULTANT

July 12, 1988

Memorandum

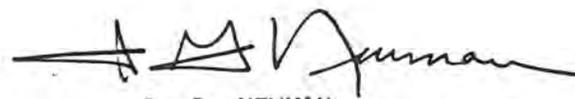
Office of Navy JAG
Code 145.1

Ms. Chekonik:

Attached are the ULTRA extracts from the investigation into the sinking of USS INDIANAPOLIS.

These extracts are currently UNCLASSIFIED and I have appended a FORM NDW NAVSECGRU 5510/4 indicating this.

As I indicated to you on the telephone, we do not have a complete file of the investigation and the attached pages represent the total of what we hold in our Repository on the subject of the INDIANAPOLIS' sinking.


I. G. NEWMAN



Reviewed for declassification as authorized by
Executive Order 12356 on 18 MAY 1988
(Date)

Present Classification and Special Handling Requirements:

UNCLASSIFIED

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

SI CODEWORD

TOP SECRET

SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAM

PA INFORMATION

FOIA EXEMPTION

Reason for extension of classification (if applicable):

- Military plans, weapons, or operations
- Vulnerabilities or capabilities relating to the national security
- Foreign government information
- Intelligence activities, sources or methods
- Foreign relations/activities
- Scientific, technological or economic matters
- Nuclear materials or facilities
- Cryptology
- Cryptographic Security

Authority: COMNAVSECGRU (GHD/IGN)

Next Scheduled Review Date: N/A

Item(s): COMNAVSECGRU FILE 5830/114: ULTRA EXTRACTS FROM
THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE SINKING OF USS
INDIANAPOLIS

NDW NAVSECGRU 5510/4 (REV 8-82)

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE	
FROM	CINCPAC PEARL	ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	CPOP OP 1	
RELEASED BY		ALL HOLDERS 35-S COMINCH <i>F-22</i> FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2	
DATE	14 JULY 1945		ROUTINE 3	
TOR CODEROOM			DEFERRED 4	
			BASEGRAM 5	
DECODED BY	KENNEDY/PLUMLEY	CINCPAC ADV. HDQTR CTF 77 CINCAFPAC COMSEVENTHFLT INFORMATION <i>gib</i>	PRIORITY 9	
PARAPHRASED BY	EXACT		CHECKED BY	ROUTINE 10
			MARTIN	DEFERRED 12
ROUTED BY	DODD		DITTOED BY	BASEGRAM 13
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW 15	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16	

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP 142232 PAGE 1 OF 2 (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

SUBMARINE I-53 DEPARTING BUNGO CHANNEL 141700 FOR PATROL STATION
 MIDWAY BETWEEN LEYTE GULF AND OKINAWA. THIS IS FIRST OF 4 SUBS
 WHICH HAVE BEEN DIRECTED SORTIE WESTERN INLAND SEA FOR OFFENSIVE
 PATROLS AGAINST BLUE SHIPPING AND FOR RECONNAISSANCE. THIS IS
ULTRA. FOLLOWING ARE AVAILABLE DETAILS REGARDING OTHER THREE.
I-58 DEPARTING (18TH?) FOR PATROL IN VICINITY POSITION 500 MILES
NORTH OF (PALAU?). I-47 AND I-367 DEPART 19TH FOR PATROL ON
 LINE BETWEEN OKINAWA AND MARIANAS THE FORMER 350 MILES FROM
 OKINAWA AND LATTER (450?) MILES FROM MARIANAS. ALL SUBS CARRY
5-6 HUMAN TORPEDOES, PROBABLY ON DECK AND PROBABLY IN ADDITION
TO REGULAR TORPEDOES. IN APPARENT EFFORT INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS
 ANTISUB OPERATIONS IN TSUGARU - SOYA STRAITS AREA ALL MAGNETIC
 DETECTOR EQUIPPED PLANES OF SAEKI AIR GROUP DIRECTED 13 JULY

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE.

No. 3F-1 OR 'CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL

F-341 6 COPIES

OPNAV-3-SI-P

2 COPIES record

OPNAV 19-78

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~~TOP SECRET~~
TOP SECRET-ULTRA

regulations. COPY NO.

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM _____		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY _____			PRIORITY 2
DATE _____			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____			6
PARAPHRASED BY _____	CHECKED BY _____		PRIORITY 9
ROUTED BY _____	DITTOED BY _____		ROUTINE 10
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UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			14
			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
			<input type="checkbox"/>

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP **140232** PAGE 2 OF 2 (Use G. C. T.)

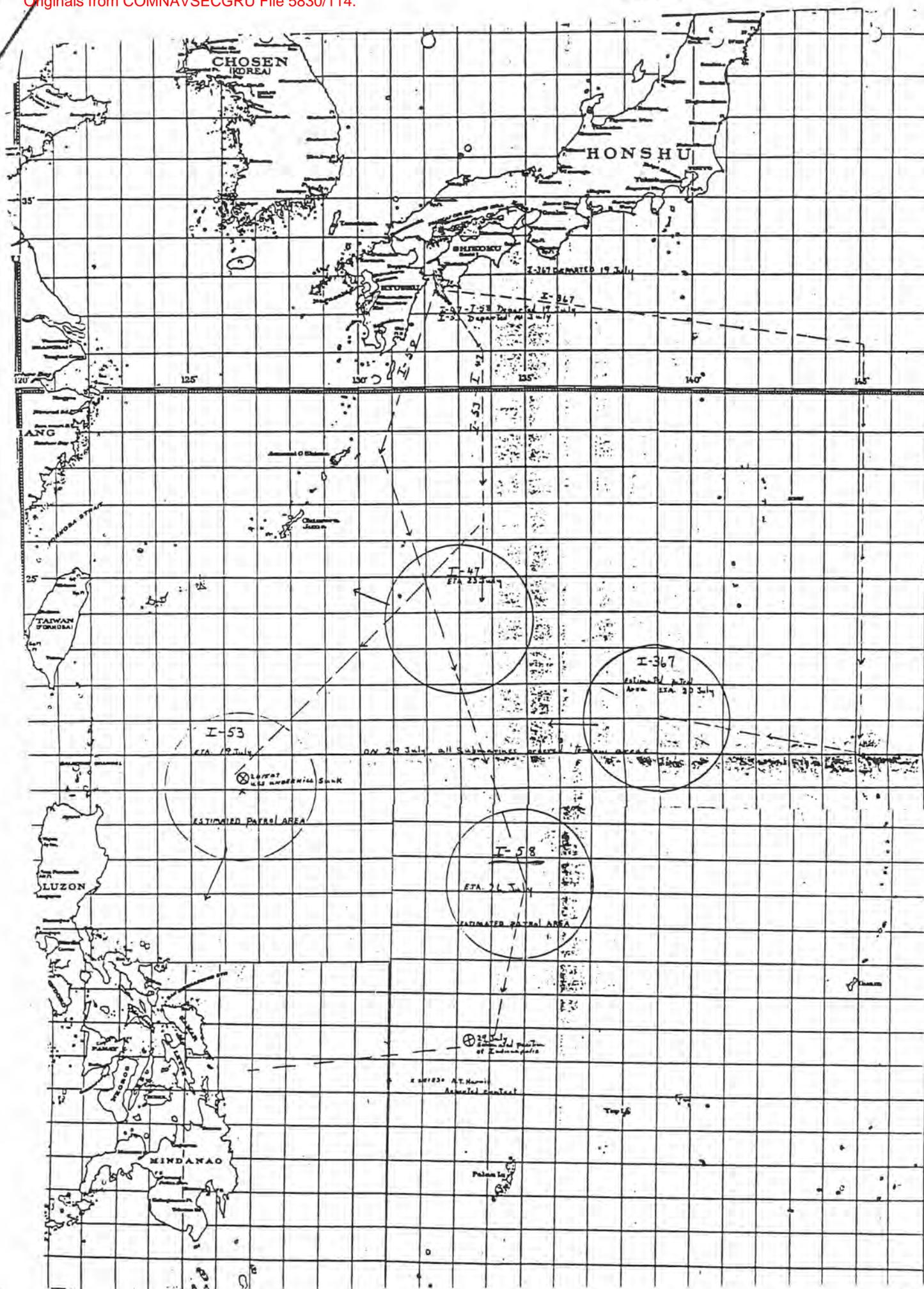
ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

PROCEED OMINATO AND REPORT TO COMDR OMINATO GUARD DISTRICT
 ESCORT FORCE. EVIDENCE 12TH THAT RADARS URGENTLY REQUESTED
 FOR 30 JILLS OF NIGHT TORPEDO ATTACK UNIT OF AIR GROUP 131
 BELIEVED AT KATORI.

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET-ULTRA~~
~~TOP SECRET-ULTRA~~

Handle only in accordance with instructions. COPY NO. OPNAV 19-78



DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM CINCPAC PEARL		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	OP OP OP 1
RELEASED BY		ALL HOLDERS 35 S COMINCH <i>F-22</i>	PRIORITY 2
DATE 18 JULY 1945			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY POHLY		CINCPAC ADV HDQTRS CINCAFPAC COM 7TH FLEET CTF 77 <i>ML</i>	PRIORITY 9
PARAPHRASED BY EXACT	CHECKED BY MARTIN		ROUTINE 10
ROUTED BY DODD	DITTOED BY		DEFERRED 12
			BASEGRAM 13
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW 15
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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP **180209** **PAGE ONE** (Use G. C. T.) 19

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT 20

THIS IS ULTRA. SUBMARINES I 47 AND I 367 DEPART EAST 22
 ENTRANCE BUNGO CHANNEL 19 JULY AT 1930 AND 2000 RESPECTIVELY 23
 FOR OFFENSIVE PATROLS AGAINST BLUE SHIPPING. BOTH WILL BE 24
 STATIONED ON LINE BETWEEN OKINAWA AND MARIANAS FORMER ABOUT 25
 350 MILES FROM OKINAWA AND LATTER ABOUT (450 MILES?) FROM 26
 MARIANAS AND BOTH EQUIPPED WITH HUMAN TORPEDOES. ALL 27
 DETACHMENTS OF AIR GROUP 901 (JAPAN SEA AIR ESCORT AIR GROUP) 28
 WERE NOTIFIED 16TH THAT BLUE SUBS HAD NOT BEEN DETECTED IN 29
 JAPAN SEA SINCE 11 JULY. EVIDENCE ENEMY FOUND DESTRUCTION 30
 OF OIL PROCESSING INSTALLATIONS AT BALIKPAPAN UNEXPECTEDLY 31
 DIFFICULT AND DISCOVERED DESTRUCTION BY EXPLOSIVES MORE 32
 EFFECTIVE THAN BURNING. EVIDENCE HEAVY DAMAGE INFLICTED 33
 IN KAMAISHI ATTACK 14TH WITH "ENORMOUS" DAMAGE TO ONE 34
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No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL 50
 OP-20-3-**TOP SECRET ULTRA** 51
 2 COP **TOP SECRET ULTRA** 52
 F-341
 6 COPIES
 Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO.

DRAFTER		EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM _____			ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY _____			FOR ACTION		PRIORITY 2
DATE _____					ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____					DEFERRED 4
					BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____			INFORMATION		6
PARAPHRASED BY _____		CHECKED BY _____			PRIORITY 9
ROUTED BY _____		DITTOED BY _____			ROUTINE 10
					DEFERRED 11
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.					BASEGRAM 12
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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP _____ (Use G. C. T.)					19
ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT					20

184249 PAGE TWO AND FINAL

UNSPECIFIED FACTORY AND IMPORTANT MACHINERY. EVIDENCE
 12 JULY TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES SERIOUSLY HAMPERING
 ACCUMULATION STOCKPILES OF AVIATION FUEL AND AMMUNITION
 IN PREPARATION FOR OPERATION HOMELAND.

No. 1 ADMIRAL. **TOP SECRET** ^{2 FILE} **ULTRA** No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL 50
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~~ULTRA~~

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
	CI:CPAC PEARL	ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	OP LP TP
FROM		ALL HOLDERS 358	1
RELEASED BY	19 JULY 45	COMINCH	PRIORITY 2
DATE		<i>F-22</i>	ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM	DEMIINT	CINCPAC ADV HQTES	DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY		CINCAFPAC	BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED	EXACT	COM 7TH FLEET	6
BY	DEDD	CTF 77	7
ROUTED BY	CHECKED BY MARTIN	<i>10 254 MK</i>	8
	DITTOED BY		9
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UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
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1945 PAGE 1 OF 2

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

THIS IS ULTRA. SUBMARINE I 58 EQUIPPED WITH HUMAN TORPEDOES DEPARTING EASTERN ENTRANCE BUNGO CHANNEL 191935 ENROUTE PATROL STATION ABOUT 500 MILES NORTH OF (PALAGI). NIL INFORMATION ON TRACK EXCEPT THAT AFTER 210330 COURSE WILL BE 160. SUBMARINES I 451 AND I 405 DEPARTED MAIZURU 18 JULY AT 1600 AND 1800 RESPECTIVELY ARRIVING OMINATO MORNING 25TH. THESE SUBS COMPRISE FORCE TO CARRY OUT "ARASHI" OPERATION (ATTACK ON ULITHI ANCHORAGE INVOLVING USE OF SIX SUB-BORNE AIRCRAFT). DEPARTURE DATE FROM OMINATO UNKNOWN. (ENEMY PLANNING LAY MINES OFF EXPECTED INVASION BEACHES IN HOMELAND USING NEW TYPE MINE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED AGAINST LANDING CRAFT AND LAID IN WATERS WHERE DEPTH IS LESS THAN 15 METERS (8.2 FATHOMS). COMPLETION THIS MINING IN KYUSHU SHIKOKU AREA PLANNED BY END OF AUGUST AND IN UNSPECIFIED SECTOR

No. 1 ADMIRAL OP-20-3-GI-P 2 COPIES
 No. 2 FILE
 No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.
 No. 4 SPECIAL
 F-341 6 COPIES

TOP SECRET ULTRA

DISPATCH

DRAFTER		EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM _____			ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	PRIORITY 1
RELEASED BY _____				ROUTINE 2
DATE _____				DEFERRED 3
TOR CODEROOM _____				BASEGRAM 4
DECODED BY _____				PRIORITY 5
PARAPHRASED BY _____	CHECKED BY _____	FOR ACTION		ROUTINE 6
ROUTED BY _____	DITTOED BY _____			DEFERRED 7
				BASEGRAM 8
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW	9
			<input type="checkbox"/>	10

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP 195259 PAGE 2 OF 2 (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

OF TOKYO AREA BY END OF SEPTEMBER.) EVIDENCE 15 JULY COMDR
 5TH AIR FLEET REQUESTED INSTALLATION OF SEARCHLIGHTS ON
 SUICIDE ATTACK PLANES.

F-49
10-20-52

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL

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36 From: SA TE KO (A SU SO 7) (ADVANCE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE) 29 July/2238
To : WA RO E 04 (A SU SO 7) (ADVANCE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE) JN-25-P-091
Info: SU SA SA 86 (RI KU O 0) (Tokyo Bureau of Military Preparations)
HO FU NO 98 (KO E YA 5) (COMBINED NAVAL FORCE Headquarters)
ADVANCE EXPEDITIONARY FLEET DESOPORD #102.
I-53 (26971), I-58 (16595), I-47 (81276) and I-367 (28271) will operate respectively within about 50 miles of the following four positions in accordance COMBINED NAVAL FORCE DESOPORD #141 for purposes attack against the supply line between Leyte and Okinawa and also to intercept the enemy striking force, should it return.
GZ COMMENT: All positions are unrecovered grids. We are trying to do something with them.

(GZ#1349-H-NEGAT 300136-300139-COMB-FRUEF-DI)

GI COMMENT: Despatch of 0952, 13 July (item 29, pages 22 and 23, RI Summary 131300/Q July) organized a KAITEN SUICIDE ATTACK FORCE with the above four submarines, and directed them to sortie as soon as preparations were completed and carry out attacks on enemy shipping and ascertain the enemy situation. All were assigned operating areas in the Philippine Sea. I-53 was scheduled to depart Bungo Suido on 14 July. The other submarines were all eventually scheduled to sortie on the 19th.

IMPORTANT:- The information contained herein is not to be reproduced or referred to in any manner which may disclose its source.

Page 20
JUL 30 A.M.

~~TOP SECRET ULTRA~~

DECLASSIFIED

INTELLIGENCE

SOUTHERN JAPANESE EMPIRE AREA

62	From:	SA TE KO 4			30 July/0048
	To :	NO FU TE 27	(RI KU O Ø)	(Navy Vice Minister)	JN=25-P-91
		MA SO MA Ø1	(KO E YA 5)	(COMBINED NAVAL FORCE Headquarters)	
		SI U RI 14	(NE KI TA 1)	(Commander ADVANCE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE)	

From Captain Submarine I-58 (16595).
 29th at 2332 attacked and sank one _____ . Sinking confirmed.
 . Position of hits (unrecovered grid).

(FRUPAC-300756-DISC-DI)

GI COMMENT: Despatch of 29 July/2238 (item 36, page 20, RI Summary 300500/Q July) ordered Subs I-58, I-53, I-47, and I-367 to carry out attacks against the supply line between Leyte and Okinawa and also to intercept Blue striking force if it should return.

NEGAT identifies:

RI KU O Ø - Tokyo Bureau of Military Preparations.

IMPORTANT:- The information contained herein is not to be reproduced or referred to in any manner which may disclose its source.

~~TOP SECRET ULTRA~~

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE	
	CINCPAC PEARL	ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	PRIORITY	1
FROM		ALL HOLDERS 35-S	PRIORITY	2
RELEASED BY	31 JULY 1945	COMINCH	ROUTINE	3
DATE		FOR ACTION	DEFERRED	4
TOR CODEROOM	SAITOBELL		BASEGRAM	5
DECODED BY		INFORMATION	PRIORITY	6
PARAPHRASED BY	SHAGI		ROUTINE	7
CHECKED BY	MARTIN		DEFERRED	8
DITTOED BY			BASEGRAM	9
ROUTED BY				10
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL	11
352549			CHECK BELOW	12
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP			(Use G. C. T.)	13

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

AT 051142 COMDR SIXTH AIR ARMY IN KYUSHU ANNOUNCED PLAN TO
 ATTACK IJIMA AND NORTH AND CENTRAL AIR FIELDS ON OKINAWA
 AUGUST AT 0700 AND 0800 USING ABOUT 10 HEAVY BOMBERS EACH TIME.
 THIS IS ULTRA WESTERN PACIFIC SUMMARY 30 JULY. BLUE CARRIER
 FORCE APPARENTLY LOCATED ABOUT NOON BY ARMY AIRCRAFT. MORNING
 THIRTIETH COMDR SEVENTH BASE AIR FORCE OUTLINED PLAN FOR
 ATTACK IN EVENT SURFACE UNITS SHOULD CARRY OUT BOMBARDMENT IN
 AREA BETWEEN ISE BAY AND KASHIMA NADA (TOKYO AREA) THAT
 EVENING. PREPARATIONS ALSO MADE FOR DAYLIGHT ATTACK AGAINST
 BLUE CARRIER FORCE BY 10 JUDYS AND 10 GRACE OF THIRD AIR
 FLEET SHOULD CARRIER FORCE STRIKE AGAIN THIRTYFIRST.
 RECONNAISSANCE OF OKINAWA AREA CARRIED OUT THIRTIETH APPARENTLY
 BY ARMY AIRCRAFT FROM KYUSHU BETWEEN 1200 AND 1230 AND AGAIN

No. 1 CP-37-3-G1-P (2 COPIES) No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. SPECIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~ F-20
~~TOP SECRET ULTRA~~

DISPATCH

DRAFTER _____	EXT. _____	ADDRESSEES _____	PRECEDENCE _____
FROM _____		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE _____	1
RELEASED BY _____		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2
DATE _____			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____		INFORMATION	6
PARAPHRASED BY _____	CHECKED BY _____		PRIORITY 8
ROUTED BY _____	DITTOED BY _____		ROUTINE 9
			DEFERRED 10
			BASEGRAM 11
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			12
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ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

AT 1300 WITH SHIPPING REPORTED IN BUCKNER BAY, NEGAMA ANCHORAGE, AND OFF KADENA. SUBMARINE I-53 SENT 1 HUMAN TORPEDO AGAINST BLUE CONVOY OF 1 MEDIUM AND 7 SMALL SHIPS PLUS 3 DESTROYERS HEADED SOUTH AT 241442 IN UNKNOWN POSITION IN PHILIPPINES SEA. AT 1515 SUB HEARD 1 EXPLOSION. COMMENT: TIME CHECKS WITH SINKING OF UNDERHILL. SAME SUB SENT 2 HUMAN TORPEDOES AGAINST BLUE CONVOY HEADED SOUTH IN UNKNOWN POSITION AT 291446. ABOUT 1715 SUB SAW LARGE COLUMN WATER ACCOMPANIED BY LOUD EXPLOSION. COMMENT: NOTE 2 HOUR AND 29 MINUTE TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN LAUNCHING HUMAN TORPEDOES AND EXPLOSION. SUBMARINE I-53 ALSO CARRYING HUMAN TORPEDOES REPORTED SINKING 1 UNIDENTIFIED TYPE BLUE VESSEL AT 292332 IN UNKNOWN POSITION IN PHILIPPINE SEA. COMMENT: MEANS NOT INDICATED. AFTERNON TWENTYNINTH COMDR AIR

No. 1 ADMIRAL No. 2 FILE No. 3F-J OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL

TOP SECRET
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TOP SECRET-ULTRA

DISPATCH

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DATE _____			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____			6
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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP			(Use G. C. T.) 19
ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT 20			
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No. 1 ADMIRAL.	No. 2 FILE.	No. 3F-J OR CHARTROOM.	No. 4 SPECIAL 50
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FLOT 29 IN FORMOSA REPORTED RESULTS OF SUICIDE ATTACKS PROBABLY
 IN CONNECTION WITH TACHIBANA OPERATION NIGHT OF 28-29TH 4
 SUICIDERS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS. 1 UNIDENTI-
 FIED SHIP CLAIMED SUNK 40 MILES SOUTH OF KUMEJIMA AND ANOTHER
 CLAIMED SUNK IN KADENA AREA. AT 001059 SAME COMDR ORDERED
 TACHIBANA OPERATION SUSPENDED. DESTROYER KAMIKAZE REPORTED
 ENGAGING 1 B-24 AT 001310 IN 8-36N 102-36E. GING COMBINED
 INDICATED IN TOKYO AREA.

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET - ULTRA~~
 TOP SECRET - ULTRA

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



F-221

~~TOP SECRET - ULTRA~~

3 August, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR F-00

Subject: U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, Sinking of.

1. The following information derived from ULTRA sources indicates that four Japanese submarines were known to be operating between Okinawa and Leyte Gulf, and that I-58 probably was responsible for the sinking of subject ship.

- (a) On 13 July, Cinc 6TH FLEET organized a KAITEN Suicide Attack Force comprising submarines I-53, I-58, I-47, and I-367. These submarines were directed to sortie from Bungo Suido between 14 and 19 July to patrol assigned areas in the Philippine Sea. The first 3-named submarines were to carry 6 KAITEN each, the I-367 was to carry 5. The patrol areas assigned were as follows:

I-53 - Vicinity of midpoint between Leyte Gulf and Okinawa. (KAITEN from this submarine probably sank UNDERHILL (DE) on the 24th.)

I-58 - Vicinity of a point 500 miles north of (Palau?).

I-47 - On a line between Okinawa and the Marianas, about 350 miles from Okinawa.

I-367- On a line between Okinawa and the Marianas, about (450?) miles from the Marianas.

- (b) At 292238I, these submarines were ordered to shift their patrol areas in order to attack the Blue supply line between Leyte Gulf and Okinawa and to intercept the Blue Striking Force, should it return through this area.
- (c) At 300048I, I-58 reported that at 292332I, she attacked and sank one _____ . She also states that the sinking was confirmed. (The position was included, but has not been recovered as yet.) Comment: The dispatch reporting the sinking of INDIANAPOLIS states that she was torpedoed and sunk on Sunday night (29th). Available information indicates that she was northeast of Leyte Gulf. Of the four submarines operating between Leyte Gulf and Okinawa, I-58 is estimated to be in the southernmost position and nearest to Leyte Gulf.

Very respectfully,

W. R. SMEDBERG, III.

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM CINCPAC ADV HQ		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY _____		COMINCH	PRIORITY 2
DATE 11 AUGUST 1945			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM 1627			DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY C STRONG			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY WALP	CHECKED BY LENIHAN	FOR ACTION	6
ROUTED BY _____	DITTOED BY _____		7
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		INFORMATION	PRIORITY 9
			ROUTINE 10
			DEFERRED 11
			BASEGRAM 12
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			13
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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP			18
(Use G. C. T.)			19
ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT			20

(FROM CINCPAC ADV HQ TO COMINCH)

TOP SECRET.
 YOUR 072007. USE OF RADIO BY GERMAN SUBS IN ATLANTIC PERMITTED FRE-
 QUENT DIRECTION FINDER POSITIONS AND TRACKING WITH SOME DEGREE OF
 ACCURACY IN ESTIMATING FUTURE LOCATIONS. JAP SUBS IN PACIFIC
 RARELY USE RADIO WITH RESULT THAT WE NOW AVERAGE ABOUT 1 DF
 POSITION IN 3 MONTHS. THIS PRECLUDES ISSUE OF PERIODICAL ESTIMATES
 ON NOW ULTRA LEVEL.
 SUBMARINE CONTACT REPORTS ARE IMMEDIATELY RETRANSMITTED ON FOX
 BROADCASTS. CONTACTS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY PROBABLE TO WARRANT
 ASW ACTION ARE INCLUDED IN BLUE SUMMARY OF WHICH YOU ARE AN
 ADDRESSEE.
 POSITIONS RECEIVED BY ULTRA ARE ONLY DEFINED AS GENERAL LOCALITIES.
 JAP SUBS PATROL AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM POSITIONS GIVEN. SUB
 WHICH ATTACKED INDIANAPOLIS WAS APPARENTLY 260 MILES FROM ASSIGNED
 POSITION. ALL SHIPPING TO AND FROM OKINAWA AND TO AND FROM IWO JIMA

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL

~~TOP SECRET~~

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO.

DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2
DATE			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM			DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY	INFORMATION	6
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		7
			8
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			PRIORITY 9
			ROUTINE 10
			DEFERRED 11
			BASEGRAM 12
			13
			14
			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW 15
			<input type="checkbox"/> 16
			17

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Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)
 ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

IS ESCORTED. PASSENGER SHIPS WITH MORE THAN 500 PASSENGERS WHICH MAKE LESS THAN 18 KNOTS ARE ESCORTED BETWEEN ENIWETOK AND PHILIPPINES. SINCE INDIANAPOLIS ATTACK ALL SHIPS WITH OVER 500 PERSONS ABOARD ARE ESCORTED BETWEEN ULITHI AND PHILIPPINES REGARD- LESS OF SPEED. CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE TO CONTINUE RELATIVELY HEAVY ESCORTS ON ROUTES TO MORE NORTHERLY POSITIONS WHERE CONCENTRATION OF JAP SUBMARINES IS BELIEVED TO BE MORE LIKELY EVEN THOUGH THIS PRECLUDES ESCORTS OF SOME TYPES ON ROUTES IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AREAS. IF ENEMY SUBMARINE IS FOUND TO REMAIN IN PARTICULAR LOCATION SHIPPING WILL OF COURSE BE DIVERTED, BUT WHEN SUB POSITION CANNOT BE DEFINITELY DETERMINED EXCEPT BY ACTUAL CONTACT, SINCE MANY REPORTED SOUND AND VISUAL CONTACTS ARE FOUND TO BE FALSE, AND SINCE SUBS MOBILITY PERMITS WIDE VARIATION IN POSITION BETWEEN ATTACKS IT IS BELIEVED THAT IF DIVERSIONS WERE INITIATED AS RESULT OF EACH INCIDENT THIS WOULD CAUSE A GREAT AMOUNT OF CONFUSION, CONSIDERABLE DANGER OF COLLISION, AND INTERRUPTIONS IN SCHEDULES WHICH WOULD BE OF GREATER VALUE TO JAPANESE THAN THE INFREQUENT SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS.

COMINCH... COPIES 1 TO 8 INCL
 No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL

TOP SECRET

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



Op-32P1

~~TOP SECRET ULTRA~~

File

with Archives

31 October 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN SMEDBERG:

Subject: U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, sinking of.

1. On 13 July ULTRA information disclosed the imminent departure of four Japanese submarines from the Western Inland Sea for patrol against Blue shipping and for reconnaissance purposes. Submarines involved were: I-47, I-53, I-58, and I-367. The initial patrol area assigned to these submarines as indicated by ULTRA sources is shown on the accompanying chart. All four submarines sortied between 14 and 19 July.

Kate

2. I-58, the submarine which is believed responsible for the sinking of U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, sortied from the eastern entrance to Bungo Suido at 192000I July to operate in the "sea area west of the Marianas Islands". Earlier messages gave her operating area as 500 miles north of Palau (?).

3. On 29 July all four submarines were ordered to operate respectively within approximately 50 miles of four unknown positions for purposes of attack against the Blue supply line between Leyte and Okinawa, and to intercept the Blue striking force should it return to Leyte. (T.F. 38 was conducting strikes against the Kure area on 28 July and evidence strongly indicates that the Japanese expected 3RD FLEET units to return to Leyte upon completion of the strikes.)

4. I-58 reported at 300048I July that at 292332I she had attacked and sunk one _____. As this time coincides with the time of the sinking of the INDIANAPOLIS, and as no other submarine attacks were reported, it is believed that no doubt exists that U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS was sunk by I-58.

5. The foregoing information was available to CINCPAC and COM7THFLEET.

Respectfully,

J. G. Watkins
JAMES G. WATKINS.