



Fatal Voyage: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis

Dan Kurzman

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Shortly after midnight on July 30, 1945, the Navy cruiser USS *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Philippine Sea. The ship had just left the island of Tinian, delivering components of the atomic bomb destined for Hiroshima. As the torpedoes hit, the *Indianapolis* erupted into a fiery coffin, sinking in less than fifteen minutes and leaving nine hundred crewmen fighting for life in shark-infested waters. They expected a swift, routine rescue, unaware that the Navy high command didn't even realize that the *Indianapolis* was missing. Help would not arrive for another five days.

Drawn from definitive interviews with key figures, **Fatal Voyage** recounts the horrific events endured as the number of water-treading survivors dwindled to just 316. Each gruesome day brought more madness and slow death, from explosion-related injuries, dehydration, and, most terrifying of all, shark attacks. But the pain did not end when the men finally returned home: The *Indianapolis*'s commander, Captain Charles B. McVay III, was court-martialed for causing the clearly unavoidable disaster.

With a new afterword chronicling the fifty-five-year campaign by *Indianapolis* survivors and their supporters to win public vindication for Captain McVay, this classic is restored, along with memories of the *Indianapolis* crew.



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