

In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors

By Doug Stanton

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Now available for the first time in trade paperback, the bestselling account of America's worst naval disaster--and of the heroism of the men who, against all odds, survived

On July 30, 1945, the "USS Indianapolis" was torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine. An estimated three hundred men were killed upon impact; close to nine hundred sailors were cast into the Pacific Ocean, where they struggled to stay alive, battered by a savage sea and fighting off sharks, hypothermia, and dementia. By the time help arrived--nearly four days and nights later--all but 317 men had died. How did the navy fail to realize the Indianapolis was missing? Why was the cruiser traveling unescorted in enemy waters? And how did these 317 men manage to survive? Interweaving the stories of three survivors--the captain, the ship's doctor, and a young marine--journalist Doug Stanton has brought this astonishing human drama to life in a narrative that is at once immediate and timeless.

The definitive account of this harrowing chapter of World War II history--already a bestseller in its hardcover and mass market editions--"In Harm's Way" is a classic tale of war, survival, and extraordinary courage.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
On July 26, 1945, the heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* steamed into port at the Pacific island of Tinian, carrying a cargo that would end World War II: the uranium that would be dropped on Hiroshima just three weeks later. Having delivered its load without incident, *Indianapolis* moved on toward the Philippines to join the great armada moving in on Japan. Though intelligence reports assured Captain Charles McVay that the route from Guam to Leyte was safe, there were Japanese submarines active in the area. On the night of July 29, having detected with sonar the clinking of dishes aboard the *Indianapolis* from a distance of more than a dozen miles, the submarine *I-58* sank the American ship, killing nearly 900 sailors in the explosion and its terrible aftermath.

Captain McVay was quickly court-martialed for having failed to follow evasive maneuvers, "the first captain in the history of the U.S. Navy," Doug Stanton observes, "to be court-martialed subsequent to losing his ship in an act of war." Although the sailors under his command would insist that McVay had been scapegoated, and although *I-58*'s commander testified before the court that "he would have sunk the *Indianapolis* no matter what course she was on," McVay was never able to clear his name. He committed suicide in 1968.

Stanton captures the drama of these events in his vigorous narrative, which augments and updates Richard Newcomb's *Abandon Ship!*. Stanton observes that although McVay was exonerated by an act of Congress in 2000, the conviction still stands in Navy records. Stanton's book makes a powerful case for why that conviction should be overturned, and why the captain and crew of the *Indianapolis* deserve honor. --*Gregory McNamee*

From Publishers Weekly
Given the stringent precision of the U.S. Navy and military during wartime, how could a WWII battleship carrying over 1,000 men be torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sink, leaving the survivors to bob in the Pacific Ocean at the mercy of elements and predators, without anyone realizing the loss for more than four days? Stanton not only offers a well-researched chronicle of what is widely regarded as the worst naval disaster in U.S. history, but also vividly renders the combatants' hellish ordeal during the sinking, and the ensuing days at sea as well as attempts to cope with the traumatic aftermath. Stanton documents the facts of the case, embellishing his story with lurid details gleaned from interviews with survivors. Though the ship's captain would become the first and only in U.S. naval history to be court-martialed for the loss of his ship, Stanton offers a solid body of evidence to justify the survivors' partially successful efforts to exonerate him. Stanton's omniscient narrative shifts among the individual perspectives of several principal characters, a successful technique that contributes to the book's absorbing, novelistic feel. Readers, of course, must trust Stanton and his research in order to be truly consumed, but the authority of his voice should win over all but the most obsessive skeptics. Illuminating and emotional without being maudlin, Stanton's book helps explain what many have long considered an inexplicable catastrophe. (May 21)Forecast: Following on the heels of the bestselling Abandon Ship, recently resurrected by Peter Maas, this book is unlikely to be ignored. A $150,000 marketing campaign includes a nine-city author tour, national print advertising, and target marketing to the military and naval market.

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From School Library Journal
Adult/High School-On July 16, 1945, the battle cruiser USS Indianapolis left San Francisco for Tinian Island in the South Pacific. The secret mission, the identity of which was unknown to even Captain Charles Butler McVay, was to deliver parts for the atomic bomb "Little Boy" that was to be dropped on Hiroshima. After the delivery, the ship headed to Guam where it was to rejoin the fleet for the proposed invasion of Japan. It never made it. On July 29, 1945, the cruiser was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. Stanton begins this harrowing true story with Captain McVay's suicide in 1968, and continues in a style that reads like an adventure novel. More than 1200 men were aboard the Indianapolis when it left San Francisco; approximately 300 were killed by the torpedoes. The rest were tossed into the South Pacific and remained there for nearly five days facing dehydration, starvation, exposure, and recurring shark attacks. Due to a series of tragic errors, no rescue operation was mounted. The 321 men who ultimately survived (four of whom subsequently died) were found purely by accident. Captain McVay, scapegoated by the Navy, was court-martialed and convicted of negligence, despite the ongoing protests of his remaining crew. At the time, their story was lost in the euphoria of Japan's surrender and the Navy's desire to ignore their errors. It is time their story is told and Stanton has done it magnificently, with meticulous research and great poignancy.

Carol DeAngelo, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Wiggins:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim as well as goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is actually reading a book. How about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book when they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors.

Desiree Schwindt:

This In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors are reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The explanation of this In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you with information that perhaps will shock your earlier knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed types. Beside that this In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Stacey Eades:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get just before. The In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Michael Greene:

Do you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Try to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't determine book by its handle may doesn't work is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer could be In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors why because the great cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

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