



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans

MAY, 2021



Indonesia submarine sinking: Internal wave likely to blame



As an Indonesian navy submarine crewed by 53 men glided below the surface of the Bali Sea during a routine training exercise, it may have been hit by an invisible but powerful force that dragged them to the deep.

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To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hi everyone, there will be a meeting on May 15 at 1100 in Jacksonville's Bethel Baptist Church on Jefferson Davis St. We hope to see everyone there.

Also, thanks to John Barr for volunteering to assume the Base Memorials/Ceremony duties and the Executive Board for their approval.



Billy Holloway
Base Commander



(CONT FROM PG 1)

Indonesian navy officials suspect an internal solitary wave, known to occur in the seas around Bali, may have caused the sinking of KRI Nanggala 402, and the loss of its 53 crew.

The vessel sank to a depth of 838m, far beyond the reach of rescuers.

As the personal effects of crew members floated up and the oxygen supply on board slowly dwindled, officials said there was no chance anyone survived.

Many theories have been put forward as to what went wrong, but authorities now say there is evidence an underwater wave - which can exert an intense vertical pull below the sea surface - occurred in the Bali Sea around the very time the submarine disappeared last Wednesday morning.

So what is an internal solitary wave?

The Lombok Strait between the islands of Bali and Lombok is said to be famous for generating intense internal waves on an almost fortnightly basis.

NASA, the US space administration, said the combination of strong tidal currents, a rough ocean floor and the exchange of water between two channels - one shallow and one deep - "tend to combine about every 14 days to create an exceptionally strong tidal flow".

Indonesian navy officials believe this natural phenomenon is a more likely explanation for the submarine disaster than other theories put forward in recent days.

Internal waves are virtually imperceptible on the ocean's surface. But underwater, they can reach towering heights.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Ali - a former commander of KRI Nanggala 402, and now an assistant of planning and budgeting in the Indonesian navy - said an internal wave was effectively "a strong current which can drag the sub vertically so it would sink faster than it should."

"Our suspicion falls on natural conditions. Because an internal solitary wave occurred at that time in the north of Bali," he told Indonesian media this week.

Indeed, navy officials say images from Japan's Himawari 8 satellite as well as European satellite Sentinel showed there were large underwater waves that coincided with the KRI Nanggala 402 sinking.

"It moved up from the bottom to the north and there's a trench between two mountains," Rear Admiral Iwan Isnurwanto, Commander of the Indonesian Navy Command and Staff School, said.

"The wave was about two nautical miles [in speed] and the volume of water was about two to four million cubic litres."

Admiral Iwan explained an internal wave could render the crew helpless in the face of nature.

"It would be nature's will," he said.

"Once the water carried the sub and pushed it down, what else could we have done? No safety measures could have tackled that problem.

"There's a big possibility that this was what happened."

Other possible causes

Some have suggested that the sub was hit by a missile from a foreign vessel, or even experienced a power blackout.

Naval officials say the submarine was still detected as it began its dive for the torpedo drill, and "the lights were on" - meaning there was only a small chance that an electrical blackout was to blame.

They also denied that the sub was overloaded, a theory suggested because there were 53 crew on board but only 34 beds, instead arguing that the crew were divided into three shifts and took turns to sleep.

"The sub was originally for 33 personnel, then it was modernised to comply with our need to have 50 personnel onboard," Admiral Iwan said.

However, officials said the sub was also designed to carry up to eight torpedoes - weighing about one tonne each - but only had four at the time of the disaster.

Many other experts suggested metal fatigue from cracks or corrosion, and the sub's age, as more likely causes. The KRI Nanggala 402 was built in 1978 and was last overhauled in 2012, almost a decade ago.

It was due for another refit last year but this was delayed because of the pandemic.

Retired Australian Rear Admiral James Goldrick said "material failure" was the most likely explanation for the sub's loss.

"Causes could include a material or mechanical failure leading to catastrophic flooding of one or more compartments," he wrote in *The Conversation* this week.

"It does not take much loss of buoyancy for a submarine to lose control of its depth.

"There could have been a fire, something particularly feared by submariners in their enclosed environment. Or there could have been human error."

Short of retrieving the submarine or its parts from the seabed, investigators may never be able to determine the exact cause of the tragedy.

Will Indonesia be able to retrieve the ship from the bottom of the sea?

The KRI Nanggala 402 lost contact with navy authorities about 4am on the morning of 21 April, soon after it was given permission to dive for a torpedo firing exercise.

Search ships and a helicopter reported an oil slick in the area, and the smell of diesel fuel, a few hours later.

Ships from around the world joined a massive search over several days, until objects from the missing sub were found floating in the Bali Sea on Saturday, including prayer mats, part of the torpedo firing mechanism and oil for the sub's periscope.

An underwater scan then confirmed the sub had sunk to a depth of 838m and split into at least three parts - the hull, the main section and the stern.

A remotely operated camera documented the sub's final resting place on the sea floor. Indonesian military authorities are now grappling with how - or if - they can raise the sub from such a depth, given the logistics of such a task and the huge expense.

Rear Admiral Goldrick said there was precedent for raising at least parts of a submarine from an even greater depth than the KRI Nanggala 402.

"The United States' 1974 mission codenamed Project Azorian involved the covert recovery [from much deeper water] of large components of a sunken Soviet missile-carrying submarine," he said, referencing the sinking of the K-129.

"Nevertheless, bringing some 1300 tonnes of metal back to the surface from a depth of more than 800m remains a formidable proposition."

Options to find crew's remains

Indonesian military and marine experts say the Nanggala's depth and its rupture into several parts means there are only a couple of feasible options for raising the sub to the surface.

They could attach tubes or balloons with air or a buoyant liquid to the hull, or lift the sub with steel cables from a crane or barge, as was done with the Kursk, on which all 118 crew members died.

But both options are expensive, logistically daunting and would require intensive use of remotely operated vehicles.

Raising the front of the sub also could pose a risk to rescue teams by having to handle explosives from the torpedos that may also be damaged.

For now the navy is focused on recovering smaller items, using a remotely operated vehicle that can lift objects up to 150 kilograms.

Families of the 53 crew are demanding, at the very least, the navy bring the remains of their loved ones to the surface for proper burial, even if the submarine cannot be recovered.

The sad reality, as some Indonesian media suggest, is the 53 crew will remain forever at sea on "eternal patrol".

NOTE ABOUT WEBSITE

After 18 years our web provider Aabaco Web Hosting is no longer supporting web pages.

Our web page is still active, but I can no longer update it.

I'm working on a new provider but Aabaco source file are not transferable.

I have to start from scratch on a new web page.

We have over 20 gigs on information on our site after 18 years.

I do have a copy of everything on my computer so we haven't lost anything.

I will get something set up as fast as I can, but it will not have all the information on it at the start.

Greg Zonner



ON ETERNAL PATROL

USS LAGARTO (SS 371)

1	Harold Doyle Andrews
2	Charles Anker
3	Frederick Lester Auchard
4	Charles Herman Bjornson
5	Charles Woodson Breithaupt, Jr.
6	Wardour Laverne Britain
7	Aaron Brock
8	Clark Richard Byrer
9	William Ernest Carleton
10	Lloyd Fry Cathey
11	Sylvester Gilbert Catozzi
12	George Edward Clouse
13	Pat Cole*
14	Caldwell Thomas Cook
15	John Edward Davis, Jr.
16	Leslie Montsell Doud
17	Alvin Henry Enns
18	Richard Louis Fisher
19	John Joseph Franze
20	Oakley Raymond Frasch
21	James Northup Gerlach
22	Richard Fox Grace
23	William Graves
24	Dennis Jerome Gray
25	Robert Green
26	Richard Lewis Gregorik
27	James Paul Gregory
28	Glen Eugene Halstead
29	Thomas Hardegree
30	George Clark Harrington

31	Thomas James Harrington
32	James Bailey Harris
33	James Carlton Harrison
34	Walter Earl Hinken
35	William Franklin Honaker
36	Lloyd Gordon Irving
37	Hezekiah Jefferson
38	Jesse Jobe
39	Fred Johnson
40	John Richard Johnson
41	William Harrison Jordan, Jr.
42	Arthur Hammond Keeney, Jr.
43	Philip McNeil Kimball
44	Albert Kirtley
45	John William Kneidl
46	Frank De Vere Latta
47	Noah Blackmon Lee, Jr.
48	Russell Willie Lee
49	Robert Julian Lewis
50	Louis Jerome Lynch
51	William Tucker Mabin
52	Joy McDowell Marriott, Jr.
53	James Henry McDonald
54	Justin Michael McGee
55	William Hanna Mendenhall
56	Willis Leroy Moore
57	William Gene Moss
58	Lloyd Raymond O'Hara
59	Howard Estelano Ortega

60	Dick Milton Paper
61	Joseph Stanley Pash
62	Robert Ransom Patterson
63	Robert Calvin Perry
64	John William Peterson
65	Robert Fredrick Peterson
66	Walter Benjamin Phelps
67	Harry Robert Plushnik
68	Gerald Allen Price
69	Morris Davis Reeves
70	Raymond Edward Reichert
71	Eugene Thomas Robison
72	John Harvey Root
73	Robert Theodore Ruble
74	Walter Jackson Rutledge
75	Wesley Clay Shackelford
76	Walter Raymond Shaw*
77	Ralph Eugene Simmerman
78	Robert Bruce Spalding
79	Ulysses McKinley St. John, Jr.
80	John Edward Stehn
81	Donald George Stiegler
82	Floyd Tait
83	Harold Arthur Todd, Jr.
84	Frank Dean Turner
85	Arthur Menchel Wade
86	William Clenton Warnick
87	Max Merrell Wicklander
88	John Leslie Williams

Gerald Allen Price



Rank/Rate Chief Motor Machinist's Mate
Service Number 279 61 57
Birth Date May 6, 1918
From Elida, Ohio
Decorations Purple Heart
Submarine USS Lagarto (SS-371)
Loss Date May 4, 1945
Location Off Malay coast near the Gulf of Siam
Circumstances Sunk by depth charge attack
Remarks Gerald was born in Ridge Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.

Next meeting:

May 15th

1100

**Bethel Baptist Church
Jefferson Davis Street
Jacksonville, AR**

**FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS
JAMES EUGENE BAKER
MARCH 6, 1932-APRIL 29, 2021**

James Baker passed away at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, MS. He was a retired US Navy Submarine Chief Petty Officer with a career spanning 22 years. After retiring from the Navy, he settled in Norther Arkansas and was the chief of Police for Yellville, AR. In his later years, he retired from the Civil Service US Department of Agriculture and was a Freemason. An online guestbook may be signed and condolences and photos shared at www.riemannfamily.com.

REST YOUR OARS....WE HAVE THE WATCH.



TREASURER'S REPORT		Apr-21
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 14,157.21
<u>General Fund Beginning Balance</u>		\$ 4,230.79
<u>National Dues</u>		\$ 25.00
<u>Base Dues</u>		\$ 30.00
<u>National Dues</u>		\$ 100.00
<u>General Fund Ending Balance</u>		\$ 4,185.79
Designated Funds		
Maint. Fund Balance		\$ 2,652.66
Charity Fund Balance		\$ 372.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance		\$ 1,386.86
Designated Fund Balance		\$ 4,411.52
Checking Balance (General + Designated Funds)		\$ 8,642.31
Other Funds		
CD Balance		\$ 5,368.19
Cash on hand		\$ 147.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE		\$ 14,157.21

Booster Club

Pete Jilek (0)
 Mark Taylor (3)
 George Fore (3)
 John Barr (4)
 Mem. Of Lee Huss (4)

Birthdays for May

Greg Zonner	3
Robert B. Hickey	3
George F. Wrightam	5
Suzann W. Barr	5
Joe Manning	6
George R. Conro	9
Dominador F. Alvarado	10
Earl L. Huss	10
Charles R. Smith, II	11
Steven David Shelton	12
Robert C. Sykes	13
Tom McLeod	14
John A. Harrel, Jr.	20
Wayne Herbert Welch	23
Remigio S. Esguerra	25
Lowell Royce Blue	26
Frank S. Crawford	28
Ralph Richard Bulmer	28
Marcial M. Pamintuan	31



Base Officers

Base Commander Holland Club & Storekeeper, Past Base Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.net
Base Vice Commander Past Base Commander	James Barnes	501-319-5888	jimandsue59@sbcglobal.net
Base Treasurer	Mark Taylor	501-416-2488	empty704@aol.com
Chaplain, COB	Joe Manning	501-366-0331	joe.manning@att.net
Newsletter, Past Base Commander	Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
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Mem. and Ceremonies	John Barr	501-663-6622	jbarr346@att.net
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Past Base Commander	Ray Wewers	501-843-7855	raywewers@gmail.com
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Past Base Commander	David Boyer	479-227-9633	chopper1267@yahoo.com