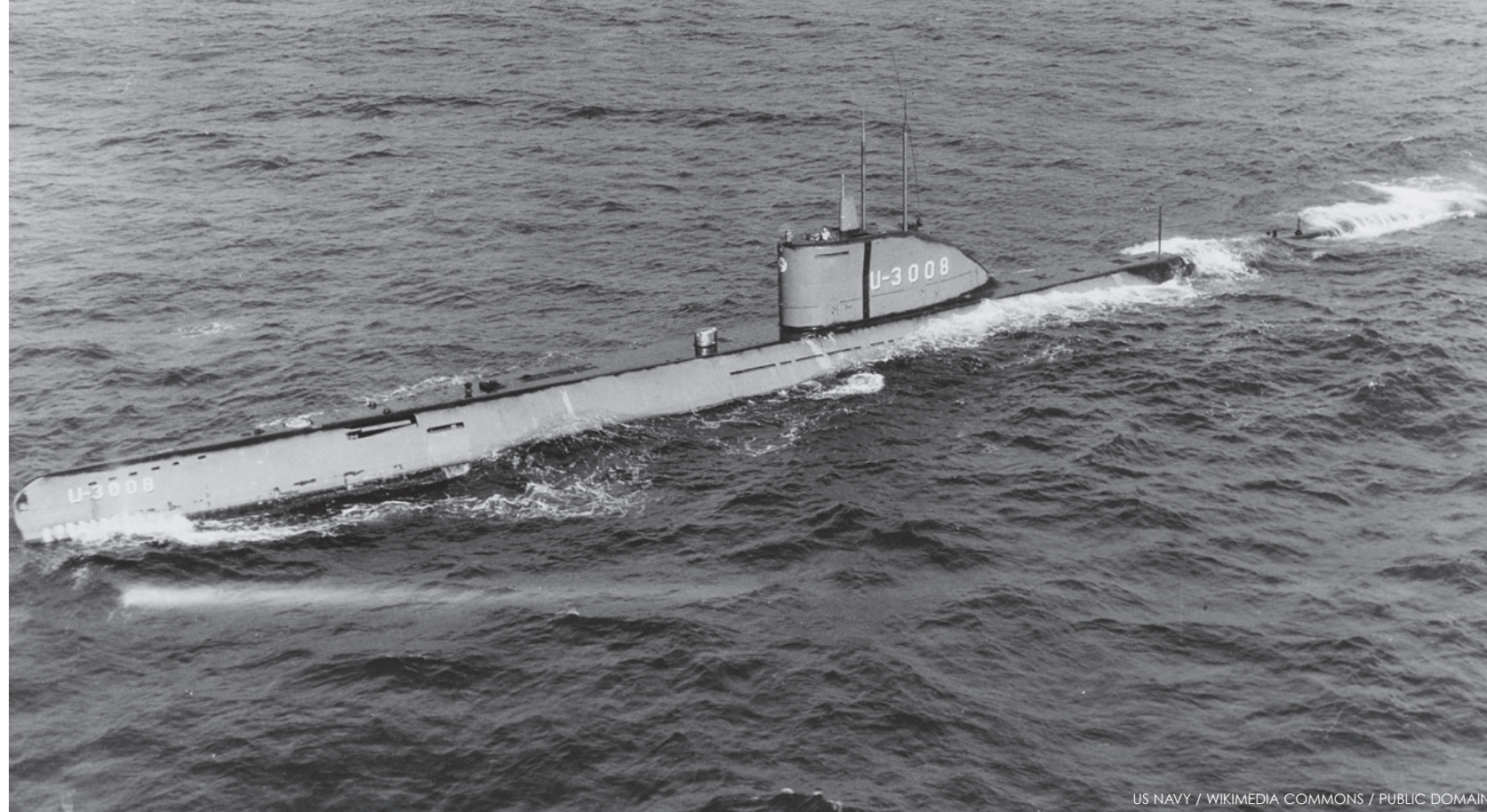




File photo of a submarine similar to the one now located in the North Sea. The ex-German submarine U-3008 of Type XXI was taken over by the US Navy after 1945 and used as a test vessel. Photo from 15 April 1948.



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Rare WWII German submarine located in the North Sea

Sea War Museum Jutland in Thyborøn, Denmark finds wreck of unique WWII German U-boat during its ongoing registration of shipwrecks in the North Sea and in the Skagerrak.

The U-3523 was of the new and highly advanced type XXI U-boats that could have revolutionized the submarine war if enough boats had been completed in due time. One hundred and eighteen boats were laid down, but only two entered active service, and none ever saw battle.

U-3523 was sunk on 6 May 1945, by depth charges, northeast of Skagen Horn, in the Skagerrak. U-3523 was attacked by a British B-24 Liberator of 86 Squadron/G RAF. All 58 crewmen were lost. Only the day before, the German forces in Denmark, Northwest Germany and the Netherlands had surrendered. Hence the U-boat was not on a war patrol, but prob-

ably on the run.

In April 2018, the museum found the wreck of the German U-boat, U-3523, sunk in May 1945.

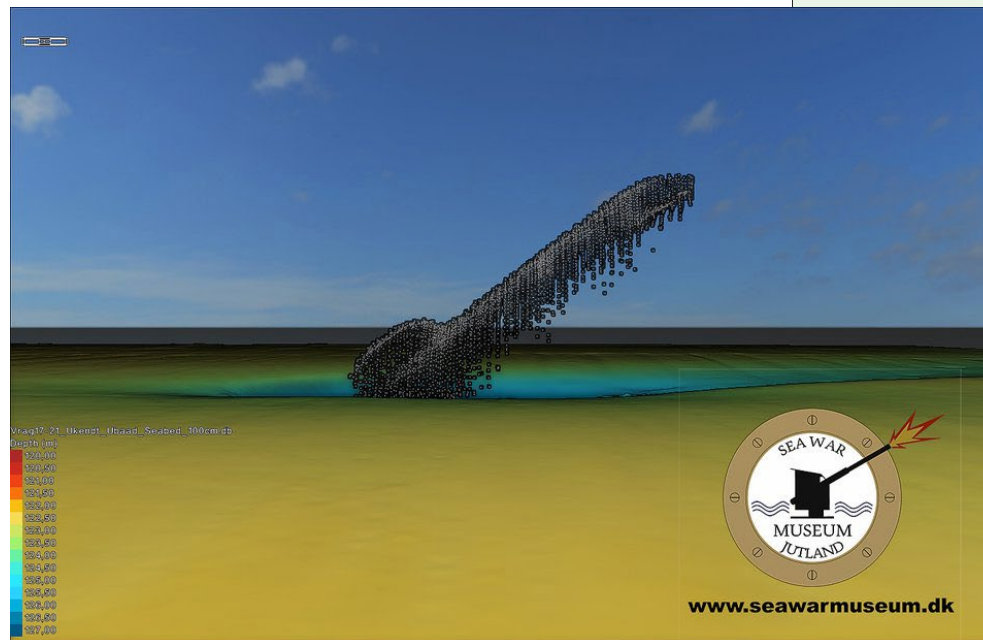
Nazi gold rumors

After the war, there were many rumors that top Nazis fled in U-boats and brought Nazi gold to safety, say in South America. The Type XXI U-3523 had the range that would have allowed it to sail non-stop all the way to South America. But it is not known what was the U-boat's destination, and nobody knows whether the U-boat had any valuables or passengers aboard in addition to the 58 crew.

Resting at 123m

U-3523 appeared on the screen during the museum's scan of the seabed ten nautical miles north of

Skagen, and the picture was very surprising. Most unusual was that the whole fore section of the U-boat lies buried in the seabed, while the stern is standing 20m above the bottom. The wreck lies at 123m of water, making it very difficult to access. ■ SOURCE: SEA WAR MUSEUM JUTLAND IN THYBORØN, DENMARK



FACT FILE:

Type XXI U-boats, also known as "Elektroboote" (German for "electric boat"), were a class of German diesel-electric submarines designed during the Second World War.

They were the first submarines designed to operate primarily submerged, rather than spending most of their time as surface ships that could submerge for brief periods as a means to escape detection or to attack. They incorporated a large number of batteries to improve the time they could spend underwater, to as much as several days, and they only needed to surface to periscope depth for recharging via a snorkel. ■

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See a video about the discovery [here >>>](#)



The wreck of the "Lady Lex", as she was known, was discovered by the crew of Allen's research vessel, RV *Petrel*, on 4 March 2018 at a depth of 3,000m.



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In less than two weeks, Paul Allen's search team finds two historic WWII wrecks

First, wreckage from the USS *Lexington* was found in Coral Sea by a search team led by the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft, Paul Allen. Aircraft from the ship appeared remarkably well-preserved, with squadron insignia and visible kill markings. Three weeks later, the team also located the cruiser USS *Juneau* off Solomon Islands.

The USS *Lexington* was scuttled about 800km (500mi) off the eastern coast of Australia in May 1942 after sustaining serious damage from Japanese aircraft. A series of secondary explosions, after the Japanese attack, sealed the ship's fate, and one of her own escorting destroyers was ordered to finish off the crippled carrier.

The wreck of the "Lady Lex", as she was known, was discovered by the crew of Allen's research vessel, RV *Petrel*, on 4 March at a depth of 3,000m and was positively identified when her nameplate was found on the remains of the ship's stern. The team shared photos of the carrier taken by the RV *Petrel*, which also showed aircraft that appeared remarkably well-preserved.

The USS *Lexington* was originally commissioned as a battlecruiser but was launched as an aircraft carrier in 1925. She took part in the Battle of the Coral Sea (4-8 May 1942) along with the USS *Yorktown* against three Japanese carriers. This was the first carrier-versus-

carrier battle in history, and was the first time Japanese forces suffered a permanent setback in its advances on New Guinea and Australia. However, the United States lost the *Lexington* and more than 200 of its crew members.

Scuttled

The *Lexington* had been hit by multiple torpedoes and bombs on 8 May, but it was a secondary explosion causing uncontrolled fires that finally warranted the call to abandon ship. The USS *Phelps* delivered the final torpedoes that sank the crippled Lady Lex, making it the first American aircraft carrier casualty in history. With other US ships standing by, 2,770 crewmen and officers were rescued.

The *Petrel* crew had been planning to hunt for the *Lexington* for six months after successfully locating several

historic wrecks including the Japanese battleship *Musashi* and the USS *Indianapolis* last year. "Lexington was on our priority list because she was one of the capital ships that was lost during WWII," Robert Kraft, director of subsea operations, said in a statement.

USS Juneau

The Atlanta-class light cruiser was finally found 4,200m (about 2.6mi)

below the surface, 76 years after it was sunk by a Japanese torpedo during the battle of Guadalcanal. The *Petrel's* autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) first identified the ship in its side scan sonar on 17 March. Upon analysis of the sonar data, the *Petrel* crew deployed its remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) on 18 March to verify the wreckage through its video capabilities.

During WWII, the cruiser departed for the Pacific Theater on 22 August. On 8 November, *Juneau* departed Noumea, New Caledonia, as a unit of Task Force 67 under the command of Rear Admiral R. K. Turner to escort reinforcements to Guadalcanal. The force arrived there early morning 12 November, and *Juneau* took up her station in the protective screen around the transports and cargo vessels.

As the *Juneau* tried to leave the area, it was hit by a second torpedo in the same location. Following a huge explosion, the ship broke in two and sank within 20 to 30 seconds.

The Sullivans

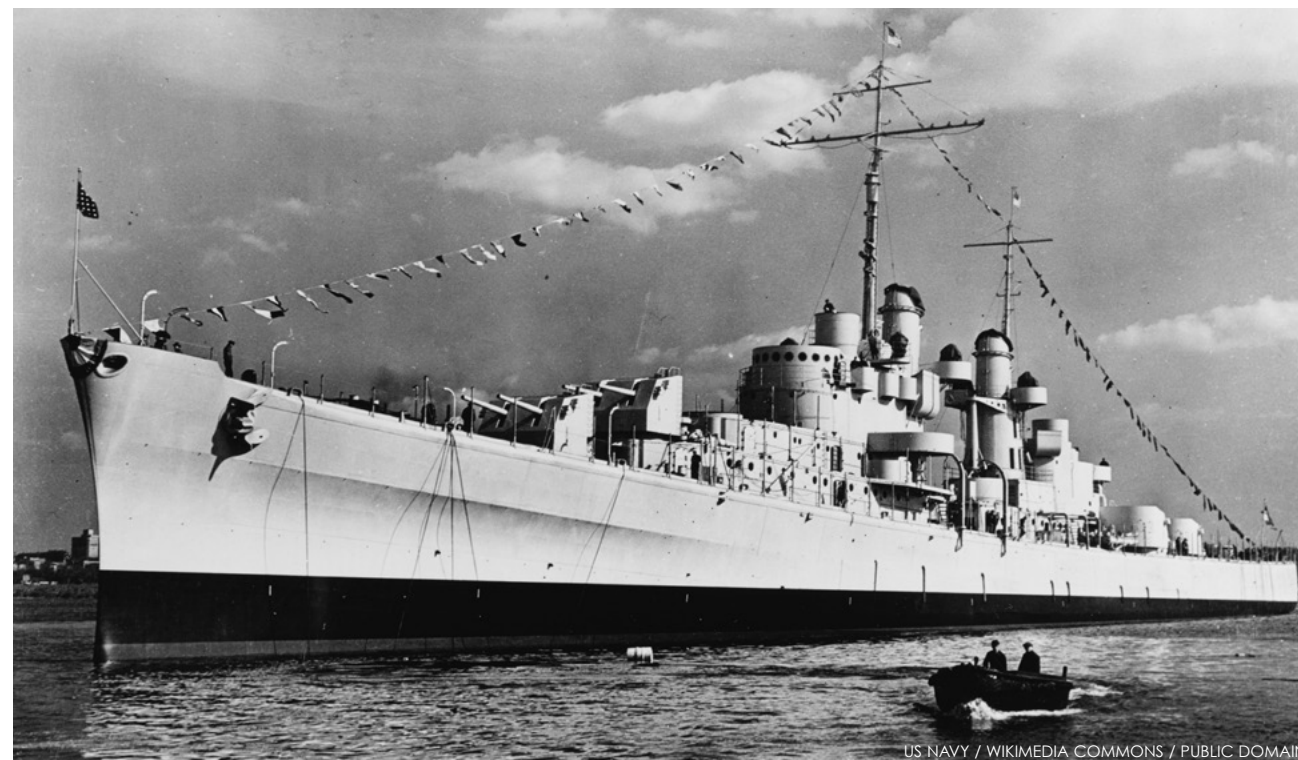
The discovery, described in a statement by Vulcan Inc. representatives, marks the watery grave of the Sullivan brothers — George, Francis, Joseph, Madison and Albert.

The Sullivans refused to serve in the US Navy unless they could serve together, and they were granted permission to do so despite a Navy policy that prohibited assignment of family members to the same ship, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) website. ■

SOURCES: PAULALLEN.COM

At 1:48 a.m. on 13 November, Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan's relatively small Landing Support Group engaged the enemy. The Japanese force consisted of two battleships, one light cruiser, and nine destroyers. The *Juneau* was hit on the port side by a torpedo and subsequently withdrew alongside the other damaged ships, the *Helena* and the *San Francisco*.

USS *Juneau* afloat just after being launched at the Federal Shipbuilding Company yard, Kearny, New Jersey, 25 October 1941. The *Petrel* team first identified the ship in its side scan sonar on 17 March 2018.



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