



USS GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON (AP-111) (TAP-111)

Aug, 2007 Editor: Harry "Swede" Lagerstedt



Left: The Indianapolis War Memorial.

Right: Indianapolis, Indiana The Circle City, in the heart of the state. Also known as the Crossroads of America. Pop. nearly 1 million. 13th largest city in the U.S. Founded as the State Capital in 1821. The average high Sept. temp. is 80 F.

Below: The Indianapolis Motor Speedway also known as the Brickyard or the **Indy 500**. It is a 2.5 mile (4 km) oval track.



2017
INDY
REUNION

13th Annual USS Anderson Reunion Sept. 9-12,

Adams Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

Itinerary: [Sunday 9/9](#), Arrival day. Hotel Registration, Room Assignment and Reunion registration in Hospitality Room.

Dinner on your own.

1930 hours, meet in Hospitality Room for starting get together.

[Monday 9/10](#). Breakfast on your own.

0900: Assemble for city bus tour to see the many wonders of Indianapolis. At approximately **1100** we will arrive at the brickyard, i.e., the Indianapolis 500 “Big Car” Racetrack to see their museum and take a spin around the track.

1200 hours: Lunch at the “500 Legion Club”.

1300 guided tour of the new Crown Hill military cemetery . Return to hotel about 1500 for R&R

1800 hours: Dinner at INDY Restaurant via hotel shuttle.

[Tuesday, 9/11](#). Breakfast on your own:

0900: Assemble for the bus to BOONE COUNTY starting at the ANTIQUE MALL where we will have free donuts and coffee.

1030 depart MALL for drive to FLOWER BARN for tour and lunch.

1330 depart FLOWER BARN for a goodie stop at the DONALDSON CHOCOLATE FACTORY. On the way back to the hotel, we will stop at the USS Indianapolis Memorial – great picture site!

1800: USS Gen Anderson Banquet.

[Wednesday, 9/12](#). Breakfast on your own.

0900: No rest for the wicked! Up on those busses again and off to see all the famous Indianapolis War Memorials starting at the National Headquarters of the American Legion. Next, visit the WWII Memorial, the Korean Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial.

1100 drive by a “Surprise Memorial”? Then on to the Medal of Honor Winners Memorial.

1145 Lunch on your own at the Circle Center Mall.

1315 Depart mall and visit WWI Memorial and the Civil War Memorial before returning to hotel.

Dinner on your own. If you are staying over, let’s meet again in the Hospitality Room, visit some more and finish off the snacks.

[Thursday, 9/13](#) Sleep in if you like, skip breakfast or take a hike. Today is travel day so bid some fond farewells and hope to see you again next year.

R & R = *Reunion Registration*

Attendees are responsible for their own HOTEL REGISTRATION. Contact the Adams Mark Inn at 2544 Executive Drive Indianapolis, IN 46214. Tel. (317) 248-2481. Identify yourself with the USS General Anderson for the group rate of \$80.00 + tax per night. Airport shuttle, hotel parking, hospitality room and banquet room are included in room charge. Reunion rate cutoff date is August 9, 2007.

SCOOTAROUND Service available for wheelchairs/scooters. Call 1-888-441-7575 or contact: <http://www.scootaround.com> to make arrangements.

REUNION REGISTRATION Will be handled by Roberta Setzler, 276 South Street, Clyde, OH 43410. Tel. (419) 547-7246.

Reunion registration is \$10.00/person _____

Day one -- Bus Tour of city and guide.
Indianapolis 500 Museum and ride around the track.
Lunch at American Legion Restaurant.
Total package: \$30.00/person. _____

Dinner at Indy Restaurant. \$14.00 _____

Day Two – Bus Tour of Boone County with guide.
Flower Barn, Entry fee and lunch. All for \$26.00/person _____
Reunion Banquet. \$30.00/person _____

Day Three -- Bus Tour of the Memorials with guide. \$14.00/person _____
Lunch at Circle Center Mall and Supper are own your own. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Total _____

Note: If you opt for all the tours, events and dinners, it will be \$124.00/person

Your name, address and Phone number please: _____

Please send in your checks to Roberta, as soon as convenient, made out to: USS Anderson Reunion. The sooner you do this, the more it will help us with planning for bus sizes, lunches, dinners, etc. THANKS AGAIN!

USS Indianapolis (CA-35)



USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) was a [Portland-class heavy cruiser](#) of the [United States Navy](#). She holds a place in history due to the notorious circumstances of her loss, which was the worst single at-sea loss of life in the history of the U.S. Navy. After delivering the first [atomic bomb](#) to be used in combat to the [United States](#) air base at [Tinian Island](#) on [26 July 1945](#), she was in the [Philippine Sea](#) when attacked at 00:15 on [30 July 1945](#) by a [Japanese](#) submarine. Most of the crew was lost to a combination of [exposure](#), [dehydration](#), and [shark attacks](#) as they waited for assistance while floating helplessly for several days. *Indianapolis* was the second to last US Navy ship sunk by enemy action in World War II (the submarine [USS Bullhead](#) was attacked by Japanese aircraft with depth charges and sunk on [6 August 1945](#)).

Loss of the *Indianapolis* A secret mission, and destruction

The *Indianapolis* received orders to proceed at high speed to [Tinian](#), carrying the component parts and uranium projectile of the [atomic bomb](#) "[Little Boy](#)" which was soon to be dropped on [Hiroshima](#). Due to the urgency of her mission, *Indianapolis* departed San Francisco on [July 16](#), foregoing her postrepair shakedown period. Touching at Pearl Harbor [July 19](#), she raced on unescorted and arrived in Tinian on [July 26](#), having set a record in covering some 5,000 miles (8,000 km) from San Francisco in only 10 days. After delivering her [top secret](#) cargo at Tinian, *Indianapolis* was dispatched to Guam where she disembarked men. From Guam she set course to [Leyte](#). From there she was to report to Vice Admiral [Jesse B. Oldendorf](#) for further duty off Okinawa. Departing Guam on [July 28](#), *Indianapolis* proceeded by a direct route, unescorted. Early in the morning, at 00:15 on [July 30, 1945](#), two heavy explosions (some say three) occurred against her starboard side forward, and she capsized and sank in twelve minutes, at 12°2' N, 134°48' E. *Indianapolis* had been hit by two [torpedoes](#) from the Japanese submarine [I-58](#), Commander [Mochitsura Hashimoto](#) in command. The ship was silhouetted against a low [gibbous](#) moon, which made it easy for the Japanese submarine to target. ^[1]

Delayed rescue: Four days in the water

Since this was a top secret mission, there was no notice sent to the port of destination or [CINCPAC](#) about their ETA (estimated time of arrival), as was the usual naval procedure for normal missions. Thus, with no ETA they were never reported late or missing at the arrival port. The *Indianapolis* did broadcast two distress calls that were received at two separate locations on Leyte, though they were dismissed in both cases as being bogus transmissions due to the Navy's protocol of the time. The subsequent delay of the rescue mission led to the loss of hundreds of sailors. About 300 of the 1,196 men on board died in the attack. The rest of the crew, nearly 900 men, floated in the water without lifeboats until the rescue was completed four days later. 321 crew came out of the water alive, with 317 ultimately surviving. They suffered from lack of food and water, exposure to the elements, severe [desquamation](#), and [shark attacks](#). The *Indianapolis* sinking resulted in the most fatalities from shark attacks in naval history.

Immediately prior to the attack, the seas had been moderate; the visibility good; *Indianapolis* had been steaming at 17 knots. When the ship did not reach [Leyte](#) on the 31st, as scheduled, no report was made that she was overdue. This omission was due to a misunderstanding of the [Movement Report System](#). Thus it was not until 10:25 on [August 2](#) that the survivors were accidentally sighted by pilot Lieutenant [Wilber Gwinn](#) and copilot Lieutenant [Warren Colwell](#) on a routine patrol flight. The survivors were mostly held afloat by life jackets, although there were a few rafts which had been cut loose before the ship went down. Gwinn immediately dropped a life raft and a radio transmitter. All air and surface units capable of rescue operations were dispatched to the scene at once.

Future U.S. Secretary of the Navy [W. Graham Claytor Jr.](#) was commander of the [destroyer escort Cecil J. Doyle](#). After receiving location from the seaplane, Captain Claytor sped without orders to check the reports of men floating in the water. As he approached at night, he turned searchlights on the water and straight up on low clouds, lighting up the night and exposing his ship to possible attack by Japanese submarines but rescuing almost 100 survivors of the sunken cruiser. Captain Claytor ordered his Communications Officer Lieutenant [James A. Fite, Jr.](#) to inform command that they were rescuing the crew of *Indianapolis*; this was the first definitive message of the *Indianapolis*'s fate. Destroyers [Helm](#), [Madison](#) and [Ralph Talbot](#) were ordered from Ulithi, and the destroyer escort [Dufilho](#) with attack transports [Bassett](#) and [Ringness](#) from the Philippine Frontier to the rescue scene.

Upon completion of rescue operations, [August 8](#), a radius of 100 miles had been combed by day and by night, saving 317 of the crew of 1,196 men.

We are fortunate to have as banquet speaker, a survivor of the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*. Mr. James E. O'Donnell WT3, DOB 7-8-1920, Drafted into Navy 1944 in *Indianapolis*, assigned to USS *Indianapolis* 4-27-44, discharged from Navy in the fall of 1945. He began his civilian career with the *Indianapolis* Fire Dept. retiring in 1981.

In 1990 O'Donnell began a speaking tour to raise funds for the national memorial dedicated to the USS *Indianapolis*. Five years later, on August 2, 1995, the monument was unveiled. A piece of the USS *Arizona* was placed inside the monument. These ships were the first and last vessels to sink during the war.

Jim is still working as a member of the board of directors and on the reunion committee for the USS *Indianapolis* and has a very full schedule of speaking engagements at reunions such as ours.

Jim has earned many honors for his labors in getting this memorial completed. One of which is the Sagamore of the Wabash, which is the highest honor the Governor of Indiana can give.

STUFF-----EUGENE HAMELMAN, LONG TIME AND ORIGINAL PRESIDENT OF THE ANDY ASSOC. CELEBRATED HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY ON 07/07/07, THAT MEMORABLE DATE THAT EVERYONE ELSE WANTED TO BE MARRIED ON! WHILE MOST ANDY PLANKOWNERS ARE 82 OR BETTER, GENE IS ONLY 80 BECAUSE HE JOINED THE NAVY AT AGE 15!

Our reunion co-hosts, Karen & Dave Akers, Lila & Ron Jones, have been working hard to assure that we will have a great time in Indy. They have made several trips from their homes to Indy, attending to details re hotel, transportation and tour venues. Roberta and Bob Setzler, reunion registrar and treasurer is keeping it all together. You guys are due our heartfelt thanks! Kudos and a tip of the flattop to you all!

The Master Chief noticed a new Seaman one day and barked at him to come into his office. "What's your name?" was the first thing the Master Chief asked. "John," the new guy replied.

The Master Chief scowled, "Look, I don't know what kind of bleedingheart, liberal pansy stuff they're teaching Sailors in Bootcamp today, but I don't call anyone by their first name. It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my Sailors by their last name only -Smith, Jones, Baker - that's all. I am to be referred to only as 'Master Chief.' Do I make myself clear?" "Yes, Master Chief!" "Good! Now that we got that straight, what is your last name?" The new guy sighed and said, "Darling. My name is John Darling, Master Chief!"

"Okay, John, the next thing I want to tell you is..." (Thanx to Jim Love)

Speaking of reunions, what about 2008? We need some suggestions! Other ship groups plan 2 or 3 years in advance. Think about it! How about getting back to the deep south? We talked about Florida as we have a lot of members there,,,,,,,,,but no one wants to visit there in Sept. due to hurricanes. We could switch our reunion to another time of the year. How about New England? Lots of history and lots of members. How about Hawaii and all dem hula girls? How about a new ANDY CEO and some new blood?

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action." -----George Washington

"The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living, and the get rich-quick theory of life." -- Theodore Roosevelt

I once had a rose named after me, and I was very flattered. But, I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue, "No good in a bed, but fine against a wall." ~Eleanor Roosevelt

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.....Ronald Reagan (1986)



Photo # 80-G-490322 USS Indianapolis' survivors on Guam, Aug. 1945