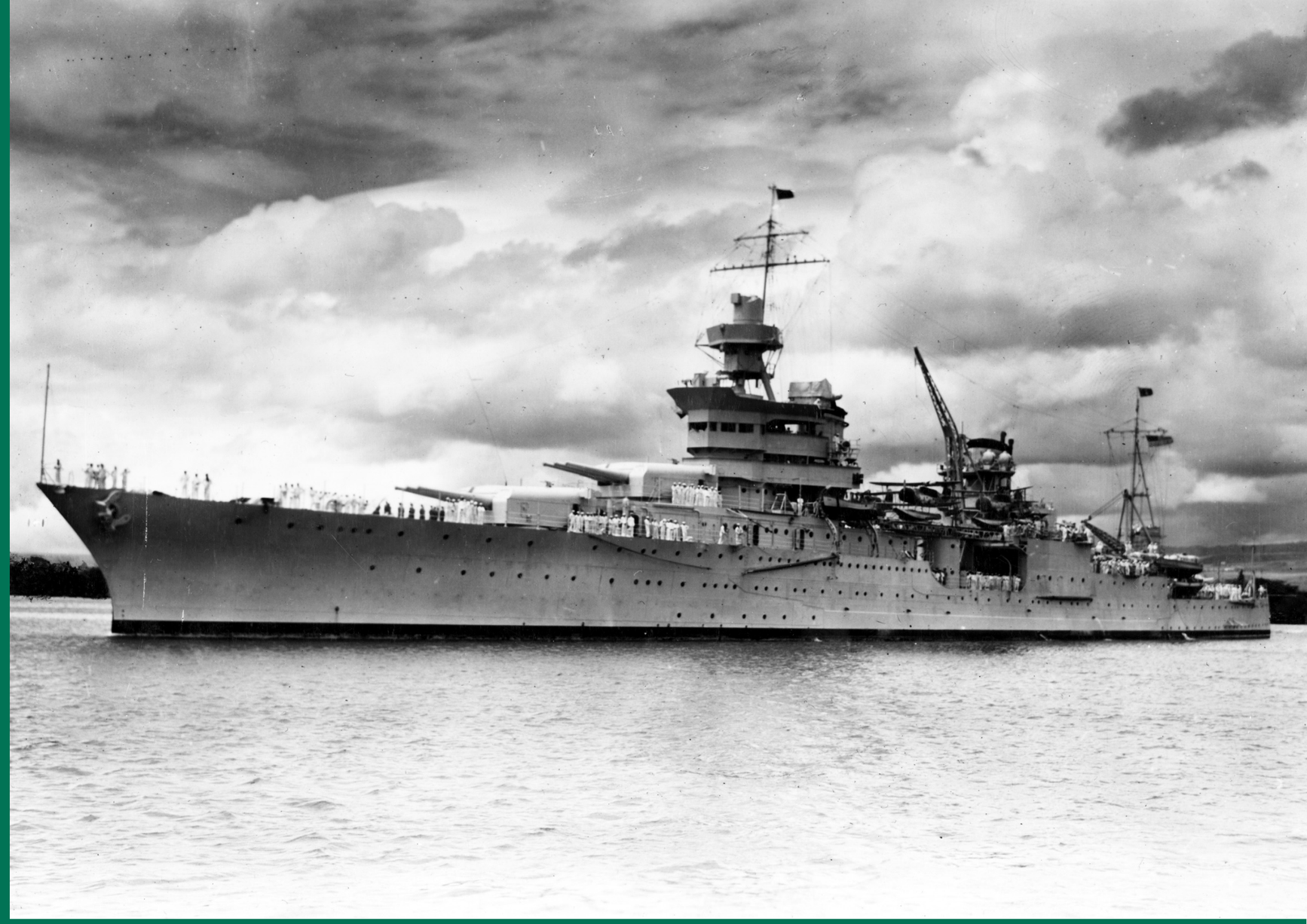
Medical Museum Science Café 2016



SHARKS OF WAR: THE U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS DISASTER OF 1945

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 6-7 PM

Before World War II, experts dismissed sharks as a serious threat to service members. Then in 1942, the U.S. Navy received reports about horrific attacks on castaways adrift from sunken ships and downed airplanes. Many of these reports proved to be true. Soon after the war, diving pioneers sought out sharks, expecting the worst because of the shark attack stories. Instead, they found an animal less to be feared than understood. Join Robert Cantrell, filmmaker and shark researcher for a presentation on the history of shark attacks and how the "fear of sharks" impacted the Navy's policy in World War II as well as present-day knowledge of sharks.

Image above: USS Indianapolis (CA-35), at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, circa 1937. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph. NH 53230

National Museum of Health and Medicine

2500 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910

t.301.319.3300 • www.medicalmuseum.mil • /MedicalMuseum