



USS Pompano (SS-181)



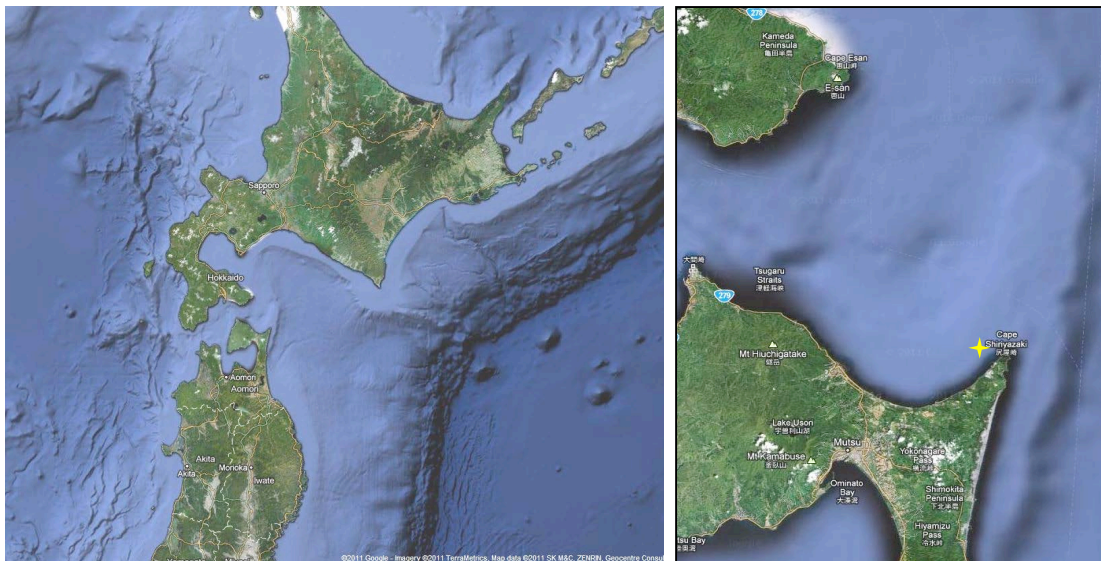
November 14, 2012

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Locating USS Pompano

Summary: We are requesting permission from the Government of Japan to physically confirm that a missing U.S. submarine sank in a specific location in the Tsugaru Straits during WWII



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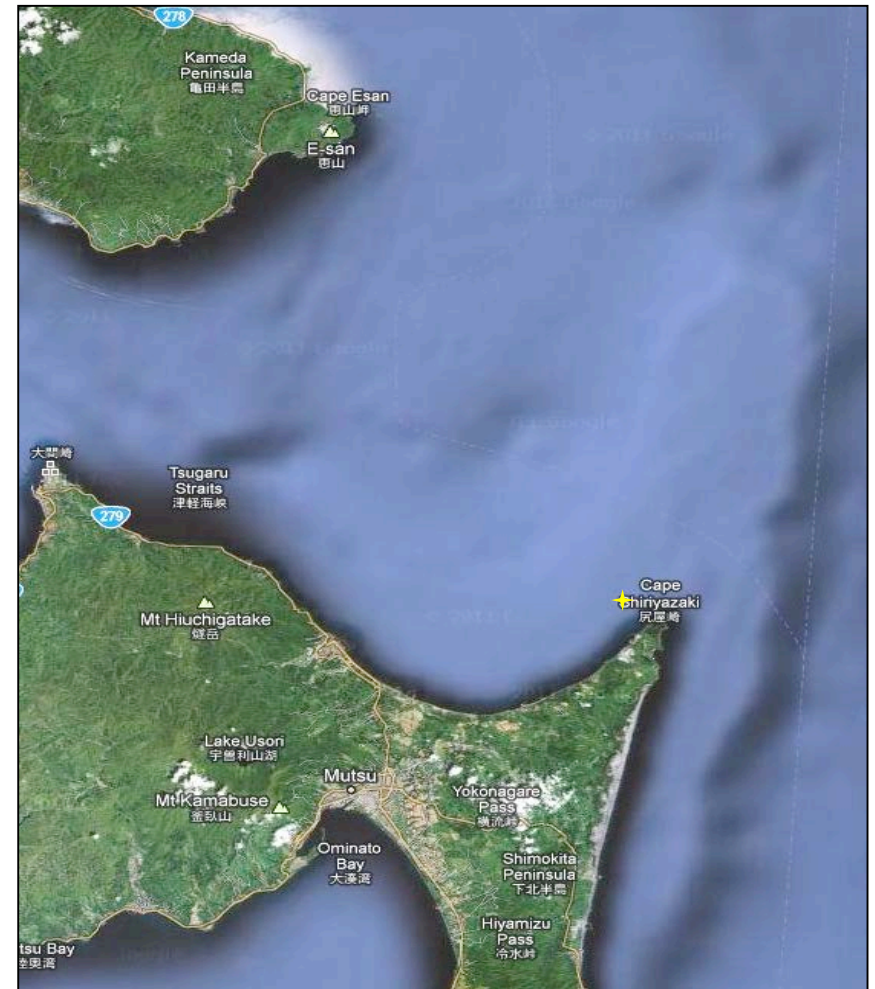
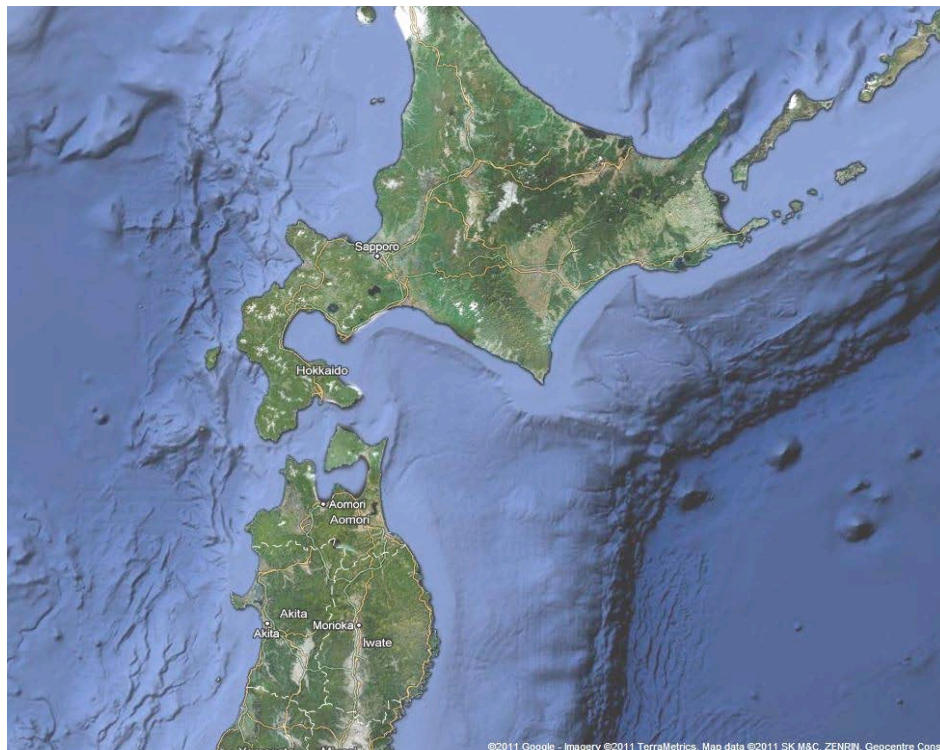


Locating USS Pompano

- The U.S. Navy reported the ship lost at sea on 29 August 1943, possibly due to enemy mines off the coast of Japan
- Several Japanese entities detail an action against a suspected submarine, reporting it had sunk in the entrance of the Tsugaru Straits between Honshu and Hokkaido.
- A USN minesweeper recently conducted a side-scan sonar search while transiting the area and imaged a wreck with highly similar dimensions.



Tsugaru Straits



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Requests for Support

U.S. Embassy, Tokyo

- U.S. Embassy contact Government of Japan to request permission to conduct sonar scans, underwater photography, and a survey dive for positive identification

SECNAV via CPF/PACOM (info to C7F, SUBPAC and CTF-73)

- Concurrent request via Country Team to SECSTATE

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force counterparts

- Concurrent request to Maritime Staff Office (info copy to the Commandant, Ominato District, JMSDF and Commander JMSDF Submarine Flotilla)



Proposed Follow-on Actions

- Conduct investigation of wreck
 - Additional sonar scans and underwater photography/video
 - Survey dive for positive identification
 - Documentation/verification
- SMEs/historians evaluate data
- If positively identified as Pompano
 - Arrange and conduct appropriate Memorial Service
 - Declare the site a War Grave



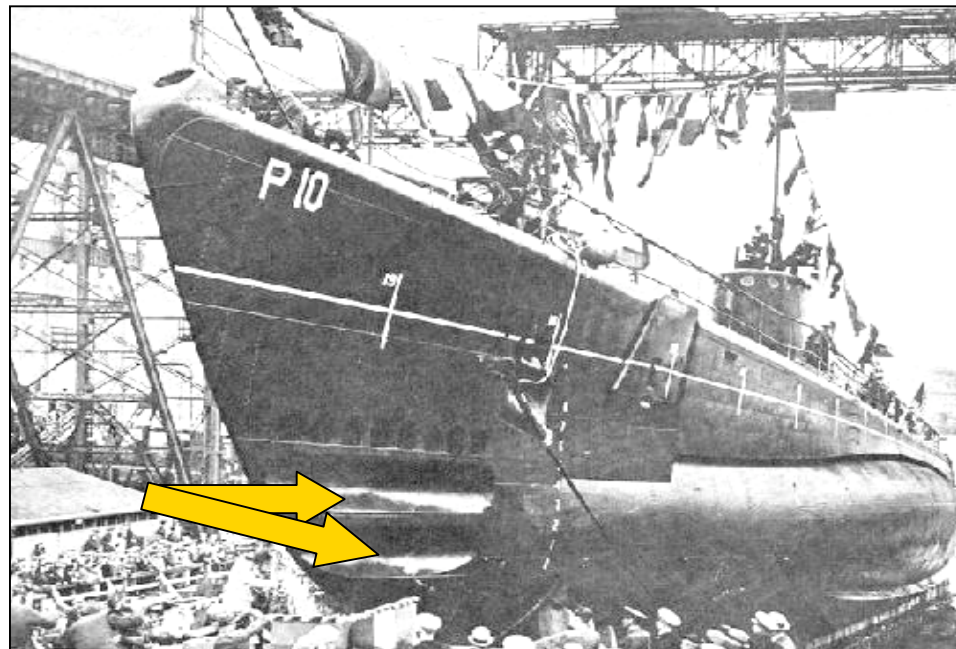
Background

- One of 52 U.S. submarines lost in WWII
- Pompano would be easily identifiable
- Noted SMEs willing to assist
- Considerable press interest anticipated
- Provides closure for families
- Beneficial training opportunity



Identification

- An early design “Fleet boat” with four tubes forward and two aft. All other F-boats with “four forward tubes” have been located.



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SME Interest

- Two renowned underwater archeologists have expressed interest in providing planning assistance
 - Dr. Robert Neyland
 - CAPT Don Walsh (USN ret.)



Potential Media Interest

- Television
 - Discovery
 - History
 - National Geographic
- Magazines
 - Naval History & Proceedings
 - Seapower
 - Undersea Warfare
 - American Submariner
 - The Submarine Review
- Assorted other national and international media

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Other Considerations

- Potential “Bi-lateral Training” opportunity
 - JMSDF Mine sweepers are equipped with AQS-14 side-scan sonar
- Engagement with Government of Japan
 - CNFJ and C7F to their respective Japan Maritime Self Defense Force counterparts
 - Demonstrate interoperability of our two maritime forces

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Ominato Guard Report

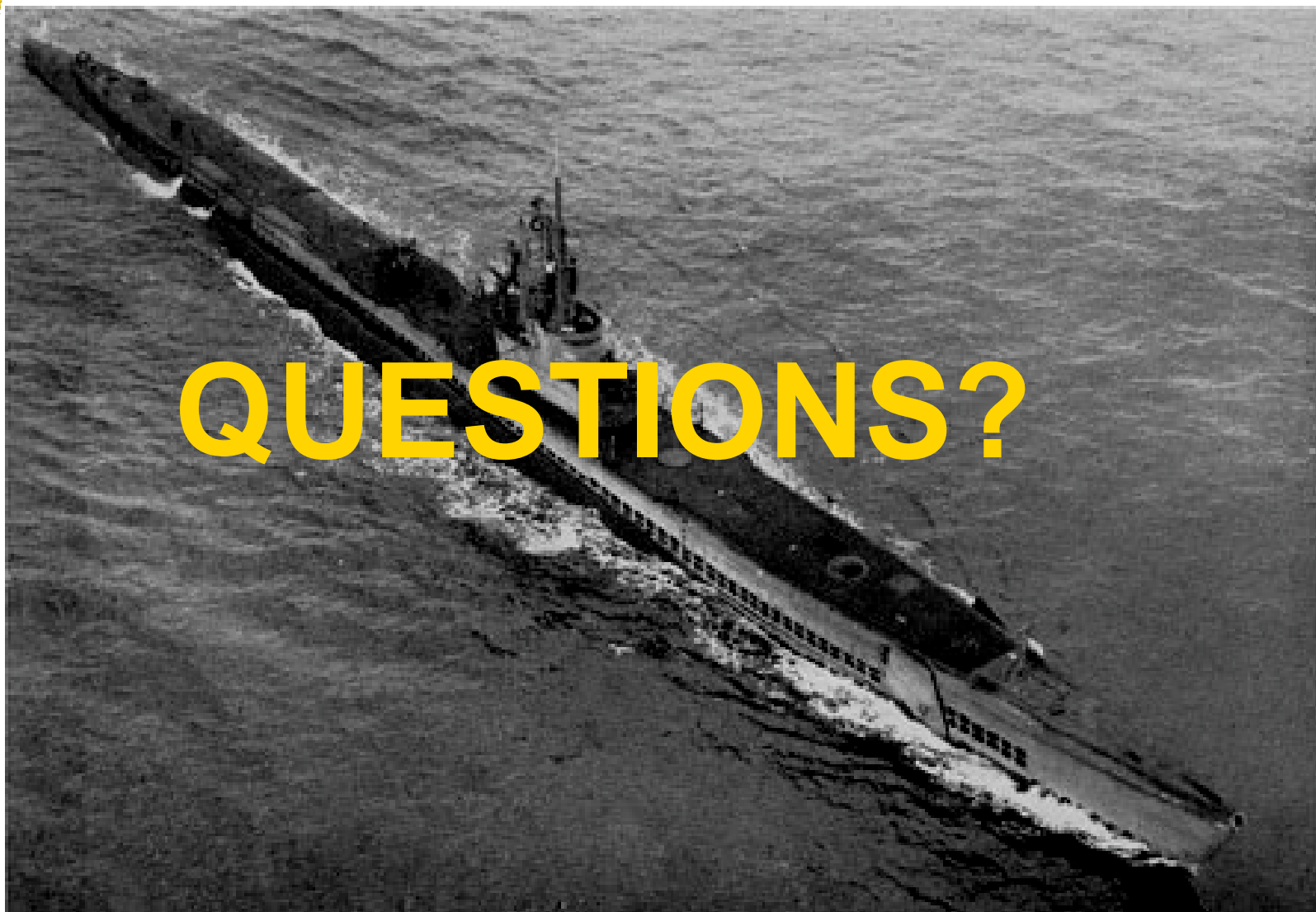
17 Sep 1943:

- At 0735, aircraft # 17 spotted an oil slick at 320 degrees true at a range of approximately 4,000 meters from Shiriya Zaki light house
- At 0930, sub chaser # 41 spotted oil at 350 degrees true at approximately 13,000 meters from Shiriya Zaki light house. Patrol boats prosecuted the contact and saw the oil slick moving east.
- The Japanese documented the general location of where they believe the sub was sunk.



USN Report: 23 July 2012

- USN Minesweeper conducted a side-scan sonar search while transiting the area. Scan revealed two uncharted wrecks
- One appeared to be a barge or small coastal ferry boat. The second measured approx. 138 ft long x 22 feet wide
 - USS Pompano - Length: 300'7", Beam: 25')
 - Ocean Current: approx. 2.5 knots to the east
 - Ocean Bottom: silt and soft mud
- Opinion: "good confidence" of a possible submarine



QUESTIONS?



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