

EXPLANATION OF USS ROBALO (SS-273) VIDEO TAKEN BY JOE

First video - Debris at the rear of the wreck, then at one minute after the start there's the port propeller shaft with the hanger and a prop blade protruding from the sand which is bent at right angles, the starboard shaft is gone. The entire stern and after torpedo room up to the manoeuvring room is also missing, most likely due to contact with a Japanese mine.

>Then a large grapnel anchor and looking into main ballast tank No 7.

>Moving forward up the starboard side, there's an area where the outer hull plating has come away but the pressure hull behind it is intact.

>At time 3:38, look closely and you can see the open crew's mess access hatch in the vertical position. This was the main entry and exit for all the crew. It could have been opened before or after the explosion, but we presume before going by the magnitude of the blast. Perhaps there were crew on deck having a smoke, but of course we can't be sure.

>He then pauses over the engine induction and ship's supply outboard valve, the fairwater plating around it and the cigarette deck above have rotted away.

>Up to the conning tower and bridge with what looks like the pelorus (for taking bearings) nearest to him and the compass behind it. The pole leaning to port is the SJ radar mast.

>Then the three inch deck gun. Later Gato-Class submarines were fitted with a four inch gun and finally a five inch gun.

>Next, all the teak decking and framework forward are gone with part of the J.P. sound equipment still upright, to the left of it and slightly forward is the forward torpedo loading hatch.

>As he comes back around and looks into the bridge, look closely again and you can see the open conning tower hatch on the far side.

>Up towards the bow there's the forward escape and rescue trunk with the hatch closed and then three pressure tanks. There are another three on the starboard side. These are torpedo impulse flasks, one for each tube, and they fire the torpedoes with a working pressure of 600 psi. As the torpedo exits the tube, the air is vented back into the submarine to prevent the air bubbles from reaching the surface and giving the subs position away.

>Next to the flasks is the forward port diving plane in the upright position as *Robalo* was making a night transit on the surface through the Nasubata Channel when she hit the mine.

Second video - The Starboard impulse flasks and diving plane, then back to the conning tower and periscope shears. There are two periscopes, the forward No 1 is the navigation or observation periscope which had a wide field of view, and the rear No 2 is the targeting periscope which had a narrower field of view and higher magnification. The No 1 lens is still intact, the No 2 is overgrown with coral, and then Joe is on his way back up to the surface.

The local fishermen know the subs location as there are several abandoned fish traps on it, but there were no signs of recent fishing.