

**Japanese (IJN) Submarines that Surrendered**  
**(Including 7 ex-U-Boats)**

1. On 26 July 1945, the USA, UK and China released the Potsdam Declaration announcing their proposed terms for Japan's surrender, which included the statement that: "The Japanese military forces shall be completely disarmed".
2. After the Japanese surrender on 15 August 1945, and in order to implement this policy, the US Government issued a document "US Initial Post-Surrender Policy for Japan" (SWNCC 150/4/A dated 21 September 1945) which included the statements that: "Japan's ground, air and naval forces shall be disarmed and disbanded" and "Naval vessels shall be surrendered and shall be disposed of as required by the Supreme Commander".
3. As a result, all Japanese submarines which surrendered were to be demolished, scuttled, or otherwise destroyed.
4. At the end of the war, 49 Japanese Navy (IJN) submarines surrendered afloat in the Far East, the majority to US forces in Japan, including three ex-U-Boats (U-511 in Maizuru, U-IT-24 in Kobe and U-IT-25 in Kobe).
5. The total also included four other ex-U-Boats that had surrendered to the Royal Navy in Singapore (2) and Java (2); all four of which were sunk/scuttled in February 1946 in accordance with the recommendations of the Tripartite Naval Commission (TNC).
6. The 49 IJN submarines that surrendered afloat were:
  - a. I-Boats:  
  
I-14, I-36, I-47, I-53, I-58, I-121, I-155, I-156, I-157, I-158, I-159, I-162, I-201, I-202, I-203, I-363, I-366, I-367, I-369, I-400, I-401, I-402, I-501 (U-181), I-502 (U-862), I-503 (U-IT-24), I-504 (U-IT-25), I-505 (U-219) and I-506 (U-195)

b. RO-Boats:

RO-50, RO-62, RO-63, RO-68 and RO-500 (U-511)

c. HA-Boats:

HA-103, HA-105, HA-106, HA-107, HA-108, HA-109, HA-111, HA-201, HA-202, HA-203, HA-204, HA-205, HA-207, HA-208, HA-209 and HA-210

7. A number of the afloat IJN submarines had surrendered in the Japanese Naval Base at Sasebo, near Nagasaki in the far west of Kyushu Island, whilst others were moved there in late 1945 from the ports where they had surrendered, especially those from Kure.

8. On 26 March 1946, at a Submarine Officers' Conference in Washington DC (CNO File Ref: Op-414-C31/ss dated 29 March 1946) it was reported that

*"Orders are being issued to dispose of all Japanese submarines by sinking. Those in Japan will be sunk at once, those in Pearl Harbour when authorized by SCAP and at the discretion of CinCPAC".*

9. This included all remaining captured Japanese submarines (including those which had been captured incomplete or which has already been decommissioned at the time of their capture), including those that had been moved to Pearl Harbour by the US Navy.

10. The submarines in Japan were to be sunk immediately, while the five (I-14, I-201, I-203, I-400 and I-401) that had been moved to Pearl Harbour on October 1945 were to be destroyed at the discretion of the C-in-C Pacific Fleet.

11. This decision therefore included the three ex-U-Boats that had surrendered in Japan, but which had not been destroyed in accordance with the TNC's recommendations because the US Navy's CNO had successfully argued that they were Japanese submarines when they surrendered and therefore outwith the TNC's jurisdiction.

12. At the same time, according to General MacArthur's Report, a plan was prepared by COMNAVJAP and approved by SCAP on 2 April 1946, which

stated that all former Japanese Navy combatant ships larger than destroyer class were to be completely scrapped. It was also planned to sink wrecked and heavily damaged ships in deep water, and to dispose of all submarines afloat.

13. There were five main disposal areas for the Japanese submarines that were sunk at sea. These were in Maizuru Bay, in the Kii Suido, in the Iyo Nada (The Inland Sea), off Sasebo Bay, and at “Point Deep Six”, which was about 40 miles west of Nagasaki and off the island of Goto-Retto.

14. Operation “Road’s End”, which was the main action, took place on 1 April 1946, when 24 Japanese submarines which had been assembled in Sasebo, which were still capable of sailing under their own power, and which were manned by skeleton Japanese crews for the transit to “Point Deep Six”, were sunk in a depth of 200 meters either by demolition charges or by gunfire from the US Navy’s submarine tender USS *Nereus* and the destroyer *Everett F Larson*.

15. As far as the three ex-U-Boats are concerned:

a. U-511 (RO-500) had surrendered in Maizuru, on the north coast of Honshu Island, and was sunk by the USN in Wakasa Bay near Maizuru in the Sea of Japan on 30 April 1946.

b. U-IT-24 (I-503) had been captured in the Mitsubishi Shipyard at Kobe, on the south coast of Honshu Island, and was sunk by the USN on 16 April 1946 in the Kii Suido between the islands of Honshu and Shikoku.

c. U-IT-25 (I-504) had been captured in the Kawasaki Shipyard at Kobe, on the south coast of Honshu Island, and was sunk on 16 April 1946 by the USN in the Kii Suido between the islands of Honshu and Shikoku.

16. The exact circumstances of their final disposal are unclear, although it seems probable that they may have been towed out to sea and scuttled with internal demolition charges.

17. Whilst it has been possible, as set out in the attached list (below), to define where and when the 49 IJN submarines which surrendered afloat met

their final end, there are less precise details available concerning the 100 or so other (unseaworthy) submarines that were captured when US forces arrived in Japan at the end of the war. The picture is complicated because many of the latter were sunk in the same manner and at the same time as those that were afloat and in-commission at the time of their surrender. Also, the Japanese Army (IJA) had operated a number of (non-offensive) transport submarines and, at the end of the war, seven of these surrendered afloat and were therefore included in the total of all the Japanese submarines that were scrapped or scuttled.

18. Finally General MacArthur's Report records that, by October 1946, all submarines (a total of 151) had been disposed of. It also quotes from the Tokyo "Pacific Stars and Stripes" newspaper, in which an article dated 4 June 1949 stated that as at 15 January 1949 when the whole IJN disposal task was complete, "42 submarines had been scrapped and a further 104 had been sunk".

19. Thus, in addition to the disposal of the 49 IJN submarines which surrendered, the precise details of which are known, some 100 other submarines were subject to the disposal process - some details of which are recorded, but many others are not - and this situation has caused a great deal of confusion; not least when trying to define the list of those which formally surrendered.

### **IJN Submarines which Surrendered - By Disposal Location**

<b><u>S/M Number</u></b>	<b><u>Disposal Details</u></b>
I-36	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-47	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-53	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-58	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-156	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-157	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46

I-158	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-159	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-162	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-366	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-367	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-402	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
RO-50	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-103	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-105	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-106	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-107	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-108	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-109	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-111	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-201	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-202	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-203	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
HA-208	Sunk in Operation Road's End off Sasebo 1 Apr 46
I-202	Scuttled in Op Dead Duck off Sasebo Bay 5 Apr 46

HA-207	Scuttled in Op Dead Duck off Sasebo Bay 5 Apr 46
HA-210	Scuttled in Op Dead Duck off Sasebo Bay 5 Apr 46
HA-216	Scuttled in Op Dead Duck off Sasebo Bay 5 Apr 46
I-14	Sunk off Hawaii 28 May 46 by US submarine <i>Bugara</i>
I-201	Sunk off Hawaii 23 May 46 by US submarine <i>Greenfish</i>
I-203	Sunk off Hawaii 21 May 46 by US submarine <i>Caiman</i>
I-400	Sunk off Hawaii 4 Jun 46 by US submarine <i>Trumpetfish</i>
I-401	Sunk off Hawaii 31 May 46 by US submarine <i>Cabazon</i>
I-121	Scuttled off Maizuru 30 Apr 46
RO-68	Scuttled off Maizuru 30 Apr 46
RO-500(U-511)	Scuttled off Maizuru 30 Apr 46
I-503(U-IT-24)	Sunk in the Kii Suido 16 Apr 46
I-504 (U-IT-25)	Sunk in the Kii Suido 16 Apr 46
I-501(U-181)	Sunk in Straits of Malacca, off Singapore 15 Feb 46
I-502(U-862)	Sunk in Straits of Malacca off Singapore 15 Feb 46
I-505(U-219)	Sunk south of the Sunda Strait 3 Feb 46
I-506 (U-195)	Sunk in the Bali Sea, east of Kangean Island 15 Feb 46
HA-205	Scuttled in the Iyo Nada (Inland Sea) May 46

I-155	Scuttled in the Iyo Nada May 46
RO-62	Scuttled in the Iyo Nada May 46
RO-63	Scuttled in the Iyo Nada May 46
HA-204	Aground in Aburatsu Bay Oct 45, scrapped 1948
HA-209	Scrapped at Mitsubishi Shipyard, Shimonoseki 1946
I-369	Scrapped at Yokosuka Navy Yard 1946

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