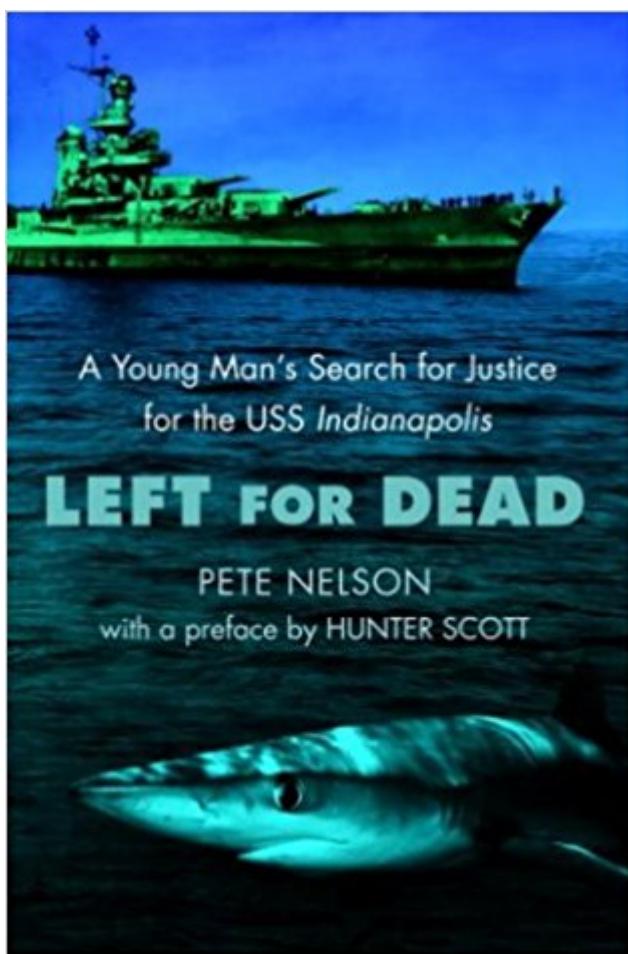


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Left For Dead: A Young Man's Search For Justice For The USS Indianapolis



Synopsis

For fans of *Unbroken*, *Left for Dead* is the incredible story of a boy inspired by *Jaws* to help bring closure to the survivors and their families of the World War II sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Just after midnight on July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. The ship sank in 14 minutes. More than 1,000 men were thrown into shark-infested waters. Those who survived the fiery sinking—some injured, many without life jackets—struggled to stay afloat in shark-infested waters as they waited for rescue. But the United States Navy did not even know they were missing. The Navy needed a scapegoat for this disaster. So it court-martialed the captain for endangering his ship. The survivors of the Indianapolis knew that their captain was not to blame. For 50 years they worked to clear his name, even after his untimely death. But the navy would not budge—until an 11-year-old boy named Hunter Scott entered the picture. His history fair project on the Indianapolis soon became a crusade to restore the captain's good name and the honor of the men who served under him. Praise for *Left for Dead*: Christopher Award Winner An ALA-YALSA Best Nonfiction for Young Adults Book—Compelling, dreadful, and amazing. "VOYA — This exciting, life-affirming book about war heroics and justice . . . proves without question the impact one student can have on history." Booklist — Well written and well documented — this excellent presentation fills a void in most World War II collections. "School Library Journal — Young readers . . . will no doubt be inspired by the youth's tenacity and by the valor of those who served on the Indianapolis." The Horn Book

Book Information

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History > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

It's an unlikely beginning to what became a momentous, history-changing history fair project.

Eleven-year-old Hunter Scott was watching Jaws one day when he first heard about the World War II sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Intrigued, he investigated further, and discovered a shocking, heartbreaking story behind what should have been a tale of heroism and patriotism. Torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, the Indianapolis went down in minutes, taking more than 800 sailors with it. Several hundred survived, but only after spending days in the open sea with sharks diminishing their numbers hourly. This is only the beginning of the tragedy, however. In an effort to make an example of the ship's captain, and in order to deflect blame from itself, the U.S. Navy unfairly court-martialed the captain, painfully changing the lives of all the men involved. Basing much of his text on young Hunter Scott's research, author Pete Nelson does a fine job of presenting this story through the eyes of many of the survivors. Old and new photos allow readers to know many of the men of the ship, and personal accounts reveal the horrors of those days in the ocean--and later in the courtroom. A bittersweet ending will leave the reader pensive and deeply moved. (Ages 12 and older) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Left for Dead by Pete Nelson explains how the research of 11-year-old Hunter Scott who was inspired by a passing reference in the movie Jaws uncovered the truth behind a historic WWII naval disaster aboard the USS Indianapolis and led to the reversal of the wrongful court martial of the ship's captain. A full-color photographic inset and a preface by the now 17-year-old Scott round out the volume. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Summary: "Left for Dead" is a book by author Pete Nelson about a young man's search for justice for the USS Indianapolis, which was sunk by the Japanese during World War II. The Navy blamed the ship's captain for its sinking, even though he did nothing wrong. 50 years later, an 11-year-old named Hunter Scott researches the sinking of the Indianapolis for a history fair school project, and, after reading about the injustices of the captain's blaming, he sets off to find justice for the late

captain, with the support of many of the ship's surviving crew members, who believe that their captain did nothing wrong. Review: At first, the author is set on giving the reader a lot of background information on the ships, the sailors, the Japanese, and Hunter. This gets a little boring, because he was describing everything without the use of humor or the inclusion of any interesting stories. He also mentions a lot of the men that were on the ship, and having that large a number of characters makes things confusing until about halfway through, when the sinking happens, and when things start to pick up. Once the sinking occurs, the author does an absolutely brilliant job of explaining the whole ordeal, from how the men felt, to what happened to the captain. He describes their conditions with the greatest detail, and isn't afraid to clarify a meaning if necessary. The same occurs with Hunter's search for justice. In summary, I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Beware that the author does use some sailing terms that he does not clarify, so be prepared to look up a few things.

This book deserves five stars because it explains the details and facts in a way any American can understand concerning the USS INDIANAPOLIS. The story is amplified by including the young boy who helped bring justice to the survivors and their captain. The details seem to come to life off the pages. It is extremely emotional at times. I recommend this book to any history buff, any veteran of WWII, any currently serving in military service, and to family members of any who have served our great country. You might just get to know those better who have protected and are protecting our precious freedoms. I also recommend this to any who have no knowledge of our military. You just might learn something that will enrich your life and something that you can pass down to future generations to show respect for our veterans/military. (From a Daughter of a WWII Veteran who served in the Pacific)

Great book. Points out how the military covers up when they make a mistake.

A re-read of this book, before I gifted it to a military friend, who had little knowledge of this blemish on the US Navy for the "political" court marshal of Captain McVay. Young Scott Hunter's school project and his tenacity uncovered a number of untruths to force the media and congress to right a wrong. Years later his efforts forced the overturning of Captain McVay's unjust court marshal.

Really informative book. There were a couple of story lines going on. One was the young man's quest to get the facts out there and visible to the public and officials. The other was the actual story

as it happened. While I dislike knowing the Navy didn't do the right thing during the court martial of the captain of the Indianapolis, it really is a good story. The truth is there now!

This book by Peter Nelson---but in reality only because of the determination of a young boy, Hunter Scott--reinforces two important lessons. First--one person CAN make a difference. Second--large organisations (including our government) will often go to great lengths to bury truth when that truth makes them look bad. This is true even if a morally reprehensible act has occurred by that cover-up. Don't be afraid to question.

The Federal Government, US Navy, high ranking officers, as well as most individuals share a common trait; self preservation. The egos of the officers who persecuted this Captain speak volumes of how far men will go to deflect blame rather than seek the truth. A court Marshall should never have been allowed. At the very least the deck should not have been deliberately stacked against this ship's Captain. Peter Nelson , using the work and research of a young boy, weaves a captivating story of the truth behind one of the worst naval disasters ever recorded. If you, like myself, have read the other books on this subject; read this one. You won't regret it.

The book centers around the sinking of the USS Indianapolis on July 30, 1945, blasted by a Japanese submarine; and the eventual survival of only a few men after being the water for four days. The men suffered from initial injuries, exposure, and the maddening frenzy of hundreds of sharks. The truth, and eventual exoneration of Captain Charles Butler McVay III, is carefully researched by 16-year-old Hunter Scott, and then written up by author Pete Nelson. It is an intriguing story and earns its title "A Young Man's Search for Justice." I liked it and the book clearly showed that Captain McVay became the scapegoat for many mistakes, and attempts at cover-ups, by the US Navy. The sinking of the cruiser is another classic example of people not doing their jobs, and the eventual build-up of blunder-after-blunder, resulting in such a terrible tragedy.

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