Sarah Adams

Title: “The U-505 Divulges Her Secrets”
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Sarah Adams is a history major at IPFW in her junior year. She is interested in the development of technology from 1850 to 1950, and how its adaptation was connected with military uses. She has served as an intern at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, specifically in the small artifacts area of the curatorial department. She performed the necessary examination and documentation of the artifacts in the museum to help develop a database. She is still at the museum working as an intern in the archival department, helping them input documents into a database. Her future plans include working in a museum where she can use her experience, interests, and education to provide future generations the opportunity to learn about history and its impact on our present.

Abstract

The German submarine U-505 was captured off the coast of Africa by the United States during World War II. The information gleaned from her helped the United States and Great Britain gain control of the Atlantic. This paper examines the role that the capture of this submarine played in a joint American and British espionage effort during World War II.

Until that point the Germans dominated the Atlantic and were slowly choking Great Britain by eliminating the flow of supplies to the island nation. German use of the Enigma machine to send coded messages to the submarines made it impossible for the Allies to read the messages in time to save shipping. The development of sonar guided torpedoes made it possible for a submarine to fire and escape without giving away its true position.

The capture of technology from the Germans, exposed through study of the U-505, gave the Allies the edge they needed to win the battle of the Atlantic. Today the U-505 sits in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. It is not only a prize of war but a testament to the men and women who fought and died protecting Great Britain and the United States.

Bibliographical Note

This report relied on primary sources such as the writings of Captain Daniel Gallery, which gave insight into his personal experiences, and documents located in the United States Navy archives, which provided technical information on the torpedoes. Secondary sources included
biographies about the primary individuals involved, an Operations Evaluation Group from the U.S. Navy, and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago’s publication about the U-505.