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MSI TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U-505 CAPTURE

Museum offering guests free on-board tours showcasing conservation work, special year-long anniversary exhibit featuring rarely seen photographs and artifacts

CHICAGO (MAY 22, 2019) – The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) is commemorating the 75th anniversary of the U-505 submarine’s capture with a special exhibit featuring rarely seen photographs and artifacts along with [free on-board tours](#) on Tuesday, June 4 – the capture date – to showcase the newly completed two-year conservation work in key areas of the sub.

The U-505 is the first vessel captured by the U.S. Navy since the War of 1812, and its seizure, just two days before D-Day, was critical in helping the Allies understand German technology and codes. The 252-foot vessel was captured by the U.S.S. Guadalcanal Task Force 22.3, led by Navy Captain Daniel Gallery, a Chicago native. The U-505 is the only U-boat of its kind (type IX-C) in the United States and one of only four left in the world.

“As we honor this milestone anniversary, it’s important to recall the bravery of the men and women who helped orchestrate the U-505’s historic capture, as well as all of those who fought in World War II,” said David Mosen, MSI’s president and chief executive officer. “It is the Museum’s honor to ensure that the U-505’s story – as well as the personal contributions of those involved in its capture – live on for generations to come.”

U-505 Submarine: 75 Stories

As part of the June 4 anniversary commemoration, MSI will unveil [U-505 Submarine: 75 Stories](#), a year-long exhibit built from the Museum’s vast Collection and archives. The exhibit will tell the U-505’s story, focusing on its early history, the lives of German and American sailors and more about the battle and resulting capture through 75 rarely seen artifacts and photographs.

Guests will see the personal journals and belongings of German and American sailors, photos taken during the war and pop culture items including a U-505 board game and comic book celebrating the actions of Captain Daniel Gallery.

Conserving the U-505

Thanks to a grant from the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program, the Museum was able to embark on a nearly two-year conservation project focused on preservation and restoration of key areas of the submarine, including:

- **Conning Tower and Aft Torpedo Room** – Efforts in these key areas focused on removing corrosion, abrasions and broken steel fixings, as well as restoring structural components including flooring and the integrity of the conning tower ladders.

- Upper Deck – In addition to cleaning and restoring the wood, the upper deck can now be accessed more safely, giving historians and researchers a structurally sound platform from which to work.
- Control Room and Galley Kitchen – Efforts in these areas focused on returning them to their original state. The control room now features restored paint colors and the galley kitchen has been thoroughly cleaned to give guests a look at how those - saw it.
- Life Raft – The original life raft's condition has deteriorated over time. Conservators used historically accurate material to patch the vessel, which will now be partially inflated for guests to see.

“The U-505 has been a staple of the MSI experience for 65 years and the details we’ve been able to restore means that guests get an even more realistic sense of life onboard the sub,” said Kathleen McCarthy, MSI’s head curator and director of Collections. “As firsthand stories of World War II become more rare, we remain honored to be the steward of this National Historic Landmark.”

History of the U-505 at MSI

The sub, a National Historic Landmark, became part of the Museum’s permanent collection in 1954 with the help of Daniel Gallery, a Chicago native and captain of the task force that captured the sub. Docked outside of the Museum for nearly 50 years, the boat debuted inside a 35,000 square foot exhibit in 2004 featuring multiple interactive units, nearly 200 artifacts, re-enactments of key events and testimonials from Task Group 22.3 veterans who made the remarkable capture.

U-505 Submarine: 75 Stories runs through May 2020 and the U-505 exhibit is a permanent experience. Both exhibits are included with Museum Entry, which is free to Illinois residents June 3-5, 2019. Guests can reserve timed-entry tickets for U-505 On-board Tours beginning on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at msichicago.org and onsite in the Museum’s Entry Hall. On-board tours will only be free of charge on June 4, 2019 and are subject to capacity limits. Tickets are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can’t be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make *you* the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Welcome to Science Initiative, the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI’s larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find your inspiration! MSI is open 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414.

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