

Ex-crew recognizes photos of sunken Japanese battleship

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A former crewmember on a Japanese battleship that sank during World War II said he recognized photos of wreckage discovered off the Philippines by a team led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

Shizuhiko Haraguchi served as a gunnery officer on the *Musashi*, one of the largest battleships in history, when it was being fitted in Japan before it departed for the Pacific in 1943.

He said he recognized underwater photos taken by Allen’s team of a large gun turret and a catapult system used to launch planes.

“I recognized that main turret, which I was assigned to,” Haraguchi, 93, said in a telephone interview from his home in Nagasaki in southern Japan where the ship was built, fitted, and tested. “I felt very nostalgic when I saw that.”

The *Musashi* had nine 18-inch guns, which were each 66 feet long, he said.

Haraguchi said other details released by Allen convinced him that the wreckage was that of the *Musashi*. He said a round base shown in a photo of the bow was where a chrysanthemum decoration used to be, an Imperial seal that only battleships were allowed to carry.

Allen said his team found the battleship at a depth of 3,280 feet in the Sibuyan Sea using an autonomous underwater vehicle following more than eight years of study.

‘Duang!’ Chinese poke fun at Jackie Chan with nonsense word

By Didi Tang
The Associated Press

BEIJING — “Duang!” That’s movie star Jackie Chan’s latest contribution to Chinese mass culture and entertainment.

It’s not a word, but a sound he made in an old television commercial meaning something like “ta-da!” A new mash-up video of the old ad has made “duang” a trending topic on China’s social media.

The sound began circulating days before the rubberstamp legislature was called into session. Chan is now a quasi-politician appointed to a legislative advisory panel, and some observers see “duang” as a way for the public to question the credibility of delegates and express dissatisfaction with the political system.

Though the tone of the phrase is more derisive than fun, Chan has been a good sport. He recently told reporters that he thinks the trend is “quite funny.”

Daniel Dae Kim takes control in ‘Hawaii Five-O’ and beyond

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physician father and mother emigrated in the 1960s from South Korea and settled on the east coast. He was raised in New York and Pennsylvania, graduated from Haverford College, and earned a master’s degree from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts.

His parents “made a hard, huge move so we could have the opportunity for a great life,” Kim said, and he encountered his own challenges growing

up.

“The need for expression stemmed from being a minority in this country and being singled out for being different,” he said. “And I think I felt stifled in some ways when I was younger, that my voice wasn’t behind heard the same way as others. And that led me to finding a means of expression.”

Whether he’s onscreen or directing or producing, he said, “it’s all about that.”

Lynn Elber is a national television columnist for The Associated Press.

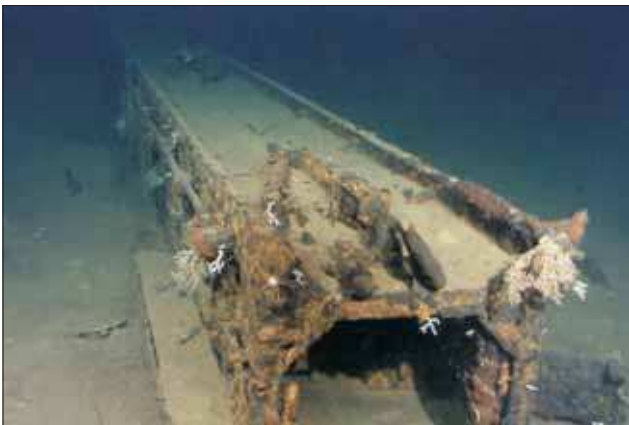


HISTORIC WRECKAGE FOUND. In these images, provided by Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul Allen and captured with a high-definition camera mounted on an underwater probe, are what Allen’s team believes are an inverted type 89, 12.7 centimeter gun turret (left photo) and a catapult system (right photo) on a massive Japanese World War II battleship off the coast of the Philippines. In a statement, Allen’s team said it found the battleship just off the Sibuyan Sea using an autonomous underwater vehicle in its third dive after narrowing down the search area using detailed undersea topographical data and other locator devices. (AP Photo/Paul Allen)

Allen called the *Musashi* an “engineering marvel” and said he was honored to have found a key ship in naval history.

Historians and military experts praised the apparent discovery of the legendary battleship after 70 years, saying it would help promote interest in World War II studies. A group supporting navy veterans said survivors would want to hold a memorial service at the site.

Haraguchi left the ship just before its departure because he was transferred to an aviation unit in eastern



Japan.

The discovery of the battleship comes as the world this year marks the 70th anniversary of the war’s end.

The *Musashi*, commissioned in 1942, sank in October 1944 in the Sibuyan Sea during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, losing about half of its 2,400 crew members. Only a few hundred eventually returned home alive. The ship was hit repeatedly by torpedoes and bombs dropped by planes from Allied aircraft carriers.

The naval battle, considered the largest of World War II, crippled the Imperial fleet, cut off Japanese oil supplies, and allowed the U.S. invasion of Japan-held Philippines.

“The discovery of the *Musashi* was really a nice surprise,” Haraguchi said. “It was as if the spirits of her crewmembers who sank with her were telling us to remember them for the 70th anniversary.”

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