

The Sinking of INS Khukri: A Tragic Tale of Courage and Sacrifice

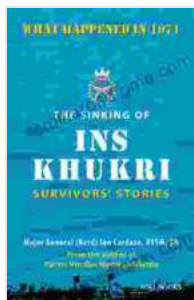


Prologue

On the fateful night of December 9, 1971, tragedy struck the Indian Navy. INS Khukri, a type 14 anti-submarine frigate, was torpedoed and sunk by a Pakistani submarine, PNS Hangor, during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. The sinking of INS Khukri remains one of the darkest chapters in Indian naval history, claiming the lives of 18 officers and 176 sailors. This article delves into the tragic events leading to the sinking of INS Khukri, highlighting the courage and sacrifice of its crew.

The Prelude

INS Khukri was commissioned in 1959 and served as part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet. On December 4, 1971, just days before the outbreak of war, Khukri was deployed to the Arabian Sea as part of Task Force 74, under the command of Commodore B.B. Nayyar. The task force was tasked with patrolling the western coast of India and intercepting any Pakistani naval incursions.



The Sinking of INS Khukri: Survivor's Stories: Survivors Stories by Czeslaw Tubilewicz

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
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The Encounter

On December 9, 1971, INS Khukri was patrolling off the coast of Diu, when it detected a Pakistani submarine on its sonar. The submarine, later identified as PNS Hangor, had been trailing the Indian task force for several days, waiting for an opportune moment to strike.

At around 10:30 pm, Hangor fired two torpedoes towards INS Khukri. The first torpedo missed its target, but the second struck the frigate's starboard side, causing catastrophic damage. The explosion ripped through the ship's hull, flooding several compartments and disabling its propulsion system.

The Aftermath

With its hull breached and its propulsion system knocked out, INS Khukri began to sink rapidly. The crew fought valiantly to control the damage and save the ship, but their efforts were in vain. Within minutes, the frigate had completely submerged, taking with it the lives of 18 officers and 176 sailors.

The sinking of INS Khukri was a devastating blow to the Indian Navy and the nation as a whole. The loss of so many lives in such a short period was mourned across the country. The tragedy further fueled the determination of the Indian military to achieve victory in the war.

The Sinking of INS Khukri: A Symbol of Courage and Sacrifice

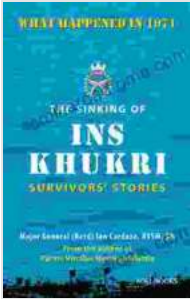
The sinking of INS Khukri is a stark reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Indian Navy in defense of their country. The crew of INS Khukri faced their fate with courage and determination, fighting to the very end. Their sacrifice will forever be etched in the annals of Indian naval history.

The memory of INS Khukri and its crew continues to be honored through various memorials and events. A monument to the ship and its fallen sailors stands in Mumbai, while the Indian Navy observes December 9 as "INS Khukri Day" every year. The story of INS Khukri serves as an enduring symbol of the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.

Epilogue

The sinking of INS Khukri was a tragedy that shook the Indian nation. However, it also became a testament to the courage and unwavering dedication of the Indian Navy. The memory of INS Khukri and its crew

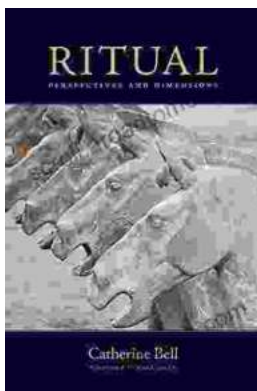
continues to inspire generations of Indian sailors, reminding them of the sacrifices made by those who came before them.



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