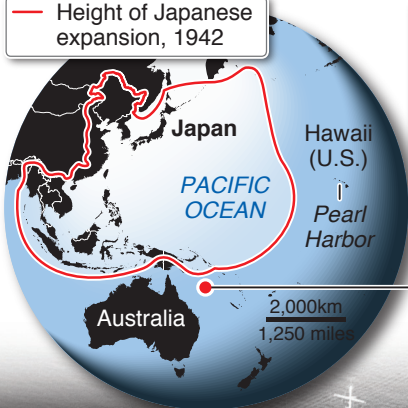


WW2 aircraft carrier found after 76 years

Wreckage from the *USS Lexington*, a U.S. aircraft carrier that was sunk during World War Two, has been found off the coast of Australia

— Height of Japanese expansion, 1942



Wreck discovered by search team led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen at depth of around 3,000 meters in Coral Sea, some 800km off Australia's north east coast

USS Lexington: Scuttled on May 8, 1942 after suffering massive damage by Japanese forces during Battle of Coral Sea – key moment in halting Japan's advance in Pacific war.

216 crew members died in fighting

SPECIFICATIONS (as built)

Displacement 36,580 tonnes

Length 270m

Beam 32.6m



Propulsion

Four turbo-electric generators, 47,200hp

Top speed 33 knots (62km/h)

Range 19,000km at 10kn

Crew 2,791 (including air group)



Wreck shows stunningly intact features, including 5-inch gun with rifling still visible inside barrel



Ship went down with 35 aircraft. So far 11 planes have been found, including Grumman F4F-3 Wildcats

Sources: www.paulallen.com, Encyclopaedia Britannica, www.navsource.org

Pictures: Douglas Curran/AFP/Getty Images, U.S. Navy

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