

WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE

# U.S. Navy Heard What It Believed Was Titan Implosion Days Ago

Underwater microphones designed to detect enemy submarines first detected Titan tragedy

ng [Follow](#) , Nancy A. Youssef [Follow](#) , Gordon Lubold [Follow](#) and Costas Paris [Follow](#)

2023 at 7:15 pm ET

military acoustic detection system designed to spot enemy submarines first heard what the U.S. Navy suspected was the Titan submersible im  
the submersible began its voyage, officials involved in the search said.

gan listening for the Titan almost as soon as the sub lost communications, according to a U.S. defense official. Shortly after the submersible's  
ce Sunday, the U.S. system detected what it suspected was the sound of an implosion near the debris site discovered Thursday and reported its  
ard commander on site, U.S. defense officials said.

avy couldn't say definitively the sound came from the Titan, the discovery played a role in narrowing the scope of the search for the vessel befo  
red Thursday, the officials said.

avy conducted an analysis of acoustic data and detected an anomaly consistent with an implosion or explosion in the general vicinity of where t  
was operating when communications were lost," a senior U.S. Navy official told The Wall Street Journal in a statement. "While not definitive, t  
was immediately shared with the Incident Commander to assist with the ongoing search and rescue mission."

ided "to continue our mission as a search and rescue and make every effort to save the lives on board," the U.S. Navy statement said.

ked that the specific system used not be named, citing national security concerns. It is normally used to detect enemy submarines.

y typically deals with foreign threats using military capabilities. The U.S. Coast Guard typically carries out search-and-rescue operations and t  
rs directly related to security of the country. The two services often operate together due to their mutual maritime missions. The search for the  
oughly 900 miles off the coast of Massachusetts.

ound debris from the submersible roughly 1,600 feet from the bow of the Titanic wreckage, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Canadian, U.S. and French  
earch.



e Titan prepares for a dive into a remote area of the Atlantic Ocean on an expedition to the Titanic  
th. PHOTO: ACTION AVIATION/ASSOCIATED PRESS

uard didn't immediately respond to requests for comment about what information it received and how it was used.

the search, rescue crews detected several types of noises, U.S. and Canadian officials said, including the one suspected of being the sub's implo  
implosion is the sudden collapse of a submarine when the tremendous pressure of the seawater overpowers the pressure inside the vessel and

## Is responding to the missing



June 21, 12 a.m. to June 21, 5 p.m.

Craig

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



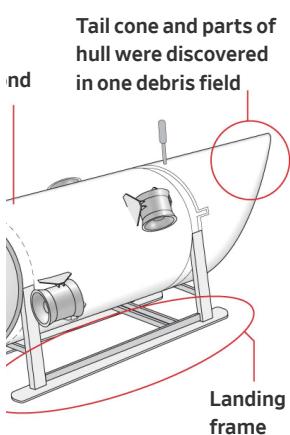
aircraft flying over the French research vessel L'Atalante on Wednesday during the search for the Titan. PHOTO: U.S. COAST GUARD/ASSOCIATED PRESS

eloped its acoustic systems after World War II to detect enemy submarines operating in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

id it shared its findings Sunday with the Coast Guard, which led the search, U.S. defense officials said. The U.S. held off making public what noise cause it wanted to ensure search-and-rescue operations continued and couldn't say for sure it was an implosion.

## What happened to the Titan?

erated vehicle discovered the other debris from the missing



"It looks that the Titan imploded on Sunday on its way down to the Titanic shortly after contact was lost at a depth of 9,000 feet," a person with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The five men onboard the missing submersible in the North Atlantic are believed to be dead, the U.S. Coast Guard, which owns the company that operated the vessel said Thursday.

The sub's disappearance had set off an urgent international search effort to find its occupants alive.

The families were informed Thursday of the Navy's findings when the search-and-rescue team discovered the debris field according to a U.S. defense official.

The submersible had departed Sunday for what was supposed to be an hourslong excursion to the Titanic shipwreck, more than 2 miles below the ocean's surface. Shortly after the voyage began, the sub lost contact with the outside world.

Write to Ben Kesling at [ben.kesling@wsj.com](mailto:ben.kesling@wsj.com), Nancy A. Youssef at [nancy.youssef@wsj.com](mailto:nancy.youssef@wsj.com), Gordon Lubold at [gordon.lubold@wsj.com](mailto:gordon.lubold@wsj.com) and Costas Paris at [costas.paris@wsj.com](mailto:costas.paris@wsj.com)

Appeared in the June 23, 2023, print edition as 'U.S. Navy Heard Suspected Implosion'.

U.S. Coast Guard

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL