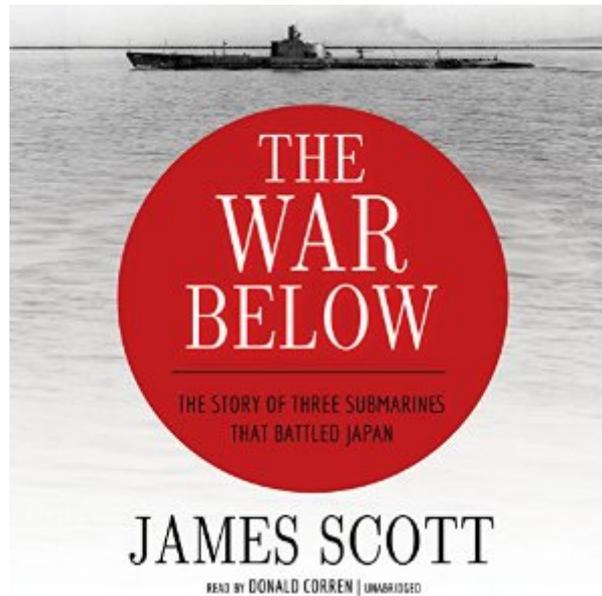


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The War Below: The Story Of Three Submarines That Battled Japan



Synopsis

The riveting story of the submarine force that helped win World War II by ravaging Japan's merchant fleet and destroying its economy. *The War Below* is a dramatic account of extraordinary heroism, ingenuity, and perseverance-and the vital role American submarines played in winning the Pacific War. Focusing on the unique stories of the submarines *Silversides*, *Drum*, and *Tang*-and the men who skippered and crewed them-James Scott takes readers beneath the waves to experience the thrill of a direct hit on a merchant ship and the terror of depth charge attacks. It's a story filled with incredible feats of courage, including an emergency appendectomy performed with spoons by an inexperienced medic and the desperate struggle of sailors to escape from a flooded submarine stuck on the bottom, as well as tragic moments such as American submarines sinking an unmarked enemy ship carrying some 1,800 American POWs. The casualty rate among submariners topped that of all military branches, a staggering six times higher than the surface navy. The war claimed almost one out of every five boats. But Japan was so ravaged by the loss of precious fuel and supplies that by war's end, Japanese warships lay at anchor while hungry civilians ate sawdust. Scott paints an unforgettable picture of the dangerous life submariners endured, including the atrocious prison camps where the Japanese beat, tortured, and starved captured Allied troops. Based on more than one hundred interviews with submarine veterans and a review of more than three thousand pages of previously unpublished letters, diaries, and personal writings, *The War Below* allows readers to experience the Pacific War as never before.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the days following the attack on Pearl Harbor, an order was issued to execute unrestricted submarine warfare on Japan. During the course of the Pacific War, the American submarine service wreaked havoc on Japanese merchant shipping. Over 1,000 Japanese merchant ships were sunk during the war, along with dozens of warships. But the price was high; 52 American submarines were lost during the war. "The War Below" describes the war patrols of three American submarines: Drum, Silversides, and the immortal Tang. Each of these boats was lead by one of the "new breed" of American submarine skipper. These men went to submarine school expecting to be fighting an enemy one day. Thus, they developed aggressive tactics, unlike older skippers trained in peace time. Names such as Burlingame, Coye, Morton, and O'Kane would soon become etched in the annals of submarine history. These aggressive skippers and their crews carried the war directly to the Japanese homeland. It became so dangerous for Japanese merchant shipping that it was unsafe for the ships to even sail in their home waters. Along with vividly describing the submarine tactics used by American skippers, this book also gives the reader a general overview of the war in the Pacific. Major campaigns are discussed, and the role of submarines is fitted into each. Author James Scott also describes life aboard the submarines. He discusses the fear of a sustained depth charge attack, the exhilaration of a successful sinking, and some unusual aspects, including an emergency appendectomy performed on a wardroom table. "The War Below" is a fine book that accurately and interestingly describes the exploits of three of America's greatest submarines.

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