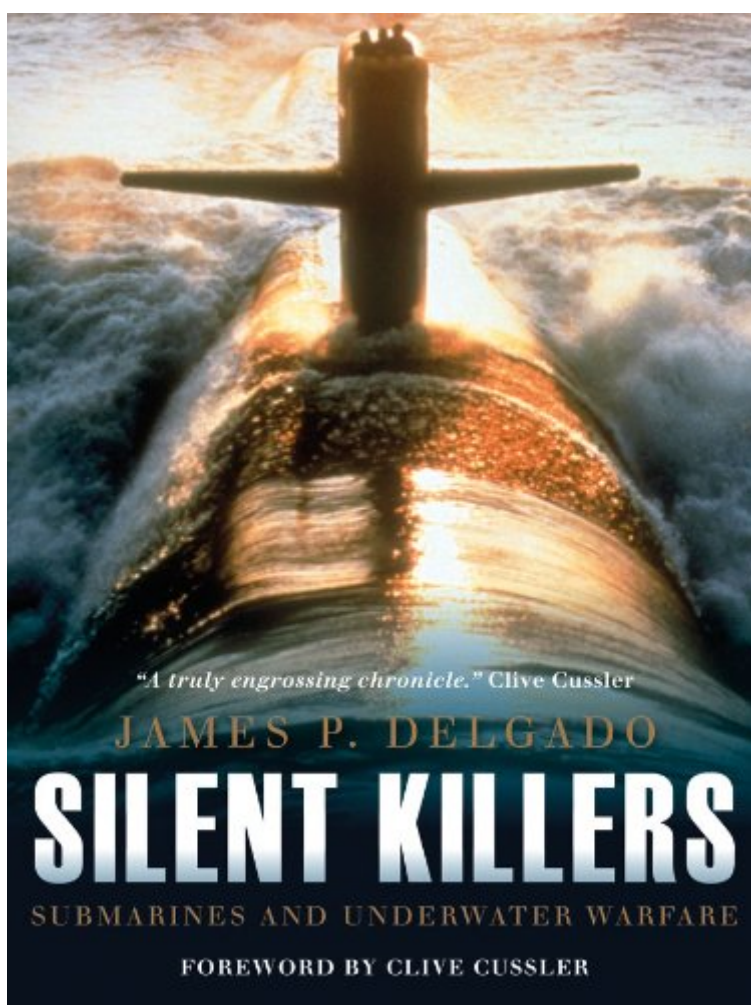


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# Silent Killers: Submarines And Underwater Warfare (General Military)



## Synopsis

James P. Delgado, President and CEO of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, presents a detailed and visually stunning examination of the history and development of the modern nuclear submarine. Calling on his training as a nautical archaeologist who was among the first explorers to dive the Titanic, Delgado recreates the story of the submarine from the bottom up — that is through eerie photographs of subs at the bottom of the sea. In addition, he explores submarine technology, from wooden to iron to steel hulls, from hand-cranked to nuclear-powered propulsion, from candlelight to electricity, from gunpowder 'torpedoes' to nuclear missiles. An esteemed underwater archaeologist and marine historian, Jim Delgado has compiled an extraordinary history of the dragons of the deep. *Silent Killers* is a triumph that is educational as well as highly entertaining. Clive Cussler

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you are looking for a book on underwater warfare tactics or wartime history, this is not the book. If you are interested in the development of submarines over the past couple of hundred years, then

this is a very good reference source. It is well documented and covers the events in a number of different countries around the world. A most enjoyable read.

An excellent book for information about the development and origin of submarines, from the earliest experimentation to the very modern submarine. An excellent book to keep in your library for historical reference. Easy reading with a treasure of historical facts and documentation, but not dry or boring at all. An excellent book with factual information. Lots of photos from the earliest to the modern.

Great history of the submarine force, and accurately reflects my own experience in the 1950s and 1960s with Admiral Rickover's Nuclear Propulsion Program.

Love this submarine book! Beautiful pictures and great information. Found this book to be very helpful in writing a paper on submarines in the Civil War.

Was a gift and he loved it.

gave the book as a gift to a WWII history buff, looked as though it would be a very interesting read.

Researched with such incredible depth and detail, it's unimaginable to me how a book can provide so little actual insight and understanding over so many pages. This is the kind of history that turns people away from history: dry recitation of fact after fact with minimal analysis and no sense of the "story" behind the incredible men and machines. Organized chronologically, the book pays lots of attention to length and tonnage of every boat. It notes clearly the obstacles that developers of submarines had to overcome - range, depth, fresh air, type of engines, cooling for the crew, armaments, etc. - but if it ever actually explains how any of these were resolved, it's in passing deference to more dates and lengths and tonnages. For example, the special design of mine-laying subs is referenced dozens of times, yet never explained. Same with the Momsen Lung, air purification and even the periscope and snorkel. At many points, I questioned whether the author even understood what he was talking about. Mid-book, Delgado refers to the changeout of one submarine's 18-inch torpedo tubes for LONGER 21-inch tubes (I'm pretty sure that would be the diameter, not the length). He explains the development of the diesel-electric drive in an independent clause within a larger sentence. All of this is delivered in a tiresome and repetitive writing style. If you

want to know the length and tonnage of a particular class of submarine from the late 1700s through present day, go ahead and buy this book. If you want to learn how each technological hurdle was overcome; how submarine warfare strategy was developed and changed the globe; about the people who coped with the frightening conditions of life on the crew, then find another book. This one will only disappoint you.

This book is full of people stories that bring the human side of the development of the submarine to life. I found the book to be a compelling, well written tour through history made interesting by personal touches and insight. While there are necessary technical details, this is not an exhaustive by the numbers book on every measurement, ton, gun or torpedo. It adds to story told by previous books by going into details about how these submarines fit into their times, who the inventors were, what their trials and tribulations were, and all of this is not only laid out in words but in a wonderful selection of images. Make no mistake, this is not a coffee table book, but a well-illustrated and well written reference that is also a delight to read. I was also pleased to see the last chapter, which is a thoughtful essay on how submarines and submarine warfare are part of popular culture, as well as how submarines are memorialized and preserved, and, not surprising given the author's profession, a section on the archaeology of submarines. I highly recommend the book!

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