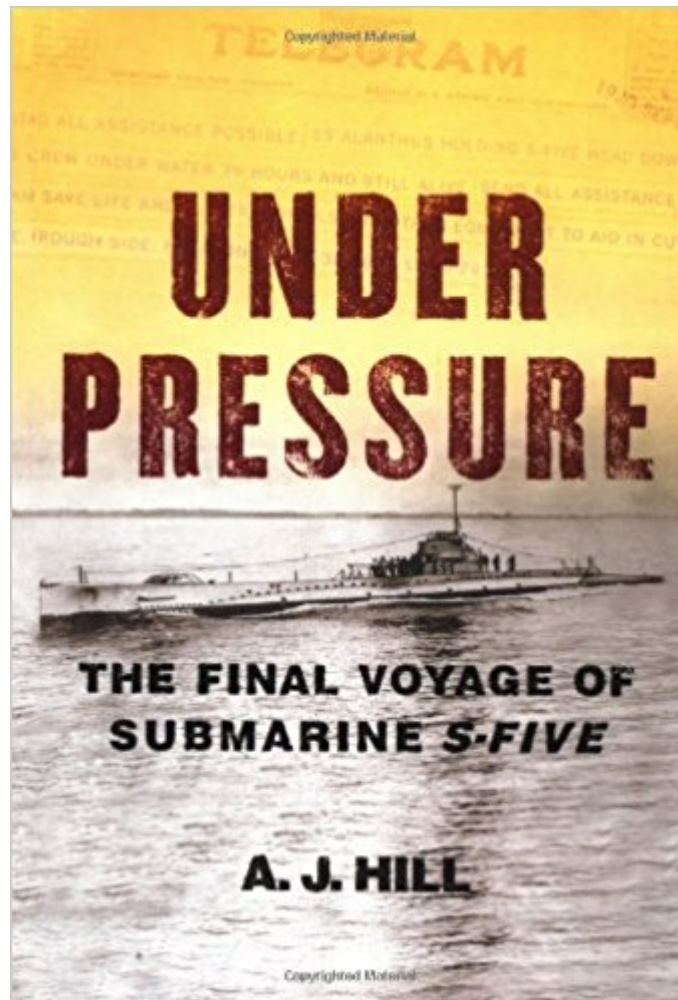


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Under Pressure: The Final Voyage Of Submarine S-Five



Synopsis

Follows the dramatic 1920 struggle by Lieutenant Commander Charles M. Cooke, Jr., and the crew of the Navy sub S-5 to escape their sinking submarine and attract the attention of a rescue ship before they all drowned.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The sea is notoriously unforgiving, but it reserves its harshest penalties for those who venture beneath its surface," writes U.S. Navy veteran A.J. Hill in *Under Pressure*. The captain and crew of the S-Five submarine learned this gloomy fact the hard way in 1920, when they tested their new boat's ability to "crash dive"--submerge as quickly as possible--and sank straight to the bottom of the ocean. A faulty induction valve had flooded, leaving 40 men stranded at a depth of 180 feet, about 50 miles off the coast of Cape May, New Jersey. Everything seemed to go wrong: the drive motors failed, the main lighting circuits went dead, and their oxygen began to run thin. Nobody knew their location and they had no means of calling for help. All they had was their own ingenuity and the remarkable leader Lt. Commander Savvy Cooke. The story of how they managed--just barely--to escape an underwater tomb will appeal to fans of Peter Maas's *The Terrible Hours* (though it's worth noting that the technology behind the 1939 *Squalus* rescue wasn't available to the men trapped in the S-Five) and *Blind Man's Bluff* by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew. --John J. Miller

In 1920 U.S.S. S-5, practicing crash dives off the Atlantic coast, sank due to a combination of

negligence and poor mechanical design. Fortunately, it went down in relatively shallow water. Unfortunately, the compressed air remaining in the vessel was sufficient to raise only the submarine's stern to the surface. The crew then began a daylong struggle to endure foul air and unnaturally tilted quarters until they could cut a hole in the exposed stern. From there they signaled a passing ship, whose engineers cut another hole through which the crew was rescued. S-5 is still where it sank, but her ingenious captain, aptly nicknamed "Savvy," went on to acquire four stars, a rating this book also deserves. The nightmares inflicted on her crew by the "latest thing in American submarines" will make readers doff their hats in tribute to the early submariners, who went down under the sea in ships that didn't always come up. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Here is a very different submarine book in which one is entrapped just off the Eastern seaboard with no contact with the outside. The manner in which its captain and crew work to make the best of it would raise the hair of any submariner, officer or enlisted. As a 20 year submariner, it kept me on my toes as these sailors never gave up in their fight for escape and rescue. An almost unimaginable situation and an unbelievable amount of guts on the part of the captain and crew.

This is so good it's hard to believe it actually happened. Imagine you are in a submarine near the bottom of the ocean, and you see and feel water coming through the top. I could not put it down until I finished it.

The story of the S-5 is one I've been familiar with my whole life, the executive officer LT Grisham (whose nickname was "Jim" not "Charlie") was my grandfather. He and his wife Mary were not getting ready to start a family, my mother was four years old at the time. I don't want to give away the ending, so I think I needed to make clear that my existence was not predicated on LT Grisham's survival. The book is a real page-turner, I read it in one sitting. Although I was well aware of the outcome, Mr. Hill kept me enthralled. My heart was beating fast and my hands were sweaty. It is an inspiring book, uplifting to read about the honor and valor of men in terrifying predicaments. It's also a graphic description of the conditions aboard submarines in the early days of the silent service. A MUST-READ

Great lesson in perseverance in the face of nearly impossible odds of survival.

This is a really great book. I purchased this after reading a copy from a library. I had to have my own copy. I also bought one for my son. The book is full of detailed descriptions of what happened. It is a wonderful lesson in the ability of men to overcome all obstacles and survive.

This is an amazing true story that I could see being made into a motion picture. It was well researched, and presented in such a fashion that was easy and interesting to follow. My interest in this was because my grandfather was one of the sailors on that sub.

Great book. Grisham was my grandfather.

This is an absolute "must read" for any submarine buff, but especially so if you like "S" boats. Not just for the on edge excitement of the accident and rescue but for life in general as a submariner onboard an S-class sub in the early years of the silent service. Not much reading of this quality is available covering this time span in the subs and "Under Pressure" strikes the nail on the head. This book is proof that you don't have to have a war to have heroes, highly recommended reading.

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