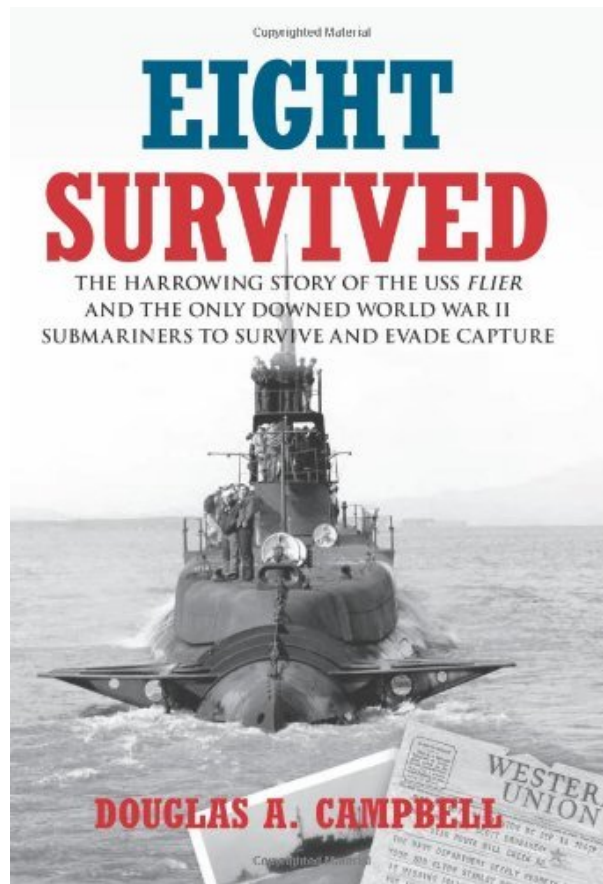


**EIGHT SURVIVED: THE HARROWING
STORY OF THE USS FLIER AND THE ONLY
DOWNED WORLD WAR II SUBMARINERS
TO SURVIVE AND EVADE CAPTURE BY
DOUGLAS**



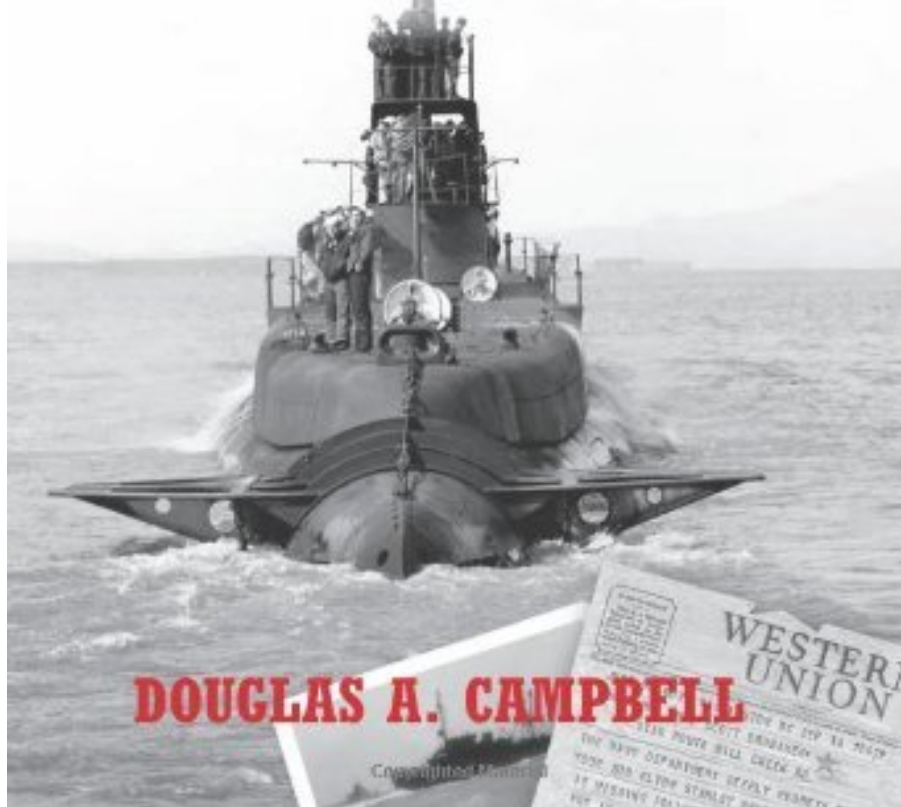
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The incredible wartime saga of the only American submariners
to survive the sinking of their ship and evade enemy capture in WWII

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting

By Burt

While an interesting book, too much detail included about locations during uneventful periods. Very difficult to follow without detailed maps on hand while reading

35 of 39 people found the following review helpful.

No Dick O'Kane

By Joseph Pennino

Eight survived is another title to make Admiral O'Kane's 'Clear the Bridge' soar. This one is barely readable and is barely a one star book. The author is not familiar with nautical terminology. The skipper of the sub is ordered to "anchor at a dock", is standing on the "floor" of the conning tower, and the crew's compartment has a steel "floor". Campbell opens the book with an involved description of the Flier going aground at Midway. The chapter screams for a chart of the Midway atoll to put some coherence in the chapter and it isn't there. All we know is that the channel is narrow and difficult and the Flier skipper, who supposedly has fourteen years' experience at sea, totally bungled the approach. The sub runs aground and in attempting to set the anchor in a heavy sea, a seaman is lost overboard and drowned and several others come close to drowning.

To pad the word count Campbell digresses with character vignettes that just don't fit into the narrative which is shaky enough. We have no interest in the men mainly because the war patrol events aren't clearly defined and the result is both stories lack involvement and coherence. My thought is that Mr. Campbell doesn't want to clutter the book with a lot of submarine lingo which is a criticism of O'Kane's book. Clear the Bridge has a compelling story that moves and is involving and we are quite willing to work with O'Kane when he discusses, clappers and angles on the bow, etc. This story dumbs down the action to generalities that insult the intelligence of the reader with a minimal knowledge of submarine warfare.

The writing style is plodding and formulaic. Two or three subject-verb-object declarative sentences in a row. Then a compound sentence with a subordinate clause. This would be good high school level non-fiction writing since the author did the research. He doesn't cite O'Kane's *Clear the Bridge* in his bibliography and he should read it. The gaps in *Eight Survived* may become more visible to him and his next effort may benefit. This book will remainder very soon and be available at a very low price right after Christmas.

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Our lost boats and submariners deserve better

By subsowespac

I purchased this book at Amazon. It was the hardcover first edition. The author, Douglas A. Campbell, makes several factual mistakes in the book that bring into question the thoroughness of his research. He mistakenly places the friendly fire incident during the Flier's maiden voyage in the Pacific Ocean. It

happened in the Caribbean Sea. He also says the Robalo sailed from Port Darwin on her final patrol. Not so - on June 22, 1944, she sailed from Fremantle with an Operation Order specifying she stop at Exmouth Gulf to refuel and then pass through the Barrier via Lombok Strait. She was no where near Port Darwin on her last patrol. He cites the "Record of Proceedings of an Investigation into the Loss of the USS Robalo and the Loss of the USS Flier" as a principal source for the chapter in which this mistake is made, and the Robalo's Operation Order is an exhibit in that document. He also states that the Robalo hit a mine and sank on July 2, 1944. That's what the early intelligence from Sergeant Pasqual de la Cruz indicated. But later information provided by Trinidad Mendosa via the guerrilla leader, "Dr. Mendosa," established the Robalo was lost on July 26, 1944. Our lost boats and submariners deserve better than what Campbell offers. There are two better books available about the Flier, one by R. J. Hughes and the other by Michael Sturma. Get one of these instead.

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