

THERE WAS ONE SUBMARINE that outfought all other boats in the Silent Service in World War II: the USS Tang. Captain Richard Hetherington O'Kane commanded the attack submarine that sunk more tonnage, rescued more downed aviators, and successfully completed more surface attacks than any other American submarine. These undersea predators were the first to lead the offensive rebound against the Japanese, but at great cost: Submariners had six times the mortality rate as the sailors who manned surface ships.

The Tang achieved its greatest success on October 24, 1944, when it took on an entire Japanese convoy and destroyed it. But its twenty-fourth and last torpedo boomeranged, returning to strike the Tang. Irreparably damaged, the boat sank, coming to rest on the bottom of the sea, one hundred eighty feet down. After hours of struggle, nine of the eighty-seven crewmen, including O'Kane, made it to the surface.

Captured by the Japanese, the Tang sailors joined other submariners and flyers—including Louis Zamperini and “Pappy” Boyington—at a “torture camp” whose purpose was to gain vital information from inmates and otherwise let them die from malnutrition, disease, and abuse. A special target was Captain O'Kane after the Japanese learned of the headlines about the Tang. Against all odds, when the camp was liberated in August 1945, O'Kane, at only ninety pounds, was still alive. The following January, Richard O'Kane limped into the White House where President Harry S. Truman bestowed upon him the Medal of Honor.

This is the true story of death and survival in the high seas—and of the submarine and her brave captain who would become legends.

TOM CLAVIN is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and has worked as a newspaper editor, magazine writer, TV and radio commentator, and a reporter for *The New York Times*. He has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and the National Newspaper Association. His books include the bestselling Frontier Lawmen trilogy—*Wild Bill*, *Dodge City*, and *Tombstone*—and *Blood and Treasure*, *The Last Hill*, and *Throne of Grace* with Bob Drury. He lives in Sag Harbor, New York.

READ BY GEORGE NEWBERN



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IN WORLD WAR II
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Adult



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