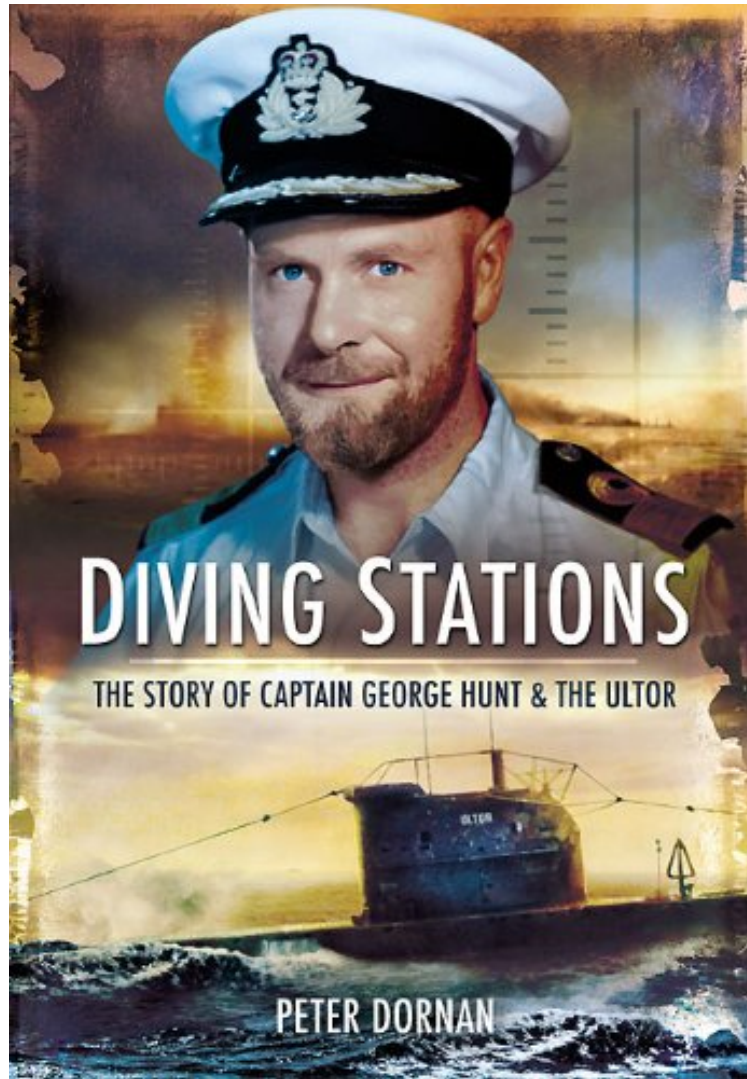


[Ebook free] Diving Stations: The Story of Captain George Hunt and the Ultor

Diving Stations: The Story of Captain George Hunt and the Ultor

Peter Dornan

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out's 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fits nicely into the annals of the Royal Navy submarine war in the Mediterranean. By Neal Stevens. Captain George Hunt, DSO, DSC was a standout sub commander in the Mediterranean. Hunt, who died on August 16, 2011 at the age of 95, sank more enemy ships than any other British submarine captain in WWII. Hunt was the son of a chartered accountant stationed in Uganda. He began his naval career as an indentured cadet in the Merchant Navy at 16. By age 21, with WWII only two years away, he stepped forward and joined the Royal Navy. In January 1939, Hunt was selected for submarine duty. A year later Lt. Hunt's submarine career was almost snuffed out before it began. The sub he was serving on, HMS Unity, was rammed by a Norwegian freighter and sunk. Hunt and most of the crew survived the incident. Another parallel in the careers of Hunt and Godfrey Place; they both served with the Polish submarine hero Borys Karnicki. Hunt was assigned to the HMS Urchin as the Liaison Officer prior to Place, before the Urchin was renamed as Sokol and began her storied career. Hunt went next to serve as First Lieutenant aboard HMS Proteus. They carried out one of the first submarine radar attacks in the Aegean Sea. During Proteus' sixth patrol, there is a really neat exploit described in the book where Proteus and an Italian destroyer surprised each other with a close encounter in a dark, stormy night. While Captain Phillip Francis on the bridge was calling frantic maneuvering commands down the voice tube to the helmsmen, Hunt called up to remind the captain they were still running on batteries, not the diesels. Captain Francis "called back down the pipe, "You wouldn't be worried about the bloody batteries if you were up here!". The sub and destroyer mutually rammed each other, and the sub's bow plane served as a dagger to the escort's side. Action in the Med was no less dangerous than action in the Atlantic for U-boats and the Pacific for US Fleet Boats. Enemy targets were generally guarded by more escorts than the number of merchants they escorted. The Germans utilized the Med to supply their troops in North Africa, and the fortress and port of Malta, being the only Allied base between Gibraltar and Alexandria, were key. The Royal Navy was determined to make the Germans pay dearly for their adventures in Africa and the Her Majesties' submarines played a significant role. In 1942, Hunt attended the Perisher Course and assumed command of an aging H-boat. By October, he was given command of a new construction sub, which he named Ultor after Mars, the god of war. After a short spell in the Arctic, Hunt was back in the Med. His first success would not take long. His torpedoes found two enemy merchant in his first attack. During his command of Ultor, Hunt was known to sink the merchants and then turn his sights on the escorts. Hunt exhibited phenomenal skill in the planning of his attacks, and had a particular genius for firing solutions. Nearly 50% of his torpedoes found their mark. In one attack, he was able to hit two ships with one magnetic torpedo. Hunt was not shy about penetrating enemy harbors and braving anti-submarine nets and defenses. In one attack, Hunt penetrated a screen of nine escorts and five patrol aircraft to sink a single merchant ship. Hunt was cited by his superiors as commanding his attacks with "unsurpassed" daring and brilliance and was rewarded with the Distinguished Service Cross with bar and Distinguished Service Order with bar. By the end of the war, targets grew less frequent and smaller. Hunt pursued them with the same vigor and resourcefulness until it was all over. Diving Stations is factually written in a journalistic style that not only paints a complete picture of the career of Captain Hunt and the famous Ultor, but also highlights many elements of the Allied invasion of Italy and siege of Malta. Together with Midget Submarine Commander, they serve as a pair of historical works that fit nicely into the annals of the Royal Navy submarine war in the Mediterranean.

Diving Stations is the inspiring story of Captain George Hunt's career. Born in Uganda and then educated in Glasgow, he was determined to join the Navy and at 13 years old he entered HMS Conway. His prewar years saw him serving worldwide. In 1939, on the outbreak of war he was already serving in submarines. Over the next six years he was rammed twice, sunk once and had hundreds of depth charges dropped around him. He gave more than he got! While in command of the Unity Class Submarine Ultor - mainly in the Mediterranean - he and his crew accounted for an astonishing 20 enemy vessels sunk by torpedo and 8 by gunfire as well as damaging another 4 ships. His fifteenth mission was described by the Admiralty as 'unsurpassed in the Annals of the Mediterranean Submarine Flotilla'. After the War George continued his distinguished naval career becoming Senior Naval Officer West Indies (SNOWI). He emigrated to Australia where he lives today.

About the Author Peter Dornan is a freelance writer on military and medical matters. For his work as a Sports physiotherapist with many international teams (the Wallabies and Australian Cricket Team) he was awarded the Commemorative 2000 Australian Sports Medal. In 2002 he was appointed as a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM). --This text refers to the Paperback edition. Peter Dornan is a freelance writer on military and medical matters. For his work as a Sports physiotherapist with many international teams (the Wallabies and Australian Cricket Team) he was awarded the Commemorative 2000 Australian Sports Medal. In 2002 he was appointed as a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM).