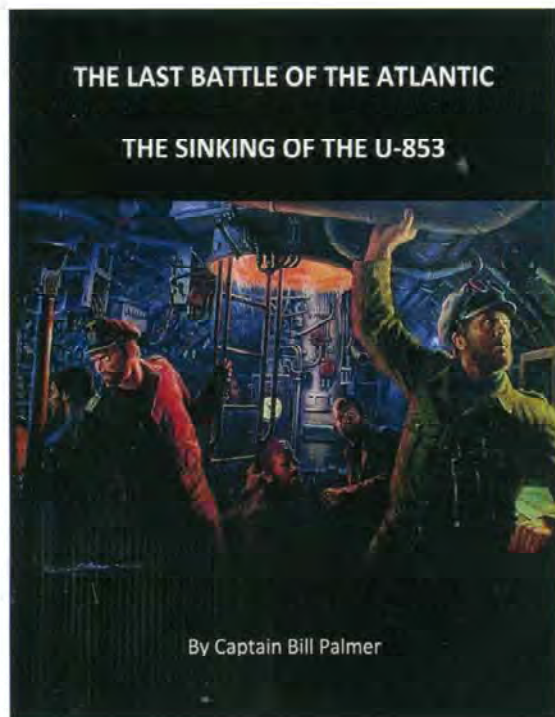


Every issue, *WDM* gives readers a preview into books or videos that may be of interest to wreck divers. | **Review by Charles George**



The Last Battle of the Atlantic - The Sinking of the U-853
Written by Captain Bill Palmer

During World War II, the United States was isolated for the most part from the war, with the notable exceptions of the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor, the Aleutian Islands, and the ineffective Oregon Raid. However, there was always the constant threat against our coastal shipping and the hunters were lurking off our shore until the very last days of World War II.

One of these hunters was the *U-853*. She was one of the war's last casualties and was lost with all hands. Today she lies 7 miles east of Block Island, Rhode Island, in 130 feet of water, sunk just days before Germany's surrender, a tragic and unnecessary end for her and her crew.

The Last Battle of the Atlantic - The Sinking of the U-853 is the definitive book on the *U-853*. It is very well researched and provides extensive details about the vessel, her crew, and the three different patrols and her violent death.

Although she sank only two vessels, totaling 5,783 tons, during her three years in service, she was deadly nonetheless.

Deftly using interviews with the survivors of the *U-853*'s two victims and the Captain of one of the US Navy destroyers that sank the *U-853*, author Captain Palmer is able to give details on the *U-853*'s last hours that I have not seen in other books on sunken submarines. Palmer also interviewed US Navy diver Clary Edwards, the first diver on the *U-853*, and gives the reader additional insight into what happened aboard the ill-fated ship during her last few minutes.

Palmer investigates the rumors concerning lost Nazi treasure aboard the vessel and the numerous salvage attempts for the non-existent treasure aboard the *U-853*. The book also looks at the dive itself. Since the U-boat lies in only 130 feet of water, she is a popular wreck diving site and is a dive that most wreck divers can easily do. But, as with all wreck dives, there is always a danger and Captain Palmer describes some of the accidents that have occurred on the *U-853* and some practical things that any diver on the *U-853* should know.

This is an engaging book, well written, with great attention to historical details, and told in a very personal manner by Captain Palmer. The book is filled with numerous black-and-white and color photos, diagrams, and photos of recovered artifacts.

If you plan to dive the *U-853*, you *need* this book because not only do you want to see the wreck, but to truly have a complete dive and to appreciate what is essentially a war grave, you must understand her story. Even if you do not plan to dive the *U-853*, if you want to know more about the violent end of a World War II German submarine and a world class wreck dive, **The Last Battle of the Atlantic - The Sinking of the U-853** is the book for you.

It is a proud and welcome addition to my library and should be in yours!

Hardback, 164 pages
Thunderfish Video and Publications
136 ½ Clifton St.
Wallingford, CT 06492
\$30.00 Available directly from the author: <http://www.thunderfishcharters.com/captainbillpalmer@gmail.com>