

Kyle Fruits

Miss Jeffers

Creative Writing

Due 12/11//20

“Thunder beneath the waves”

At 840 feet below the surface of the ocean, there is no light. Nothing to guide you, show you what’s ahead, or what’s above you. Everything is pitch-black. Everything is quiet and peaceful. Erie, almost. That is until the propellers of a submarine are heard. A low, whining sound, steadily approaching. A black object passes by, one somehow darker than the emptiness of the bottom of the ocean: a submarine.

It's an American sub, the USS *Bonita*. It's hunting for Japanese ships and it's on one's trail. Inside the sub, you see a young man smoking a cigarette, hunched over a device, wearing a white cap, a dark blue shirt with matching pants, and black headphones. The device he's bent over is compact but intricate, covered with buttons, knobs, with a small screen in the middle. This screen is circular and green, with a light green line rotating from the center of the circle. With each rotation of the line, a small green dot appears on what appears to be the top of the screen. The young man says "Admiral, got something."

An older man, maybe in his early thirties, approaches. He is wearing a white cap with a black brim, as well as a black two-piece suit. His shirt is decorated with the US Navy cross, and many commendations.

"What is it private?" The man barks.

“We've got her now, just under half a mile away, traveling at what I guess is 13 1/2 knots. She has to be carrying supplies or weapons. Sounds like a cruiser. Either way, it's a threat, what do we do?” The young man asked.

“Follow the protocol, as usual.”

The older man turned to his left, pushed a button on the wall, and spoke into it saying "Battle stations, battle stations. Ready torpedos #1 & 2.”

A red light began rhythmically flashing on the ceiling, causing a red glow to appear on the walls and the men's faces. The small green dot was getting closer to the center of the screen in front of the young man.

"300 yards, at this rate we'll be there in minutes”

The submarine was approaching the Japanese ship and closing in rapidly. The crew upon the sub was meticulously working away at their jobs, each doing their own with much haste. Two men were loading the torpedos, using a small crane/winch system within the sub as each weighed upwards of 3,000 pounds. Once loaded into each of their own individual tubes, hatches sealed behind them. One of the men pushed a button on the wall (similar to the one from earlier) and said

"Torpedos loaded, ready to fire.”

For a moment there was silence, nothing but the heavy breathing of the two men could be heard.

Then all at once, a voice was heard from the speaker.

"Target is locked.”

The men each ran to different sides of the sub, behind each hatch that held the torpedoes, and waited, anxiously.

"Fire when ready” came from the speaker.

One of the men pushed a large button on his side of the wall, and a hissing sound was heard from beyond the hatch. The other man did the same on his side, and the same sound was heard. A loud *BOOM* was heard from outside of the hull, then a second one.

"Good work boys, time to call it a day." The man said. This man was Eugene B. Fluckey.

Eugene Fluckey was born in Washington DC on the 5th of October, 1913. As a child, being born just before WWI, his life was greatly impacted by the war itself and the effects of the war. As a young boy, his life was filled with war, as WWI raged overseas from 1914-1918. The first 5 years of his life were plagued with the ideas of the war and how long it will last. At the time, European countries were being devastated by attacks, internal conflicts, and the bombing of cities by enemy forces. Because of this, the economies of many countries within Europe began to decline. In fear of this, the American stock market was closed for three months in order to prevent the same from happening to the American economy. This was the longest trade suspension in its history. Because of this suspension, businesses and corporations had to consider new ways of profit, the most likely way was trading with other countries that were involved in WW1 (as we weren't involved in the first two years of the war) and supplying them with the resources they needed to win the war against the Germans.

This idea gave millions of Americans jobs. In the end, WW1 gave America a 44-month growth period of its economy which allowed it to solidify its power in the world. Eugene Fluckey did not know poverty but was not a child of the rich. His parents both worked in factories, working to give their children a better life than they had. Living in the national capital, Washington DC, as a young child, he was influenced by our nation's history. At age 15 Fluckey graduated from high school. Being too young to go to college, his father sent him to Mercersburg Academy in Mercersburg Pennsylvania. He was also a member of the Boy Scouts of America

and even earned the title of Eagle Scout. He was more than prepared for the Naval Academy at the Colombian Preparatory School in Washington. Fluckey joined the US Naval Academy on June 13, 1931, and graduated (as well as ensigned) on June 6, 1935.

While in the Pacific ocean, Fluckey was assigned to be a part of a war patrol, as the prospecting officer of the sub-USS *Barb* later in the year. He was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in May of 1943. Following this promotion, he was assigned to the sub-USS *Dogfish*. While in command of this Balao-class submarine, Fluckey patrolled the waters of the Chinese and Japanese coast. During the time period of 5 war patrols, Fluckey's aggression, strategy, and initiative sunk and destroyed at least 16 different ships and even a train (yes, a train) to be destroyed. Because of this, his actions earned him, in total, 4 Navy Crosses and the medal of honor. Eugene Fluckey is considered a national war hero for his successful efforts in WWII and is best known for his victories against the Japanese Navy. Fluckey died on June 28th, 2007. He was 93 when he passed of old age. He will be forever remembered for his acts of bravery in WWII.

Works Cited

By Naval Submarine League. Published in 2014. Accessed by myself Nov 30th-Dec 7th.

[/https://www.navalsubleague.org/links/historymuseums/submarine-force-medal-honor-recipient/3864-2/](https://www.navalsubleague.org/links/historymuseums/submarine-force-medal-honor-recipient/3864-2/)

By Navy Legends. Published in 2013. Accessed by myself Nov 30th-Dec7th

<https://usnhistory.navylive.dodlive.mil/2015/12/22/navy-legends-rear-adm-eugene-fluckey/>