

THE LOCKER

By Joel Quinn

SYNOPSIS

The story follows two submarine sailors in WW2, who served aboard a United States submarine, the USS Claymore. Terry Black and Richard O'Neil served together for many war patrols and sunk numerous Japanese vessels. During a battle, their ship is struck by a depth Charge. The ship is severely damaged leaving them with an ultimatum. They must choose whether to try to escape the onslaught or surface the ship and surrender to Japanese forces.

PAGE 1

Panel 1

A group of sailors lined up along a dock. A submarine fills the background with an American Flag flying above it.

Caption
Summer of 1944
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Panel 2

A sailor peaks into the periscope of a submarine.

Narration
They told us twenty percent of us wouldn't survive...

Panel 3

A burning cargo ship is in the crosshairs of a periscope.

Narration
But the pay was extra, and we really got to stick it to the enemy,

Panel 4

The wreckage of a ship floats atop the ocean. A sheet of oil covers the surface.

Narration
None of us expected to feel the wrath we had inflicted so many times.

Panel 5

A sailor sits at a sonar terminal. A red warning light flashes on the wall for battle stations.

Sailor
Depth Charges! Brace for --

PAGE 2 (5 Panels)

Panel 1

Exterior of sub. A large explosion is seen next to the sub.

SFX
KABOOM!

Panel 2

A hole is visible on the side of the sub.

Panel 3

The captain holds onto a railing. Behind him is various control stations manned by sailors.

Captain
Damage Report!

Panel 4

Two lieutenants rush to the captain's side. Terry Black oversees the engine room. Richard O'Neil oversees the forward torpedo room.

Terry Black
Sir, there's a breach in the hull, the batteries are flooded!

Captain
Damn! If we can't run, maybe we can fight.

Panel 5

Close up of Richard O'Neil.

Richard O'Neil
Sir, the forward torpedo room isn't responding. I think they're unconscious from that blast.

PAGE 3

Panel 1

The captain is looking at a polaroid of his family taped to the Periscope.

Captain

There has to be another way! We could use the rear torpedo tubes.

Panel 2

Close up of Terry Black.

Terry Black

If we go up to torpedo depth, we may not be able to dive again sir.
The ship is barely hanging together.

Panel 3

Richard O'Neil wipes sweat from his brow.

Richard O'Neil

If we go up guns blazing, there's no hope of surrender.

Panel 4

The captain grabs LT O'Neil by his shirt. Terry Black stands beside the captain.

Captain

Surrender?! I should have you court marshalled!

Terry Black

You've heard what they do to prisoners. Damn Butchers!

PAGE 4

Panel 1 (Top Half of Page)

Outer view of the submarine underwater. Damage is visible on the submarine.

Terry Black

I've heard the stories, we all have!
We've got about ten minutes before the ballast give out.

Captain

I want to make it home to my family.

Richard O'Neil

I say we take our chances with the sea.
She's probably kinder than the enemy.

Panel 2

A sailor looks at a sonar screen.

Sailor

Sir! Depth Charges have stopped.
Enemy ship holding at 200 meters.

Panel 3

Close up of the captain.

Captain

Bring us up to periscope depth.

PAGE 5

Panel 1

View of an enemy ship in the periscope crosshairs.

Captain

Damn! She's waiting for us!
Must have saw our oil slick.

Panel 2

The Captain, Terry Black and Richard O'Neil look at a map.

Terry Black

We're way outside the patrol areas.
Navy won't get to us in time.

Panel 3

An oxygen supply gauge is showing dangerously low.

Panel 4

A group of sailors run into the control area, beaten and bruised.

Sailor

We sealed off the forward torpedo bay.
We couldn't get everyone out in time.

PAGE 6

Panel 1

Terry Black and Richard O'Neil stand on either side of the captain.

Terry Black

Sir, those men died buying us time!
If we don't surface now, it will have been for nothing.

Panel 2

Richard O'Neil points a finger at Terry Black!

Richard O'Neil

Except he's leaving out one little detail...the Japanese! They'll kill us!

Terry Black

The sea is going to kill us for sure! With them we stand a chance!

Panel 3

Close up of the captain.

Captain

Enough! I've got a plan...

Panel 4

Sailors float in an orange life raft. They are waiving white flags.

Captain

We're going to surface.

Any man who chooses to surrender may do so without fear of persecution.

Richard O'Neil

And what about the rest, Sir?

Page 7

Panel 1

The captain's finger points to the map.

Captain

I'm going to take her down and try to make a run for the sea lanes.

Panel 2

Close up of Terry Black.

Terry Black

Sir! You won't have enough oxygen. Even if the ship held together.

You won't make it.

Panel 3

The captain holds the polaroid picture of his family.

Captain

I want to draw them away.

Maybe the Navy will rescue the life rafts before the Japanese come back.

Panel 4

Terry Black, the Captain, and Richard O'Neil stand around the map.

Richard O'Neil

I never thought it would come to this.

Captain

Bring us up to the surface! Prepare to abandon ship!

PAGE 8

Panel 1

Overhead view of the submarine floating on the surface. The submarine is offloading sailors onto orange life rafts.

Captain

It's been an honor. I couldn't have asked for a better crew.

Panel 2

Terry Black shakes the captain's hand.

Terry Black

Godspeed sir.

Richard, are you coming?

Panel 3

Close up of Richard O'Neil's face.

Richard O'Neil

I'm staying. Someone has to keep this hunk of junk running.

Panel 4

Terry Black steps off the submarine into a life raft.

Captain

Dive! Dive! Dive!

Panel 5

A group of sailors cling together aboard an orange life raft.

Caption

The remaining crew of the USS Claymore were never heard from again.

