

CHAMBER DIVERS

The Untold Story of the D-Day Scientists
Who Changed Special Operations Forever

CHAMBER DIVERS



AUTHOR OF *IN THE WAVES*

RACHEL LANCE



DUTTON

"With skill and heart, Rachel Lance reveals the secret wartime science
and tells the story of a group of unlikely heroes."

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PRAISE FOR *CHAMBER DIVERS*

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"A riveting account of the daredevil Allied researchers who made advances in underwater warfare possible during WWII . . . Propulsively narrated and full of moments of astonishing sacrifice, this brings a remarkable history to light."

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"In this bracing history of an obscure but significant aspect of the D-Day landing, Lance combines a staggering amount of research with an array of compelling personalities to tell an unforgettable story."

—**BOOKLIST** (starred review)

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**The previously classified story of
the eccentric researchers who invented
cutting-edge underwater science to
lead the Allies to D-Day victory**

IN AUGUST 1942, more than 7,000 Allied troops rushed the beaches of Normandy, France, in an all-but-forgotten landing. Only a small fraction survived unscathed. It was two summers before D-Day, and the Allies realized that they were in dire need of underwater intelligence if they wanted to stand a chance of launching another beach invasion and of winning the war.

Led by the controversial biologists J. B. S. Haldane and Dr. Helen Spurway, an ingenious team of ragtag scientists worked out of homemade labs during the London Blitz. Beneath a rain of bombs, they pioneered thrilling advances in underwater reconnaissance through tests done on themselves in painful and potentially fatal experiments. Their discoveries led to the safe use of miniature submarines and breathing apparatuses, which ultimately let the Allies take the beaches of Normandy.

Blast injury specialist Dr. Rachel Lance unpacks the harrowing narratives of these experiments while bringing to life the men and women whose brilliance and self-sacrifice shaped the outcome of the war, including their personal relationships with one another and the ways they faced skepticism and danger in their quest to enable Allied troops to breathe underwater.

The riveting science leading up to D-Day has been classified for generations, but *Chamber Divers* finally brings these scientists' stories—and their heroism—to light.

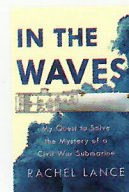


RACHEL LANCE is a biomedical engineer and blast injury specialist who works as a scientific researcher on military diving projects at Duke University. Before returning to graduate school to earn her PhD, Dr. Lance spent several years as an engineer for the United States Navy, working to build specialized underwater equipment for use by navy divers, SEALs, and Marine Force Recon personnel. She is also the author of *In the Waves*, and her writing has appeared in *Time*, *Wired*, *Scientific American*, and more. A native of suburban Detroit, Dr. Lance lives in Durham, North Carolina.

rachel lance writes.com

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Jacket design by Sarah Oberrender

Jacket image of the British "midget" submarine XE8 pictured in the Pool of London, with Skipper Lt. Verry and First Lt. Cudworth on board;

October 1, 1952: Popperfoto/Getty

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WORLD WAR II HISTORY



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Contents

PROLOGUE: "A Piece of Cake"	1
CHAPTER 1: Professor Haldane and Dr. Spurway's Problem	11
CHAPTER 2: Brooklyn Bridge of Death	21
CHAPTER 3: Devil's Bubbles	28
CHAPTER 4: Subunk	37
CHAPTER 5: Love, Cooking, and Communism	58
CHAPTER 6: Drunk and Doing Math	73
CHAPTER 7: Everyday Poisonous Gases	92
CHAPTER 8: The Blitz	107
CHAPTER 9: The Piggery	133
CHAPTER 10: The Littlest Pig	148
CHAPTER 11: Lung Maps	156
CHAPTER 12: Nerves	171

CHAPTER 13: The Inevitable Solution	189
CHAPTER 14: The Midget Subs	214
CHAPTER 15: Airs of Overlord	239
CHAPTER 16: The Operations	256
CHAPTER 17: The Longest Days	272
CHAPTER 18: The Unremembered	299
 Acknowledgments	 319
Notes	325
Bibliography	379
Credits	419
Index	421