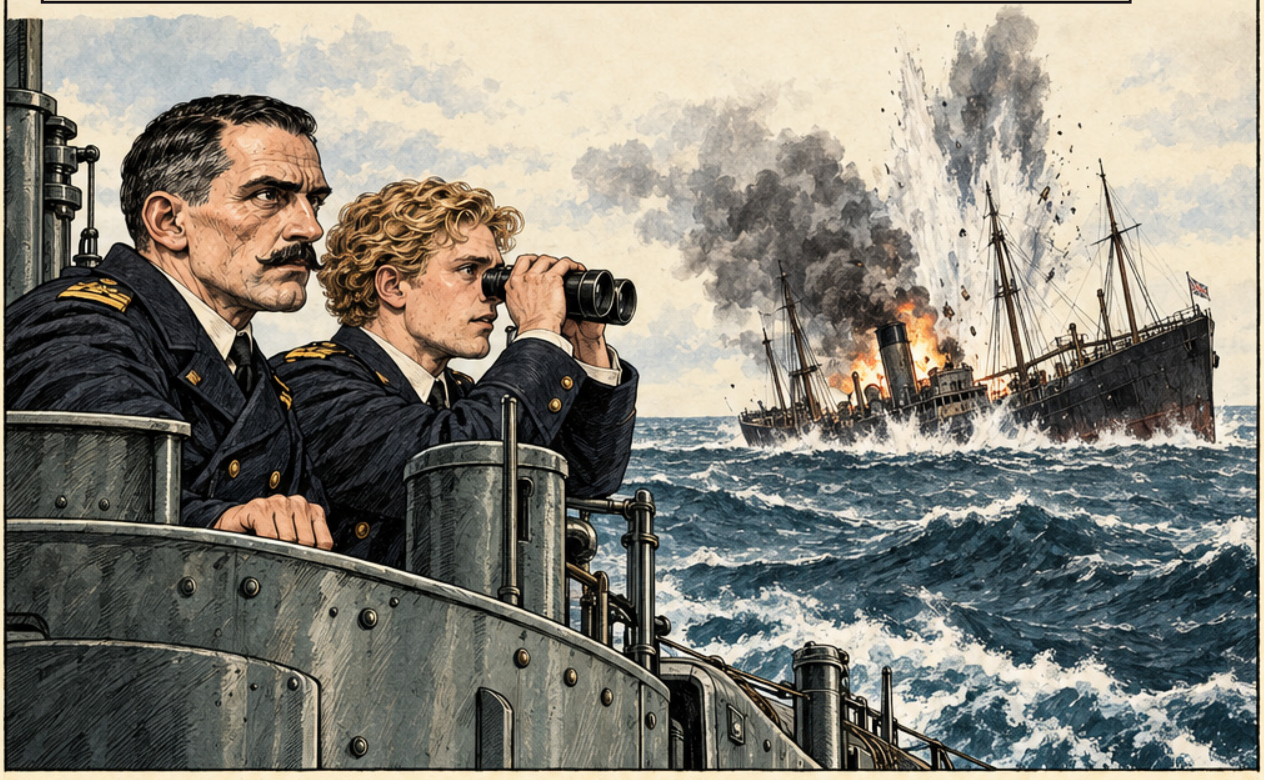
THE TEMPLE

ON AUGUST 20, 1917, I, KARL HEINRICH, GRAF VON ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN... DEPOSIT THIS BOTTLE AND RECORD IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

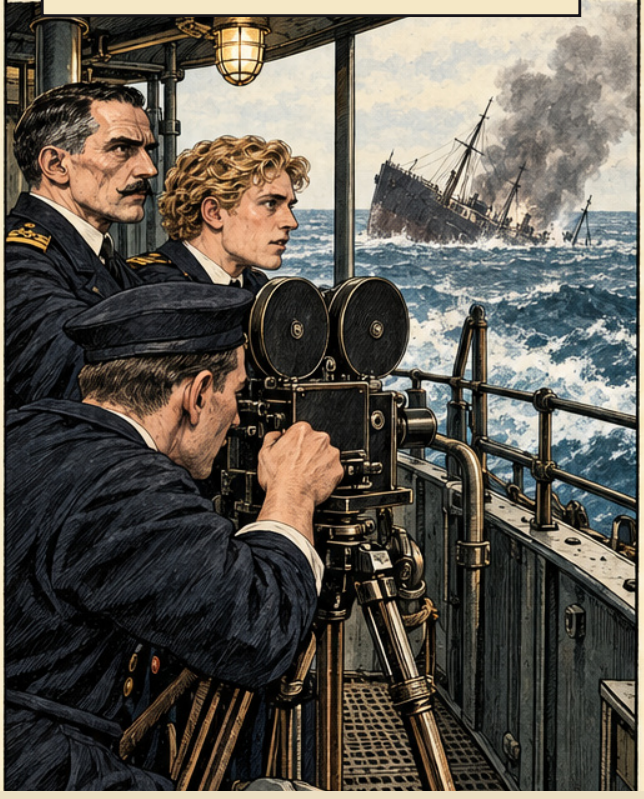


...A THING I SHALL NOT IN ALL PROBABILITY SURVIVE TO ACCOMPLISH IN PERSON...

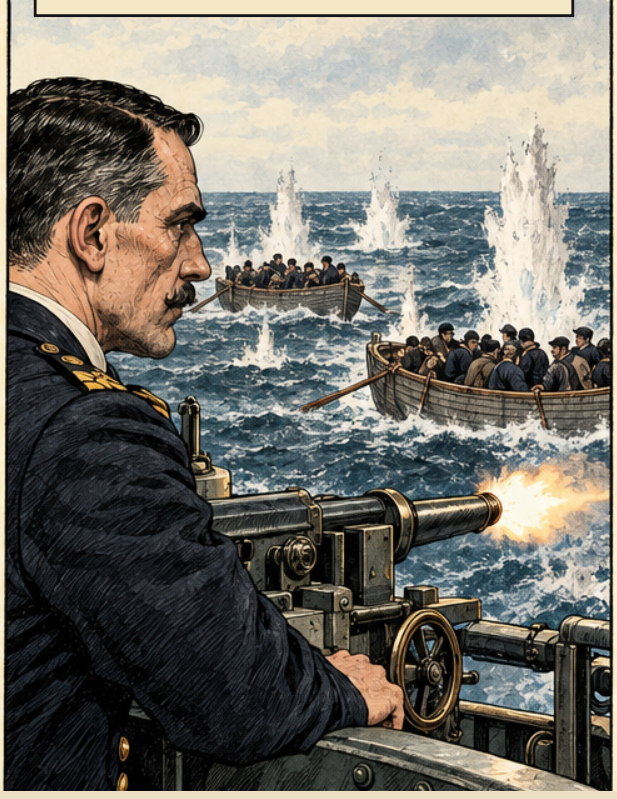
ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 18... WE TORPEDOED THE BRITISH FREIGHTER VICTORY, NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL...



...PERMITTING THE CREW TO LEAVE IN BOATS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A GOOD CINEMA VIEW...

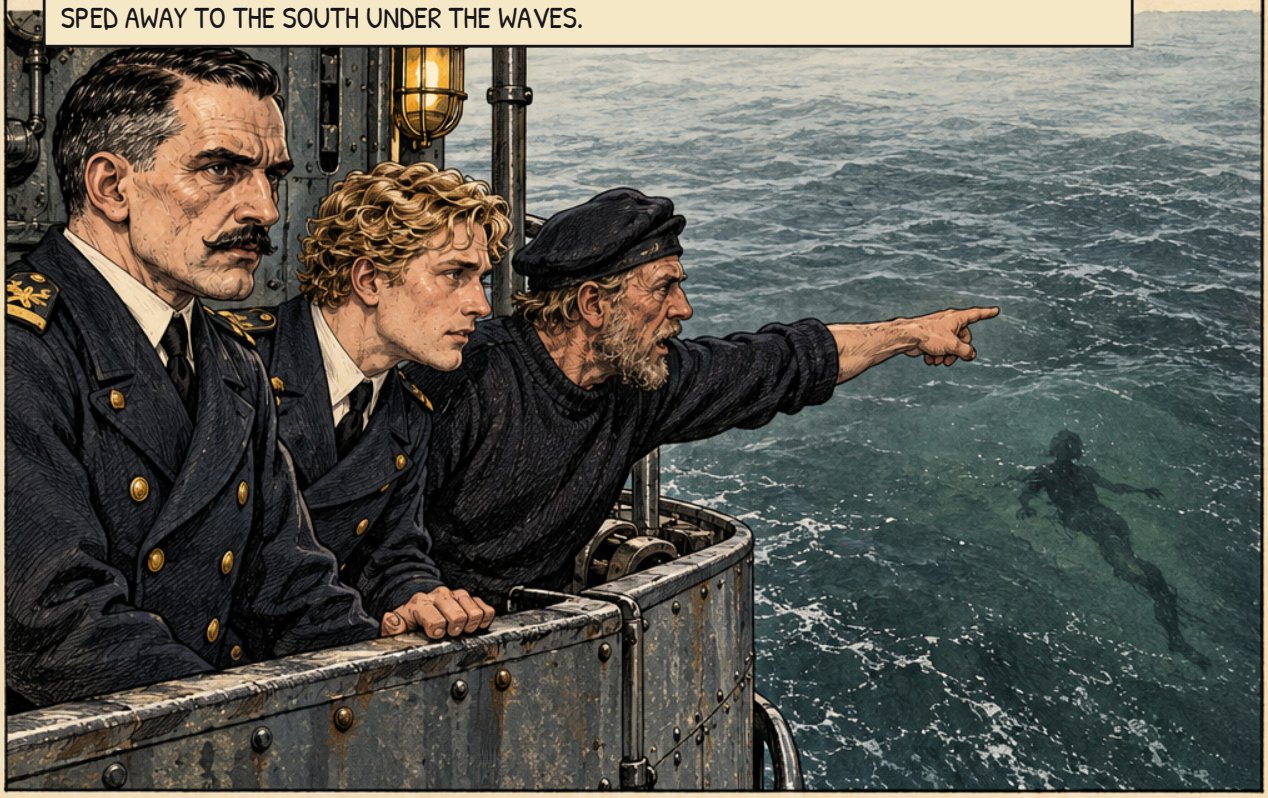


AFTER THAT WE SANK THE LIFEBOATS WITH OUR GUNS AND SUBMERGED.



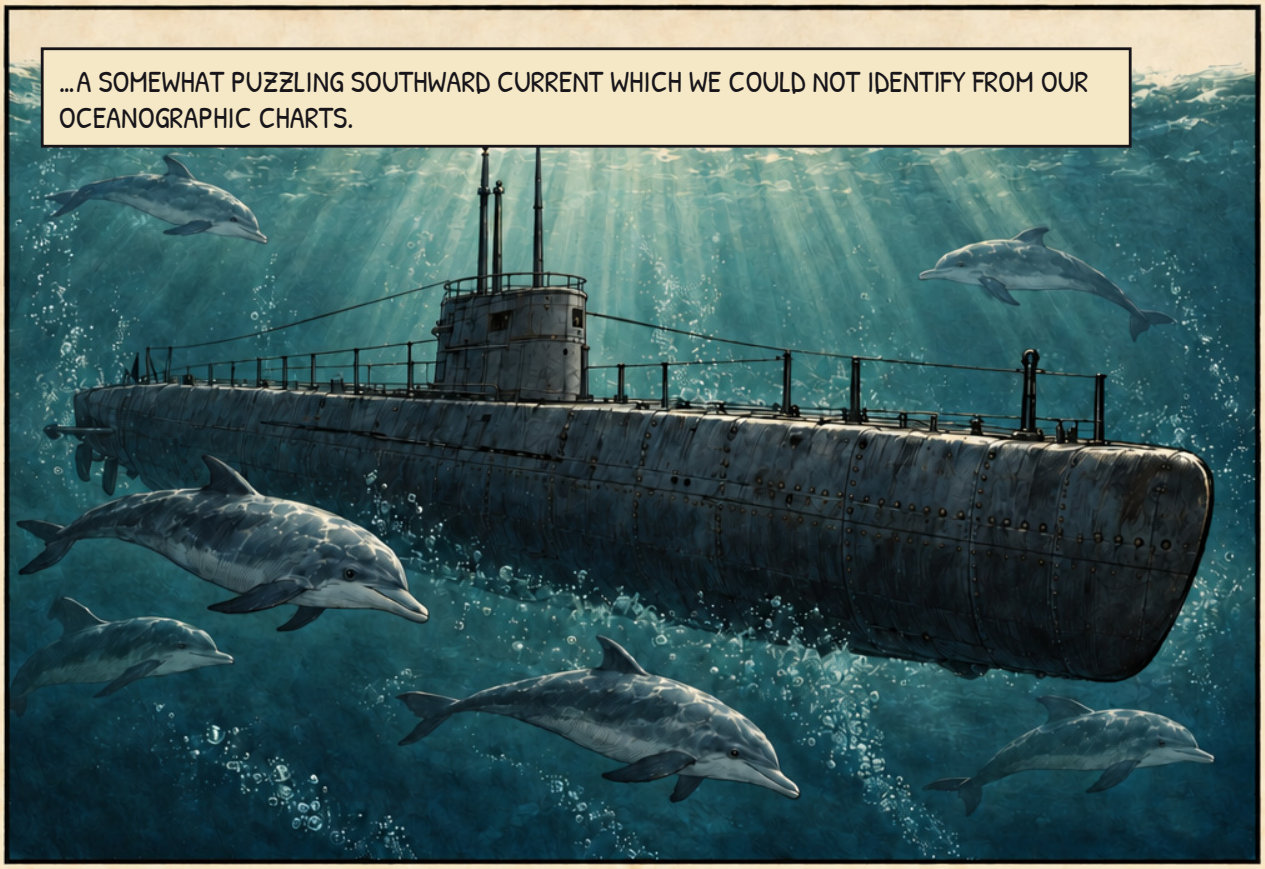

WHEN WE ROSE TO THE SURFACE ABOUT SUNSET, A SEAMAN'S BODY WAS FOUND ON THE DECK, HANDS GRIPPING THE RAILING IN CURIOUS FASHION.
...A VERY ODD BIT OF IVORY CARVED TO REPRESENT A YOUTH'S HEAD...
...MANY SEEMED TO ENTERTAIN A QUEER DELUSION THAT THEY GAZED STEADILY AND MOCKINGLY...

...SWORE THAT AFTER IT SANK A LITTLE IT DREW ITS LIMBS INTO A SWIMMING POSITION AND SPED AWAY TO THE SOUTH UNDER THE WAVES.



THEY WERE EVIDENTLY SUFFERING FROM THE NERVOUS STRAIN OF OUR LONG VOYAGE, AND HAD HAD BAD DREAMS.




...A SOMEWHAT PUZZLING SOUTHWARD CURRENT WHICH WE COULD NOT IDENTIFY FROM OUR OCEANOGRAPHIC CHARTS.

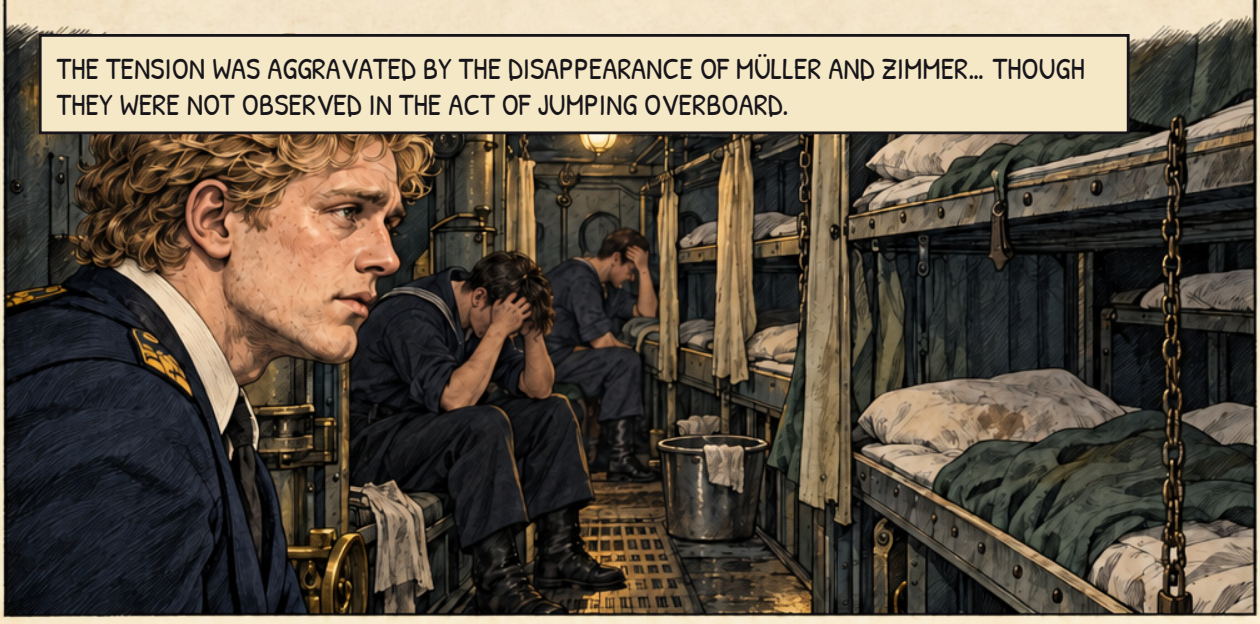

...DEAD BODIES DRIFTING PAST THE UNDERSEA PORTHOLES...


...THAT THE CURIOUS CARVED IVORY HEAD BE CAST INTO THE SEA.

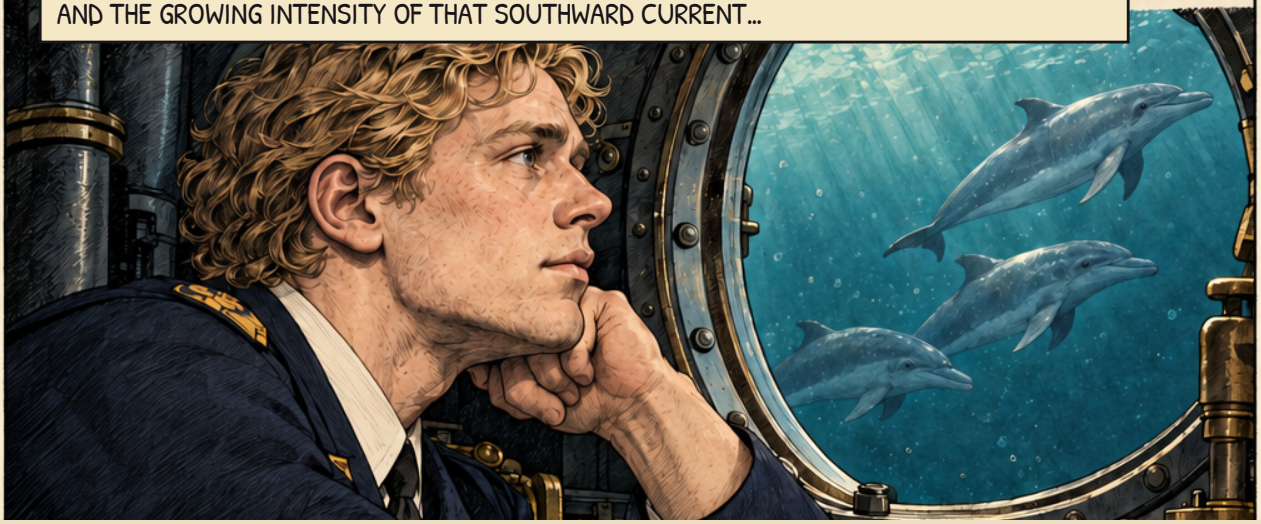
...THE CONSTANT RAVINGS OF THE TWO CONCERNING A TERRIBLE CURSE WERE MOST SUBVERSIVE OF DISCIPLINE, SO DRASTIC STEPS WERE TAKEN.



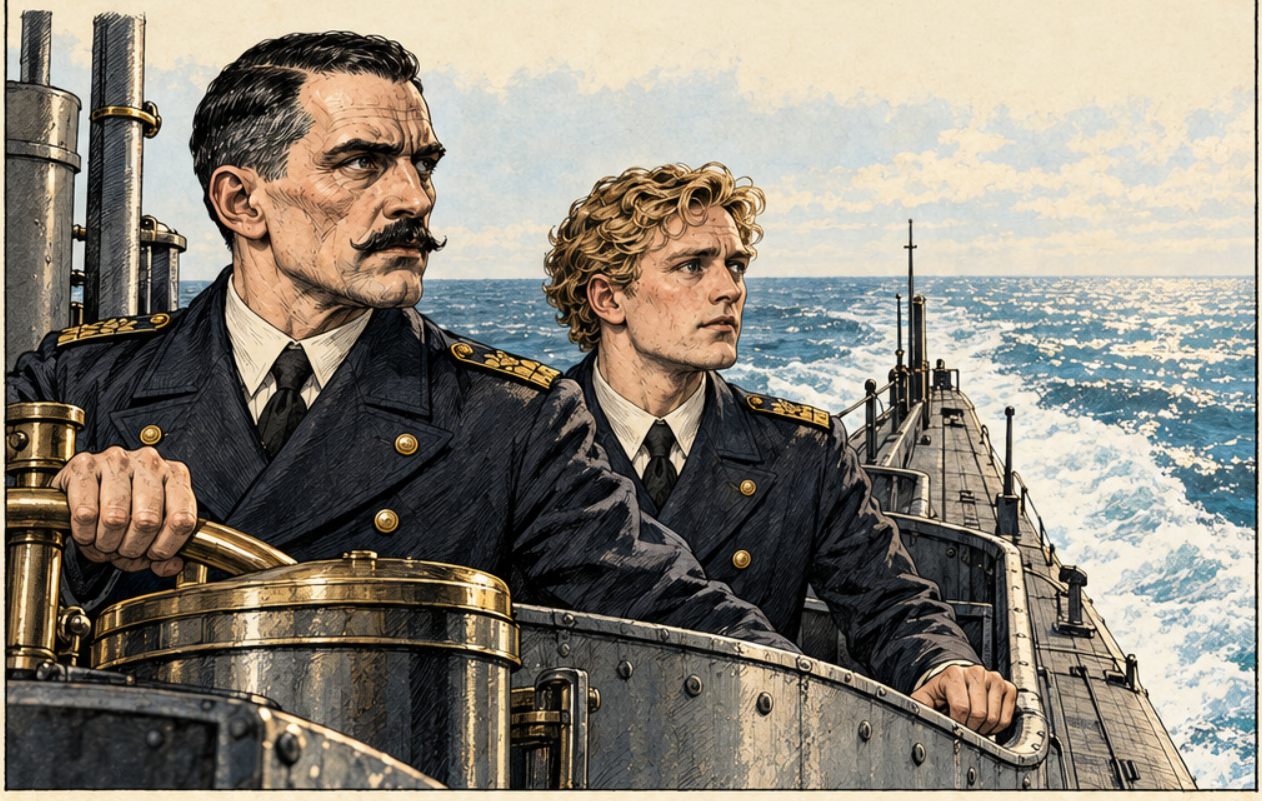
THE TENSION WAS AGGRAVATED BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MÜLLER AND ZIMMER... THOUGH THEY WERE NOT OBSERVED IN THE ACT OF JUMPING OVERBOARD.



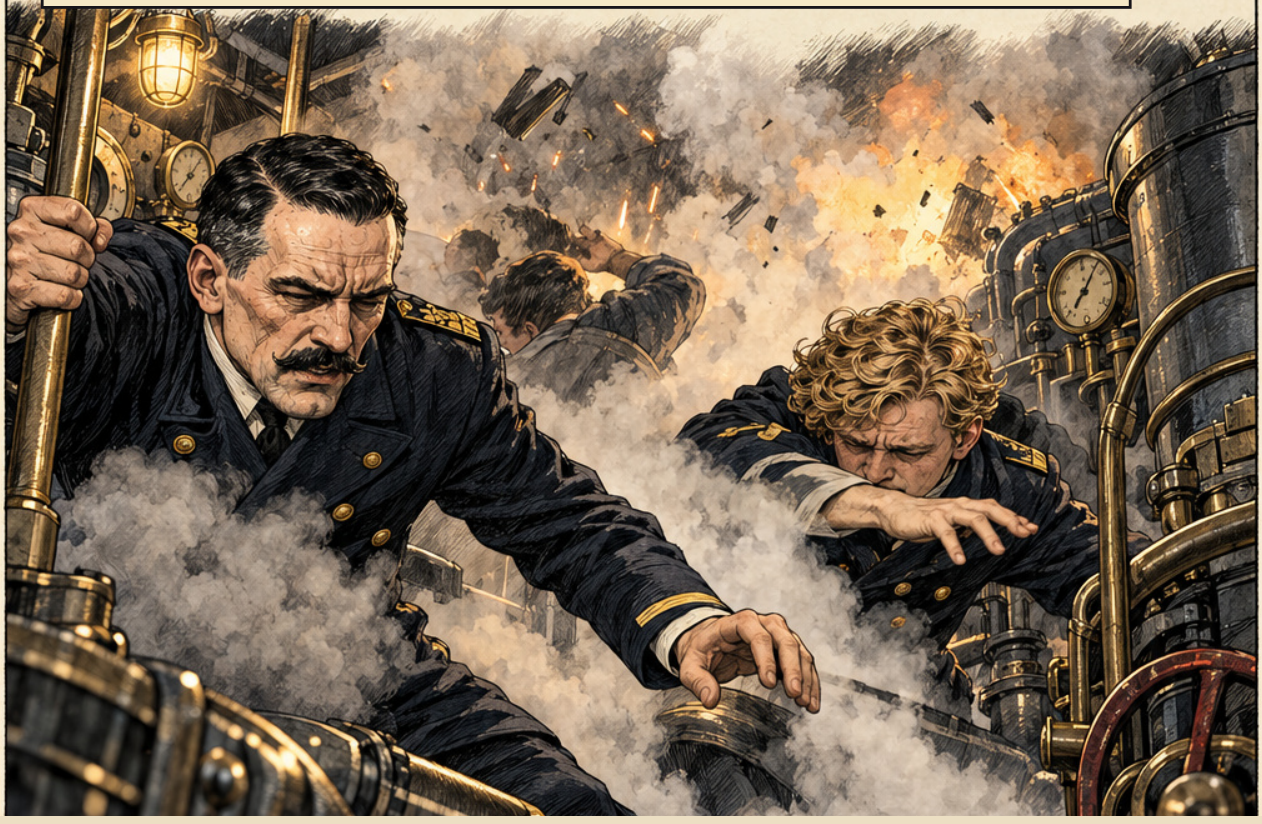
...THE SCHOOL OF DOLPHINS WHICH GATHERED ABOUT THE U-29 IN INCREASING NUMBERS, AND THE GROWING INTENSITY OF THAT SOUTHWARD CURRENT...



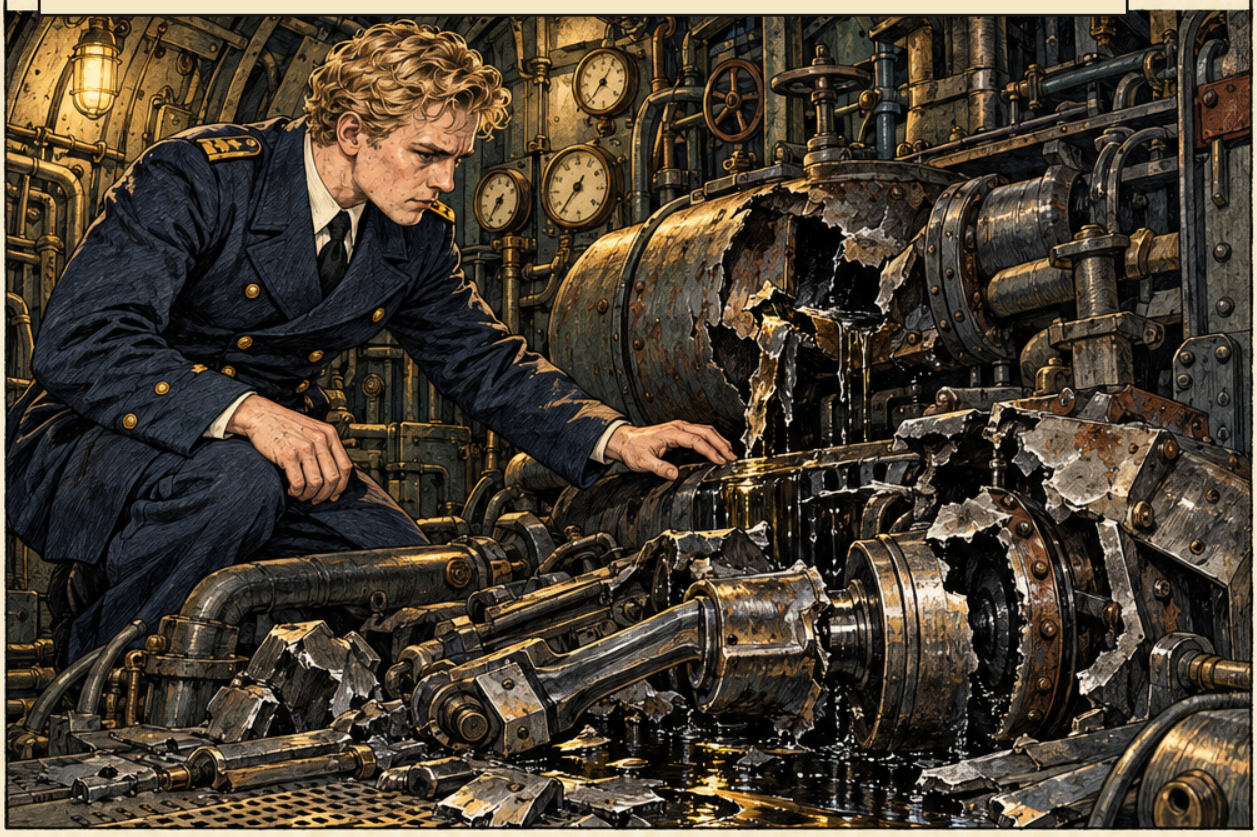
AT NOON JUNE 28 WE TURNED NORTHEASTWARD...



THE EXPLOSION IN THE ENGINE ROOM AT 2 P.M. WAS WHOLLY A SURPRISE.



...ENGINEERS RAABE AND SCHNEIDER INSTANTLY KILLED... WE WERE POWERLESS TO PROPEL OR GUIDE THE SUBMARINE.



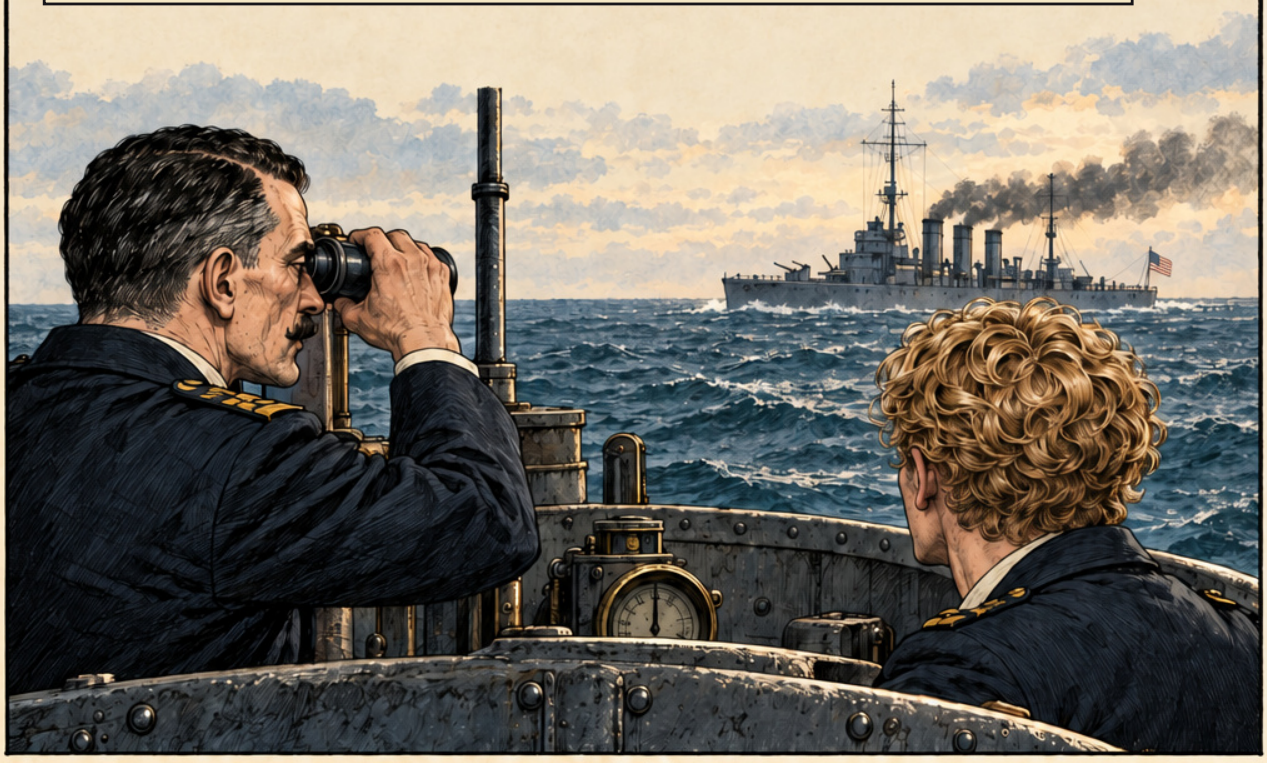
...OUR WIRELESS HAD FAILED EVER SINCE THE VICTORY AFFAIR...

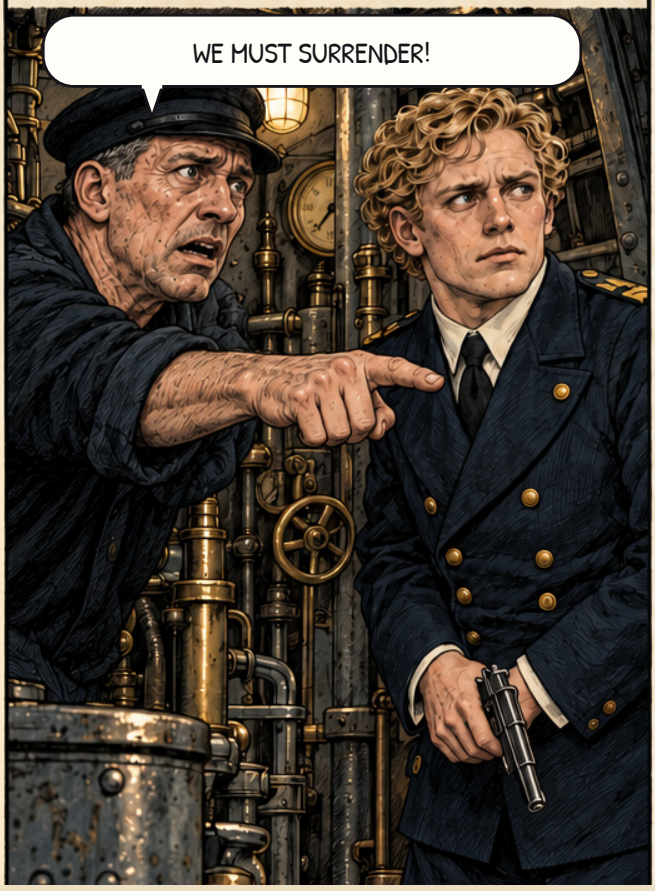


FROM THE HOUR OF THE ACCIDENT TILL JULY 2 WE DRIFTED CONSTANTLY TO THE SOUTH...



ON THE MORNING OF JULY 2 WE SIGHTED A WARSHIP FLYING AMERICAN COLOURS...

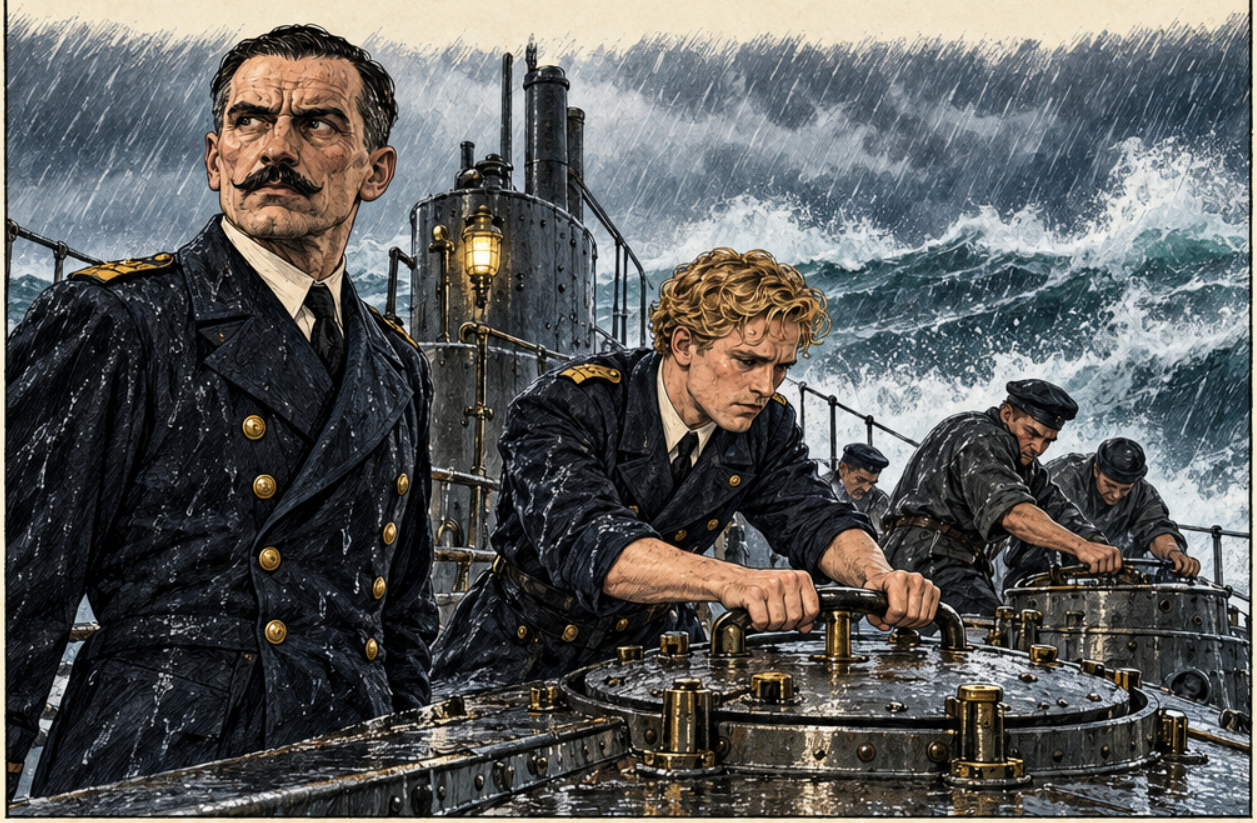




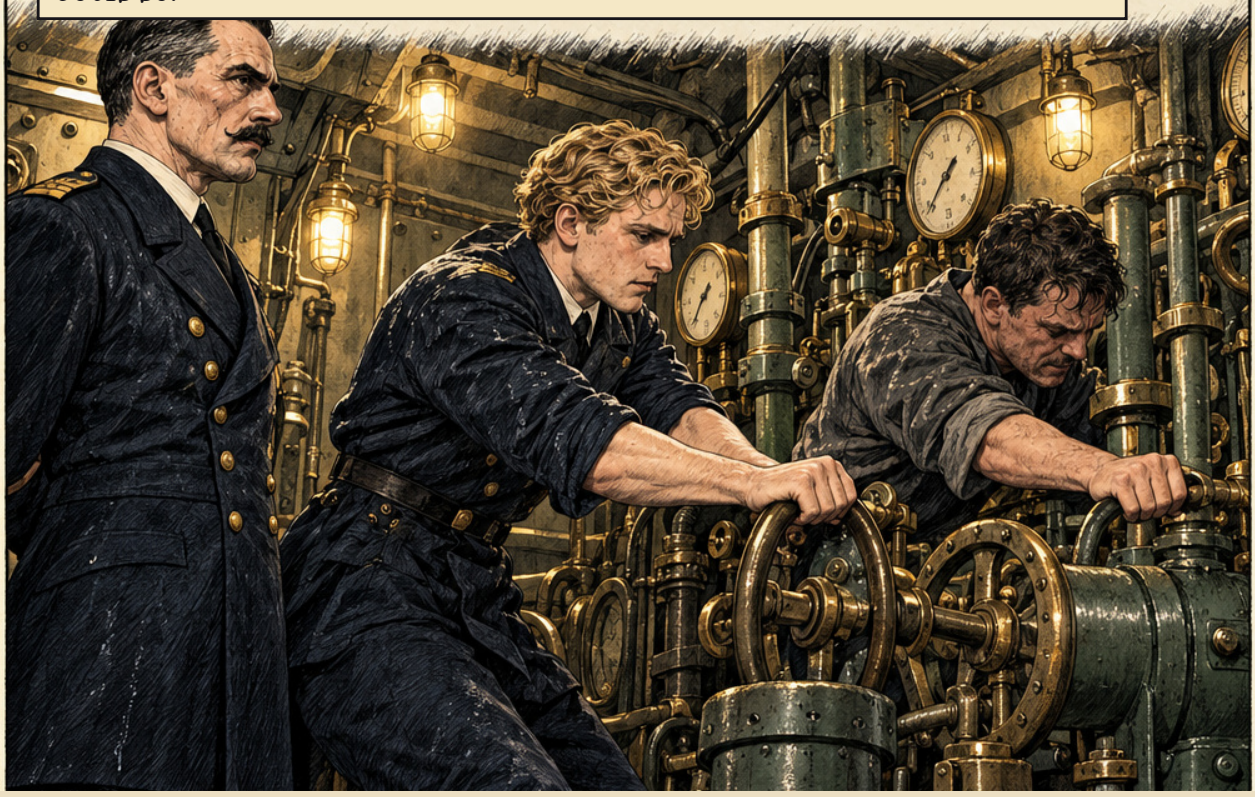
FINALLY LIEUT. KLENZE HAD TO SHOOT A SEAMAN NAMED TRAUBE... AND WE SUBMERGED UNSEEN.



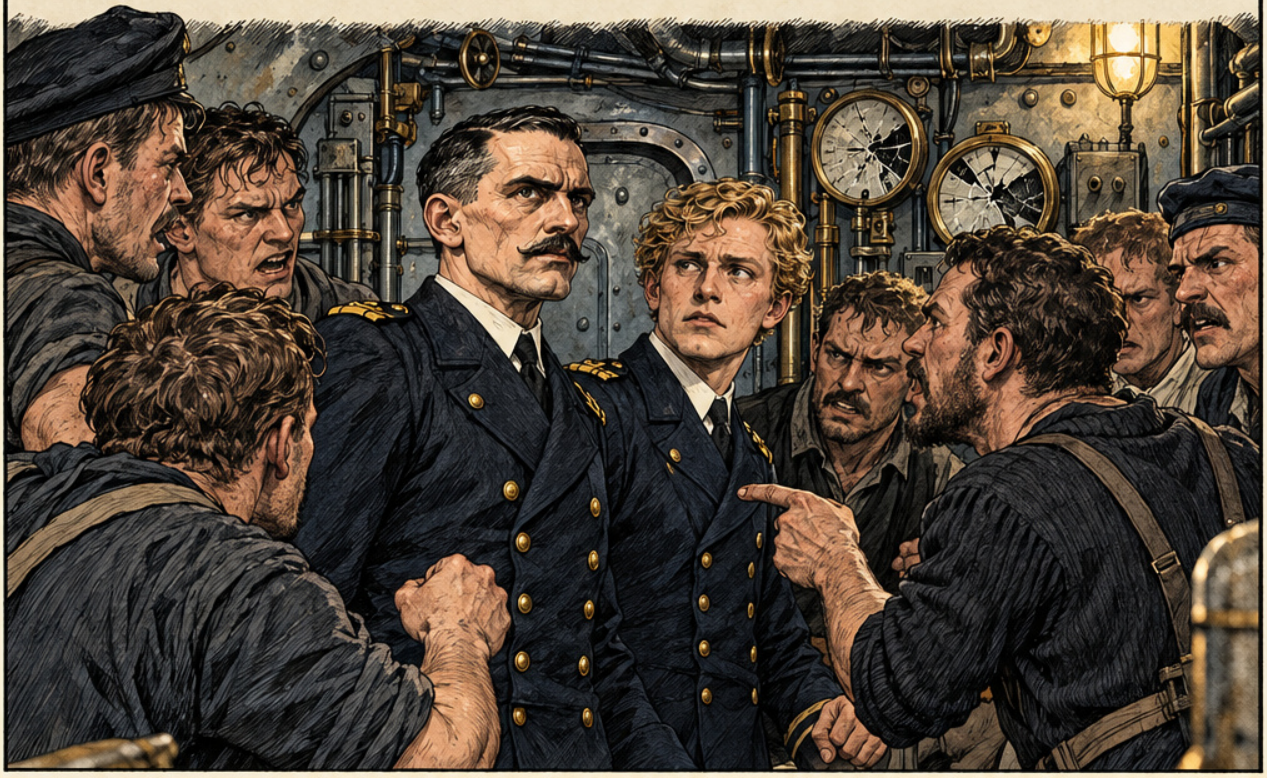
...WE REALISED THAT WE MUST EITHER SUBMERGE OR BE SWAMPED IN THE MOUNTING WAVES.



...THE SHIP FAILED TO RESPOND TO OUR DIRECTION IN SPITE OF ALL THAT THE MECHANICS COULD DO.



...ABOUT 5 A.M., JULY 4, THAT THE GENERAL MUTINY BROKE LOOSE.



I SHOT ALL SIX MEN, FOR IT WAS NECESSARY, AND MADE SURE THAT NONE REMAINED ALIVE.



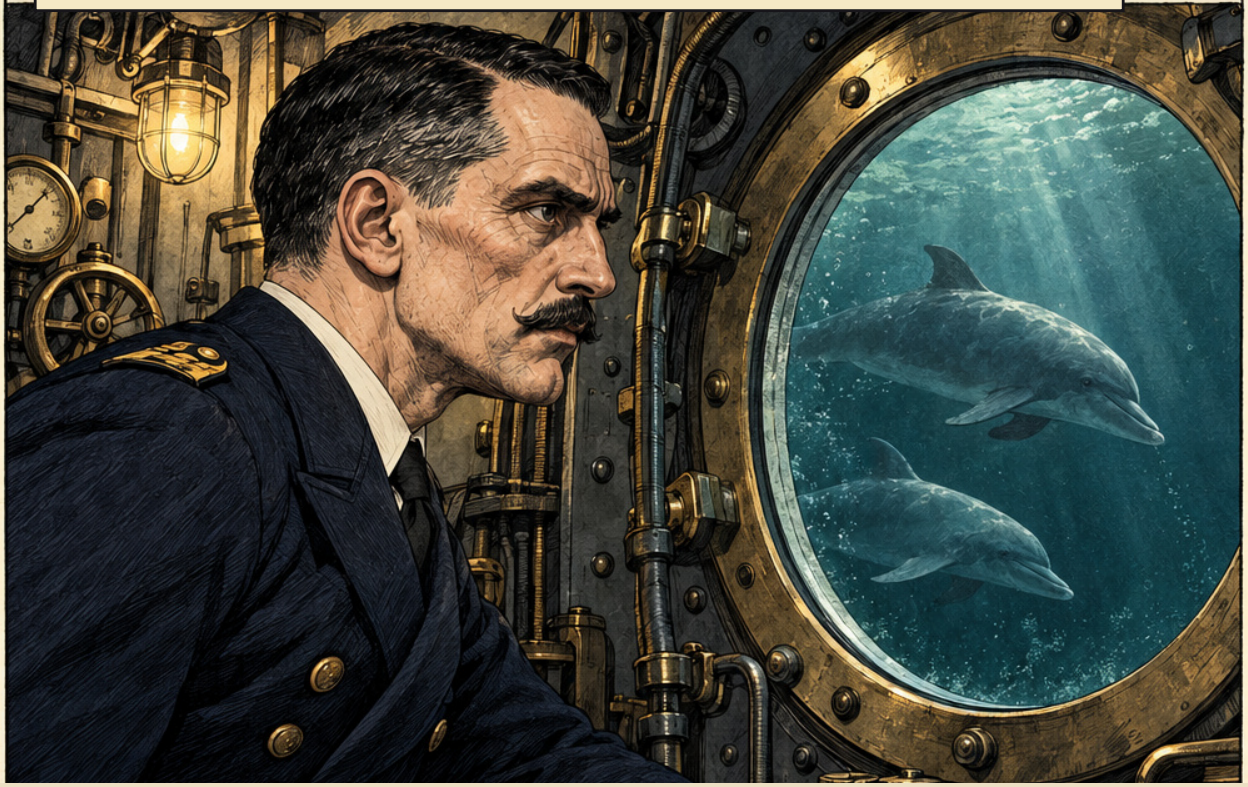
WE EXPELLED THE BODIES THROUGH THE DOUBLE HATCHES AND WERE ALONE IN THE U-29.



...OUR ONLY RECKONING WOULD BE GUESSWORK... BASED ON OUR WATCHES, THE CALENDAR, AND OUR APPARENT DRIFT...

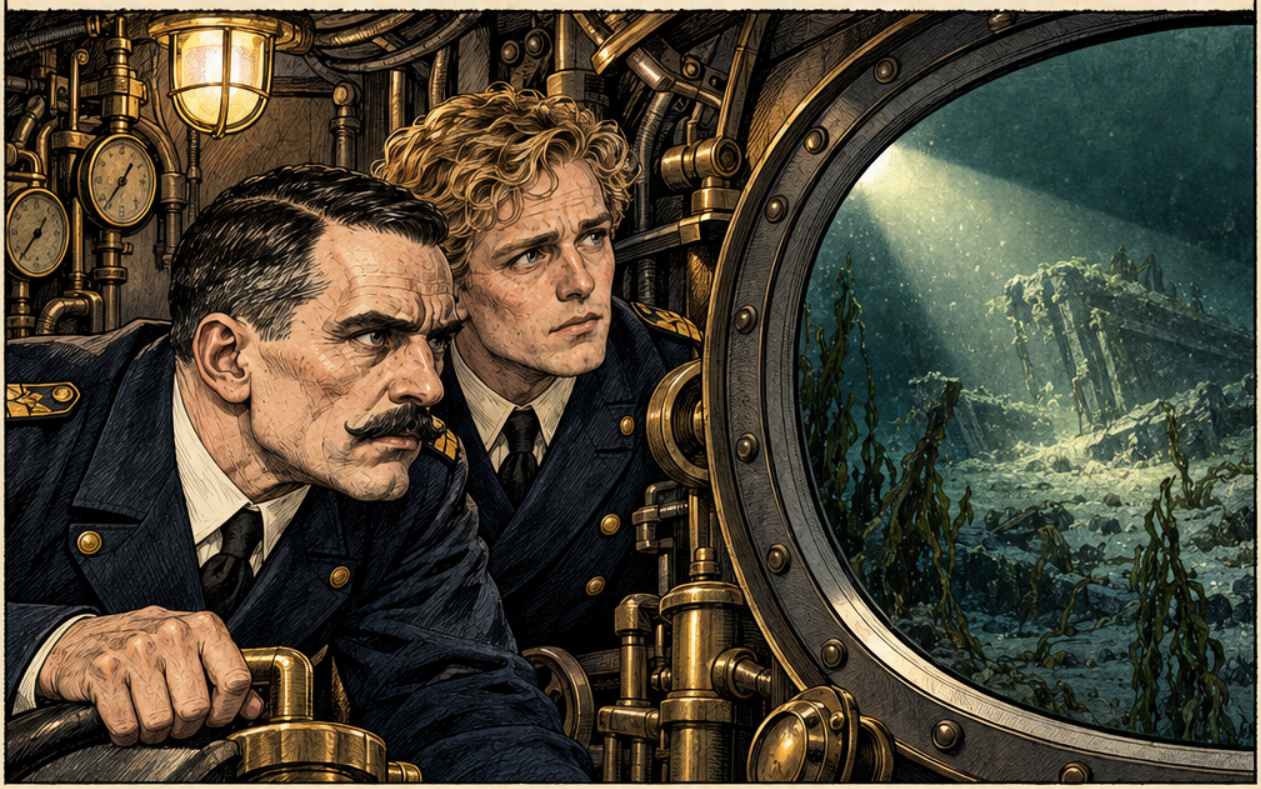


I WATCHED ONE OF THE SWIMMERS CLOSELY FOR TWO HOURS, AND DID NOT SEE HIM ALTER HIS SUBMERGED CONDITION.

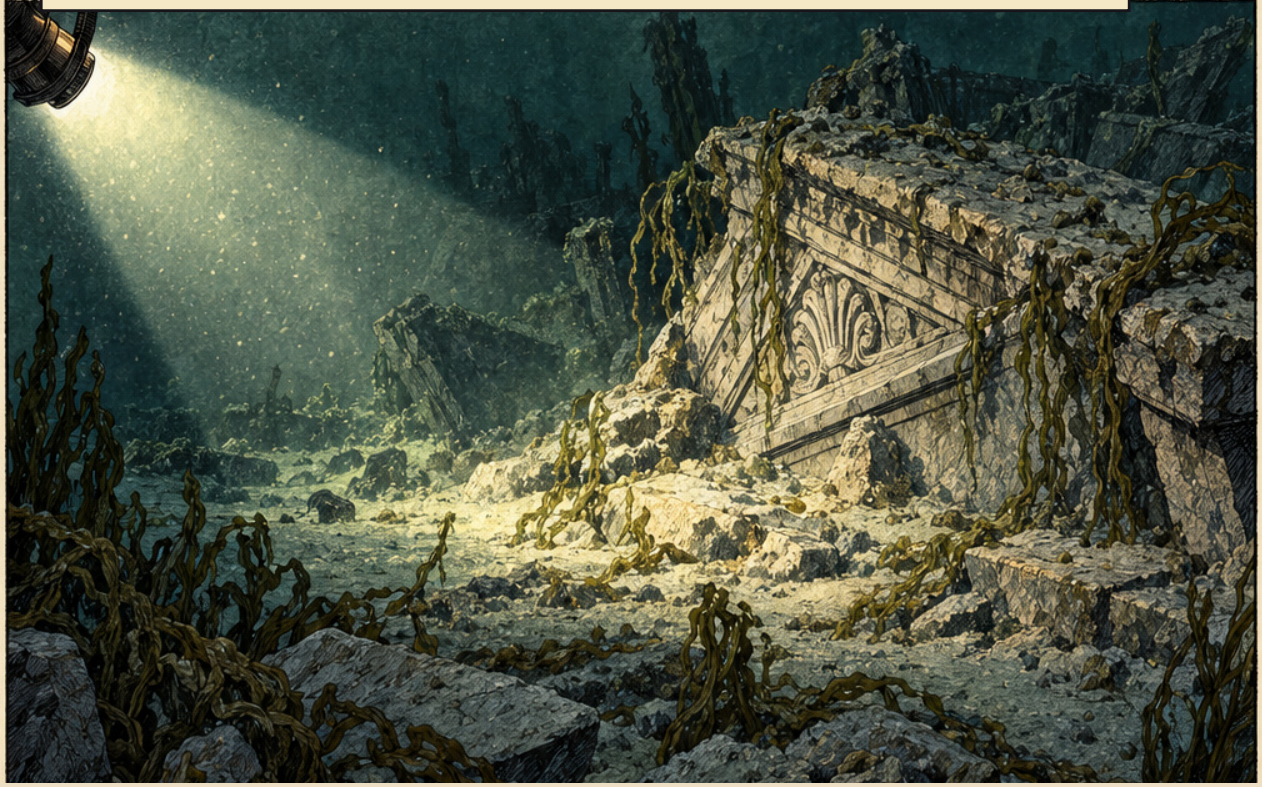



IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE REMAIN ALIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...
THOSE PEOPLE WE SENT DOWN...
...FORGETTING THAT ALL THINGS ARE NOBLE WHICH SERVE THE GERMAN STATE.

ON AUGUST 9, WE ESPIED THE OCEAN FLOOR...



I CALLED THE PEAK A BIT OF OUTCROPPING ROCK, BUT KLENZE THOUGHT HE SAW CARVINGS ON IT.




IT WAS AT 3:15 P.M., AUGUST 12, THAT POOR KLENZE WENT WHOLLY MAD.
HE IS CALLING! HE IS CALLING! I HEAR HIM! WE MUST GO!
COME AND BE MAD WHILST HE STILL CALLS WITH MERCY!

...AS HE CLIMBED THE LADDER I WENT TO THE LEVERS AND... OPERATED THE MACHINERY WHICH SENT HIM TO HIS DEATH.



...THE DOLPHINS WERE MASSED THICKLY AND OBSCURINGLY ABOUT THE CONNING TOWER.



I COULD NOT FORGET THE YOUTHFUL, BEAUTIFUL HEAD WITH ITS LEAFY CROWN...



OWING TO THE ABRUPTNESS OF THE CHANGE A WIRE WAS DISCONNECTED...



...BUT AT LENGTH THE LIGHT STREAMED ON AGAIN, FLOODING THE MARINE VALLEY BELOW ME.



...THE REMAINS OF STONE AND MARBLE BRIDGES AND SEA-WALLS, AND TERRACES AND EMBANKMENTS ONCE VERDANT AND BEAUTIFUL.



...THE SOUTHWARD CURRENT HAD CEASED AT LAST, ALLOWING THE U-29 TO SETTLE SLOWLY DOWN UPON THE SUNKEN CITY...

...THE RICHLY ORNATE AND PERFECTLY PRESERVED FACADE OF A GREAT BUILDING, EVIDENTLY A TEMPLE, HOLLOWED FROM THE SOLID ROCK.



THE ART IS OF THE MOST PHENOMENAL PERFECTION, LARGELY HELLENIC IN IDEA, YET STRANGELY INDIVIDUAL.

ON AUGUST 16 I EFFECTED AN EXIT FROM THE U-29...



I FOUND NO SKELETONS OR OTHER HUMAN REMAINS, BUT GLEANED A WEALTH OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL LORE FROM SCULPTURES AND COINS.



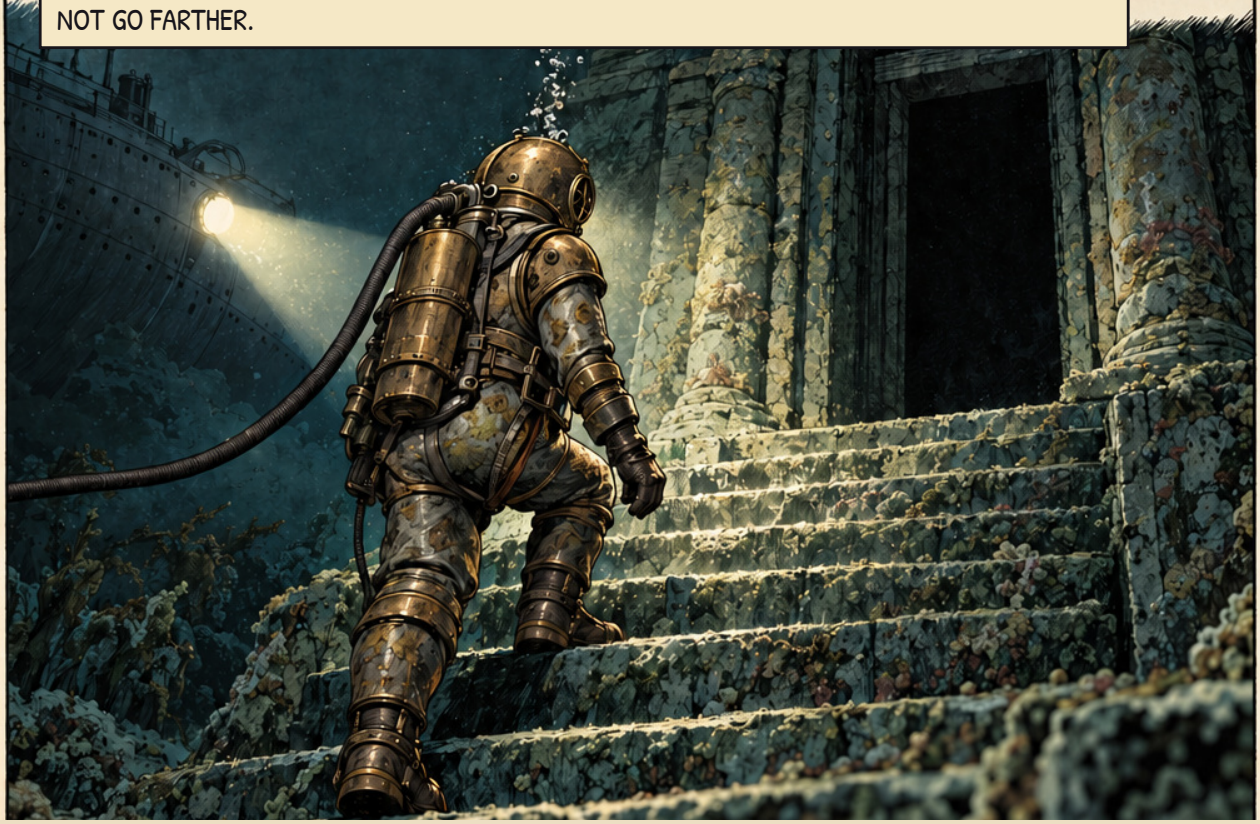
I RETURNED TO THE BOAT AS MY ELECTRIC BATTERIES GREW FEEBLE...

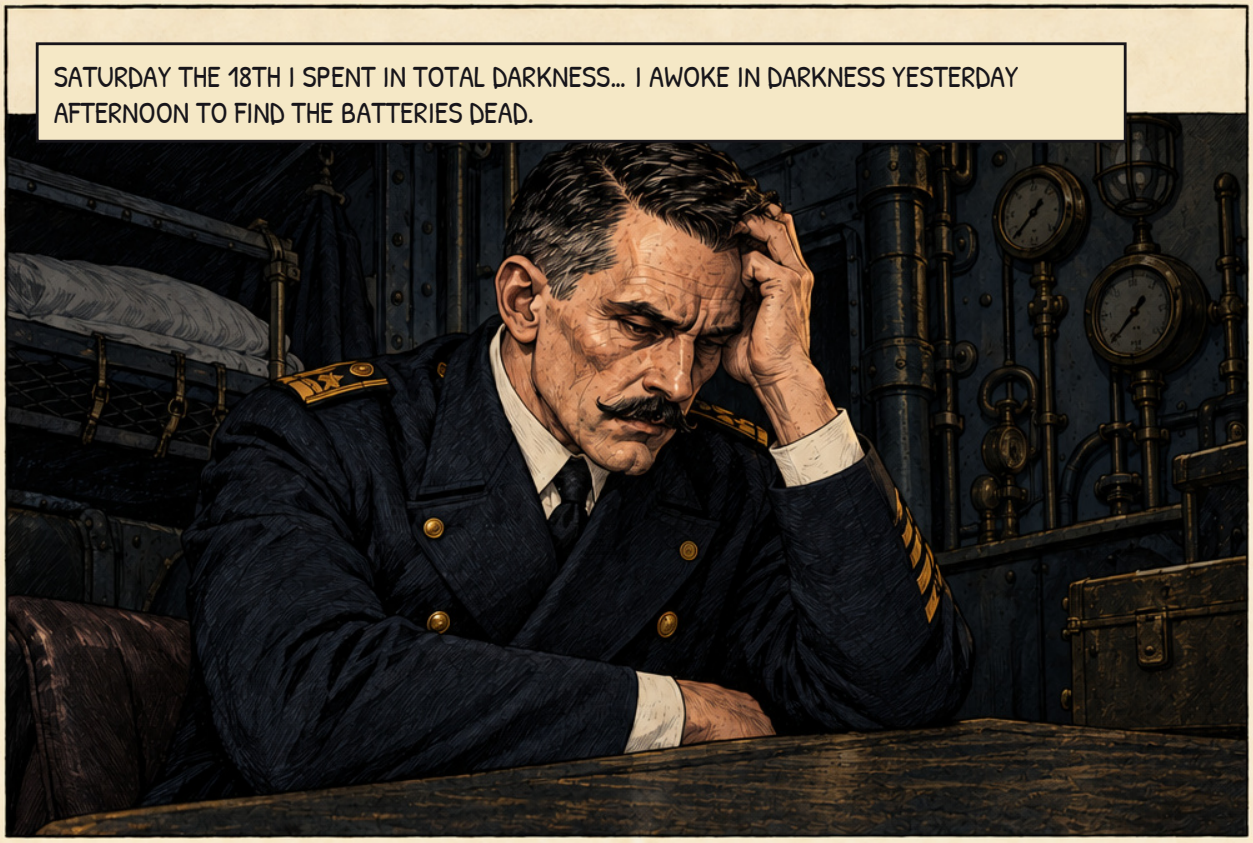


...THE MATERIALS NEEDED TO REPLENISH THE PORTABLE LIGHT HAD PERISHED IN THE MUTINY...



...THOUGH I TOOK A STEP OR TWO INSIDE AFTER TESTING THE FLOOR WITH A STAFF, I DARED NOT GO FARTHER.




SATURDAY THE 18TH I SPENT IN TOTAL DARKNESS... I AWOKE IN DARKNESS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO FIND THE BATTERIES DEAD.


...MY MIND RAN OVER PRECEDING EVENTS, AND DEVELOPED A HITHERTO DORMANT IMPRESSION...


THE HEAD OF THE RADIANT GOD IN THE SCULPTURES ON THE ROCK TEMPLE IS THE SAME AS THAT CARVEN BIT OF IVORY...

...I SEEMED TO HEAR THE CRIES OF DROWNING PERSONS, AND TO SEE DEAD FACES PRESSING AGAINST THE PORTHOLES OF THE BOAT.



...A SENSATION OF RHYTHMIC, MELODIC SOUND AS OF SOME WILD YET BEAUTIFUL CHANT OR CHORAL HYMN...



...I CROSSED THE ROOM AND TOUCHED THE GLASS. IT WAS INDEED IN THE PLACE WHERE I HAD SEEMED TO SEE IT.



FOR THE DOOR AND WINDOWS OF THE UNDERSEA TEMPLE HEWN FROM THE ROCKY HILL WERE VIVIDLY AGLOW...



MY IMPULSE TO VISIT AND ENTER THE TEMPLE HAS NOW BECOME AN INEXPLICABLE AND IMPERIOUS COMMAND WHICH ULTIMATELY CANNOT BE DENIED.

I SHALL SEAL THE MANUSCRIPT IN A BOTTLE AND ENTRUST IT TO THE SEA AS I LEAVE THE U-29 FOREVER.



SO I WILL CAREFULLY DON MY DIVING SUIT AND WALK BOLDLY UP THE STEPS INTO THAT PRIMAL SHRINE, THAT SILENT SECRET OF UNFATHOMED WATERS AND UNCOUNTED YEARS.

