



# Death of the USS Thresher: The Story Behind History's Deadliest Submarine Disaster

*Norman Polmar*

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On the morning of April 10, 1963, the world's most advanced submarine was on a test dive off the New England coast when she sent a message to a support ship a thousand feet above her on the surface: *experiencing minor problem . . . have positive angle . . . attempting to blow . . .* Then came the sounds of air under pressure and a garbled message: . . . *test depth . . .* Last came the eerie sounds that experienced navy men knew from World War II: the sounds of a submarine breaking up and compartments collapsing. When she first went to sea in April of 1961, the U.S. nuclear submarine Thresher was the most advanced submarine at sea, built specifically to hunt and kill Soviet submarines. In *The Death of the USS Thresher*, renowned naval and intelligence consultant Norman Polmar recounts the dramatic circumstances surrounding her implosion, which killed all 129 men on board, in history's first loss of a nuclear submarine. This revised edition of Polmar's 1964 classic is based on interviews with the Thresher's first command officer, other submarine officers, and the designers of the submarine. Polmar provides recently declassified information about the submarine, and relates the loss to subsequent U.S. and Soviet nuclear submarine sinkings, as well as to the escape and rescue systems developed by the Navy in the aftermath of the disaster. *The Death of the USS Thresher* is a must-read for the legions of fans who enjoyed the late Peter Maas's New York Times best-seller *The Terrible Hours*.

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