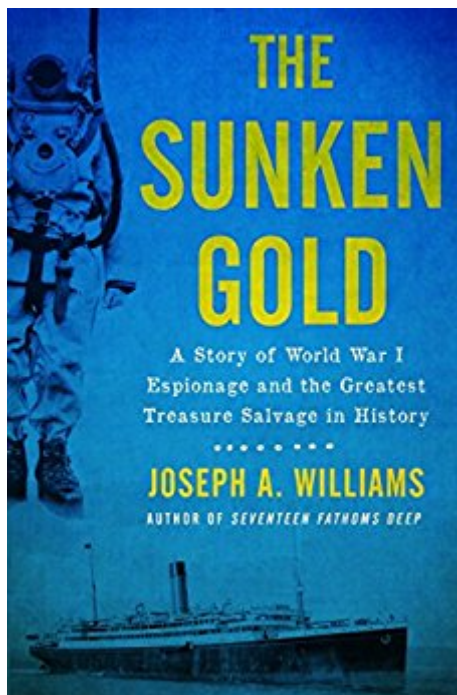




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Sunken Gold: A Story Of World War I Espionage And The Greatest Treasure Salvage In History



Synopsis

On January 25, 1917, HMS Laurentic struck two German mines off the coast of Ireland and sank. The ship was carrying 44 tons of gold bullion to the still-neutral United States via Canada in order to finance the war effort for Britain and its allies. Britain desperately needed that sunken treasure, but any salvage had to be secret since the British government dared not alert the Germans to the presence of the gold. Lieutenant Commander Guybon Damant was the most qualified officer to head the risky mission. Wild gales battered the wreck into the shape of an accordion, turning the operation into a multiyear struggle of man versus nature. As the war raged on, Damant was called off the salvage to lead a team of covert divers to investigate and search through the contents of recently sunk U-boats for ciphers, minefield schematics, and other secrets. The information they obtained, once in the hands of British intelligence, proved critical toward Allied efforts to defeat the U-boats and win the war. But Damant had become obsessed with completing his long-deferred mission. His team struggled for five more years as it became apparent that the work could only be accomplished by muscle, grit, and persistence. Using newly discovered sources, author Joseph A. Williams provides the first full-length account of the quest for the Laurentic's gold. More than an incredible story about undersea diving adventure, *The Sunken Gold* is a story of human persistence, bravery, and patriotism.

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Customer Reviews

Having had the privilege of reading the advance copy I can only say that this is a thrilling story of perseverance on many levels and courage beyond that would make one quiver at the thought of doing it. And a rare glimpse into British determination at gathering grim war intelligence from the most unlikely of places. Also story of the ultimate treasure salvage beyond the wildest of dreams and it is till going on today! One of the best reads I have had all year.

The loss of the torpedoed *Laurentic* in 1917 is one of the great forgotten stories of the First World War. Had the British gold she carried not been salvaged from deep water off of Ireland, the war itself might have had a very different ending. In the course of recovery, Commander G.C.C. Damant and the Oxford professor, J.S. Haldane, laid the foundation of modern diving. It is astonishing that this story has taken a century to be told, and Joseph Williams tells it extremely well.

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