

Lindner, Eric. *Tiger in the Sea: The Ditching of Flying Tiger 923 and the Desperate Struggle for Survival*

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In his book *Tiger in the Sea: The Ditching of Flying Tiger 923 and the Desperate Struggle for Survival*, author Eric Lindner explores the events surrounding the ditching of Flying Tiger Flight 923 in 1962. He also explores the subsequent investigation, the accident's impact on the crew and passengers, and the fate of all onboard in the years that followed. What emerges is a harrowing tale of survival and resilience,

First and foremost, it should be noted that Lindner's work is a story about people and survival. He meticulously explores the people and events surrounding the accident. He opens with an introduction of each of the passengers and crew members on board, focusing on why they were on that flight. He then examines the events leading up to the plane's ditching in the North Atlantic. Following the crash, he explores the search for the plane, the rescue that followed, and the lives of the passengers and crew in the decades that have followed.

Lindner's work tells a story about how people react to trauma, how they deal with it, and how it shapes them after the fact. Students and casual readers who are seeking a detailed forensic analysis of the crash and what caused it will need to look elsewhere. While the author does explore the post-accident investigation in some detail, the nature of the crash does not allow for a detailed technical examination of how events unfolded. The author also does not explore the technical specifications of the aircraft or the operations in detail. This is not an examination of how aviation accidents occur and how they are investigated. However, the author does provide insight into how search and rescue at sea was conducted before the emergence of technology such as the Global Positioning System. Lindner also takes time to note how accidents at sea can be overshadowed by much bigger events, placing the events discussed within the larger context of the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, which were occurring at the same time as the crash and subsequent investigation and inquiry.

Students of maritime and naval history will find something interesting here because the book focuses on the role military and civilian ships play in search and rescue at sea. The plane was the subject of an intense search using military and civilian ships and aircraft, and, while the technical aspects are

not discussed in great detail, the author does note the utility of aircraft and aircraft carriers in this type of situation. Additionally, the book shines a light on the use of aircraft carriers by the Royal Canadian Navy, as they were still in service when these events occurred. The author also takes the time to explore the procedures for search and rescue at sea followed by military and civilian ships and aircraft. Many accounts of disaster focus specifically on the accident, but here the author takes time to focus on the actions and recollections of those who participated in the rescue as much as those who were victims of the accident.

If Lindner's work has a shortcoming in an academic sense, it comes from the lack of a dedicated bibliography. While the passengers' experiences and the events discussed are thoroughly documented and noted, there is no compiled list of sources provided. Researchers and students wanting to examine the documents and sources used will need to meticulously examine the author's notes to find them. While this does not eliminate the utility of the author's work as an academic resource, it does make it more difficult for readers, students and casual alike, to easily find the documents the author used in his work.

Readers who are not students of maritime and military history will still find something of value in Lindner's work. The author's examination of the people and events is thoroughly grounded in first-hand accounts of the events. The author's narrative writing style results in a book that reads more like a work of fiction, which may make it more accessible for readers who would not otherwise be interested in a book discussing a disaster or historical event. The author's focus on people and the human condition provides an examination of the event from a very grounded perspective.

Tiger in the Sea: The Ditching of Flying Tiger 923 and the Desperate Struggle for Survival by Eric Lindner provides students of maritime history and casual readers alike with an examination of a disaster at sea. The author discusses the events of the accident and their aftermath using a very personal style, focusing on the accident and the aftermath through the lens of how it affected everyone involved. His focus on the humanity of the event yields a work that, while it provides useful information to students of maritime and aviation history, also provides casual readers with an accessible narrative of the historic event.

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