

In the 1960s, a small team of British scientists at the Admiralty Research Laboratory achieved a breakthrough in long-range submarine detection that could have transformed naval warfare. Their work, codenamed VERONICA, demonstrated that active sonar could detect submarines at distances far beyond anything previously thought possible.

But Whitehall had other plans.

Through bureaucratic obstruction, institutional rivalry, and a culture of secrecy that valued career protection over national defence, the programme was systematically dismantled. The scientists were silenced. The technology was abandoned. And Britain's submarine defence capability was left fatally compromised - a vulnerability that persists to this day.

Drawing on declassified documents from the National Archives and his own first-hand experience as a member of the original research team, John Sheldon tells the extraordinary story of a scientific triumph destroyed by the very establishment it was designed to protect.

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HOW WHITEHALL SANK BRITAIN'S
SUBMARINE DEFENCE