A Hymn Beneath the Sea

The British Press Association years ago reported on a remarkable incident that happened to a vessel in the country's navy.

A British submarine lay disabled on the ocean floor. After two days, hope of raising her was abandoned. The crew, on orders of the commanding officer, began singing:

> *Abide with me!*
> *Fast falls the eventide.*
> *The darkness deepens –*
> *Lord with me abide!*
> *When other helpers*
> *Fail and comforts flee,*
> *Help of the helpless,*
> *Oh, abide with me!*

The commanding officer explained to the men that they did not have long to live. There was no hope of outside aid, he said, because the surface searchers did not know the vessel's position.

Sedative pills were distributed to the men to quiet their nerves. One sailor was affected more quickly than the others, and he blacked out.

The seaman fell against a piece of equipment and set in motion the submarine's jammed surfacing mechanism.

The submarine went to the surface and made port safely.

Coincidence?

Or an answer to prayer?

I choose to believe the latter.

– Beecher Hunter