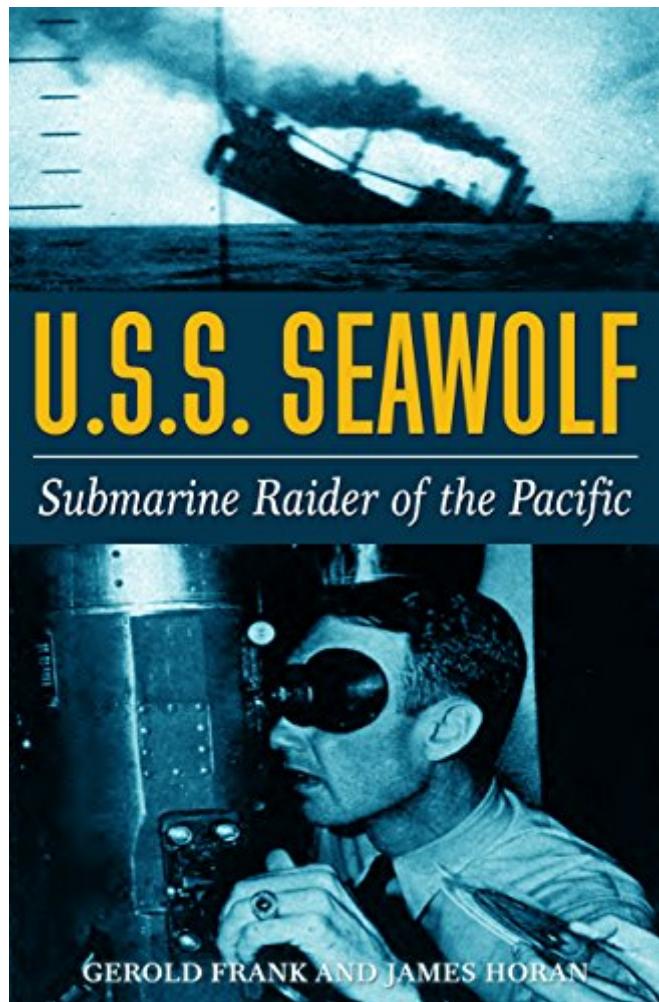


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U.S.S. Seawolf: Submarine Raider Of The Pacific



Synopsis

U.S.S. Seawolf: Submarine Raider of the Pacific, first published in 1946, is the story of one of the Navy's most successful submarine's operating in the Pacific during World War II. Told from the viewpoint of Chief Radioman Joseph Eckberg, the Wolf's adventures are related with a gripping realism...the heat, sweat, depth-charge attacks are all portrayed in vivid detail. Seawolf departed Portsmouth, New Hampshire on 12 April 1940 for her shakedown cruise, which lasted until 21 June and took her as far south as the Panama Canal Zone. Seawolf was next assigned to the Pacific Fleet, based in San Diego. In the autumn of 1940, she proceeded to Manila Bay and operated from the Cavite Navy Yard. When war with Japan began, the submarine readied for sea and was on her first war patrol from December 8th 1941. Seawolf was considered one of the most successful submarines in terms of enemy ships destroyed. The book ends with the Wolf returning to San Francisco in January 1943. For Seawolf, however, the war was not over. Under a new commander and with a new crew, the Wolf returned to the southern Pacific. Following a number of successful missions, the submarine was unfortunately believed to be destroyed by friendly fire on October 4, 1944, off Morotai. Lost were the crew of sixty-four men plus 17 Army passengers. Included are 16 pages of photographs and a new Epilogue describing the Seawolf's fate.

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Customer Reviews

This book fairly screams "1940's America!" The style is fantastic. Very mom and apple pie, mixed with tough-guy machismo (40's style). Presuming you know something about the real story, you'll find the censorship entertaining. For example: No mention - zero - of torpedo problems. They fire and miss, and are confused as to how they missed, but there is no mention that there could be something wrong with the torpedoes. Even though the author is the soundman, he never mentions that he hears the thud of a hit, without the explosion... This was still secret when the book was written, of course. Keeping that in mind, it's a great read. The Seawolf was one of the few submarines that made it into and out of the Philippines during the siege. Those chapters, alone, make this a must read. Very enjoyable.

I loved this book and did not want to put it down. The incredible sacrifice and bravery of submariners is beyond what I think anyone realizes. The sailors in WW2 endured tremendous hardships- and fear, knowing they were going to get depth charged, knowing their torpedoes were less than desirable, (many were duds) and they had to get to the surface to charge batteries. If they were under water and had dead or low batteries, they had to turn off the air conditioning, and many other things that made the boat liveable. Often they had to do this to maintain silence- and did it to the point of exhaustion from lack of air. Many stories in the book about heavy air, and the pressure had built up from firing torpedoes to the point that they couldn't talk, that saying any words was very difficult- and they did not know if there were destroyers waiting on the surface for them. They couldn't use their periscope because the Japanese were expert at seeing it- or planes could see the sub if it were at periscope depth- It's a fascinating book, and makes you very thankful not only for the service of these men in the 1940's, but in all men in the submarine service through the ages. I highly recommend this for just about anyone. great read

This book was originally written in 1943 and well before the outcome of WWII was a certainty. It is a very personal account of life and tension aboard a WWII US Navy submarine written from the standpoint of a radioman who was a member of the crew over a period of about two years. After

reading this I am truly awed as to the dedication and devotion that all submariners gave in service to this nation. I highly recommend this book especially to those who enjoy naval history, adventure and poignant personal memoirs of military experiences.

My father, John "Sully" Sullivan, was on the U.S.S. Seawolf during the time that this book was written about. He is on the right in the photo of their make-shift Christmas Tree. He says the book is quite accurate and captures what it was like. FYI... after that crew left, the next crew took over and the sub was sunk by "friendly fire".

My father was on the "Wolf" also. He is the black-bearded gentleman seated next to the Christmas Tree. I loved the book. I remember touring the Seawolf as a child when it was docked in New London, Ct. I'll never forget the smell of the ship. I loved it. His name was Robert L. Hutchison. Some called him "Hutch" or Bob.

Exciting, educational, edge of the seat thrills, scary but rewarding. It brings such a sense of gratitude for those wonderful sailors that risked their lives so often in scenes that would have scared me to death. Historical account and full of details about their experiences. WONDERFUL book.

A Baby Boomer and a Navy Sonar Technician from 1964 to 1960, with a tour to WESTPAC in 1966, I enjoy reading of naval warfare during World War II. Heartbreaking and heart warming, these men and women were real humans and real heroes. I am honored to have followed in their footsteps.

The book is a winner. It kept my interest from the first page until the last. I learned a great deal about submarines from reading this book. I don't know how the sailors adapt to the job they are required to do. The men in this book were highly trained and everyone knew and did his job. Action galore in this book and the writer conveyed enough information about each man, that you actually felt you knew each person as a friend. Great book, I will probably read it again.

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