



Stalking the Red Bear: The True Story of A U.S. Cold War Submarine's Covert Operations Against the Soviet Union

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Thrilling submarine espionage and an inside look at the U.S. Navy's "silent service" "Stalking the Red Bear," for the first time ever, describes the action principally from the perspective of a commanding officer of a nuclear submarine during the Cold War--the one man aboard a sub who makes the critical decisions--taking readers closer to the Soviet target than any work on submarine espionage has ever done before. This is the untold story of a covert submarine espionage operation against the Soviet Union during the Cold War as experienced by the Commanding Officer of an active submarine. Few individuals outside the intelligence and submarine communities knew anything about these top-secret missions. Cloaking itself in virtual invisibility to avoid detection, the "USS Blackfin" went sub vs. sub deep within Soviet-controlled waters north of the Arctic Circle, where the risks were extraordinarily high and anything could happen

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From Reader Review Stalking the Red Bear: The True Story of A U.S. Cold War Submarine's Covert Operations Against the Soviet Union for online ebook

Ray says

"*Stalking the Red Bear* provides a look into what it might be like to serve on one of the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarines. In this book, the story is told through the eyes of the boat's Captain, and covers the Cold War period and describes spy missions against the Soviet naval forces.

Brendan DuBois says

Fine book about covert U.S. submarine missions in the 1970s, but it's written in a fictional style. All in all, an okay book, but "Blind Man's Bluff" is a much superior book.

Matthias Noch says

The book follows the events of a typical Holystone spy-mission into the Barents Sea and even into the USSR waters and tells the dangerous cat-and-mouse-game the Americans and Soviets played there. While it pretends to balance the story a bit by adding a Soviet perspective to this, it is still clearly pro-American biased as the Russian counterpart to the heroic US captain is complaining all the time only about what is not working or failed. The more advanced reader knows how many close calls there were in this game which the US Navy clearly mastered, but not always won and of course the focus on the Barents Sea avoids all those areas during the Cold War where the Soviet submarines caused the US Navy quite some troubles. But this shouldn't overshadow, that the book is a good read in general. It is especially suitable for persons who are just beginning to read about military submarine operations during the Cold War as it explains all the needed basics in technology and tactics in a very good and readable manner without going into too much details.

Tony Scott says

I've read better, but this is a well done story of the Holystone missions told as a single mission

Alan Mauldin says

This was a great "Day in the Life of the Cold War" type read.
I was interested because my older brother did some of this same stuff in a later class of nuclear attack sub.

Sandy says

This is an area that interested me and I enjoyed the book. A great deal of technical information that will probably not be interesting to those with no previous background, but still a well researched and written book.

Derek says

This was not a very good book. Clearly, the man who wrote this was not only a republican, but things submariners can jump over tall buildings in a single bound. What hero-worship crap.

I read a different book about spy subs in the cold war a few years back and thought this might be of the same vein. It was not. This had all the literary quality of a FoxNews broadcast.

Skip this one.

Jeff Wombold says

I have read many submarine books, but this is the first one that really hit home. Having served on a sturgeon class submarine during the cold war, I could relate to the tale told in this book. The only difference between this book and my journeys was that I was in the Pacific and this tale took place in the Atlantic. Same type of operations, except I never new it had an official name and like other submariners, I never thought about the danger. A good read for all cold war submariners and anybody curious about submarine operations.

David Bober says

Awful.

Matt says

Stalking the Red Bear has a good premise to show the dangers of being on a fast attack during intelligence work off the Russian coast. His style was cumbersome because he had to protect the man who gave him the story and so he used a fictional name for the ship and commanding officer but it detracted from the story. It's understandable why Sasgen does this because of confidentiality agreements for his source but the fictional name detracted from the book. Sasgen also has chapters on the Soviet side and the reader must wonder if that is fiction or not. To understand how a submarine operates this book might be interesting but for any other purpose it might as well be fiction until the source comes forward.

Jaipal says

This book provides an interesting overview of the Soviet and American submarine fleet during the cold war. There are some interesting facts about the technology, social and political differences between the two countries which led to how their submarine fleet was outfitted.

Jason says

3.5 on this one. Only reason was it was kinda short, not that I want a tome, or that it wasn't laid out well. I guess I just wanted more. The focus of the book is on one mission and all that is involved and all that comes before (and a little bit of what's after).

Gives a good overview of sub operation and submarine intelligence in the Cold War and in general, and also imbues the sense of urgency and the need for intelligence of the time.

Roger Barnstead says

I was never a submariner but ever since I was a wee boy I enjoyed reading about them
this was a good enough effort

I wonder what they are up to now?

I would like to know because American intel is almost always wrong about everything
in fact you have to work hard to be more wrong than they have been for almost 100 years.

Given the Navy's ineptitude lately all I can say is

God Help Us All!

Bob says

An accurate story from the height of the Cold War years. The US subs had to go into the Barents sea, then stay just outside the 12-mile limit at Severomorsk. A highly dangerous mission to acquire details about the USSR's operations and weapons. All the while avoiding detection, coupled with the very real risk of colliding with a Russian sub.

Resonance says

Short, but enjoyable, look at a Holystone mission conducted by an American submarine in the Barents sea. The material is dated -- this was a Sturgeon class submarine, the best of the American fleet at the time but several classes out of date now, and the mission was conducted at a time when the Soviet Navy hadn't yet made its notable strides forward in technological development, so one of the main themes is how poor Sov sub technology was in relation to the US -- and the material is probably more gripping for a reader new to the

topic of Cold War submarine deployments and the risks involved, because there is not that much in the book that will be new to readers who have perused other, better known works.

As a brief narrative, though, it works as a fairly interesting look into the life of the men who carried out the Holystone missions (conducting submarine based electronic espionage against the Soviet Union during the Cold War) and it paints a complete picture of what the day to day life was like. It captures both the mundane moments of that life -- conducting drills, preparing meals, studying for qualifications -- and the razor-edge moments of triumph and fear as the submarine performed some exceptionally dangerous task, such as sneaking close enough to an unsuspecting Sov submarine to do an optical scan of its hull or take an in-depth set of recordings of the sounds it made, finding themselves in the middle of a live-fire drill, or running silently from the Sov ASW forces that had detected their presence in order to avoid a full fledged diplomatic incident.
