



Run Silent, Run Deep (CLASSICS OF NAVAL LITERATURE)

Edward L. Beach

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This is a story of the silent service—the submarine crews which destroyed the Japanese merchant marine. A narrative taut with drama, told with the intimacy of a confession, it deals with two strong-headed men: their loves, their jealousies, and their destinies in the lonely and desperate struggle between the hunter and the hunted. Few war novels will rival Run Silent, Run Deep in the naked realism of its action. None will surpass its rising excitement and brilliant descriptions of men in combat.

Unlike many war novels, here is a story that deals with war from the perspective of command. Edward Beach re-creates with fidelity the anguish, agony, and triumphs of command decisions. In Commander Richardson, he has created a character who embodies all that is fine, all that is human, in an excellent naval officer. In a sense, Run Silent, Run Deep is a monument, not to the misfits and the mistakes, but to those men who rose to greatness under the sometimes unbearable tensions of action.

Run Silent, Run Deep (CLASSICS OF NAVAL LITERATURE) Details

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Author : Edward L. Beach

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From Reader Review Run Silent, Run Deep (CLASSICS OF NAVAL LITERATURE) for online ebook

MuffinManNick Lemp says

In this story an american captian of a submarine tells his story of how he got the medal of honor. The main charaters are Rich(the captian), Jim, and the other officers and crew of the submarine. In this story they are sent to area seven on patrol off the Japanese coast and are told to sink all merchant ships.

Im not going to ruin this story so the last thing Ill say is that the main enemy besides Japan in the book is a Japanese destroyer captian who seems to know the names of all the subs he attacks and is an extremely good sub hunter. His name is Bungo Pete and he patrols area seven hunting for subs.

This book is a very good, supenceful, action book.

Richard Fuller says

I read this book in high school. (A L-o-n-g time ago) This book started it all....the exploits of Sam Dealey, Morton, Gano, O'Kane.....the ships, Trigger, Wahoo, Harder. From this book forward, I was hooked on warships. First were the subs, after that came the Battleships..then cruisers, and finally ending up with DesRon23 and Arleigh Burke. I was the only kid at my high school who could rattle of the entire fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor! While that may be a dubious distinction, the love of ships that began with this book, grew and stood with me throughout my life. I think this book is probably a classic by now. It certainly should be.

Captain Beach takes us through the inner workings of the older pre-war S-boat submarines. By the time he takes command of his new construction sub, Walrus, the reader has a good working knowledge of what a submarine IS. Throughout the book, the reader is submerged in the world of submarines, and submarine warfare. The tale he weaves is one that the reader can dive into and enjoy, from Cmdr Richardsons first encounter with Bungo Pete, his enforced shore duty, finally being given command of Eel. The reader is swept along through encounter after encounter, and can't help but feel the loss when Richardsons former exec, Jim Bledsoe, is given command of Walrus, enters the Bungo Straits, and is lost.

Richardson begs to be let into Area 7, the Bungo Suido, and destroy Bungo Pete himself. He succeeds, and the war ends shortly afterwards, Eel making only three more patrols.

The rest is the story of what happens in Washington D.C.....

There is no pornographic imagery in the writing, and the language is written in the style of the late '40s, early '50s, so no problem for the younger generation.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves ships, submarines and action!!

Doug says

I wanted to read this because I liked the movie so much. As it turned out it was pretty hard to find a copy. No library I could find had it and very few used book sellers had it. I did buy a former library copy now withdrawn only to find myself disappointed as I read the first third to half, wishing I hadn't wasted the \$14 on it. However, the book picks up in the last half and becomes quite the page-turner. I found it hard to put down. The characterization becomes better (although that's certainly not the strength of the book), but what

really captured my attention was the descriptions of submarine warfare. (The author was a submarine commander in WWII.) The love interest was shallow and predictable but it doesn't constitute a major portion of the book. So, if you're interested in the Pacific theater of WWII and particularly submarine warfare, and if you see it at some used book store, it makes a very engaging read.

Colin Birge says

Before there was Tom Clancy, there was Commander Edward L. Beach, Jr. If Clancy had studied hard, he might have qualified to change the ink in Beach's pen. Run Silent Run Deep is a classic novel of World War II Pacific theatre submarine warfare. Beach was a WWII submarine veteran himself, and wrote a gripping, plausible thriller about life under the sea and the perils of making war there.

It's a book of its time: women are nearly invisible, the Japanese are insulted when they're not feared, and the hero is such a 40s American White Man you can practically see the starch in his collar and the pants belted around his chest. You can't ignore any of that, but if you set the book in context, it stands up as a classic thriller.

My copy, incidentally, is the one that my late grandfather owned. He himself was a proud World War II Navy vet, though he'd served on the shore. He thought Beach's novel was one of the best adventure stories ever written. Who am I to argue?

Curtis Taylor says

Reading about the history of those who went before you is a great experience. To read about those battle while you yourself are cruising through those same waters as you are heading into harms way was an awesome encouragement. My Father served on submarines while he was in the Navy. To read Skipper Beach's stories is to understand more of what my Dad went through. Skipper Beach is an Outstanding Author and a great American Hero. To read his stories is in fact, an honor.

Bob says

One of the best submarine movies ever made is based on this book, yet the book is completely different, and, of course, much better than the movie. Detailed explanations of the methods of firing torpedoes in WWII combined with riveting action make this book equal or better than anything Tom Clancy ever wrote. As for the movie, pre Vietnam Hollywood wasn't ready for the shocking ending of this book.

Jeffo says

Fantastic book, ultimate suspense, very realistic,I cannot say anymore.

Carolyn says

I learned more respect for the submarine warfare of World War II, even with radar, they were really exposed out there. A tense, drama about life onboard a submarine hunting for the enemy off the coast of Japan. Well written, and it kept my attention. A very unlikely book for me, but necessary to help understand the risks men had to take when technology and radar was fairly new. Brave souls.

Tom Vetter says

Great book! Read this in submarine school in 1972, and got my copy autographed by Ned Beach way back then. One more reason why I wanted to write someday too!

Ed Gray says

I should recuse myself since Ned Beach was a great and close friend of my father, also a submarine officer who made five combat war patrols in the Pacific in WWII. But the hell with that -- this is a really good, dead-on realistic, gripping book.

Bill Rogers says

This is one of my favorite war stories. It was a major best seller when it came out, ten years after World War II. It has a level of authenticity you seldom find in military fiction. It is a submarine book which reads as if it were written by someone who had commanded a submarine in wartime, for an extraordinary reason: It was.

So why isn't this book more widely available? I couldn't find a current paperback or ebook edition at all. The edition I show here is the only one I found. It may still be available new, but my copy is an ex-library copy, used of course, purchased through the mail.

As pointed out in the introduction of this edition, not only had Edward L. Beach Jr. served as executive officer and then captain of American submarines in the Pacific in World War II, at the time he wrote this book he was still a serving naval officer. This is an amazing piece of work for somebody to have knocked out in their spare time from a job which had them on call 24 hours a day.

It reads as authentic, not only in the detailed and correct description of operating a combat submarine, but in the horror of a campaign marked by savagery on both sides. I will not speak of war crimes as I don't want to moralize here. I will just say that there was little quarter asked or given by either side in the Pacific War. Most military fiction sanitizes this, in a one-sided manner more often than not. In its small way Run Silent, Run Deep does not. That makes it rare and special in this genre.

I have read complaints that certain characters such as Laura, Commander Richardson's love interest, aren't well realized. This doesn't particularly bother me. If she is an ideal seen only from a distance, that reflects the reality of the situation of men aboard a submarine thousands of miles from those they loved. To them home and family are dreams, not a real presence. The lack of development of a character barely seen and almost unknown is realistic. If anything about this is not realistic, it is that Richardson would fall in love so quickly

with someone he had met so seldom.

I first read this book a long time ago. I'm pleased to find it holds up well to my memory of it.

Brian says

This book was awesome, and a compliment to "UP Periscope", which I also just finished. Bravery in the sub force in WWII as well as some character development made a interesting read - just like the first time I read in in 1963 (or so).

Malek says

I really loved this book, mostly because of the way he brought home the experience of a submariner in WWII. The captain is not an overly heroic figure, makes mistakes, has weaknesses, and gets hurt several times. But overall he is competent, makes good decisions, and makes his mark in a tough war. So I found it fairly balanced. The transition from nitty-gritty to romantic prose and back is sometimes not that smooth, but otherwise well written. The author was an actual WWII sub skipper and so the book is almost autobiographical. This book really gives you a sense of how close WWII was at times as well, the Japanese really wreaked havoc on the US Navy.

Nancy Ellis says

Wonderful classic of World War 2 submarine warfare in the Pacific. One of the best ever written, better than the movie, of course, although the movie is terrific, too. Since early childhood I've been fascinated by warships, especially those involved in WW2, with a particular love for submarines. This book makes you feel as if you were there, which is not surprising since it's based on the author's personal experiences and knowledge.

Art says

I read this book in High school and found it interesting.
The idea of living in a small space like sardines.
The constant fear of Depth Charges.
The failure of torpedoes to explode on contact.
No news from home. Isolation, dirty, Little or no fresh air.
