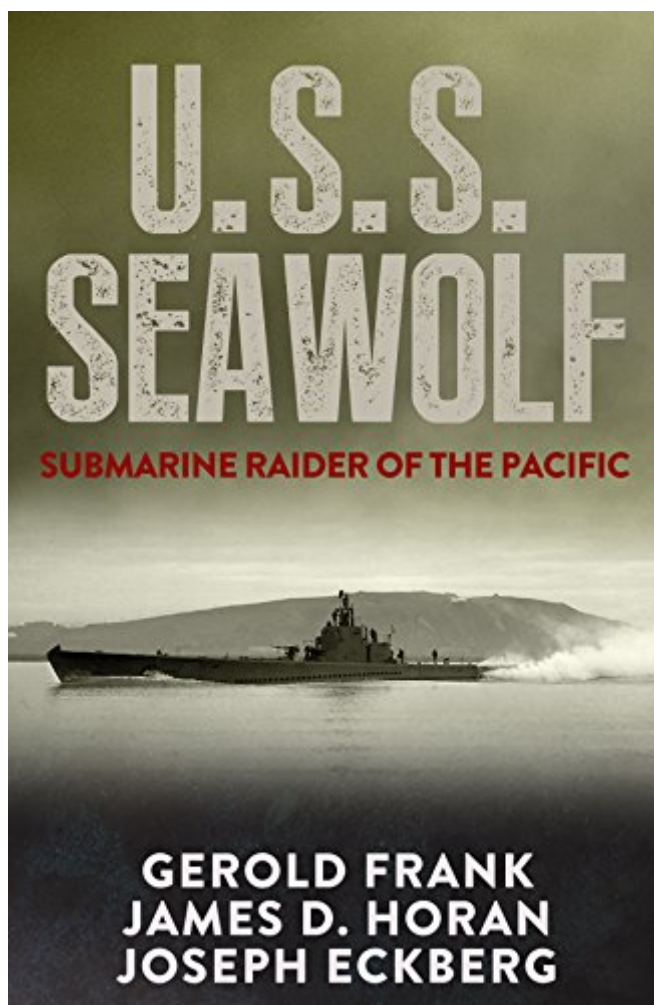


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# U.S.S. Seawolf: Submarine Raider Of The Pacific



## Synopsis

Aaaap! Aaaap! The battle-station alarm blared through the boat. Half-naked, their bodies gleaming in the yellow light, the men tumbled out of their bunks. The narrow passageways were suddenly filled with men and then as suddenly cleared as each man fitted into his assigned position. The USS Seawolf was one of the greatest submarine raiders of all time. Having narrowly avoided the attack on Pearl Harbor the Seawolf set out for the seas of the Pacific to wreak havoc on Japanese shipping. Joseph Melvin Eckberg was on the Seawolf from her maiden voyage and remained with her until January 1943. As chief radioman he was instrumental in assisting Captain Frederick Warder to find and destroy enemy targets. From the claustrophobia of being trapped under water and the overwhelming fear of depth charges to the joys of aiding the war-effort and the camaraderie on the ship, Eckberg's account, told to the authors Gerold Frank and James Horan, gives remarkable insight into submarine warfare of the Second World War. "It is a narrative straight as a sword, from which emerges the story of how that happy marriage of courage and skill was achieved which made our submarines more than any other group the fleet that won the war." The Saturday Review, Fletcher Pratt. "The successes of the Seawolf bear testimony to the effectiveness of single-purposeness and teamwork." Jonas H. Ingram, U. S. Navy Commander-in-Chief. Gerold Frank and James Horan were professional authors who wrote down Eckberg's story after meeting him on a slow train between New York City and New London, Connecticut, in August 1943. U.S.S. Seawolf: Submarine Raider of the Pacific was first published in 1945. Frank went on to become a prominent ghostwriter and passed away in 1998. Horan, author of more than forty books, died in 1981. Eckberg died four years before him in 1977.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the story of the USS Sea Wolf, perhaps the most notorious and successful US submarine in WW2. It's told from the perspective of Chief Radioman Joseph Eckberg, lead sound and radio man aboard the Sea Wolf. It contains the highs and lows of several of the missions, including the notorious early failures of our torpedoes. Here is an opportunity to see aspects of submarine duty that are not usually brought to light. When this book was written, most of the details about the Sea Wolf's missions were still highly classified. The language is clean, simple and straightforward. Please note: if you are offended by derogatory terms for the US's enemies, this book may not be for you. Phrases are used that were common in both the spoken and written word throughout society in the US during WW2. It reflects both Eckberg's prejudices and those of Americans in general. If you are a Navy or WW2 history buff, I highly recommend this book.

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.

Wow. I was just picking it up for education, but this was intriguing. I seriously spent time daydreaming about these characters, or I guess the actual men who served. What a life. What an experience. What a contribution to our nation's security and existential interests during a stressful time. The reality was boring with no sunshine and limited food. But this book was written so well. Lots of 5 star reviews for books, but this is truly a 5 star book. I loved it so much I started looking for other books that I'd think was just educational about WWII but were fabulous, insightful, fun, and

page turning books learning about what these boys and men went through.

Few of the many movies about WWII are accurate; most are embellished and Hollywoodized. The most compelling stories are the first-hand accounts from the people who lived the war and survived. USS Seawolf is one of those stories. Reading it, I could feel what life is like aboard a wartime submarine. Eckberg's book captures the tension and camaraderie perfectly. A great read for anyone interested in learning about the challenges, travels and bravery of those in the submarine corps.

Great story. This story was written 70 years ago about real life aboard a diesel submarine from the perspective of the sonar/radio operator. The risks taken by subs while engaging the enemy were huge. And, the living conditions were harsh. The influence of the captain in building his crew was critical for the success of their missions. At the time, it was remarkable that the Navy allowed two journalists to write this book as the war in the Pacific was still going on. Though the story is old, the heroic efforts are ageless.

This is the diary of Joseph Eckberg. He takes the reader from the development of the ship to its first cruise which lasted two-and-a-half years. It rivals the fictional tale, *Das Boot*. The reader is plunged instantly into the sub service as Eckberg describes the loss of the USS Squalus. She was going out on her shake-down cruise and never resurfaced. The loss of all hands weighed heavily on him and his mates. Being a submariner, it was a calculated risk they all took when they went out on patrol. April 20, 1940 was the day they took her out on the mandatory shake-down cruise. All hands still thought of the loss of the Squalus and hoped they would not join her. From this point on you will spend the next year in some of the most treacherous waters of the South Pacific: Christmas, Island, Lombok Straits, Philippine Sea, and Corregidor to name a few. Under the cool and daring command of Captain Warder the boat racks up an impressive amount of tonnage, sunk or damaged. The battle scenes and tension on the boat are well described and will have you listening in as Eckberg moves the sounding dial listening for targets to be plunked or pursuers who would wish the same. On the last patrol they came across the prize every sub commander would love to chalk-up: a big fat jap carrier. Unfortunately, they were out of position and couldn't match her speed. Perhaps I was expecting more out of this work than was intended. After reading it I looked it up and found out, she had three more captains/crews and was lost at sea in October of 1944. Five stars

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.

An excellently written book about the Seawolf, her crew and officers. The author crafts this true narrative without getting bogged down in the endless details of maneuvering the boat in approach and attack. Even a reader new to reading about WW2 sub warfare can feel the tension, feel the concussive blast of a depth charge, and the quiet, cloying, dripping humidity of silent running. A really good book and I highly recommend reading it!

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