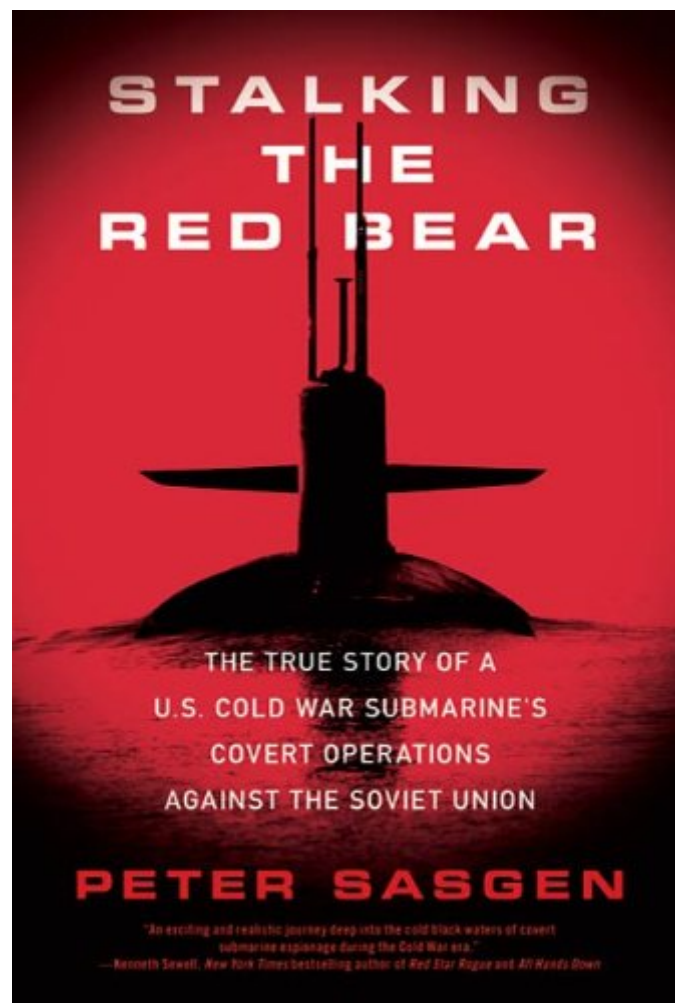




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# Stalking The Red Bear: The True Story Of A U.S. Cold War Submarine's Covert Operations Against The Soviet Union



## Synopsis

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. Readers will know what it was like to carry out a covert mission aboard a nuke and experience the sights, sounds, and dangers unique to submarining.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I also served on a 637 class attack submarine and agree with most of the sentiments of the prior

reviews. I did find the book fun to read and very informative. It created a great source of memories for something I experienced almost 40 years ago as a junior nuclear trained officer. I feel that the author did a great job of surmising what was happening on the Russian side of the equation. This was something we did almost everyday while on patrol. I am giving this book to my friends who really want to know what we did back in the day . As the former CO said, it wasn't flashy but it was an interesting job. I am very happy that I purchased this book. The author did a nice job.

Five COMPELLING Stars! In "Stalking the Red Bear", author Peter Sasgen investigates highly-classified U.S. Navy nuclear attack submarine operations that were conducted under the code name "Holystone", which according to the author encompassed clandestine Navy "covert submarine espionage operations against the Soviet Union". It began in the late 1940's and continued through the remainder of the Cold War and beyond. But this book is not a work of documented history, although it addresses incidents like the "Thresher" and the "Scorpion": it takes the reader on a fascinating, sometimes hair-raising journey made up of reconstructed operations, procedures, scenes, and conversations based on unlimited, unclassified access by the author to an actual 'Holystone' attack submarine commander: the payoff is that the reader follows a notional crew on a step-by-step spine-tingling deployment to the Barents Sea. it's a risky literary approach for a real-world book, but as one gets caught up in the undersea action, it works. A prodigious amount of information, 'word pictures', and history is imparted to the reader using this convention. Antisubmarine warfare (ASW) and intelligence gathering are major parts of this book, but the hardships, tenacity, and dedication of the heroic 'submariner' personnel and their families are the real story. The U.S.S.R. once threatened to "bury" America, this book shows how seriously we took the threat of all-out war and how our un-trackable nuclear subs were the hammer the Soviets feared most of all. You may never forget the experiences of the pseudonymous "Captain Roy Hunter" and the "USS Blackfin". And do read the appendices which are loaded with anecdotes, such as some of the heroic exploits of "Lucky" Fluckey and Street, both Congressional Medal of Honor winners: well worth the time. My Highest Recommendation. Five HUGE Stars! (This review is based on a Kindle download.)

I am a retired submarine commander. This book is technically accurate, but not very thrilling reading. (Our patrols were not very thrilling most of the time, either.)

This is a very revealing book. It is an outstanding depiction of a routine Cold War Submarine Special

Operation. If I wrote such a book I would be in jail. Thanks for a great read on submarine ops and a trip down memory lane. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to know what really happened when the sleek black sub left port in the late sixties and early seventies.

Well-written and mostly accurate portrayal of intelligence-gathering submarines during the cold war, especially the STURGEON (SSN-637) class. Some factual errors about submarine technology (e.g., erroneously called 1970s satellite navigation GPS, which was not in use until the 1990s and totally missed the use of CO2 scrubbers).

Having read "Stalking" I now have a much better appreciation of the risks and responsibilities undertaken by our submariners during a very dangerous period the extent of which peril was unknown to me. One slip-up and the missiles would have been launched. While the book perhaps goes into too much detail about certain operations and procedures it does give one the feel that the author knows whereof he speaks. If you're looking for the high drama of Chinese Gordon fighting off The Mahdi and his minions at Khartoum, this isn't it. But given that the author was limited by what actually happened (and didn't have Charleton Heston in the inevitable film's lead role) the author did a commendable job of making interesting a story that was so often out of sight, under water, and under the radar. And while I wouldn't expect to see a movie based on this book at my local multiplex, I wouldn't be surprised to find one on the History Channel or on public television. Bravo.

Although there is a vast amount of information regarding the advanced possibilities of our maintaining our Navel Warfare Protection capabilities that I do not fully understand, after reading this book, I am much more comfortable regarding our continued existence. Unlike "The Hunt for Red October" which I very much enjoyed, this book is based on fact, rather than fiction. As much as I enjoyed also factual book and movie. "U-571", "Stalking The Red Bear" is top Shelf in my library.

As many reviewers have stated this is about the Cold War history of submarine data gathering both visual and electronic. Fact based with some liberties taken for conversational fluidity, it is a good and quick read. The quick is my major issue with this work. While the book lists as 330 pages, only about 2/3 are part of the direct story. The last 1/3 is 3 Appendix that generally rehash 3 WW2 sub commander missions briefly discussed in the main text. There is also an extensive glossary, and a very extensive bibliography. A lot of this seems to be to fill out the length of the book. Some of my other issues with the books is the disjointedness of some of the descriptions. For example, one sub

commander's debrief says that he moved his submarine under a Russian surfaced submarine. No reasons was given until later in the book when it was noted that there was a desire to get images of the hull of Russian ships and submarines to understand the extent of their technology. So, while I was left wondering until late in the book why a sub captain would risk his crew, career, boat, and an international incident for something that seemed more like counting coup.

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