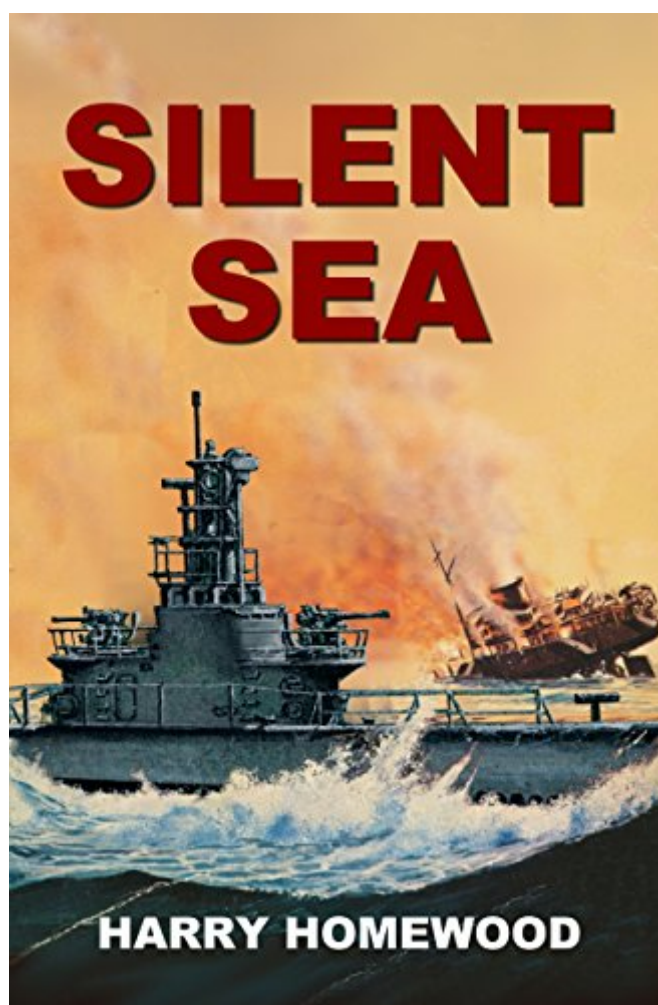


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Silent Sea (The Silent War Book 2)



Synopsis

As they listened to the death throes of their sister ship Mako sinking in the Pacific where the waters were six miles deep, the crew of USS Eelfish suddenly came of age. They were a new breed: a brand-new fleet submarine crewed by draftees and reservists. Hidebound regular Navy officers believed they wouldn't fight. But fight they did with reckless abandon, proving themselves on two fronts — against the Japanese at sea, and against their own Admirals, who clung to outmoded concepts of how to wage war under the sea. This true-to-life novel moves at breathtaking speed from the invasion of Guadalcanal through the battle of the Philippine Sea and to the coast of Japan. By the end of the war, submarines such as Eelfish had so tightened the noose of naval blockade around Japan that the enemy was finished as an industrial nation, unable to fight effectively. But American submariners paid dearly for their victories. One out of every five men who went to sea in submarines in the Pacific died in combat, the highest percentage of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. This is a novel about their exploits, how they fought, how they loved, and how they died, written by a man who was there. Harry Homewood was a qualified submariner before he was seventeen years old, having lied to the Navy about his age, and serving in a little "S"-boat in the old Asiatic Fleet. After Pearl Harbor he reenlisted and made eleven war patrols in the Southwest Pacific. He later became Chicago Bureau Chief for Newsweek, chief editorial writer for the Chicago Sun-Times, and for eleven years had his own weekly news program syndicated to thirty-two PBS television stations.

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Customer Reviews

Harry Homewood delivers a great look at the world of the Silent Service. His characters come across as real people. Some easy to understand and others quite complex. Yet, in the end he helps you understand the hard task masters and crew members with problems that explains their actions in life aboard a submarine. You have trouble putting down the first book of the series and even more trouble setting down the second. For those who enjoy WWII stories, this is an excellent choice. I specifically did not go into individual characters in this review because, if you believe me, you will grab a copy of this book. But, first read "Final Harbor" (the 1st of the series) by Harry Homewood, you won't be sorry.

The novel has depth and good characterization. The action is well presented and generally very accurate. Profanity - yes - but spot-on: "cuss like a sailor". I'm not certain the early fleet boats had the depth ability to 600 feet nor that the Japanese ship commanders were as exceptional as thewell, I won't go any further because I recommend anyone reading this review get the novel and read it and then get the sequel.

This is the second installment in Homewood's "The Silent War" series about submarine warfare in World War II. Of one thing there is no doubt: Homewood knows his stuff concerning submarines and the nature of submarine warfare in that war. Basically, Homewood shows that submarine warfare was a lethal game in which first the submarine stalked its targets, and then the destroyers of the target convoy often as not subjected the submarine to a vicious depth charging attack that could last for many hours -- as the men in the submarine frantically tried to escape the attack, or elude detection and outwait it. Not a profession for the faint of heart, as one out of five submariners in that war became casualties. Homewood also takes us into the world of Navy politics of that time. The peacetime submarine skippers did not always turn out to have the aggressiveness that all-out unrestricted submarine warfare required. The torpedo warhead exploders were defective, and a defensive and hidebound Navy bureaucracy was slow to admit, let alone correct, the problem. But

despite all of this, the submarine force did as much to win the war against Japan as any branch of the service, and perhaps more than any other. All of this goes into this excellent novel and really makes the reader get a feel for what this struggle was like for those who fought it below the ocean. This one was absolutely engrossing. Highly recommended. RJB.

This is the second part of the saga of 2 sister ship submarines, Mako and Eelfish. in action in the Pacific during WW2. Both parts of the story can be read independently but it's better to read them in order. The first book deals primarily with the Mako from mid 1942 up to the point where it's sunk (not a spoiler as the description for this book so states) around the Solomon Islands near the end of that year. This book deals with action by the Eelfish from that point through the end of the war. These two books are among the best I've read on WW2 submarine warfare. The author a former WW 2 submariner who saw action in the Pacific and who latter became a journalist did a good job in describing what it was like in combat aboard a submarine. I found this to be slightly better than part one. My only criticism is the way the book was put together. It's pretty much good action packed through the Battle of Leyte Gulf in late 1944. The rest the book however deals with mundane things like rescuing downed airmen and how the individual crew members fared after the war. Despite this it's a must read for WW2 buffs.

This is an excellent follow-on to the author's first book in the series, "Final Harbor." The plot is a hard charging, fast moving tale about sub warfare in the Pacific during WWII. The action is almost non-stop, and the details of the battles are vivid and realistic. These scenes make it difficult to put the story down after a reading session. It makes things simpler for the reader if he goes through "Final Harbor" before tackling "Silent Sea," since many of the characters are carried over from the first book to the second.

The book details submarine life in WWII and it wasn't pretty since today's subs are the size of WWII cruisers. The book details life on board through different key personnel, the good and the bad, which is what makes us human. A sub is a small contained combat element that usually comes back all together or not at all. The sub's actions don't rank up there with the WAHOO, TANG, or HARDER, but it still a good book to read.

Reading the "Silent Sea" draws you into the murky and dangerous depths of the Pacific Ocean during World War II in a historically accurate and compelling drama of a US submarine and it's

crew. The author writes in easy to read prose and has a knack for keeping your interest on every page.

Great adventurous story of submarine duty during WW2. Reminded me of stories my dad would talk about who was on mine sweepers and my uncle who went on 6 WAR patrols in the Pacific on the USS Seal SS 183. Harry Homewood is a fine author.

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