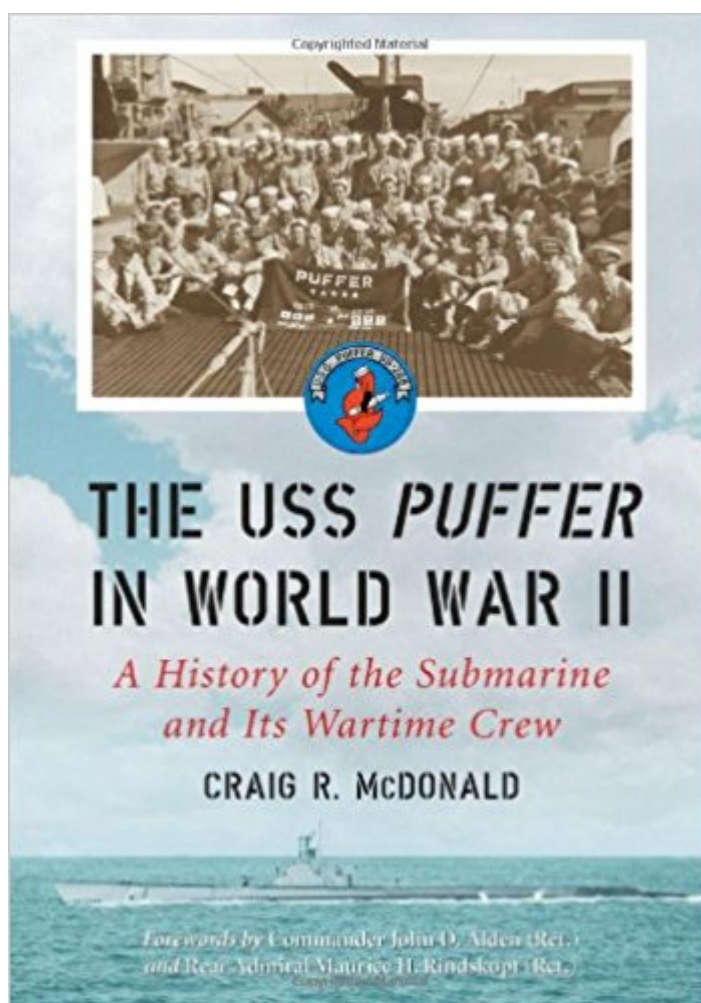


The book was found

# The USS Puffer In World War II: A History Of The Submarine And Its Wartime Crew



## Synopsis

Submarines were responsible for about 55 percent of the tonnage of the Japanese fleets sunk during World War II. The 22 percent casualty rate of U.S. submariners was the highest of the military services. This volume traces the career of the submarine the USS Puffer from the laying of her keel and her commissioning on April 27, 1943, until her departure for the scrap yard in late 1960. Compiled from interviews with former crew members, including the author's father, Donald B. McDonald, as well as other contemporary sources, it follows the crew of the Puffer through nine war patrols. Events recollected include the First War Patrol, which resulted in a record-setting 38 hour submergence because of enemy fire; the dangerous transfer of torpedoes while surfaced in enemy waters; and the wild bombardment of Japanese shore installations with the 5-inch deck gun. There are numerous wartime photographs and appendices providing a list of awards earned by the crew and a summary of claimed successful attacks. Brief biographies of the seven commissioned officers are also included.

## Book Information

Paperback: 335 pages

Publisher: McFarland (January 25, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786432098

ISBN-13: 978-0786432097

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,479,830 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Submarines](#) #5584 in [Books > History > Military > Naval](#) #6654 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military](#)

## Customer Reviews

Craig R. McDonald is director of information and data services within the University Division at Indiana University in Bloomington.

If you look thru my other reviews WWII USN and submarine books are a favorite reading subject for me. After having read many and having something to compare to I am sorry to say that I would rate this book as an average read at best. Although it covers a subject that I enjoy its just not very

engaging as a written work. Like a number of books written on a ship's history it begins with an introduction to the role of submariners, the stresses of surviving on one and some of the main officers. Once the crew is assembled and trained the book basically covers the experiences of the sub and its sailors patrol by patrol til the wars end. However a good book cannot rely on just that but needs an author to expertly weave all of these experiences together into a single interesting narrative but in my opinion that is not achieved. The chapters regarding the patrols are a bit tedious and often times there are a couple of pages in a row devoted to just explaining what the submarine did down to the minute during an attack. 1141- took final bearing, 1142 shot first torpedo etc. A lot of passages are hardly more interesting than a skipper's patrol report. Chapters devoted to crew's experiences in between patrols are mostly mundane. There are a few episodes such as a sailor getting arrested to provide some color but for the most part it just talks about them drinking beer or servicing the boat. If you've read other sub books I don't think you'll read about anything particularly new. The part of the book that shines the most is the pages describing the Puffer's long submergence and depth charging on one of her first patrols. Here the author pulls together several former sailors' experiences and how they felt the crew was affected which I thought was interesting. Typically sub histories will characterize the crew of the Puffer as being deeply shaken by that experience but that does not seem to be the case. All in all I would only suggest this book to someone who has to read them all otherwise if you are looking for a similar type of book that is truly a five star I would suggest Ostlund's Find Em, Chase Em, Sink Em. Great subject but the writing is flat and very pricey.

like the others, I was quite reluctant and hesitant to shell-out \$45 for a softcover book. However having a lifelong penchant (and weakness) for written accounts on WW2 submarines I bit the proverbial torpedo and have now just finished reading this fine WW2 history of the USS PUFFER. FIVE STARS all the way and a successful war patrol (clean sweep! tie the broom to the periscope shears!)! the chapters are well-segmented from the construction inception, through each successive war patrol, to final de-commissioning and disposition. Ironically the bulk of the text are not of the author's...but verbatim WAR PATROL REPORTS...and several inclusions of former PUFFER crewmember veteran's oral histories, anecdotes, and especially rather lengthy FPO letters home written by an PUFFER officer (to his wife during the war). Besides the postwar memoirs (by actual veterans) and or history texts (by noted historians), books of this ilk, are usually the product of a baby boomer seeking to learn more of his/her father's past WW2 service. This work is no different, as the author attended several PUFFER reunions, interviewed PUFFER crewmembers, researched the archives, etc etc in his quest to understand his father's role in the Silent Service. Having

amassed reams of research material...a book was a natural outcome (otherwise his oral history interviews would have never come to light). what aspect i especially appreciated was the overall narrative of a WW2 boat that was not a headline glamor maru-killing ace sub, but rather an unsung workhorse representative of most of the WW2 submarines (it just happened his father served on her). all former PUFFER crewmembers including their WW2 USN serial numbers are listed which for me renders this work an invaluable resource index. the author's obsessive effort to disclaim the longheld notion that PUFFER's crew was completely disbursed after the horrifying first war patrol could have been abbreviated as well as the sections on physiologic & psychologic aspects of life aboard a diesel boat. one minor error: enlisted submarine personnel did not wear the silver TWIN DOLPHINS qualification badge during WW2 (it was instituted in 1956)...instead wore a TWIN DOLPHINS cuff striker on their liberty blues and or summer whites. during WW2 commissioned officers were the only ones authorized the wear the GOLD TWIN DOLPHINS quals badge. all submarine personnel, enlisted and officer, were allowed to wear the COMBAT PATROL PIN insignia (a combat battle star was added for each patrol deemed successful by the higher-ups). also interestingly enough, there is usually scant mention as to the real reason behind the (faulty) magnetic imploder (on the fishes)..as the author stated it was thought more effective to explode underneath the ship as to 'break the keel, ie., backbone'...when in truth it was devised to originally sink enemy man-of-wars which tend to have a thick armor belt which neutralized most contact exploders (that was the theory anyhow). for all WW2 submarine historians, aficionados, readers, etc...this book is a definite affirmative.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The USS Puffer in World War II: A History of the Submarine and Its Wartime Crew  
The Wonders of the Colorado Desert (Southern California), Vol. 1 of 2: Its Rivers and Its Mountains, Its Canyons and Its Springs, Its Life and Its ... Journey Made Down the Overflow of the Colo  
Thunder Below!: The USS Barb Revolutionizes Submarine Warfare in World War II  
World War 2 History  
10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women)  
The Submarine Book: An Illustrated History of the Attack Submarine  
For Crew and Country: The Inspirational True Story of Bravery and Sacrifice Aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts  
USS Cod WWII Submarine Memorial Photo Museum Guide  
USS GREENEVILLE SUBMARINE -LIB (When Disaster Strikes!)  
World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series)  
World War 2: German Tank Crew Stories: Eyewitness Accounts (German War, WW2, World War II, Soldier Stories, Waffen SS, Last

Panther, DDay, Panzer, Hitler Book 1) The Zoo Crew - A Thriller (Zoo Crew series Book 1) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) Korean Vignettes: Faces of War : 201 Veterans of the Korean War Recall That Forgotten War Their Experiences and Thoughts and Wartime Photographs of That Era World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. ( world history) World History: Ancient History, American History, and the History of Europe, Russia, China, India, World War 1 and 2, Vietnam War, Cold War, Medicine, Science and Technology Symbolism, Its Origins and Its Consequences (Art, Literature and Music in Symbolism, Its Origins and Its) Wilmington, North Carolina: Including its History, Bellamy Mansion, the USS North Carolina, the North Carolina Azalea Festival, Independence Mall, and More Russian Armour in the Second World War: Rare photographs from Wartime Archives (Images of War) The Sonarman's War: A Memoir of Submarine Chasing and Mine Sweeping in World War II War Beneath the Waves: A True Story of Courage and Leadership Aboard a World War II Submarine

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)