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In this image we see a German U-Boat at sea. These vessels caused massive problems for the Allies during World War II (especially during the first few years). Photo online, courtesy unterseebootwaffe.se.

One of Hitler's best weapons to hinder successful Allied convoy trips was the U-Boat. The Unterseebooten (under sea boats) were German submarines that attacked, almost at will, because the commanders knew (through the Enigma codes) the specific coordinates of Allied ships as they passed through convoy routes.

U-boats, like Allied submarines, were different from today's nuclear subs which can remain underwater for months. WWII subs were more like regular boats with diving capability. They had to return to the surface periodically.

When submerged, WWII subs would creak and groan. Men had to live in cramped spaces. Showers were usually permitted only once a week. Sometimes the stale air in the sub was freezing cold. Sometimes it was blazing hot with nearly 100% humidity. The possibility of losing one's life on a submarine was an ever-present reality.

German U-boats were usually identified by numbers. U-110, on patrol in the North Atlantic on May 9, 1941, was having a good trip. Sinking two Allied ships in the convoy passing to the south of Iceland's Cape Farewell, Lemp left his periscope up longer than usual. Maybe he was gloating, just a bit, over his successful kills.

It would be the last time he looked through the periscope of U-110.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-U-BOATS-U-571>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-U-BOATS-U-571>

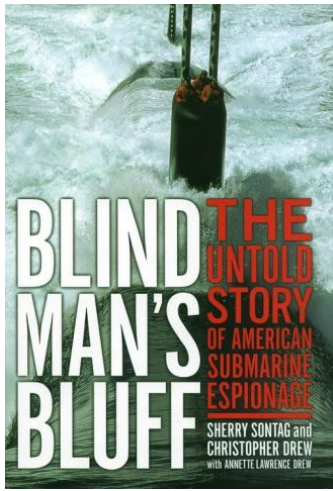
Media Stream



U-Boat - Beached

Photo online, courtesy www.uboot.net.

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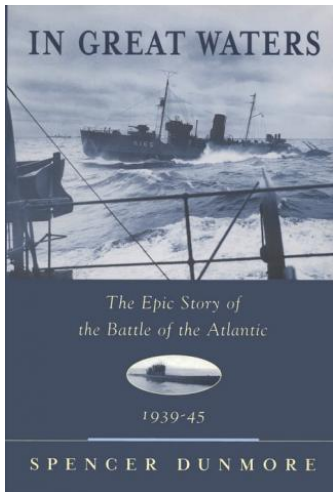


Blind Man's Bluff - by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew

Book-cover image online courtesy Public Affairs and Google Books.

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In Great Waters - by Spencer Dunmore

Image online, courtesy Amazon.

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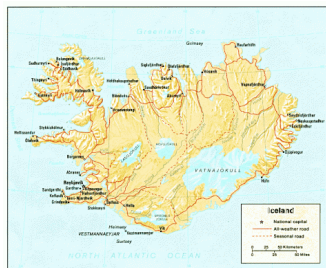


German U-Boat

Photo online, courtesy unterseebootwaffe.se

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Iceland - Area Map

Map online, courtesy Perry Castenada Map Collection, University of Texas, at Austin.

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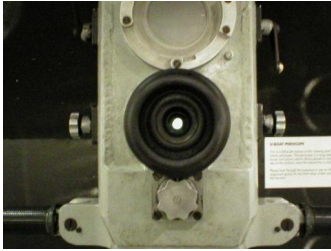


Fritz-Julius Lemp

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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U-Boat Periscope

Image online, courtesy Merseyside Maritime Museum.

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