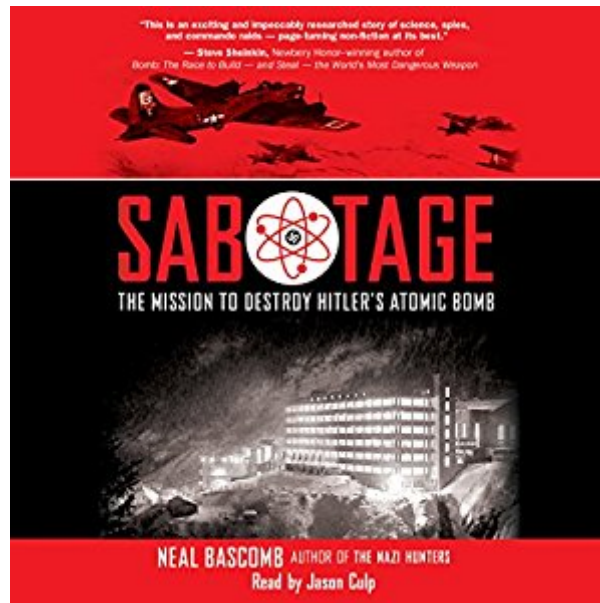


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Sabotage: The Mission To Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb



Synopsis

The author of the award-winning *The Nazi Hunters* returns with another thrilling true story of WWII espionage, including Nazis, nukes, fighting, failure, and everyday heroes. April 9, 1940. The invasion begins at night, with German cruisers slipping up a silent fjord. Soon planes full of paratroopers roar over the mountains, and in two months the Nazis occupy all of Norway. They station soldiers throughout the country. They cripple food supplies to the Norwegian people. And at the Vemork power plant, they gain access to an essential ingredient in the weapon that could end the war: Hitler's very own nuclear bomb. February 24, 1943. When the Allies discover the plans for the bomb, they agree Vemork must be destroyed. But after a British operation fails to stop the Nazis' deadly designs, the task falls to a band of passionate Norwegian commandos - young men who long to free their country from Nazi rule. Armed with little more than parachutes, skis, explosives, and great courage, they will survive months in the snowy wilderness and execute two desperately dangerous missions. The result? The greatest act of sabotage in all of World War II.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On the subjects of science, geography, human survival, and intelligence, this is amazing. This provides greater depth to our homeschool high school study of WWII!

Sad, but never disappointing. A real eyeopener to the plight of Norway during occupation.

This book was on my sons summer reading list. He really liked the book. He has always enjoyed history and the occasional illustration made the story all the more interesting.

The book arrived in a timely manner. Very good shape, as stated. Good reading.

My grandson, 10, a voracious reader, and I both read this book separately and then compared notes. We both liked this book very much. My grandson was enamored of the Norwegian group. He is impressed with history, heroes, and anyone who has a good story. 'Sabotage' is an excellent method for educating our children about history and the 'Big One', WWII. This type of book gives a first hand experience to children who can visualize the events and note to themselves that this is truly a real event in history. What we have is the history of the Nazi invasion into Norway. In the dead of night, they came and occupied Norway. One of the most important areas of interest for the Germans was a chemical plant, Vermork. The Nazis were interested in developing a nuclear bomb, and this chemical plant was primary for their needs. The British heard of this project at Vermork, and they attempted to derail the mission, the British failed. At this time some very brave Norwegian Commandos armed with very little but skis and explosives, wait months in the snowy climate to sabotage the chemical plant. I want to point out that I had very scant knowledge of this event, and I would wager that many Americans are aware of this event, either. It is through these kinds of books that I read with my grandchildren, that I learn a great deal about history, science and the world. This book is filled with excitement and tension, and my grandson told me he stayed up late on a weekend night to finish the book. The author, Neal Babscomb, is a wonderful writer, and kept my attention and that of my grandson. It is wonderful to have our children given the opportunity to read about heroes, and to have these Norwegian commandos show that strong beliefs, courage and love of your country are important virtues. Recommended. prisrob 04-18-16

It's hard to think of this book aimed at young readers. I'd rather classify this book aimed for readers who want a cursory look at Norway's part in the war effort and its band of resistance fighters in the Milorg, why the Vemork power plant was important and the physicists working there, Norway's relationship to England at the time, basic descriptions of "heavy water" and nuclear fission and the German physicists fascinated in atomic power, and who the Norwegian heroes were, all while avoiding deep military strategy which can bore readers. Neal Bascomb shows in a mere 259 pages while the efforts of the saboteurs were invaluable. He also adds some historical perspective of the 1930s and the efforts of several physicists around the world experimenting with atoms, neutrons

and protons. Bascomb begins by introducing the brave Norwegians who are part of this story: 37-year-old Norwegian Institute of Technology professor Leif Tronstad and 28-year-old professor Kurt Haukelid who were trained in England and Scotland, and members of the Norwegian Independent Company who participated in Operation Grouse/Freshman: 23-year-old Norsk Hydro worker Einar Skinnarland, Jens Anton Poulsson, Arne Kjelstrup, Knut Haugland, Claus Helberg. The reading here is intense and thrilling as the men brave freezing lakes, harsh temperatures, night time operations and never knowing if Germans were listening in on their radio frequencies. Many of the English working with the Norwegians on the airlift didn't survive the ordeal when the planes crashed and survivors were rounded up by Nazis and executed. It took several attempts to make a successful landing and travel on skis to Vemork and beyond, always with the mission of making the Nazis' efforts more tiresome. The text is easy to read. There are plenty of black-white photographs that add imagery to the narrative, and everything is presented chronologically. The chapters are short and the narrative is straight reporting without any emotive prose. The end results is a summary of the courageous efforts of the Norwegians and English citizens to unite against an enemy. A highly recommended read for novices of military history.

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