



All Hands Down: The True Story of the Soviet Attack on the USS Scorpion

By Kenneth Sewell, Jerome Preisler

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From Ken Sewell, the author of *Red Star Rogue*, and Jerome Preisler, the author of *Code Name Caesar* and co-author of the *Tom Clancy's Power Plays* series, comes a controversial account of the destruction of the *USS Scorpion*, the nuclear submarine that sank with ninety-nine crewmen aboard in 1968--an event that was officially attributed to accident.

The tragedy of the *USS Scorpion*--and the lingering mystery of what caused it to sink in 10,000 feet of water on the eastern edge of the Sargasso Sea--has been widely written about. *All Hands Down* shows how the Soviet plot to exact revenge for the loss of a Russian sub was executed and explains why the truth of the attack has been officially denied for forty years. Sewell and Preisler debunk various official explanations for the tragedy and bring to life the personal stories of some of the men who were lost when *Scorpion* went to the bottom.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Controversy has steadily shadowed the 1968 sinking of the U.S. nuclear submarine *Scorpion*. The navy's official version of accidental sinking on a routine mission was challenged by allegations that the *Scorpion* was in fact torpedoed while shadowing a Soviet task force. Further rumors indict the spy John Walker for providing confidential codes to the Soviets, enabling them to track the submarine. Yet another account purports that the Soviets destroyed the *Scorpion* in retaliation for the sinking of one of their own subs. The two navies eventually called a truce rather than risk further disrupting relations. Sewell, a submarine veteran, and Preisler, a writer of techno-thrillers, add little new evidence in their version of the story; their new data is unfailingly familiar and they never succeed in making a persuasive case for the conspiracy and cover-up they claim occurred. Instead, Sewell and Preisler devote more time to anecdotes about the *Scorpion's* crew and their families and little vignettes of the routines on board a nuclear sub. What is undeniably useful is the book's demonstration of the high numbers of accidents between ships and aircrafts that were accepted as routine during much of the Cold War. *All Hands Down* highlights a truth no less relevant today: international incidents are in good part constructions mutually agreed upon after the event. (Apr.)

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Review

"Scrupulously researched, compulsively readable, *All Hands Down* plunges us back to a dark era of surprise attacks against the United States. Fortunately, that era is well in the past. Wait a minute..."-Ron Powers, coauthor, *Flags of Our Fathers*; *Last Flag Down*; and *The Man Who Flew the Memphis Belle*

"A satisfying historical whodunit, redolent with Cold War paranoia and tragedy." - *Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

Kenneth R. Sewell is a nuclear engineer and a U.S. Navy veteran who spent five years aboard the USS *Parche*, a fast attack submarine that was the Navy's most decorated ship. *Parche* conducted a number of special operations, some of which were revealed in *Blind Man's Bluff*. Since leaving the Navy, Mr. Sewell has held both Department of Defense and Department of Energy security clearances. In researching *Red Star Rogue*, Mr. Sewell had access to recently declassified intelligence files in the U.S. and Soviet military archives that were opened after 1991, among other sources. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Red Star Rogue* has been optioned for film by Warner Brothers.

Jerome Preisler is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than thirty books of fiction and nonfiction, including the recent *First to Jump: How The Band of Brothers was Aided by the Brave Paratroopers of Pathfinders Company*, *Code Name Caesar: The Secret Hunt for U-boat 864 During World War II* and *Daniel's Music*. He was also the writer of the long-running *Tom Clancy's Power Plays* series and a contributor to *Tom Clancy's Airborne*. As a baseball writer, Jerome was a leading columnist for the New York Yankees' YesNetwork.com from 2004-2012.

Users Review

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Todd Robinson:

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