

World War II Submarine Movie Selection

U-571 (2000)

PG-13 (war violence)

Running Time 1hr. 57 minutes

A U.S. Navy captain and his crew are just beginning to enjoy 48 hours of leave when they receive word to immediately return to duty. On a top secret assignment, they must disguise themselves as Nazis and infiltrate a severely damaged Nazi U-boat. Once on board, they are to steal the Nazi's top-secret decoding device and sink the sub before the Germans catch on to what's really happening. Their mission is more dangerous and frightening than anything they ever imagined, but one which has the power to turn the tide of battle.

Crash Dive (1943)

Not Rated

Running time 105 minutes

In this thrilling, Academy Award-winning WW II drama (Best Special Effects, 1943), Tyrone Power plays Navy Lieutenant Ward Stewart, a crewmember aboard a sub responsible for investigating a suspicious tanker in the Atlantic. Initially Stewart takes a liking to his commander – Dewey Connors (Dana Andrews) – until he realizes that the woman he's fallen in love with is actually Connor's fiancée. Not only that, but once the crew tracks the tanker to an island, they discover that it's really a German Q-boat and the island is a Nazi supply base! Tension explodes as the two men must work together to defeat the enemy – and come to terms with their rivalry.

Destination Tokyo (1944)

Not Rated

Running time 2 hours 16 minutes

Twenty four hours out of San Francisco, Captain Cassidy (Cary Grant) of the submarine *Copperfin* unseals his top-secret orders and reads two wonderful words: *Destination Tokyo*. *Destination Tokyo* is a powerful and often funny portrait of men at war. It's also a sweaty-palmed suspense drama. Japanese Zeros rain death. A sailor needs an emergency appendectomy, but there's not a doctor aboard. And in the tautest sequence, Cassidy must somehow slip his sub through the mines of Tokyo Bay...then blast his way out to the safety of the open seas.

Operation Pacific (1951)

Not Rated

Running time 110 minutes

World War II rages across the Pacific and Lt. Cmdr. Duke E. Gifford is in the thick of it. He evacuates children from enemy-held islands. Oversees the research and development of torpedoes at Pearl Harbor. And prowls the depths in the submarine Thunder fish, hoping for a chance to aim his improved "tin fish" –torpedoes- at the hulls of the enemy.

The Enemy Below (1957)

Not Rated

Running time 98 minutes

Robert Mitchum and Curt Jurgens star in this excellent drama about two ship captains stalking each other at sea. When an American destroyer detects a German U-boat prowling beneath the surface, its captain (Mitchum) immediately pursues the enemy. The sub's commander (Jurgens) is a wily veteran who uses ingenious evasive tactics while angling for a position to torpedo the destroyer. As both men try to out think the other and out maneuver each other; the chase becomes a deadly chess game in which any mistake can bring defeat and death. Alternating

between both ships and their crews, the film offers an impartial view of war that portrays the American and German captain as professional soldiers.

Run Silent, Run Deep (1958)

Not Rated

Running time 1 hr 33 minutes

“Rich” Richardson (Clark Gable) is a hard-driving, dedicated submarine officer with one single-minded purpose – to seek out and smash the Japanese destroyers he believes sunk his former ship. Given a new command, Richardson grills his men to the point of mutiny as he relentlessly trains them for the battle ahead. At last, word comes of the destroyer’s position, and disobeying orders, Richardson finally confronts his foe, unaware that an even greater enemy lurks nearby ...one who’s been targeting him from a watery grave.

Torpedo Run (1958)

Not Rated

Running Time 1 hour 36 minutes

The aircraft carrier *Shinaru* led the attack on Pearl Harbor. Now it’s the #1 target in the Pacific. But U.S. submarine commander Barney Doyle has a personal reason for seeking out the infamous flat top. During the battle, it shielded itself with a transport carrying Doyle’s wife, child and 1,400 other POWs from Manila. The transport sank. And it was Doyle who miscalculated and fired the torpedo that took it down.

Other options...

The Silent Service Series: The Revenge of the Hawkbill (1957)

Running time 30 minutes

The Silent Service series was a documentary type series about the U.S. Navy’s submarine fleet. All stories were based on fact and included actual combat footage from the files of the Navy.

The Revenge of the Hawkbill tells the story of USS HAWKBILL, a Manitowoc built submarine that sought revenge on the Japanese minesweeper that sank another Manitowoc built submarine, USS LAGARTO. The wreck of USS LAGARTO was discovered on May 2005 and has been designated as Wisconsin’s State Boat.

Down Periscope (1996)

PG – 13 (crude language)

Running time

Kelsey Grammer sails from TV’s “Frasier” to the big screen in this screwball comedy co-starring Lauren Holly and Rip Torn. Veteran skipper Tom Dodge (Grammer) will never be a textbook officer, but he’s a brilliant seaman who’s always wanted to command a nuclear submarine. Unfortunately, Admiral Graham (Bruce Dern) would rather sink the fleet than give Dodge his own boat. So Dodge is given the helm of a diesel-powered WW II sub crewed by a collection of maladjusted, mistake-prone misfits. Then he’s tagged “the enemy” in a crucial war game, and ordered to take on the U.S.