



U-Boat War

Lothar-Günther Buchheim

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From the author of the internationally best-selling novel of submarine warfare, 'The Boat,' here is a remarkable word-and-picture chronicle of submarine warfare in the north Atlantic during World War II.

No comparable record of the war at sea exists anywhere... Buchheim's pictures are unique. Ordered on board a submarine as an official artist to send back suitably inspiring renderings of the German Navy in action for propaganda purposes, he was granted a camera and unlimited supplies of film, as well as opportunity to use them that was unthinkable for any member of a regular crew.

Caught up in the lives of those around him, appalled by what he saw, he began photographing constantly... to capture not the conventional Historical Moments of victory and defeat but the truth of what was taking place, moment by moment, detail by detail. Over 5,000 of his photographs, smuggled into safekeeping, survived World War II. Of these, 205 form this epic photo-essay.

'U-Boat War' reveals the world of its fighting men in long 'takes,' almost like a movie camera... battles above and below the surface; destroyers and merchant vessels exploding and sinking; the agonized tension and concentration of commander and crew struggling to save their sub in the midst of a depth-charge attack; eloquently subjective shots of young sailors as they leave port, their faces betraying the awareness that they are being sent on a voyage with no hope of return.

The photographs are interwoven with Buchheim's narrative text...the stark data out of which his novel, 'The Boat' first grew...and rounded out with an essay by the distinguished German historian Michael Salewski that sets the book in the political and military context of the war as a whole.

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