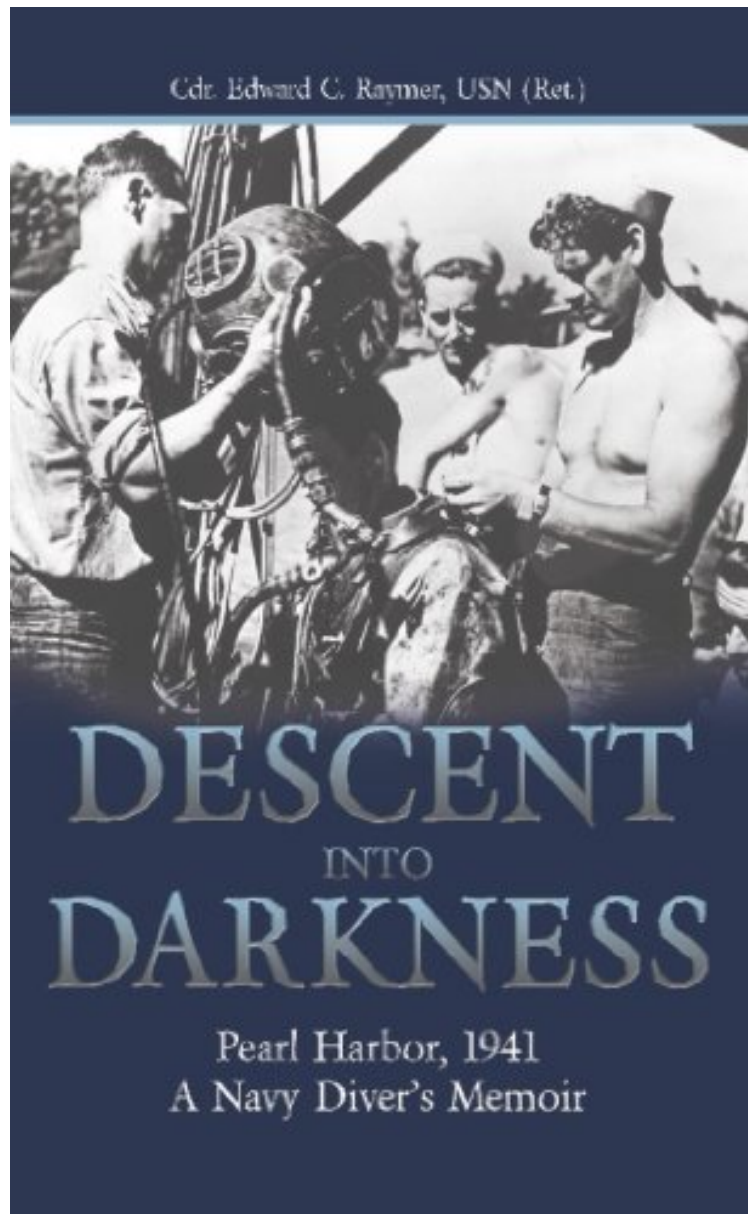


[Download free pdf] Descent into Darkness: Pearl Harbor, 1941A Navy Diver's Memoir

Descent into Darkness: Pearl Harbor, 1941A Navy Diver's Memoir

Von Edward C. Raymer

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Von Edward C. Raymer : Descent into Darkness: Pearl Harbor, 1941A Navy Diver's Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Descent into Darkness: Pearl Harbor, 1941A Navy Diver's Memoir:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Brief

Picture of the enlisted mans' Old Navy
Von Ein Kunde
A surprising good read. This is a book of memories and should not be looked upon as a source of technical information. The description of the diving efforts from the enlisted diver's view point is first rate. The antics on liberty provide a balance against the horrors experienced in salvage actions in the sunken battleships.
0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A young man awakens to the horrors of war
Von Ein Kunde
Coping with disaster through the eyes of a young Navy diver and team leader as he learns the true horrors of war that have fallen upon his country; and how he and his buddies managed to deal with floating corpses, hideous accidents, and impossible working conditions to improvise solutions and handle the stress at the same time. The book gives a glimpse into military life as it was in the beginning of WW II, a far different life than it is today; when Oahu, Hawaii was not a vacation paradise crowded with tourists, but the lonely "rock" of fifty years ago, another far flung outpost in the Pacific in the war against Japan. The stories of liberty, while sometimes coarse in nature, will give the non-military reader an inkling of what goes through young men's minds when they are in a war zone and prompts humorous recollections for veterans of all eras. The book is written with much humanity and conveys to the reader not only the actions of the participants but their emotional states as well. Sometimes seemingly short on details and sometimes a collection of incidents rather than a narrative history, the book still offers an illuminating view of an otherwise unknown chapter in the Pacific war. Authored by an aging veteran, the poignancy of the reminiscences published shortly before his death cannot be missed.
0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Too Much Liberty; Not Enough Diving
Von Bucherwurm
This book does provide some fascinating glimpses into a part of World War II's naval history not seen elsewhere. I didn't know, for instance that divers often worked in total darkness. Unfortunately the author didn't seem able to fill 214 pages with just diving stories so he fleshed out his book with anecdotes about drinking and dating on liberty. I read history to learn. Meaningless, lengthy stories teach me nothing. I was a sailor, too, and his tales didn't advance my knowledge one iota. The dust jacket summary of the book is somewhat dishonest. It says that inside the book we will find "...the whole story of the desperate attempts to save crewmembers caught inside their sinking ships." Actually only a few sentences are written on this subject as the author was not personally involved in the work. The intensive efforts to rescue crewmembers from the capsized Oklahoma receive no coverage. The book did provide me with interesting information on Navy WWII diving techniques, but I did feel frustrated with the wining and whoring sections. Hint: skip through them and you won't miss a thing.

Kurzbeschreibung
On December 7, 1941, as the great battleships Arizona, Oklahoma, and Utah lie paralyzed and burning in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, a crack team of U.S. Navy salvage divers headed by Edward C. Raymer are hurriedly flown to Oahu from the mainland. The divers have been given a Herculean task: rescue the sailors and Marines trapped below, and resurrect the pride of the Pacific fleet.
Now for the first time, the chief diver of the Pearl Harbor salvage operations, Cmdr. Edward C. Raymer, USN (Ret.), tells the whole story of the desperate attempts to save crewmembers caught inside their sinking ships. *Descent into Darkness* is the only book available that describes the raising and salvage operations of sunken battleships following the December 7th attack.
Once Raymer and his crew of divers entered the interiors of the sunken shipwrecks attempting untested and potentially deadly diving techniques they experienced a world of total blackness, unable to see even the faceplates of their helmets. By memorizing the ships blueprints and using their sense of touch, the divers groped their way hundreds of feet inside the sunken vessels to make repairs and salvage vital war material. The divers learned how to cope with such unseen dangers as falling objects, sharks, the eerie presence of floating human bodies, and the constant threat of Japanese attacks from above. Though many of these divers were killed or seriously injured during the wartime salvage operations, on the whole they had great success performing what seemed to be impossible jobs. Among their credits, Raymers crew raised the sunken battleships USS West Virginia, USS Nevada, USS California, After Pearl Harbor they moved on to other crucial salvage work off Guadalcanal and the sites of other great sea battles.