



Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb: Young Adult Edition

By Neal Bascomb

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Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb: Young Adult Edition By Neal Bascomb

Neal Bascomb delivers another nail-biting work of nonfiction for young adults in this incredible true story of spies and survival.

The invasion begins at night, with German cruisers slipping into harbor, and soon the Nazis occupy all of Norway. They station soldiers throughout the country. They institute martial rule. And at Vemork, an industrial fortress high above a dizzying gorge, they gain access to an essential ingredient for the weapon that could end World War II: Hitler's very own nuclear bomb.

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 young Norwegian commandos. Armed with little more than skis, explosives, and great courage, they will survive months in the snowy wilderness, elude a huge manhunt, and execute two dangerous missions. The result? The greatest act of sabotage in all of World War II.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—The people of Norway had hoped to remain neutral during World War II as they had in the Great War, but that hope was shattered when Nazi Germany invaded Norway's ports in the early days of April 1940. In addition to taking over Norway's land and exiling their king, Germany also intended to capture the hydroelectric plant at Vemork in Norway's frozen highlands. The plant was one of the only places in the world that produced a substance called heavy water, an extremely important ingredient in Germany's race to develop an atomic bomb. It would take the Allies several unsuccessful attempts before a time bomb planted on the ferry transporting the heavy water and production equipment across a deep lake spelled the demise of Germany's atomic research. Bascomb is a master of taking complicated histories and turning them into exciting works of nonfiction. By exploring the various backgrounds of each of the Norwegian resistance fighters and scientists, he gives readers a chance to understand their motivations and properly empathize with their struggles. This investment pays off as the stakes get higher, and the narrative deftly switches between their perspectives, creating a dramatic and suspenseful tension like no other. A generous amount of captioned black-and-white photos of the men, buildings, and artifacts help to guide readers through the text. VERDICT This excellent treatise on a little-known episode of World War II is a first choice.—Eldon Younce, Anthony Public Library, KS

Review

Praise for *Sabotage*:

"This is an exciting and impeccably researched story of science, spies, and commando raids -- page-turning nonfiction at its best." -- Steve Sheinkin, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Bomb: The Race to Build -- and Steal -- the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*

* "Bascomb is a master of taking complicated histories and turning them into exciting works of nonfiction... This excellent treatise on a little-known episode of World War II is a first choice." -- *School Library Journal*, starred review

"Bascomb's detailed narrative builds tension through each attempt, narrow escape, and comeback...vivid descriptions of the principal participants and their motivations, rigors of Norway's climate and terrain, and the risks calculated (and those unforeseen), producing a gripping account of individual and collective heroic effort." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"The book is enhanced by impressive supplemental material, including a helpful list of participants, photographs, maps, and an intriguing author's note. A rich, well-paced narrative." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Bascomb admirably balances dramatic tension and context throughout... *Sabotage* will find its place in a growing body of narrative nonfiction centering on military and political history." -- *Horn Book*

"Bascomb's clear-eyed account, helped along by photos, maps, and diagrams, of the thrilling mission and its many challenges... will handily engage teens." -- *Booklist*

Praise for *The Nazi Hunters*:

Winner of the YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award
Winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award for Teen Readers

"*The Nazi Hunters* is a fabulously exciting piece of history that teens *should* know about -- and now they will! Bascomb's detailed scenes allow readers to live through this true tale of courage and daring as if they were there." -- Deborah Heiligman, Printz Honor-winning author of *Charles and Emma* and *Intentions*

"I found *The Nazi Hunters* riveting, from its suspenseful search for Eichmann to the capture of the war criminal responsible for orchestrating the murder of eleven million people, including six million Jews. Neal Bascomb's book is incredibly well-researched and paced like an espionage thriller. The hunters' commitment to bringing Eichmann to justice is sure to captivate readers." -- Susan Campbell Bartoletti, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* and *The Boy Who Dared*

"From cafés in Buenos Aires to the halls of the fledgling Israeli government, from false identities to secret drops, this story has all the hallmarks of a spy novel. Bascomb has a knack for turning complex detail into a suspenseful, heart-pounding narrative." -- *School Library Journal*

"Photographs are included throughout the text, adding not just to the evidence of Eichmann's guilt but to the reader's sense of being along on the mission." -- *The Horn Book Magazine*

"Tension rises from the pages, thanks to Bascomb's command of pacing, judicious use of quoted material, inclusion of archival photographs and strong descriptions." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

From the Inside Flap

THE NAZIS INVADE

The invasion begins at night, with German cruisers slipping up a silent fjord. Soon, planes full of paratroopers roar over the mountains, and in short order, the Nazis occupy all of Norway. They station soldiers throughout the country. They disband its government and institute iron-fisted rule. And at Vemork, an industrial fortress perched high above a dizzying gorge, they gain access to an essential ingredient for the weapon that could end the war: Hitler's very own nuclear bomb.

THE NORWEGIANS FIGHT BACK

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 love their country and long to free it from Nazi rule. Armed with little more than parachutes, skis, explosives, and great courage, they will survive months in the snowy wilderness, elude a huge German manhunt, and execute two desperately dangerous missions. The result? The first strokes in what would become the greatest act of sabotage in all of World War II.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Riddle:

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Eliseo Watkins:

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