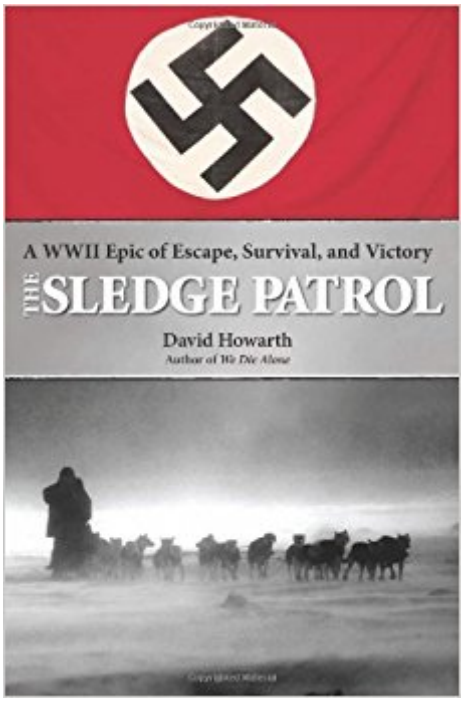
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The Sledge Patrol: A WWII Epic Of Escape, Survival, And Victory



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Synopsis

Gripping true tale how of men who patrolled by dogsleds a stark 500-mile stretch of Greenland fought capture or death by outwitting and outlasting the Nazis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a novel, not history.David Howarth was a succesful novel writer. He build many of his stories on real wartime operations, but his research was superficial.In this book he describes a German weather station in Greenland during the war, and between the Germans up there was a real bad guy, he could not find out who he was, so he invented a real bad guy and gave him the name Herr Schmidt, no first name, just the very common name Schmidt.Read it as what it is, a good and fascinating novel.

The Sledge Patrol opened my eyes to the amazing peoples of Greenland and their experiences during the second world war. The author does a good job of obtaining the information from the people who actually lived through the times and does not use the opportunity to overly "politicize" the players in this real life drama. I was particularly drawn to the persona of the German captain who was torn between his duty as a German officer and as a human of the artic world. This is

information that was never covered in history books. As far as the writing goes, I found several typographical errors (and these errors were NOT due to British variations on the American spelling of words). It was almost as if this book was out of print, and someone chose to re-type the book for the purpose of publishing it again (I really do not know about this kind of thing). But these errors in no way detracted from the information presented.

This true story was written about 5 years after the end of WWII, and it is gripping from the first page. The picture of the men who live, hunt and survive in the unforgiving artic climate of Greenland is astonishing. The imposition of the German war on this pristine, wild and brutal environment is as shocking as what happened when the Germans showed up in Africa--taking mechanized warfare into cultures and lands where life is lived on a subsistence level, by the values of human beings who are not accustomed to seeing other men as enemies.I first read this book at age 14 or 15 and was enthralled. Revisiting it now, it has lost none of its luster. But now I had the pleasure of sharing it with my son, who was just as thrilled with it as I was. He had just gone on a dog sled ride north of Montreal and the portrait of the dog sledges, their role in surviving the Greenland winter and in moving soldiers through the snowed in lands is wonderful. You have to carry a gun on those sledges, to protect against polar bears. What a difference in climate 60 years has wrought.

I really enjoyed this book. Like David Howarth’s "We Die Alone", it presents a part of World War 2 that I didn’t even know existed. This book is about the lonely, cold work of the men who monitored the Greenland coast for German intrusion. (Weather stations in Greenland were necessary to predict weather patterns over England and eastern Europe, therefore the need for Germany to establish an outpost in the frigid, uninhabitable coastal area of NE Greenland). Very interesting. I do not believe anyone who enjoys reading about World War 2 or other survival books will be disappointed in David Howarth’s books.

A riveting account of an oft-forgotten segment of the world where both Eskimos and Scandinavians fought the heinous Nazi encroachment into the quiet lives of the people of Greenland. Well-written like a Tom Clancy novel, but the fear is real. The stakes and suspense scream like the whistle of a dogsled as it cuts into the mercilessly cold grip of an Arctic night.Visual storytelling at its best.

Epic real life story of struggle and survival in the most inhospitable of situations! This book should be required reading in schools worldwide!

This is a very interesting subject, and the time and place are very well developed. The problem is that there is no clear-cut plot. The story sort of ambles along until the story ends with not much resolution in the end. The book is worth reading, but don't expect any strong character development, or any big twists and climaxes in the story line.

Not only is this an exciting story of a mini-war between Germans and Greenland residents, but also a fascinating portrayal of how the Greenlanders lived and survived in this climate. Mr. Howarth intertwines the drama of the various chases up and down the island with interesting, and sometimes astounding information about dog sledding, living out on the open on the land, hunting, survival during the worst of weather, and how attuned the Greenlanders were with their environment. I found these parts of the book to be as interesting as the stories of the various conflicts with the Germans. The maps he provided really helped me keep straight on who was traveling where and when. This is a book I will not soon forget.

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