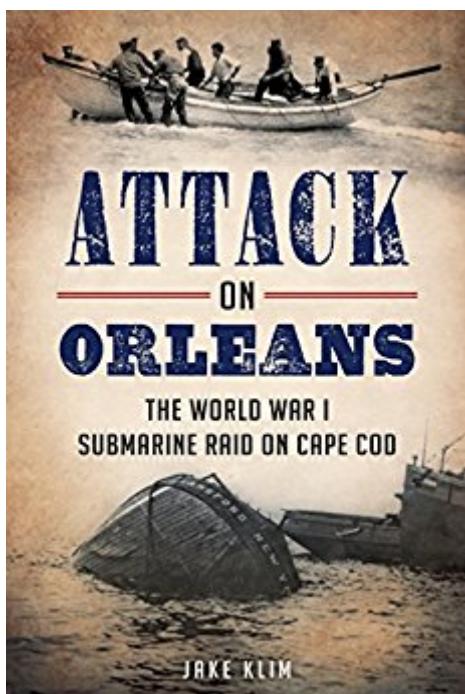


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Attack On Orleans: The World War I Submarine Raid On Cape Cod (Military)



Synopsis

On the morning of July 21, 1918--in the final year of the First World War--a new prototype of German submarine surfaced three miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The vessel attacked an unarmed tugboat and its four barges. A handful of the shells fired by the U-boat's deck guns struck Nauset Beach, giving the modest town of Orleans the distinction of being the only spot in the United States to receive enemy fire during the entire war. On land, lifesavers from the U.S. Coast Guard launched a surfboat under heavy enemy fire to save the sailors trapped aboard the tug and barges. In the air, seaplanes from the Chatham Naval Air Station dive-bombed the enemy raider with payloads of TNT. Author Jake Klim chronicles the attack from the first shell fired to the aftermath and celebrates the resilience of Orleans at war.

Book Information

File Size: 4841 KB

Print Length: 129 pages

Publisher: The History Press (June 10, 2014)

Publication Date: June 10, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00XRS6E0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #417,097 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #79 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Pictorials #168 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > State & Local > New England #341 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > World War I

Customer Reviews

Since I am both WW1 historian and living history and planning the actual 1918 100th Anniversary in 2018, this book is the best detailed on the events that occurred in this small New England seacoast town ever written!! The Author knows this event as though he were there then, I am also honored to know him!! WW1 historians get this book!!!

This book is a fascinating and well-researched account of the only attack on the U.S. shores during the last year of World War I. On a quiet and muggy Sunday morning, the tug Perth Amboy was headed south along Cape Cod, towing four barges. Vacationers relaxed on the beach and the porches of the cottages. Around 10:30am, the quiet calm was shattered by the thunderous roar of shells as the German sub U-156 opened fire on the tug. The submarine had already destroyed American and Allied vessels, including the USS San Diego off the coast of Long Island, killing a number of sailors. Although the Perth Amboy and her barges were of no particular value to the war effort, the captain of the U-156 had decided they were fine targets. Two of the tug's crew were seriously injured. The sub then began firing on the barges, as the people on board frantically scrambled into their lifeboats to escape. At the nearby Orleans Coast Guard Station, the life-savers headed out to the rescue in their surfboat. Author Jake Klim tells us the entire story from the points of view of many of the folks who were a part of this historic moment. He takes us from the beach and the cottages, to being on board the vessels and even up into the lookout tower at the Coast Guard Station. His research is amazingly thorough and his narrative compelling and smooth. There are lots of photos as well. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of the United States, World War I, maritime history or the history of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Even if you are not a history buff, you will still enjoy this exciting true story!

OK so I actually know the author. However it is a well written book that holds your interest from start to finish. I have lived on Cape Cod for over 40 years and did not know any of this story. A lot of research went into this book but it does not come across like a history text book. It is a great story about some heroic people on Cape Cod during a war that many have forgotten.

The story gives a wonderful description of the people and the places that came under fire on that fateful day. The author mixes the danger and excitement of the attack along with some lighter moments peculiar to a small town environment. A good beach read, pardon the pun!

GREAT READ WITH LOTS OF FAST BREAKING ACTION AND WONDERFUL DETAIL!!! I'm impressed with your literary talent and ability to really bring a story to life! Loved some of the amusing after-action reports by the locals in Orleans... This section really typifies the American spirit under fire!!!

Excellent work to bring a truly historic episode to all. Author spent the time to make sure facts were correct. Easy reading! does raise some questions about other incidents that should be investigated further.

:)

enjoyed this short volume (117 pages) a great deal, and that is saying something for me, as I am far from a history buff. The focus is exactly as the title suggests, a German U-boat attack in 1918 on Orleans, MA on Cape Cod. some interesting background on a few of the protagonists including a guy who tried to drop a bomb on the U-boat (several such attempts failed as a function of the bomb's not detonating).I'd never heard of this incident, but apparently it was big news at the time, being first foreign enemy attack on US soil in a hundred years. Terrific photos, great local color [author grew up 20 miles away, and his love for the area and its people comes through clearly], and makes extensive use of oral histories by survivors compiled by local historical society.Lots of vivid anecdotes to set the scene including in the aftermath. For example, the family of the captain of one of the barges attacked by the sub had a pet hen (listed as "unnamed hen" in the epilogue). After the attack, which the hen survived, the kids sold opportunities to observe the hen ("see the hen that the Hun didn't get. Ten cents") in an effort to raise money for candy. Alas, "when adults caught wind of this little moneymaking scheme, the funds were confiscated and donated to the Red Cross." (p. 96).If you are completely unfamiliar with WW I and want to learn what it was about, how it ended, overall military trajectory of it etc., wrong book. But if you might like a fast-moving, detailed take on a unique event from it, this one is highly recommended.Disclaimer: Jake Klim is a friend of mine from running (and hella fast), but I really did like the book a lot, not just sayin' that.

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