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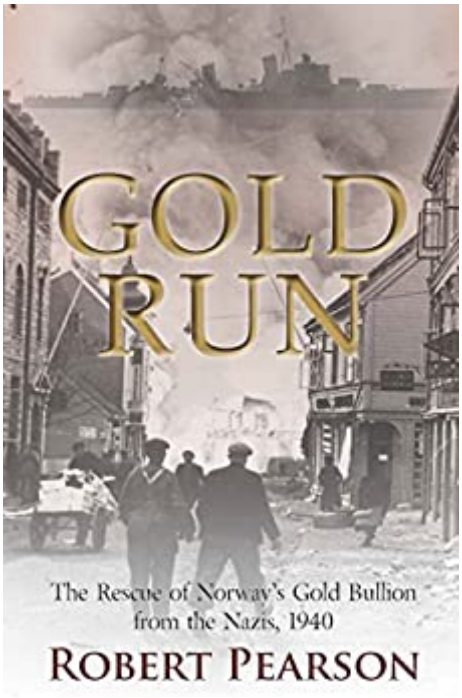
Gold Run: The Rescue Of NorwayÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Gold Bullion From The Nazis, 1940



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Synopsis

Gold Run is the true story of arguably one of the greatest gold snatches in history. It is a tale of immense bravery, endurance and great leadership of loyal Norwegians, plus a little good fortune and help from the British against intrigue and overwhelming odds.The German invasion of Norway on the night of April 8th/9th 1940 almost took Norway completely unawares; had it not been for the defiance of one small coastal battery, the Norwegian Royal Family, Government, and nearly 50 tons of Gold bullion would have had no chance to escape. In desperate haste the Royal Family fled Oslo by rail, dodging bombs and strafing, eventually reaching the port of Molde which was subsequently devastated by fire bombing. The gold with extraordinary ingenuity was moved by road, rail and fishing boat, hotly pursued by the Germans. Its weight and the need for total secrecy created unique transportation problems. After several instances of near disaster, the Norwegians managed to get the gold to the coast where the Royal Navy came to the rescue. Such was the difficulty of extricating the bullion, it was not possible to load it in one cargo, and it was taken off in three Royal Navy Cruisers, HMS Enterprise, Galatea and Glasgow, from different locations. The ships were attacked in port, then constantly harassed and bombed by the Luftwaffe as they made their way back to the UK.The loss of the bullion was a blow to the Germans. They had gained a country, but lost a King, a government and huge amount of bullion that would have financed their war machine. That loss is directly attributed to a visionary bank chief, a Colonel, a hastily assembled body of Norwegians and the ships and men of the Royal Navy, ever resourceful, brave and loyal to their respective countries. This is their story.Robert Pearson is a high school teacher and writer, who researches Norway in the Second World War. He is particularly passionate about the roles that the Norwegians and British played during the War, Naval Intelligence and the Special Operations Executive Ã¢â ¬â œ better known as SOE.

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Customer Reviews

none

Slow, dragging, needs serious editing

A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com'Independent historian Pearson has combed archives and interviewed survivors, to give us an account of the transfer of 50 tons of NorwayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s gold from the banks vaults of Oslo to Britishwarships, and thence on to England, even as HitlerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hordes overran the country. His cast includes some unlikely heroes, from bureaucrats and bank clerks, to poets, leftists and rightists, fishermen, sailors, soldiers, railway men, truck drivers, and even a king and his crown prince, and a goodly number of villains, from the eponymous Quisling himself and various fellowtravelers to German military and Nazi officials. Pearson covers secret meetings, close calls, fire fights, air raids, sea battles, and more, in a tale that could easily make for a very good motion picture thriller. He also gives us some insights into how Norway managed to steer its way through neutrality during the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Phony War,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and adds a quick overview of the countryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s role in the World War II. This is a very good read for anyone, though marred by the need of a good editor.'For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

This was a very tough book for me to rate. It took me a few days to read it, and depending on my mood, I could easily have talked myself into any rating, from 1 to 5 stars. There were things about the book I loved, and things I did not like at all.=== The Good Stuff ===* The tale is, at its heart, incredible. The Germans were determined to capture Norway, its King, and its gold bullion supply. The British thought it was a good idea to defend and support Norway, but really

didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have troops or ships to send. The net result- a group of Norwegians, everybody from trusted bank officers to ordinary everyday tradesmen, took billions is gold and smuggled it to Britain and ultimately the United States. This was done right under the GermanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s noses.* The book seems well researched, and the story is backed by numerous first-person accounts. And while there is some discrepancy in these accounts, certainly no more than would expected for any story of this sort.* The writing style is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“mostlyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• easy-to-read, although I did have some problems with it as described below. A "good" map of Norway helped a lot.* The entire story is a marvelous look at life in 1940ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Norway. Surrounding the gold smuggling is a look at the hardships of life in Norway during the German invasion, including the treachery of Nazi sympathizers in the population, food shortages, air attacks, and dealing with an occupying army. We also see the bravery of numerous citizens, as they risk life and property to do what is right for their country.=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===* The text is loaded with excerpts of first-person accounts of events-maybe 25% or so. It is a personal thing, but I hate this format of writing. Switching viewpoints, voices and writing-styles breaks my concentrations and makes it harder for me to read and enjoy a book. As usual, the quality of these excerpts can vary.* Robert Pearson seems to struggle with what his topic is. At times, the gold smuggling is almost a background story buried in the details of life in Norway. I almost had to tease out the details of what was happening with the gold from the text. I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t mean this to say that there was a lot of filler, just that the story became somewhat ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“muddledÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• inside of a bigger story.=== Summary ===The good things about the book were very good, but I found the problems mentioned above reduced my enjoyment of the book. If these sorts of things donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t bother you, and you are somewhat interested in this topic, you will no doubt enjoy the book. For those of you who share my concerns, it might be a bit of a tough read. However, there seems to be such a dearth of writing on this subject that my recommendation would be to power through it anyway. It was certainly worth the time.=== Disclaimer ===I was able to read an advance copy through the courtesy of the publisher and NetGalley

This is a very interesting book on a very exciting subject, namely: how the Norwegians succeeded to dupe the Nazis and smuggle out Norway’s gold to England and later to the USA and Canada. The book has some flaws and they have to do with the poor style of writing and the lack of maps. However, it is well researched andis, all in all, a reasonable read.

A great story ruined by very poor writing. It appears that there was no editing. Very overpriced.

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