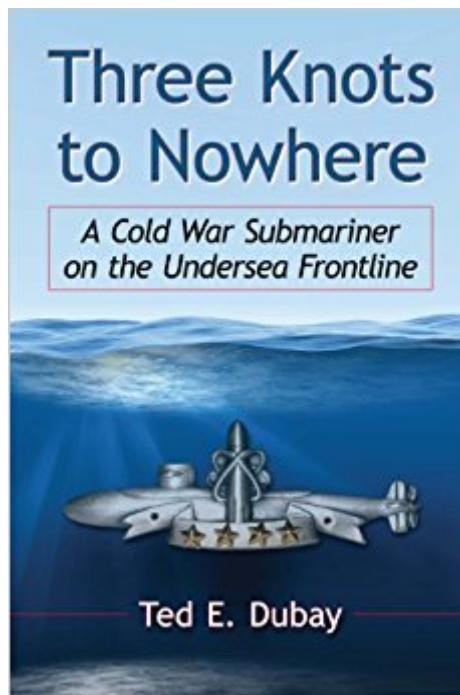




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# Three Knots To Nowhere: A Cold War Submariner On The Undersea Frontline



## Synopsis

This book follows the author's experiences in the United States Navy from 1966 through 1972. They include a personal background, boot camp, electrician's school, the U.S. Naval Nuclear Program, assignment to the USS Henry Clay during an overhaul in Charleston, South Carolina, subsequent transit to Hawaii, and deterrent patrols out of Guam. The work begins with the crew of one of the most powerful weapons on earth, the fleet ballistic missile submarine USS Henry Clay, manning Battle Station Missile. What follows is a fresh perspective on the secret world of submarine life, ranging from behavioral insights and humorous anecdotes to many undocumented attributes of submarine life, exposing aspects of life under the sea no one else has revealed. This book is the most complete representation of submarine duty to date, with a high level of detail. The narrative focuses on the enlisted men—the backbone of the submarine service.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ted captures life on the Henry Clay as I lived it. I highly recommend it to former submariners and , perhaps more importantly, to friends and family of former submariners since it helps explain some of

the habits that many of us continue to this day ( attention to details, love of fresh air and fresh food, high standards for friends and colleagues, etc. ). Ted's high school English teacher , who told him that he wasn't college material, was far off the mark. This is a well written autobiography of someone who rose out of the northern Appalachia of rural Pennsylvania , but never left its values. Congratulations to Ted, Bill Gruver, Professor and Howard Scott Chair, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.

I bought "Three Knots to Nowhere" because it is the experiences of a Navy nuke written by a Navy nuke. I was a reactor operator and remain professionally interested in the accounts of others. I also bought "2190 Days" by Daniel Bil and "Watertight" by Karl Heckman. I liked "Three Knots" better than "2190 Days" but not as much as "Watertight." Even so, "Three Knots" had more technology than the other two books which I enjoyed a lot. Dubay was mostly accurate in his descriptions of the workings of a submarine and a nuclear propulsion plant but when he went off the rails he really crashed and burned. There was a scene in which Debay as throttleman answered numerous change in bells. He made it appear that the reactor operator moved control rods to provide more or less power as needed by the engines. From almost the first days of Nuclear Power School we were taught that reactor power follows steam demand. That choreography between the throttleman and the RO as described by Dubay didn't happen, and doesn't happen. Dubay was accurate in his description of the emotional bond formed between a nuke and his comrades and his boat. Dubay had a story to tell and I'm glad he told it. Every Navy nuke should keep a diary to help him when he writes his memoirs in his old age.

In the grand scheme of things, very few people will ever experience the complex series of challenges that begin when you are accepted into the nuclear navy. Mostly fresh out of high school with absolutely nothing to compare coming events to or even guess what the coming experiences would be, new sailors started down these uncharted paths. Ted Dubay does a wonderful job of taking us along on that journey in straight forward, step by step stories both serious, thought provoking and with humor. This story is not only just about becoming a qualified nuclear submarine sailor. It serves as a road map to anyone facing a series of unknown challenges and provides great insight into how to handle them successfully, one step at a time. For those of us who followed a similar path, "Three Knots to Nowhere" is a wonderful reminder of all the unique experiences we had. Most of us have had a difficult time describing and retelling these experiences to friends and family. Now there is a book I can recommend that will help to tell our story. And it is our story. This

book is not just about one persons journey, but also tells the stories and describes the life that this period in history gave us the opportunity to participate in together. This book will stand as a tribute not only to those of us who went through the program and served our country with honor, but it will also honor all of those mentors, instructors, shipmates and the grand Navy family who guide and continue to guide, young untested men through a rigorous but rewarding program that serves as an anchor for a successful life.

This book is a perfect description of life aboard a missile carrying submarine during the cold war. Ted Dubay is a shipmate. I was a First Class Sonar Technician on Gold crew of the USS Henry Clay with Ted from 1969 to 1974. I am in the process of reading the book now. The details are all there and bring back so many good memories of being on that submarine with that crew. I served a total of 7 years on the USS Henry Clay (SSBN625) and ultimately earned my commission as a Naval Officer on that submarine. This is a great book and describes what is like as a crew member to give a Naval Vessel life. Ted has done a wonderful thing by writing this book. CDR Ernest Becker, USN, (RET)

Excellent overall. Life in a modern day nuclear sub. Written by a then-enlisted man in the nuclear component of a sub, the author, after getting out of the Navy, uses his built-up credits to earn a Ph.D. in nuclear physics, quite an accomplishment. But from our point of view, the important thing is that he can write! Many of these intelligent types cannot tell a story well, yet the author manages to give it a 4.5 out of 5 treatment. I really feel I know a LOT more about how a nuclear sub operates on a day-to-day basis. The only improvement I would suggest is that the author could re-define some of the abbreviations (and there are a lot of them-it's the Navy) every once-in-a-while as the book progresses. Some abbreviation might be used and defined page 24, but then not used for another 100 pages. In the Kindle version, it's a PITA to go searching for the definitions. If you have an interest in how a sub, especially a nuke, operates, stop and buy this book NOW. A great read. Highly recommended.

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