

U-864, the
“Fedje U-boat”

- Named for Fedje Island, Norway, where an event with the U-boat took place
- Pronounced “fay- ye”
- Fedje has a lighthouse on it named Hellesøy



- German U-boat 864 was involved in a secret mission from Dec. 1944 – Feb. 1945 during World War II code-named Operation Caesar
- Operation was to begin in Kiel, Germany, after submarine refits in Bremen, Germany, head north through Kattgat and Skagerrak to Bergen, go north over the Shetland Islands into the North Atlantic, then end in Penang, Malaysia
- U-864 was commanded by 33-year-old Korvettenkapitan Rolf-Reimar Wolfram (pronounced Vol-fram)
- U-864 was the largest sub in the German fleet





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- The Germans were returning Japanese scientists to Japan who were experts in rocket fuel and acoustic homing torpedoes
- Also, German Messerschmitt aircraft engineers were on board escorting jet engine parts
- Finally, 1857 flasks (60 tons) of mercury were on board to be used in detonators of explosives by the Japanese Army

- Actual U-boat locations in Norway:
 - Karljohansvern Naval Base, Horten, Norway (southwest of Oslo), for certification of snorkel mast (which supplies oxygen) and dive training
 - Kristiansand, Norway, for refueling and resupply
 - Farsund, Norway, emergency stop after snorkel mast problem and grounding in fjord
 - Bergen, Norway, for repairs – Bergen was the Germans' main administrative submarine hub in the second half of the war (no longer the Bay of Biscay, France) ; enormous concrete bunker called Bruno for subs



- U-864 met a British submarine H.M.S Venturer commanded by 25-year-old Lieutenant James “Jimmy” Stuart Launders near Bergen and near Fedje Island
- HMS Venturer sub was a Vampire class “long hull” fast-attack sub, based out of Dundee-Lerwick, Scotland

- Keep in mind:
- The British submariners, the Norwegian resistance, Norwegian coastal watchers, and the ULTRA decoders at Bletchley Park in England were vital in the Fedje event.
- The following film is a reenactment of the war event and tells what has been happening since 2003.



- Afterwards:
- HMS Venturer was the only sub in history to sink another sub while both were underwater.
- Lt. Launders received Distinguished Service awards for sinking U-771 and U-864; his methods are used today for sub-to-sub surveillance techniques

- In 2003, sinking was confirmed by Norwegian Navy after German historian, Wolfgang Lauenstein, presented his research of interviewing Norwegians, especially Kristoffer Karlsen who saw the tall white spout of water, smoke, and the rising and sinking of the sub when he was a 12-year-old gathering peat on Fedje Island
- The dive by the Navy showed the U-boat in 3 sections on the sea floor; center section showed the spill of the mercury canisters
- Ecological disaster in the North Sea because the mercury canisters had some leaking and can cause mercury poisoning in fish

- 2017 – Norwegian government covered wreckage with tons of sand and stone
- Dutch Company Stornes had previously created a counter-fill at the bottom of the hill on which the sub is lying to prevent an avalanche while working on the site

- Bibliography:

- 1) YouTube BBC documentaries –

- The History Channel - North Atlantic-WW II-U864
- U-Boats History. Secret Mission of U-864. Operation Caesar

2) Code Name Caesar: The Secret Hunt for U-Boat 864 during World War II by Jerome Preisler and Kenneth Sewell (2012) Berkley Caliber Publishing Group, New York.

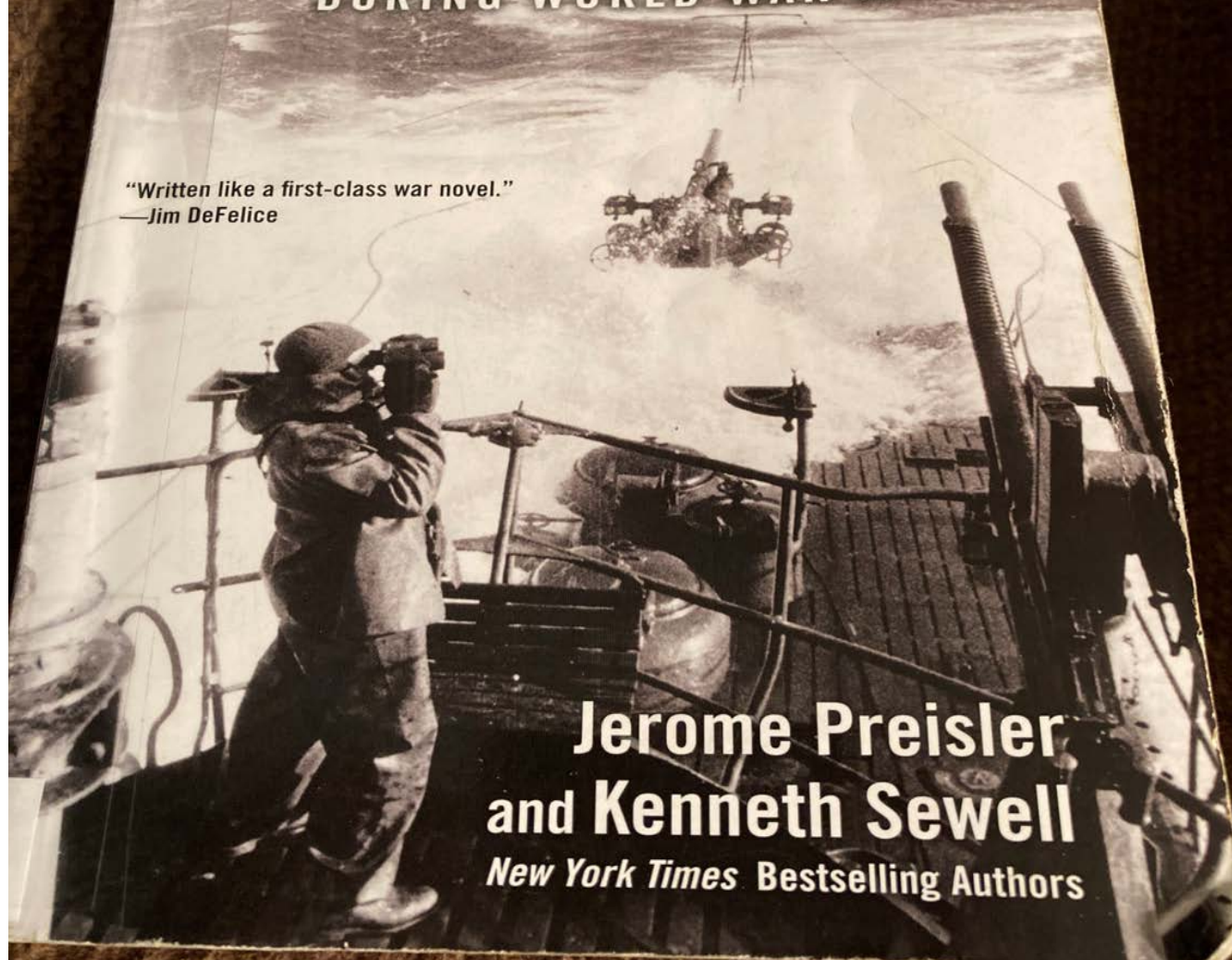


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CODE NAME CAESAR

THE SECRET HUNT FOR U-BOAT 864
DURING WORLD WAR II

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**Jerome Preisler
and Kenneth Sewell**
New York Times Bestselling Authors