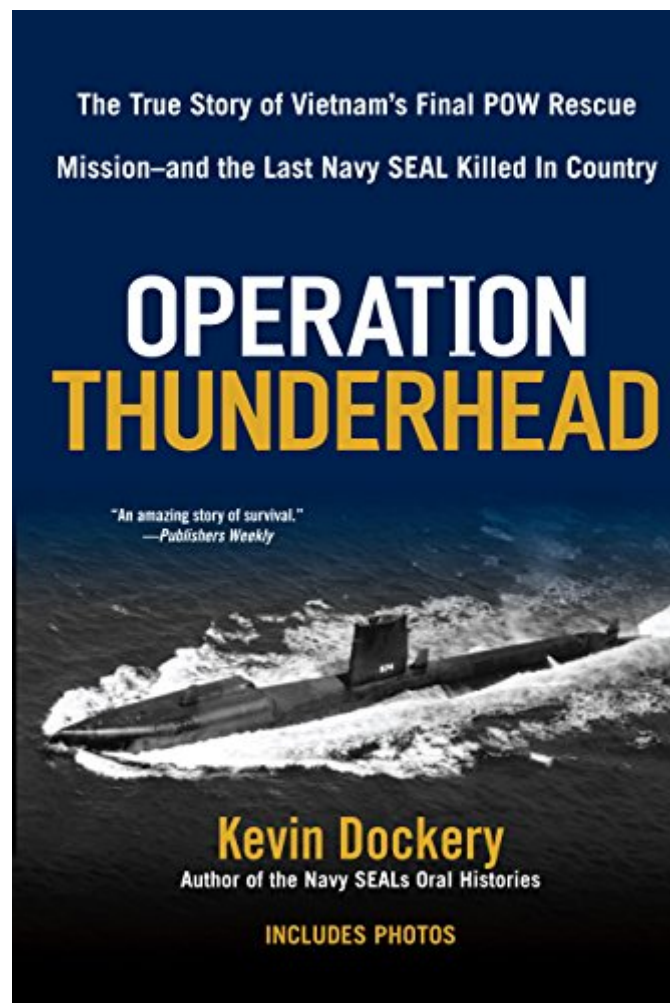




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# Operation Thunderhead: The True Story Of Vietnam's Final POW Rescue Mission--and The Last Navy Seal Killed In Country



## Synopsis

The incredible true story of a top secret mission to rescue POWs in Vietnam. In the last year of the Vietnam conflict, even as American troops were leaving for home, there were still those fighting for their lives: prisoners of war being held in the Communist north. There were two operations launched to rescue the POWs. One – the legendary Son Tay Raid – was revealed to the public. The other was classified as Top Secret. This is the incredible true story of that almost-forgotten mission...Among the personnel recruited for Operation Thunderhead was a select group of operators from both the U.S. Navy SEALs and the Underwater Demolition Teams who knew that if they were captured, they would be killed, tortured, or simply disappear. They went in anyway. Here, for the first time, the details of Operation Thunderhead are revealed – the mission, the materials, and the men who put their lives on the line to save their brothers in arms.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It would have been nice if Mr. Dockery had cited and credited his sources, references, and information used in researching and writing his chapters on Operation Thunderhead ... including the

authoritative 4,500-word-plus article "Spence Dry: A SEAL's Story" that I co-authored with former SEAL Capt. Mike Slattery that was published in the U.S. Naval Institute's Proceedings magazine in July 2005. It appears Dockery may have drawn on our writing a number of times. Also, the supposed citation for LT Dry's posthumous Bronze Star Medal that Dockery cites at the end of chapter 29 is baloney. It is NOT the citation that Secretary of the Navy Winters signed on 26 October 2007. Capt Gordon I Peterson, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Don't pass this book up. It focuses mostly on the prison life of one particular downed US pilot but from that personal story the reader gets a fantastic overview of life in VC and North Vietnam POW camps. Details don't paint a pretty picture. The book also details numerous escape attempts and of course, the consequences that befell POWs whenever one was attempted. It was a big deal to free POWs and at the end of the war a huge mission was put together to attempt to facilitate a rescue of two POWs, The mission was named Operation Thunderhead. One Navy SEAL died in the failed attempt. Great book. Fascinating story. Let's never forget the POWs and the sacrifices they made. And just as importantly.....our political leaders of that day with all their rules of engagement and the bad decisions they made for political reasons..... just realize that when you visit "The Wall" in DC many of those names are up there because our dearly departed leaders were never leaders at all. What is it that's said regarding those who forget the lessons of history?

A history unknown even to the Navy Seals. It was that secret. The ONLY time three SR-71 Blackbirds have ever been assigned to One mission. An outstanding history !

This book should make everyone so ashamed of the way our people treated our returning Vietnam Vets and POW's. Hopefully, it will earn the respect for them that they deserve. Great read, but I am a tender heart, so have the Kleenex ready.

I bought this out of the blocks because I am interested in everything POW. But the title and write up implies something more than I experienced with the read. I guess I don't want to give away the ending but it's like almost having sex. My hats off to the brave Seals who made this gallant effort but certainly not what I expected in the writing. The story was slow and more documentary than I would have thought.

I WAS A CORPSMAN IN THE NAVY AND ON THE SHIP THEY REFER TO MANY TIMES. BANG

## BANG YOUR DEAD

thanks

I worked on this Boat for a few days. We knew it was going to be used as an LPSS. Did not know where it would be used. Great Story.

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