

Ideas for the RKIDS Book Discussion of
RAISE THE TITANIC a novel by Clive Cussler
April 24, 2024 7:30pm

There will be no questions for the review of this book. However, we will discuss some of the following:

- Discuss the differences between Cussler's Titanic sinking and the real event.
- Dirk Pitt is the hero of the story and countless other novels Clive Cussler wrote. He is always the same person. Talk about what you think of him and his personality. Characteristics.
- Al Giordino was Dirk Pitt's best friend. How were they different and what made them so compatible.
- Describe the reader who enjoys reading the Dirk Pitt novels. Male, female, right brained, left brained, individuals who enjoy non-fiction, fiction, those who enjoy historical fiction, fantasy stories, romantic fiction, etc.

Below is the link for the raising of the ship from the movie Raising the Titanic.....awesome.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mROMQf9AXIE>

The **Iron Dome** over Israel is designed to shoot down incoming projectiles. It is equipped with a radar that detects rockets and then uses a command-and-control system that quickly calculates whether an incoming projectile poses a threat or is likely to hit an unpopulated area. Oct 9, 2023

A U.S. Army Iron Dome anti-missile system sits on the apron at Ben Gurion

Airport in Israel sometime in 2020. The Iron Dome system has been invaluable in shooting down Hamas rockets launched from Gaza. The system is now in the United States. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has called on Israel and Hamas to de-escalate the situation.

What is the US version of Iron Dome?



the SkyHunter[®] system

U.S. version

Given interest by the U.S. and several other nations in Iron Dome's unique capabilities, Raytheon has debuted the **SkyHunter[®] system** in cooperation with Rafael. Based on Iron Dome, the SkyHunter system can be produced in the United States to expand availability and capacity for the U.S. and its allies.

Iron Dome System and SkyHunter Missile | Raytheon - RTX

The Sicilian Project

Synopsis

- The film opens on the fictional island of Svardlov in the far North Sea above the Soviet Union in the year 1982 where an American spy breaks into an old mine where he discovers the frozen body of a US

Army sergeant and mining expert, named Jake Hobart. Next to the frozen corpse is a newspaper from 1912, as well as some mining tools from the early part of the 20th century. Using a radiation meter, the spy discovers that what he seeks: an extremely rare mineral named byzantium, was there in the mine but had been mined out leaving only radioactive traces. He is then chased and shot by Soviet forces but rescued at the last moment by Dirk Pitt (Richard Jordan), a former U.S. Navy officer and a clandestine CIA operator.

Back in Washington DC, it is explained by government scientist Gene Seagram (David Selby) and the head of The National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA, a NASA-like agency for sea exploration) Admiral James Sandecker (Jason Robards) that the mineral their man was trying to find is needed to fuel a powerful new defense system, code-named "The Sicilian Project". This system, using laser technology, would be able to destroy any incoming nuclear missiles during an attack and "make nuclear war obsolete".

The CIA and Pitt soon find out that boxes of the raw mineral were loaded onto the Belfast-built RMS Titanic by an American, named Brewster, in April 1912. A search is then conducted in the North Atlantic to locate the sunken ocean liner. The search team is aided by one of the Titanic's last survivors John Bigalow (Alec Guinness), who was a teenage seaman on board, who explains he was also the last person to see Brewster alive. Just minutes before the Titanic foundered, Bigalow said he locked the man inside the ship's vault containing the boxes of mineral, his last words being "thank God for Southby!" At this point it is decided that the only way to get a hold of the byzantium is to literally "raise the Titanic" from the ocean floor. Pitt comes up with a salvage plan that Sandecker presents to the president. The President signs off on the plan and Pitt is put in charge of the operation.

At this time the Soviet KGB station chief in Washington D.C., Andre Prevlov (Bo Brundin), is receiving bits of information on the project and leaks them to a reporter, Dana Archibald (Anne Archer), who is also Seagram's lover as well as a former girlfriend of Pitt's. The story blows the project's secret cover and Sandecker must hold a press conference to explain why the ship is being raised. Questions are raised about byzantium, but are not answered.

After a lengthy search, the Titanic is located and the search team, with help from the U.S. Navy, begins the dangerous job of raising the ship from the seabed. One of the submersibles, Starfish, experiences a cabin flood and implodes. Another submersible, the Deep Quest, is attempting to clear debris from one of the upper decks when it suddenly tears free of its supports, crashes through the skylight above the main staircase and becomes jammed. Pitt decides they must attempt to raise the ship before the Deep Quest crew suffocates.

Eventually, the rusting Titanic is brought to the surface by using explosives to break the hull loose from the bottom suction and compressed air tanks to fill buoyancy aids. During the ascent, the Deep Quest safely breaks away from the ship.

When Prevlov, who has been aboard a nearby Soviet spy ship, sees the Titanic, he arranges a fake distress call to draw the American naval escorts away from the operation. He then meets with Sandecker, Pitt and Seagram aboard their vessel. He tells them that his government knows all about the mineral and challenges them for both salvage of the Titanic as well as ownership of ore, claiming it was illegally taken from Russian soil. Prevlov says that if there is to be a "superior weapon" made from the mineral, then "Russia must have it!" Sandecker tells Prevlov they knew he was coming and what he would threaten them with. Pitt then escorts him to the deck where U.S. fighter jets and a nuclear attack submarine have arrived to protect the Titanic from their attempted piracy. Prevlov leaves in defeat.

The ship is then towed into New York City harbor and moored at the old White Star Line dock, its original intended destination. The arrival is greeted with much fanfare including huge cheering crowds, the international media, escorting ships, and aircraft. On entering the watertight vault, the salvage team discovers the mummified remains of the American, Mr. Brewster, but no mineral. Instead, they find only boxes of gravel. As they contemplate their probable failure, Sandecker tells Pitt and Seagram that in addition to powering the defensive system, they were actually thinking of a way to weaponize the byzantium and create a super bomb, which went against everything the scientist believed in. As Pitt listens, he goes through the belongings of the dead Brewster found in the vault and finds an un-mailed postcard. He then realizes that there was a clue in those final words, "Thank God for Southby". The postcard shows a church and graveyard in the small village of Southby on the English coast, the place Brewster had arranged a fake burial for the frozen miner Jake Hobart prior to sailing back to the United States on the Titanic.

In the final scene, Pitt and Seagram travel to England and go alone to the small graveyard just three miles from Southampton and find the grave of Jake Hobart. Through their radiation detectors, they discover that the byzantium had indeed been buried there after all... and has been there for the past 70 years by Brewster while apparently evading Russian spies that killed off his entire team. Apparently Brewster buried the byzantium ore in an empty coffin and used the late Jake Hobart's name as a cover. After thinking about it, Seagram and Pitt decide to leave the mineral in the grave because they agree its existence would destabilize the status quo that maintains the peace between the West and the Soviet Union.