

are not fully clear upon initial reading. Some expansion on the fate of the accommodation-hulked SMS *Amazon* in the Afterglow chapter might be warranted, as her transfer to the American Navy is largely reduced to a photographic caption, with no real discussion of her status as the last non-wrecked Imperial German cruiser to survive into the 1950s (243). Finally, an appendix showing colour profiles of some of the vessels, or perhaps some examples of period naval art as seen on the dust jacket, would better illustrate the various paint schemes used by the Empire and in post-Imperial service. Some mention of the patterns are present in photograph captions, but the black and white images preclude a true visualization of the changes in ship coloration. These are just minor suggestions, however, and would only aid in increasing the work's already impressive nature.

The Kaiser's Cruisers is an excellent resource for those interested in the Imperial German Navy's cruiser forces, both in design and service history. Dodson and Nottlemann provide a strong core of basic information paired with an excellent standardized data guide, creating a solid research tool for historians, scholars, and those generally interested in the time-frame. This work not only fills a hole in the historiography of German naval history, but also provides English-language readers with one of the first proper dives into the subject of Imperial small cruisers and their predecessors.

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Helen Edwards. *Dutchy's Decades: Life as a Canadian Naval Officer, 1930-1950*. Victoria, BC: Edwards Heritage Consulting, www.edwardsheritageconsulting.ca, 2022. 140 pp, illustrations, appendix, CDN \$20.00, paper; ISBN 978-0-9697282-6-9. (Available from publisher: heritagelady@gmail.com)

This is the second volume of the story of Canadian naval officer John Crispo Edwards (1896-1978) by his daughter-in-law. Edwards was a member of the second class at the Royal Naval College of Canada, which graduated just as the First World War started. They spent their war years with the Royal Navy, doing sea training, and then gaining experience in operational ships. By 1939, they were in their early forties and would become part of the small professional core around which the Canadian Navy expanded in the Second World War. They would fill senior positions in the war and early post-war years. Most of J.C. Edwards' wartime service was in command of shore bases on both coasts, drawing on his interwar executive and administrative experience. His most notable contribution was as the first commanding officer of a large new

training base, created from scratch in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, and named HMCS *Cornwallis*. Edwards also spent a year at sea in command of an armed merchant cruiser, including a role as part of the Canadian contribution to the little-known amphibious campaign with US forces in 1942 to recapture the Aleutians.

In the earlier volume, Helen Edwards used Edwards' diaries which, while terse, conveyed a picture of his daily activities and of what was important to him. This volume is different because Edwards did not leave a similar record after 1930. The only section of *Dutchy's Diaries* based on written diaries is the chapter covering the years 1946-50, the phase of his career when Edwards was a commodore in charge of the training and manning base in Esquimalt. The section on the decade from 1930 to 1940 is based largely on contemporary newspapers. "Dutchy" (he earned the nick-name because of a penchant for being tight-fisted on dates) was an accomplished tennis player, as was his wife, and the focus of this chapter is on various tennis tournaments. During this decade Edwards served in the naval barracks in Halifax and Esquimalt, which were responsible for training schools and shore accommodation. Between 1939 and 1941 Edwards, then in the rank of commander, was responsible for the East Coast manning and training establishment in Halifax. This was a critical time when the RCN was expanding rapidly with limited numbers of experienced trainers. To provide context for this period, the author has inserted a section on HMCS *Renard*, an armed yacht assigned to the Halifax Local Defence Force used to train sailors from Edwards' schools ashore. For the wartime parts of the Edwards story, the author has written chapters based on newspaper articles, and in the case of 1943-45 (Edward's years in *Cornwallis*), the narrative also cites a few official letters that her father-in-law kept.

Dutchy's Decades, like its predecessor, *Dutchy's Diaries* (2020), is a nicely produced softcover edition. The many photographs are clearly reproduced. The table of contents is accompanied by a striking photo of the heavy cruiser HMS *Exeter* in Esquimalt during a visit in 1937. Appendices describe ships and places mentioned in the text. "Dutchy" Edwards left only sketchy and fragmentary first-hand records about his experiences after 1930. Helen Edwards has created a narrative using largely secondary sources, and because of a lack of basic information on Edwards, many of these are episodic reports about sports and social events.

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Alan Forrest. *The Death of the French Atlantic. Trade, War & Slavery in the Age of Revolution*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, www.oup.com.