serving as a cause of the union. The navy was really the English navy, upon which the Scottish government called for protection.

The notes and bibliography reflect Helling’s extensive research. A map of Scotland and a table of the number of ships entering Leith in 1639 are the only illustrations. The book has a thorough index.

This is not a book for anyone without a background in the long seventeenth-century history shared by Scotland and England and to some degree, their neighbours. It will appeal to those focused on the roots of the British navy, Scottish involvement in that navy and the interplay between naval decisions, economic trade, politics and state formation.

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This work is number 375 in Osprey’s Campaign Series and the author’s ninth contribution to the Osprey catalogue. In less than 100 pages, Herder expands on earlier works in the series covering the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa by delving into “the epic air-sea actions that raged both in support and defiance of the American landings” (5). The book follows the usual Osprey Campaign format, with examinations of opposing commanders, force dispositions, operational plans, and the campaign itself. For Herder, this latter section covers three operations, Detachment, Iceberg, and Ten-go, all of which were intertwined in their execution and intersection. An impressive number of original colour photographs are integrated with the text, along with maps and graphics to illustrate battle plans and attack tactics. A short selected bibliography and quick reference index round out the work.

The pre-campaign sections of the text offer a solid background to the commanders, their mindsets, morale, and logistical situations faced by both the Americans and Japanese in the lead-up to Operation Detachment. In addition to basic information, Herder offers some insight into the personalities of the various leaders, including the post-campaign fates of several Japanese officers wracked by guilt over the lives loss. The order of battle for Operation Iceberg and relevant Ten-go forces is suitably impressive, clearly demonstrating the overwhelming might of the Allied naval forces in the late war compared to Japanese defenders. Japan’s final realization of the need for inter-service cooperation is noted from surviving documentation, as is the opposition to
suicide attacks by officers who remained powerless to stop them. In contrast, American Admiral Raymond A. Spruance’s simultaneous planning of Detachment and Iceberg highlights the logistical strain placed on the carriers and capital ships of his task force, requiring the methodical suppression of any possible naval or air threat to the landing operations while maintaining the safety of vessels involved. The fact that much of this action would require naval assets to remain well within range of multiple hostile airbases acts as a foreboding transition to the coverage of the campaign itself.

Encapsulating the bulk of the main text, the Campaign chapter has a heavy focus on Operation Iceberg and the various Kikisui missions launched as part of Ten-go. Detachment and the securing of Iwo Jima are covered as well, but they serve as more of a preliminary action to the main event. Within this section, Herder presents a straightforward accounting of the various “kamikaze” attacks on American and British forces, noting the types of aircraft involved in each incident, the ship hit, and casualties incurred. The primary attack on 6 April is well covered, as is the final suicidal deployment of the IJN Yamato and her task force. The postulation that a more coordinated air-sea attack by the Japanese might have been more effective is well illustrated via the devastating attacks carried out by American air crews against the world’s largest battleship amid her lack of defensive air cover. This is backed up with an interesting rendering of American tactics, which can be contrasted against a similar sketch of the suicide attacks against the beleaguered American destroyer USS Laffey nine days later. As with Iwo Jima, the final securing of Okinawa and Japan’s last-ditch efforts to dislodge the Americans precede the concluding analysis of the overall operation. Herder points out America’s difficult paradox of adaptable junior officers operating within the confines laid out by inflexible upper echelons who favored “reduced … risk by implicitly accepting increased American casualties” while the Japanese expended countless men in tenacious attacked that ultimately failed to break either American morale or their superior industrial might (93). Finally, an aftermath paragraph notes surviving museum ships that were present for the various engagements discussed, and details gleaned from the wreck of the Yamato regarding the long-debated veracity of American claims to torpedo-hits.

An increased level of quote citation would help improve the work. Most instances are attributed within the text to a specific person, but there are several under vague labels like “USN officer,” “US officers,” and “a later USN report” (11, 24). The acronyms and abbreviation section at the end of the text could also be moved to the beginning next to the Key to Military Symbols tables, to prepare those unfamiliar with such terms before encountering them within the text. These are relatively minor suggestions, however, and would merely improve future editions.
East China Sea 1945 is an excellent introductory text into the late air-sea actions of the Second World War’s Pacific Theatre. Herder has done an admirable job of condensing the historical perspectives of both sides into the constraints of the Campaign Series format, touching on major facets, as well as smaller details and eyewitness accounts. For those interested in Allied carrier operations, late-war Japanese naval and aviation actions, and learning more about the often overlooked yet vitally important operations that dovetailed with some of the most iconic battles in the closing days of the Pacific Theatre, this text would be a welcome resource.

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Whether looking at the wreck of the Titanic or the recently discovered Endurance, shipwrecks are arguably among the most public attention-grabbing objects within the realm of maritime history. Each one not only provides a time capsule from the past, but also a story of technological success and failure, a tale of humankind’s struggle against the powers of nature, and finally, an often highly dramatic and tragic story of the people aboard.

With Out of the Depths: A History of Shipwrecks, Canadian researcher Alan G. Jamieson provides an overview of shipwrecks around the globe that were lost at sea between the early beginnings of ocean navigation and the present day. Organized chronologically by date of loss of the respective vessels, the book provides a plethora of information. In the first of the two main sections, we learn about each ship, the circumstances of its loss, and occasionally, the history of the identification of the wreck site and recovery of the ship. Among the wrecks covered are well known ships like the Bremen Cog, the Mary Rose, the USS Monitor, and the RMS Titanic, as well as hundreds of ships normally only known to a small group of highly-specialized maritime historians and/or underwater archaeologists.

The second part of the book provides a somewhat brief overview of the development of maritime/underwater archaeology as an academic discipline, followed by a discussion of the development of commercial shipwreck-hunting companies and finally, a chapter on supertanker wrecks, clearly showcasing that wrecks are not only historical artefacts that may contain historical and/or monetary treasure, but might also present substantial risks and threats to entire