

the on-fire hulk of one transport. On 5 March, the PT Boats and USAAF and RAAF aircraft shot at and strafed Japanese soldiers and sailors still afloat – an activity that continued for two more days.

This book is part of Osprey Publishing's *Duel* series, and it follows the series format. The narrative starts with an introduction, followed by a chronology of the Bismarck Sea battle, analysis of the design and development of the B-25 and IJN destroyers; technical specifications for the B-25 and the IJN destroyers, the strategic situation pertinent to the Bismarck Sea battle, analysis of the combatants (the USAAF aircrew were well-trained while the IJN ships' crews were made up of conscripts and not well-trained in their duties), the battle itself, statistics and analysis, and the aftermath of the battle. The book contains many germane photographs, a map, excellent drawings of the B-25 nose armament, and the bombs used. Lardas writes well and the narrative flows.

This is a good book for those studying the Pacific War. This reviewer has one comment – Lardas describes the B-25 Mitchell as “a run-of-the-mill medium bomber with an unimpressive record” (78). While the USAAF modifications turned the Mitchell into a superior weapon of war, American, British/Commonwealth, and Soviet aircrew, who had flown the Mitchell prior to the Bismarck Sea battle, might disagree with Lardas' judgment. Still, students of the Pacific War will enjoy this volume.

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Hans Lengere and Lars Ahlberg. *Fubuki-Class Destroyers In the Imperial Japanese Navy During World War II*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Books, www.schifferpublishingltd.com, 2022. 128 pp., illustrations, tables, notes. US \$35.99, cloth; ISBN 978-0-76436-287-3.

In exploring the design, construction, and role of the Fubuki-class destroyers, authors Lengere and Ahlberg provide a solid and comprehensible technical analysis of an important class of destroyers within the Imperial Japanese Navy during the Second World War. This class of destroyers was once considered to be the most powerful in the world and the first “modern” destroyers. Japan originally built 24 of the Fubuki-class and all but one fought in the Pacific War. The authors systematically take apart these destroyers discussing a myriad of aspects that can be applied to the design of any number of warships.

The book opens with a discussion of the design requirements and considerations that went into a warship that had to meet the unique needs of the Imperial Japanese Navy in the 1920s. They then explore the construction,

general design, protection, machinery, armament, and complement of these warships and their role within the navy by means of technical specifications and photos of each variant of the class discussed. For those looking for a technical reference this provides an excellent entry point, illustrating how these ships were built without getting thoroughly absorbed in the construction and function of each individual system. Those already familiar with the engineering and construction principles involved in warship design will remain interested, while newcomers will find the detailed presentation a useful and comfortable introduction.

What is not included in this work is a detailed examination of the various ships' career histories, especially the battles they participated in during the Second World War. There is a brief description of each ship, along with its construction timeline, but the summary of each ship and its wartime role constitutes a brief paragraph at best. Though thin on operational details, the descriptions do encourage curious readers to research individual battles and engagements, and examine the contribution that these ships made to Japan's role in the Second World War and when and how each ship was either lost or disposed of at the end of the war. Each ship is extensively photographed, offering readers an opportunity to appreciate the final product visually.

Students of warship design will find a great deal of useful information here, even though there is not much new or novel research involved for those of a more academic interest. While endnotes are provided for each chapter, there is neither an index or a bibliography. Although endnotes do reference additional reading, that information might better have been consolidated into a selected bibliography. In fact, the notes themselves need more clarification to make them useful academic resources. As a technical analysis, however, the work fulfills its role in describing the technical design and construction of Fubuki-class destroyers. Certainly, students unfamiliar with warship design, and particularly Japanese warships, will find this book a valuable introduction and explanation of the subject.

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John Looker, Colin Heywood, and Edmond Smith (eds.). *The Levant Voyage of the Blackham Galley (1696-1698): the Sea Journal of John Looker, Ship's Surgeon*. Oxford, UK: Hakluyt Society and Routledge, www.routledge.com, 2022. 248pp., illustrations, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. US \$160.00, cloth; ISBN 978-10322-221-10. (E-book available.)