One final problem with *Defending the Arteries of Rebellion* is the inclusion of time as a deficient Confederate resource. The South’s lack of time to develop their navy was a direct result of Union advances and military success at key Confederate points, such as New Orleans, Vicksburg, Memphis, and Forts Henry and Donelson, among others, all directly or indirectly targeted as part of the Anaconda Plan, a point that is brought up in the introduction but never properly explored. Unlike the more commonly cited deficiencies that challenged the Confederates (material and factories for iron manufacture, shipbuilding facilities and expertise, and the like) a lack of time was not endemic to the South’s wartime condition, but the result of Union advances and success. If Chatelain had supported his assertion that time should be seen as a resource on par with material, infrastructure, and skill, he might have provided an interesting counterpoint to the standard argument, but his analysis offers no insight into what might have been done to gain time or what benefit more time would have provided to the fledgling republic.

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This is the eighth volume of author Michael John Claringbould’s study into the patterns and markings of the aircraft deployed by Japanese and Allied forces in the Pacific Theatre of the Second World War, specifically covering the floatplanes deployed as part of the Imperial Japanese Navy’s operations in the South Seas from January 1942 through December 1944. This includes both the planes of the R-Area (denoting Rabaul) command as well as airframes attached to warships operating in the South Seas area. Following a term glossary, an introductory background on prewar floatplanes, and a summation of the overall Japanese command structure, Claringbould then examines the theatre’s twelve main air units, miscellaneous units and surrendered airframes, and the aforementioned shipborne aircraft. The text then concludes with a listing of sources and an index of pilot names mentioned in the text.

The introduction and initial two chapters act as a general background for Japanese floatplane development and the Japanese command structure. Maps, R-Area force breakdowns, timelines, and a glossary of Japanese term enhance the text, in addition to period images and several profile renderings of prewar floatplane types. The command directives regarding floatplane markings
are covered in this section as well, with the later chapters detailing how overlapping timetables and transfers of command could cause unit airframes to maintain earlier elements of markings or camouflage, or even characteristics of previous service under different commands such as to the Home Islands. The second chapter also serves as an overall chronology of the various units, detailing their locations within the context of the overall command and the progression of the war.

The core of the work are chapters three through seventeen, in which the 12 primary air units, miscellaneous units, surface fleet floatplanes, and submarine airframes are individually covered. Each chapter begins with a computer rendering of one of the unit’s aircraft in action followed by a unit history, often containing aircrew lists and notable engagements. This is followed by a text section on the unit’s marking patterns for their assigned airframes. Period images are supplied alongside the text, with the associated captions noting which aircraft pictured have received a profile rendering. These renderings are presented at full-page width, with their related captions listing model, tail number location, the pilot (if known), and timeframe. The length of description varies depending on available airframe information, with more unique aircraft such as LTJG Keizou’s A6M2-N with its three confirmed kills or the floatplanes assigned to battleships and minelayers whose service histories are partially covered in the caption as well (83, 107). The section on submarine floatplanes is especially interesting and the tabulation of known submarine aircraft missions is greatly appreciated (199).

Though it admittedly does not fit with the established pattern of the author’s Pacific Profiles series, it might be beneficial to include general top and bottom views for the different types of aircraft discussed, so as to show the wing markings, paint schemes, and visibility of float or fuselage markings from those angles. Given that some of the chapters have pilot rosters, either as final disposition lists or transfer contingents, this information could have been consolidated into an appendix of pilots, listing their unit, airframes, key service dates, and final fates. This would allow for quicker comparison of unit manpower levels and attritional rate comparisons. A close-up rendering of the aircraft identification stencils on the fuselages’ port sides might also be helpful to show how information varied between airframe types. Finally, given the fact that many of the photographs of airframes show significant wear and damage, especially after being abandoned, it might be worth noting the building materials used, as cloth-covered control surfaces would fade, discolor, and decay at a different rate than metallic paneling. These are relatively minor suggestions, however, and would only serve as a means of enhancing future editions.

*IJN Floatplanes in the South Pacific* is an excellent resource guide for
those interested in this often-overlooked aspect of combat in the Second
World War. Claringbould does an excellent job summarizing unit histories
and documenting the human elements behind the rendered aircraft and their
markings. For those interested in the logistics of Japanese seaplane deployments,
aircraft markings, and the units involved in this theatre, this is definitely a
solid and succinct reference. The recounting of several engagements between
Japanese and Allied forces also makes this a good source for those studying
the American and British advance into the South Pacific as well, allowing for
better understanding of the opposing forces, their makeup, and losses from
1942 to 1944.

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Peter R. Dawes. Expedition Relics from High Arctic Greenland—Eight
decades of exploration history told through 102 objects. Charlottenlund,
maps, bibliography, indices. DKK 475.00, US $75.00, hardback; ISBN
987-87-635-4686-7.

High Arctic Greenland has been the scene of numerous Arctic expeditions from
the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Whether it was explorers like
Henry Grinnell tracing the fate of the lost Franklin expedition, or Robert Peary
trying to reach new farthest Norths (and ultimately the Pole), the expeditions
covered parts of Greenland previously unexplored and accumulated substantial
knowledge about northwest Greenland. They also left behind intentional or
unintentional material traces and relics.

With his new book, Peter Dawes not only provides a comprehensive
overview of these expeditions to Greenland, but does so in a unique and novel
way that successfully bridges traditional exploration history and high Arctic
archaeology. Instead of just providing a historic account of the expeditions
or simply delivering a catalogue of artifacts, Dawes uses 102 specific objects
to tell the stories of the individual expeditions and the larger history of the
exploration of High Arctic Greenland.

Divided into four main chapters, the book begins with a solid introductory
chapter that discusses the aims of the book as well as providing some most
useful comments and reflections on topics like the “collection instinct” or
the distinction between simply labelling an artifact versus basing historical
research on it. The next chapter deals with prehistoric and historic sites and
discusses a wide variety of issues related to their artifacts. This presents the
non-specialist on Arctic archaeology with basic background information on