

remotely, a heroic act. Goulty tells the story from the perspective of the ordinary sailor or officer who was there. Despite growing up with small boats and spending about a year's worth of sea-time on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans, I still learned a lot about wartime life at sea. There is a comprehensive, six-page Timeline covering events from the 1921 Washington Naval Treaty to VJ Day which serves as a useful reference source for future reading.

The book is full of direct quotations from written material, but also from transcripts of oral recordings. The latter can be somewhat disjointed and could have been lightly edited. Thoughtfully, Goulty makes good use of explanations inside square brackets to define what is meant by words or phrases.

David H. Gray
Ottawa, Ontario

John D Grainger. *The British Navy in Eastern Waters. The Indian and Pacific Oceans*. Rochester, NY: Boydell Press, www.boydellandbrewer.com, 2022. vii+319 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. UK £85.00, US \$99.00, hardback; ISBN 978-1-78327-677-6. (E-book available).

The British Navy in Eastern Waters summarizes the role that the Royal Navy played in both bodies of water from the age of sail through the end of the Second World War. Grainger opens his work with the birth of the East India Company and follows its evolution and influence in the Indian and Pacific Ocean region. In the process, he outlines the various conflicts that the Company and, later, the Royal Navy had with the various kingdoms that formed India, as well as foreign competitors, such as the Dutch and the French. Perhaps most enlightening is his exploration of the activities going on in these regions in the midst of larger conflicts. For example, the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars both had an effect on these far-flung regions, as well as affecting the conflicts on the European continent. Although Grainger touches on the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, he does not dwell on them. Rather, he focuses on the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the surrounding environments. He follows the emergence and rise of the East India Company, with an examination of its gradual evolution into the modern British Empire, away from a mercantile organization to one charged with maintaining and defending a global empire. Finally, he concludes with a brief examination of the role the Royal Navy played in this part of the world during the twentieth century.

The greatest strength of this particular work is the broad overview of the role the East India Company and Royal Navy played in shaping the region, and the impact those events had on the British Empire as a whole. In almost

300 pages, Grainger covers 350 years of interaction between the East India Company and the Royal Navy. While the story may be familiar to some, this work provides new students with a clear starting point and a summary of the events and forces that shaped this region. An ample bibliography and thorough references provide ample material for both newcomers and those more familiar with the subject, along with places to branch out from Grainger's text and explore individual aspects in greater detail. While useful, the general nature of this work also constitutes its weakness. Grainger covers so much ground that a reader never dwells for long in any one place or time period. His chapters average between fifteen and twenty pages and each one covers around twenty years, a compressed time frame that may disappoint those wanting more detail, because they will need to look elsewhere. Although Grainger addresses everything with broad strokes, he concentrates on the age of sail, thus, slightly shortchanging the impact events of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries had in shaping both the Indian and Pacific regions and the British Empire.

While it does not limit the content of the work, accessibility is another hurdle that may affect readers' ability to appreciate this work. The price of UK £85.00 and US \$99.00 hinders access by casual readers, especially students, perhaps encouraging cost-conscious readers to wait for a paperback or electronic edition. The lack of maps and photographs might also persuade readers to choose a digital version.

Grainger's latest book sheds light on British imperial influence in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the role that these regions had in shaping the empire. It is particularly useful for new students who are looking for a place to start their exploration of this part of the world. While not covering any particular time period in great detail, the author does provide readers at all levels with a leaping-off point for their exploration of a fascinating subject.

Michael Razer,
Ward, Arkansas

Peter Hore. *Bletchley Park's Secret Source: Churchill's Wrens and the Y Service in World War II*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Greenhill Books, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, 2021. xiv+210 pp., illustrations, glossary, notes, references, index. UK £13.99, cloth; ISBN 978-1-78438-581-1. (E-book available.)

Bletchley Park and its top-secret role in the decoding of the various German Enigma ciphers of the Second World War is probably familiar to many readers, if for no other reason than the greatly oversimplified movie of 2014 starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, *The Imitation Game*. It is said