

concentration of force.... [His face] brims with kindness, and twinkles with racy or pawky [cynical] humor. Altogether, the captain is a notable man, and no one can see him for the first time without pausing to inquire who he may be” (204-205).

For over a century, Wyllie’s role and its impact upon the Civil War largely remained undiscovered – until recently. *A Scottish Blockade Runner in the American Civil War* is a scholarly, highly detailed book, consistent with what one might expect from a Scottish museum curator. Perhaps overly detailed with minor characters and sides issues, the work still provides an excellent contribution to the maritime history literature providing primary source data concerning the role and difficulties of foreign blockade runners during the American Civil War.

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Venner F. Milewski, Jr. *Fighting Ships of the U.S. Navy 1883-2019, Vol. One, Part Two – Aircraft Carriers, Escort Carriers*. Poland; Stratus s.j, www.mmpbooks.biz, 2021. 272 pp., illustrations, tables, glossary, bibliography, index. US \$52.00, hardback; ISBN 978-3-66549-29-6.

The second part of a new naval book series, this work is a compendium of all 145 escort carriers produced or planned by the United States during the Second World War for both American and Allied use. Similar to the documentation style of Stefan Terzibaschitsch’s 1981 *Escort Carriers and Aviation Support Ships of the U.S. Navy*, the work consists of brief text histories, tabulated information, and photographs. All ten classes of escort carriers are covered sequentially, followed by a table of camouflage patterns and black and white renderings of the camouflage design sheets. A brief bibliography and index are at the end to conclude the work.

The core of the work follows a standardized format. Vessels are presented in numbered order following the listing of their class. Each is given a table listing ship name, hull number, builder, keel laid date, launch date, and commission date. This is followed by a paragraph-sized notation of the ship’s history, detailing key points in terms of approval, original commanding officers, transfer to Britain (if applicable), decommissioning or destruction notes, and the like. Combat service, tours of duty, and assigned air wings, however, are not addressed. Photographs of the vessel follow, and a general table on the class as a whole concludes each section with basic data regarding hull dimensions, armament, crew complement, and engineering specifications. There are images for a few of the hulls showing their construction or conversion processes, with

some of the more interesting photographs covering the post-war deployment of several escort carriers with large detachments of helicopters, making them an ancestral link of the modern navy's Amphibious Assault Ships.

The final thirty pages shift focus to the camouflage patterns approved by the United States Navy for use on the various escort carrier classes during the Second World War. This primarily consists of black and white scans of the Bureau of Ships Camouflage Measure Design sheets, with a two-table lead-in describing the seven approved camouflage measures and a listing of to which carriers the depicted patterns were applied. Clarity varies, as the sheets were not edited to remove tonal discoloration or jpeg artifacts. They do provide a clearer view of camouflage patterning than evidenced in some of the photographs, albeit only in greyscale form. Camouflage schemes for those escort carriers in British service are not directly addressed, and must be gleaned from photographs associated with the carriers in the core of the work.

A few suggestions for improvement come to mind. There are no images for the carriers AVG-8, CVE-34, 39, 40, 50, 52, 68, 74, and 89, even though several exist within the collections of NARA, NHHC, and the Imperial War Museum. There is also a surprising lack of colour and close detail images, especially in regard to documenting the camouflage patterns applied to the hulls and the islands, respectively. The cover image of USS *Santee* is rendered in black and white within the work itself, and if the camouflage section were paired with colour profile drawings or some of the existing colour imagery, it would greatly improve the work's effectiveness, as would a colour section or detail section of images. Some of the camouflage measures sheets seem to be of lower resolution than others, so an increase in their clarity would be appreciated and add to their impact in the work as a whole. Finally, an expansion of the near-bulleted text associated with each ship to include duty assignments and awarded battle stars would greatly increase the work's effectiveness, as it would allow readers to trace the vessel's history and movements beyond what is in photographic captions or mentions of loss.

Fighting Ships of the US Navy, Volume One Part Two is a good introduction to the escort carriers planned or built during the Second World War. While detailed service histories for the vessels may be lacking, it offers the basic build data, chronology for construction, commissioning, and destruction/disposal, and select views for a majority of completed hulls. For those interested in American-built escort carriers and their camouflage patterns, this work is a good initial reference source, and with an expansion of the information listed for each vessel's history, it has the capacity to become a primary reference tool on the ship class.

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