

second stage of the disease, the gums turn purple and soften to the consistency of a sponge, causing teeth to loosen, if the disease persisted for two more weeks, the symptoms would also include ecchymoses, enormous purple-blue bruises on the skin that develop into open sores and ulcer. . . . [The body] begins to deteriorate, leaving the body like a brick building suddenly without mortar. Blood vessels tear, bones easily break, and the wounds cannot heal” (186 -188).

In summary, Keith Thomson’s *Born to be Hanged* is an extraordinary book. It is very well written and among the most readable maritime histories focused upon the late-seventeenth-century pirate era. I unreservedly recommend the work to maritime scholars as well as lay readers interested in the life and times of this period and the many colourful characters that populate this complex, exciting tale.

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Guy Warner. *Atlantic Linchpin: The Azores in Two World Wars*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Seaforth Publishing, www.seaforthpublishing.com, 2021. 160 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. UK £24.97, cloth; ISBN 978-1-39901-090-0. (E-book available.)

In *Atlantic Linchpin: The Azores in Two World Wars*, Guy Warner explores the role that the islands in the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores played in the First and Second World Wars. He also briefly discusses relevant events before, between, and after both conflicts.

Wasting little time, the author examines the importance of aviation in the First World War, focusing on how both the United States and the United Kingdom developed air bases on the islands. He also explores the activities of the various units stationed on the islands, including anti-submarine warfare and search and rescue. Of note is the role of United States Marine Corps in the Azores, a seldom-discussed aspect of aviation history. Following a brief discussion of expansion and development on the islands between the conflicts, the author moves on to the Second World War, with the United States Navy and the Royal Airforce Coastal Command providing search and rescue support, anti-submarine warfare, convoy escort, and ship replenishment and maintenance. Warner then discusses the fate of various airfield once the islands transitioned back to civilian life after the war.

Accessible to both students of naval aviation and first-time readers, the book reads like a unit or instillation history, focusing on the activities of units and missions conducted from the various airfields, rather than a single unit or individual – a book about places rather than people. Readers unfamiliar with the role of the Azores, or even Portugal, during both world wars will find

this a good entry point. Aviation buffs will enjoy a little-known history. The author's prolific use of period photographs provides his text with both depth and context.

One of the more useful contributions of this work is the author's use of sources. He draws heavily from published secondary sources, providing an extensive bibliography for those wishing to learn more. Warner also makes excellent use of British archival documents, which add academic value and depth to his work. Nor does he neglect websites which will help those with limited access to archival sources. Unfortunately, there are few comparable Portuguese sources, which perhaps explains the book's certain lack of depth in places. Given that Portugal was officially neutral in both of these conflicts, the absence of official documentation is understandable. This may also account for the lack of historical treatment of the Azores during the wars. Warner's work covers a period of over thirty years which gives his work breadth if not depth. While this keeps readers moving through the text, the occasional gap makes the work feel rushed in places.

Nevertheless, Warner's *Atlantic Linchpin* is a welcome addition to the historiography of both conflicts. He sheds light on a lesser known subject while encouraging further research by readers of military history into the role of Portugal as a neutral nation making aviation history in both wars. Casual readers may find a new twist to a history they thought they knew.

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Gordon Williamson. *Hitler's Navy. The Kriegsmarine in World War II.* Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, www.bloomsbury.com, 2022. 256 pp., illustrations, maps, tables, bibliography, index. UK £30.00, US \$40.00, CDN \$55.00, cloth; ISBN 978-1-4728-4792-8.

Hitler's Navy explores, the actions and composition of Germany's Kriegsmarine during the Second World War. Author Williamson begins with a very brief discussion of the development, doctrine, and organization, of the Kriegsmarine following the First World War, before transitioning into an overview of Germany's naval mission and operations during the Second World War. Without discussing specific events in detail, he offers a complete overview of German wartime operations. Following this is a comprehensive examination of the ships of the Kriegsmarine by type then class, allowing readers to quickly find reference material for both specific classes of vessel and individual ships. He provides technical details for each ship class as well as a brief operational history for the major vessels of the Kriegsmarine, ranging from the better known ships such as the *Bismarck* and *Graf Spee*, as well as lesser-known smaller