

of number at the time and a significant reversal of fortunes for the Germans. Sadly, the convoy also suffered losses including the Audacity. But the legacy of HMS Audacity endured as more escort carriers were produced. They helped to provide air cover for future convoys during their entire crossing. This put greater pressure on the U-boats and that, reinforced with Walker's aggressive thinking and technology like radar and larger escort forces, finally led to the breaking of the German U-boat arm.

Konstam is certainly correct about the lack of material available on HG-76. Just one convoy, although a very successful one, out of hundreds, it certainly warrants more discussion. While there is more written about Audacity than the convoy, the author misses the fact that this was Audacity's fourth convoy, not her first. It was the combination of Audacity and Walker that made HG-76 so successful. Konstam's review of prewar thinking and technological developments by both the British and the Germans provides a lot of context and is valuable to those readers who are not well versed in such matters. It does, however, make the story of HG-76 feel abbreviated, which is unfortunate. More depth, better fleshing out of the subject and, of course, a fuller post-mortem would be very valuable to the reader. A key element of the story is Commander Walker himself, whose critical role, I felt, needed more clarification. Perhaps pairing this text with a good history of Commander Walker would help the reader more.

Overall, I recommend the text. Konstam has done an incredible job providing a lively and interesting work, not just for the historical hobbyist, but for those more interested in the Battle of the Atlantic. Certainly, this book should be on the reading list of anyone interested in the subject.

Robert Dienesch
Belle River, Ont.

Witold Koszela. *Cruisers of the III Reich: Volume 2*. Petersfield, Hants: Military Miniature Press, www.mmp.com, 2022. 200 pp., illustrations, tables, notes. US \$52.00, hardback; ISBN 978-8-36595-885-3.

This second volume of author Witold Koszela's study of German cruisers of the Second World War is a continuation of his examination of the Kriegsmarine's capital ships beginning with his 2018 work on German battleships. While the first volume concentrated on the light cruises *Emden*, *Königsberg*, *Karlsruhe*, *Köln*, and *Leipzig*, this one covers both the light cruiser *Nürnberg* and the five Admiral Hipper class heavy cruisers, along with a final section touching on two Deutschland class heavy cruisers, Kriegsmarine auxiliary cruisers, and the abandoned M class cruiser project. Period photographs are used throughout

the work alongside modern line illustrations for visual reference, with several colour profiles and top-down views at the end to show examples of the various camouflage patterns used during the war.

The work begins somewhat abruptly with an examination of the *Nürnberg*, referred to by Koszela as the “Last Cruiser of the Third Reich” due to her post-war service in the Soviet Navy. The ship’s chronology is discussed from planning and construction through final disposition with the Soviet Union. Period photographs and line drawings complement the text, while some anecdotes and postulating on the mindset of the captain and/or crew are given when discussing events such as the turnover to the Soviets to add a more human aspect to the ship’s story. There is also an insert with information regarding the namesake of the ship, and the end of the chapter has a tabulation of data referred to as “Characteristics,” though this same material is inexplicably referred to as “Tactical and technical data” in the chapter on the *Blücher* (70). The other ship chapters follow a similar layout, though with some notable variances. Later discussions often feature a bullet point list of ship commanders within the body of the text, and the aforementioned insert is changed to one focusing on the discussed ship’s patron. Chapter length varies, from thirty-six pages for the story of *Admiral Hipper* down to just thirteen pages for both the *Blücher* and the shared *Seydlitz/Lützow* chapters. The final chapter on auxiliaries and proposed designs follows a similar style, containing information on the Deutschland class and converted merchantmen as well as a proper table of technical data on the former and a table of names and designations for the latter.

Among my criticisms, is the way the book opens, without an introduction, as though this is a fragment of a single book. The text would benefit from an editorial sweep: for example, Koszela refers to “the previous chapter” in the second paragraph (3). I found many extremely long, comma laden run-on sentences, several incorrect image captions, instances of bad grammar or misspellings, a surprising amount of sometimes parenthesized exclamation points used within an analytical text, and even a photograph of the *Köln* that was probably meant for the previous volume (7). The omission of the third Deutschland class cruiser *Admiral Graf Spee* along with the D and P class heavy cruiser designs seems odd. Given that the other two Deutschland cruisers and the M class light cruiser plans were addressed, it would make sense to include these other vessels to ensure a complete summary of German cruisers. The inclusion of colour profiles for the Seydlitz, Lutzow, and Deutschland class, possibly along with illustrations of auxiliary and M class examples, would be appreciated as there are examples provided for the other ships mentioned. Some views of the *Nürnberg* and *Prinz Eugen* in post-war service would be appreciated too, as their duty with the Soviet and American Navy are mentioned in the text, though without addressing the modifications carried out to the

vessels, particularly by the Soviets. Koszela also has a habit of ending some sentences with exclamation marks or including them in parenthesis, which does not quite fit the architecture of a scholarly work. Furthermore, there is no index, bibliography, or further reading list for quick reference, citation, or continued examination. Removal of the former and inclusion of the latter would greatly improve the work's scholarly effectiveness.

Cruisers of the III Reich: Volume 2 is an interesting chronology of several of the Kriegsmarine's cruiser's wartime service. While it would probably be best for both volumes to be combined into a single book given the text's length and layout, this work does offer a decent collection of images, profiles, and data for those interested in the Nürnberg, Seydlitz, Lutzow, and Admiral Hipper class. Koszela's study makes for a quick, useful reference guide, but could be expanded into a solid resource with improved future editions.-

Charles Ross Patterson II
Metairie, Louisiana

Mark Lardas. *US Destroyers vs German U-Boats: The Atlantic 1941–45*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, www.bloomsbury.org, 2023. 96 pp., illustrations, bibliography. UK £15.99, US \$23.00, CDN \$31.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-4728-5410-0.

In his work *US Destroyers vs German U-Boats: The Atlantic 1941-1945*, Mark Lardas skillfully enlightens and captivates readers with the strategies and battles that defined this specific aspect of the Battle of the Atlantic in the Second World War. Lardas intricately dissects the strategic complexities, tactical manoeuvres, and evolving technologies that defined this pivotal maritime conflict. With a steadfast commitment to historical precision, he navigates the challenges confronted by both sides as well as the technologies they employed to surmount obstacles.

The book opens with an introduction and timeline highlighting how U-Boats were almost invincible in 1942, but were on the run in 1944. It then delves into the development of the design of destroyers, destroyer escorts, and U-boats, as well as the tactics, strategies, and weapons used by both. Lardas honours the combatants on both sides by going into detail about the hierarchy of officers, and how they were appointed, as well as other important individuals. The book features detailed accounts of the individual encounters between U-boats and American destroyers, painting a vivid picture of the relentless pursuit of U-boats on the seas and beneath them.

This book informs the reader with specific and intricate details of the Battle of the Atlantic, based on the author's experience as a naval architect