

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.-

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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

who has authored dozens of similar war books. With at least one image on almost every page, he is ably supported by Ian Palmer, a gifted illustrator, who depicts the battle accurately and vividly. Together, they tell the story of how the US destroyers struggled, but in the end succeeded, in combating U-Boats, as well as supplying additional historical context and details.

Although the designs and weaponry of the ships are intriguing, the stories of the individual battles are equally compelling. U-853, disobeying or ignoring German orders to cease combat operations, sank a U.S collier named *Black Point* off the coast of Block Island. One outstanding instance was when the USS *Roper*, having newly installed radar, was able to detect U-85, and prepared to ram it. Orberleutnant zur See Eberhard Greger, the commander of U-85, ordered his crew to abandon the submarine before it was rammed, but they were soon either chopped up by propellers as the destroyer moved through them, or were killed by the exploding depth charges from USS *Roper*. This story, while gripping on its own, is further enhanced with a detailed map of the encounter with timestamps. The design and layout of the overall encounter was readable to the point where a layperson could easily dissect it.

As part of the 117-book "Duel" series, this one may appear to be too narrowly focused, as Lardas only addresses the limited engagements between German U-Boats and US destroyers. Only 5 percent of all U-boats lost were accounted for by US destroyers and destroyer escorts, and only nine destroyers and escorts were sunk by U-Boats. It would be unfair, however, to dismiss this book, simply because the task given to the US Navy was beyond monumental and essential. After all, attempting to combat U-Boats that could submerge made them almost undetectable by radar, allowing for the U-Boats to navigate the waters freely and become a threat for the USN. Despite being only one aspect of the war at sea, it was essential for the United States and its allies to find a way to combat the deadly U-Boats, or risk prolonging the war.

Overall, this is an informative guide to how the US Navy utilized destroyers against German U-Boats – one of many duels that the Allies won against the Axis powers. Despite the book's slight bias towards the US and the Allies, Lardas made sure to also address the German efforts and tell their story as well. Though perhaps difficult for a layperson to follow all the threads, the information presented is thorough and well-illustrated.

For experts on Second World War naval warfare, this text is a definitive resource for this niche. While the topic of United States destroyers vs German U-boats may appear slim and peripheral to the overall Battle of the Atlantic, it was gravely important. If the US Navy had not overcome the U-boat threat, the Allies would have struggled to win the war. This book is not only educational; it truly makes for a fascinating read on a specific sector of the Battle of the Atlantic, before the hunter-killer groups took a more central role in this theatre.

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Mark Lardas. *The Capture of U-505: The US Navy's controversial Enigma raid, Atlantic Ocean 1944.* Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, www.ospreypublishing.com, 2022. 80 pp., illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. UK £25.00, US \$22.00, CDN \$29.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-47284-936-6.

With this book, Osprey has released number 58 in its Raid Series and author Mark Lardas' 36th title. It recounts the events leading up to the successful capture of an intact German submarine in June of 1944, carried out under the initiative of Captain Daniel Gallery (USN), and the threat this action posed to Allied code breaking efforts. Lardas' analysis involves a summation of the combat, tactics, and vessels both leading to and involved in the fateful engagement, the commanders of both forces, and a step-by-step account of U-505's ensnarement, abandonment, capture, and salvage. Period photographs and digital renderings are used to illustrate various aspects and key moments of the operation, with maps of patrol routes and search patterns further illustrating the dangerous hunt for Gallery's elusive prize. Lardas analyzes the results of U-505's capture and its rewards versus the unintentional risks involved before concluding the text with recommended Further Reading and a quick reference index.

The introduction actually mirrors later sections of the text, diving right into Task Group 22.3 on the hunt for a U-boat off the coast of Africa and U-505's discovery that they were under attack. Lardas then segues into his argument that the results of this encounter are worthy of study due to the event's simultaneous illustration of "how doing the unexpected can yield surprising success" and "the perils of secrecy" (7). A simplified chronological timeline of events from 1935 to 1977 follows, covering the key dates involved in the formation of the Kriegsmarine's U-boat arm, the entry of the United States into the Second World War, the service history of the involved units, and the final fates of major participants, both commanders and ships. The final background section of the work is appropriately titled Origins, and covers the Battle of the Atlantic from 1939 through January 1944, largely through the lens of the U-boat threat and the resulting evolution of allied antisubmarine warfare efforts. The German 'Happy Times' are covered, as is the rise of hunter-killer groups, convoys, and the all-important cracking of the Enigma code that helped pinpoint submarines through their communiques, all of which led to the deadly danger faced by U-505 and her fellow submariners in the waters of the Atlantic in 1944.