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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](http://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' 36<sup>th</sup> 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.

The core of the text consists of the three chapters that fully introduce the opponents, detail Gallery's plan, and a breakdown of the successful capture of U-505 by the first American boarding party in over a century. The first piece, entitled Initial Strategy, largely covers the backgrounds of the involved units, along with tactics utilized in mid-1944. The design of Type IX U-boats, their standard equipment, and the situation faced by such crews in the late war period are detailed alongside U-505's service history, to give the reader a more in-depth understanding of the subject. Task Group 22.3 receives similar coverage, offering a short biography of Captain Gallery, a description of the escort carrier USS Guadalcanal, the basics of her air wing, and the other Task Group vessels. The sinking of U-515 on 9 April 1944 is also included in this section, as this was the incident that helped Gallery solidify his plan to capture an intact U-boat. The chronology of the text does jump backward for a few pages to discuss earlier incarnations of the concept and the initial, somewhat clandestine, training exercises Gallery devised for his men while transiting the Panama Canal to reach the Atlantic from the Guadalcanal's construction yard on the West Coast. These activities, combined with the observations made during U-515's sinking, led to the solidification of a plan to cause chaos and panic in an effort to force the crew to evacuate without properly scuttling their ship. The nearest vessel would then launch a pre-selected boarding party to seize the ship, retrieve intelligence, and ensure the submarine remained afloat.

The account of the hunt and capture of U-505 reflects both German and American perspectives. Quotes appear from key personnel, and the effect of tactics mixed with luck are clearly evident. Examples of the latter include the destroyer escorts initially shelling U-505 with their main guns yet miraculously avoiding any fatal hits and how the panicked German crew failed to properly set any scuttling plans in motion. Details like the U-505 crew hearing what sounded like "a chain being dragged across the deck" as projectiles from a circling Wildcat marked their position and the "disgusted tone" used by acknowledging pilots told to break off the attack for the attempted capture help to further add human elements to the tale (53, 59). The effort to keep the submarine afloat amidst her jammed rudder and partial flooding are also well covered, as is the panic felt by the upper levels of command when they realized the Allied codebreaking efforts might be revealed if it was discovered that a U-boat had been taken intact. Lardas offers a good analysis of the risks and rewards at the end of the book, pointing out that the intelligence gained from the recovered papers saved thousands of hours of computer time, resulted in the acquisition of valuable German naval charts, and gave the Allies access to both the newest German acoustic torpedoes and information on new radio equipment as well. The conclusion details U-505's unveiling to the public following Germany's surrender and her eventual preservation in Chicago as a museum ship, where she can be viewed to this day.

In terms of possible improvements, there does seem to be some repetition between the introduction and later sections of the work, mostly due to Lardas using the initial encounter between U-505 and Task Group 22.3 as a lead-in to the story. Two of the full-page computer-rendered images also appear odd. The cover image appears to show the Guadalcanal with a red and white striped flag and the towed U-505 with what seems like an upside down and backwards American flag, despite the fact that both should be flying standard American flags, with the Kriegsmarine ensign below the United States flag on U-505. The two-page rendering for the sinking of U-515 depicts the attacking American vessels with guns and torpedo tubes facing fore and aft rather than engaging the submarine, although Lardas describes how ferociously the two ships were shooting at each other. Given the size and prominence of these images, correcting them for future printings would improve their accuracy. Finally, there is mention at the end of the preservation of U-505 as a museum ship. An expansion of this would be appreciated, especially given the massive restoration and rehousing of the submarine that took place in 2004. The inclusion of photographs showing her current condition or the reconstructed depiction of the Guadalcanal's bridge at the museum would be a nice addition to the period photographs used throughout the rest of the work.

*The Capture of U-505* provides a solid entry into the tale of one of the most unusual and daring actions by personnel of the United States Navy during the Battle of the Atlantic. Lardas offers a concise summary of both the background to the 4 June 1944 encounter between Task Force 22.3 and U-505 and a rather detailed recounting of the seizure of the submarine itself. He covers the potential ramifications of the action, weighing the dangers to Allied code-breaking secrets alongside the treasure trove of technical and intelligence information gained. For those interested in the tactics of late war U-boats, the actions of escort carriers in the Atlantic, U-505, and the narrative of Allied codebreaking in the Second World War, this work is a fine introductory text.

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**Rod MacDonald.** *Pearl Harbor's Revenge. How the Devastated US Battleships Returned to War.* Havertown, PA: Frontline Books, [www.casematepublishers.com](http://www.casematepublishers.com), 2023. xvii+342 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. UK £25.00, US \$37.95, cloth; ISBN 978-1-39901-329-1.

On the morning of 7 December 1941, aircraft launched from the Kidō Butai, Japan's fleet of six aircraft carriers located 200 miles offshore north of the island of Oahu, delivered what MacDonald calls "one of the most famous raids in all