

ship's specifications before the narration of its story, illustrated with pertinent historical photographs. The result is a biography of a fleet of battleships—nearly half of the nation's battleships at the time—that were casualties of Pearl Harbor and came back to serve again. Well organized and presented, the book can be used as a reference for individual ships and battles, but is most meaningful when read as a narrative from beginning to end. MacDonald gives the reader a greater appreciation for the tremendous work that went into returning gravely damaged old battleships to war worthiness.

The author presents the necessary details of naval architecture and engineering in a clear manner, educating the general reader without weighing down the narrative. He includes a handy list of naval acronyms and abbreviations for reference. Chapter notes, a bibliography, additional resources, and an index are also appreciated.

Over a million people from all over the world visit the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor each year; nearly as many tour the Battleship Missouri, the site of Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allied Forces on 2 September 1945, ending the Second World War. There is great general interest in these ships as historical military artifacts. *Pearl Harbor's Revenge; How The Devastated US Battleships Returned to War* is an important addition to naval history and more broadly, the history of the Second World War.

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Leo Marriott. *Naval Battles of the Second World War. The Atlantic and the Mediterranean*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Pen and Sword Maritime, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk. 2022. vii+151 pp., glossary, abbreviations, illustrations, maps, tables, appendix, bibliography, index. UK £20.00, US \$34.95, cloth; ISBN 978-1-39909-893-9. (E-book available.)

This is a useful, modest book as a handy reference in the shelves of those who do not have access to either large reference libraries, or are less than comfortable with search media on home computers. It is, apparently, the first of an intended series to cover other naval battle sites. Useful because in the 19 battles described, each a mere seven- to nine-pages long, the author presents the location and strategic conditions, the participants, and the outcome of the battle. 'Modest' because that page count (7 to 11 each) includes usually two large ship photos per page and a map of the locale. The photos are mostly traditional – *Graf Spee* (2), *Exeter*, *Ajax*, *Resolution*, *Illustrious*, *RM Conte di Cavour*, etc. – plus sometimes a few action photos taken at the time. The maps are excellent and clear, although all a half-page in size. It serves to answer the

questions one is asked as a supposed naval historian: “Which was the carrier involved in the Taranto raid?”; “Which destroyers accompanied Warspite on the 2nd Narvik battle?” and such.

A sour comment made on naval preparation for “the next war” is that their ships are largely designed and acquired in preparation for a war like the last one, rather than the new one. Also many historians have noted that the RN and others presumed, and built up their navies, to counter future major battles of the Jutland and Falklands type for what developed as the Second World War. Only the Americans, in their huge Pacific anti-Japanese battles, fought such battleship-to-battleship conflicts, and even they – and the Japanese – had to hurriedly adapt to aircraft carrier battles as their new format. This was much more a convoy war.

Marriott’s *Naval Battles of the Second World War* includes several that were hardly “naval battles” in the normal sense: the loss of HMS *Glorious*, the convoy battles for Malta, and the destruction of the 1941 Duisberg, a Malta-bound convoy. Each selected battle sets the strategic tone under “Background,” denoting the participants on both sides with their ships or Air Groups in a paragraph or so, without anything significant in the way of assessment in the wider context. This is followed by a page or two of “The Action,” followed by ship and the occasional action photograph. Only “The Battle of the Atlantic” chapter includes seven sections, such as “The Opening Rounds” and “The Importance of Ultra,” each of these one- or two-paragraph descriptions the subject of multiple books by various authors!

These pages will be handy as refreshers, reminding any who need a memory-jogging for who was involved, what actual ships were lost on either side, the moment-to-moment action and the local outcome of an interesting selection of mostly British-based Second War at-sea events, such as “The Channel Dash,” the two Narvik Battles, PQ-17, the December 1942 Barents Sea battle, Taranto, Oran, Matapan, Operations Harpoon, Vigorous and Pedestal for Malta, and Operation Torch. It is a reference, not an assessment of history or naval competence, and as such, a tool, not an education.

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Christian McBurney. *Dark Voyage: An American Privateer’s War on Britain’s African Trade.* Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, www.westholmepublishing.com, 2022. xiv+360 pp., maps, illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. US \$35.00, cloth; ISBN 978-1-59416-382-1.

This book focuses upon a unique use of privateering employed during the American Revolution, specifically the role of the American privateer