

have a different view on the continent than most other readers of the book. Nevertheless, it was an eye-opener and reminder as to the degree Antarctica has become a brand in itself and how perceptions of the icy continent are an integrated part of our modern-day consumer culture. It is hoped that the book will serve as an example that historical and social-scientific research on Antarctica is by no means limited to the traditional canon of topics, but that novel approaches can connect the ice continent directly with the modern consumer society outside Antarctica.

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**David Lee Russell. *USS Bogue: The Most Successful Anti-Submarine Warfare Carrier in World War II*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Inc., [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com), 2023. ix+197 pp., illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. US \$35.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-4766-9203-6. (E-book available.)**

The Battle of the Atlantic was not won in one decisive moment or in one place. It was a campaign fought on tens of thousands of fronts, over thousands of days, in a succession of battles. It was waged across the vast expanse of the Atlantic, and decided the fate of not just England but arguably the western world. Given its complexity, it should not surprise the reader that there are always aspects of this struggle that are not commonly known. Yes, airpower played a significant role in the defeat of the U-boat threat, and a significant aspect of the air-submarine dynamic was the story of the escort carrier. Sometimes referred to as the “jeep carrier” or “baby flattop,” escort carriers were initially produced by converting a merchant hull by adding a flight deck and related equipment. Eventually there were purpose-built ships, still based on merchant-size hulls, for use supporting merchant shipping and naval operations. Lacking the size and armour of larger fleet carriers and having fewer aircraft to operate, these escort carriers could be built rapidly and proved to be an important asset in defeating U-boats.

One of the most impressive of these ships was the USS *Bogue*. A purpose-built escort carrier, it was launched in January 1942 and was the lead ship in its class. Capable of carrying up to 24 aircraft, the *Bogue* had an effective career. Between May 1943 and January 1945, it was credited with an impressive total of ten German U-boats and 2 Japanese submarines. The *Bogue* and its sister ships played a major role in shutting down the German submarine threat and, in the process, not only saved the lives of many merchant sailors but likely helped to shorten the war. However, very few people know of the history of

these tough little ships.

David Lee Russell, a retired Naval Air Intelligence officer and author of books on the American Revolution and a history of Eastern Airlines, has taken a big step forward in expanding our knowledge regarding the *Bogue* and its sister ships. In *USS Bogue: The Most Successful Anti-Submarine Warfare Carrier in World War II*, Russell provides a fascinating history of the *Bogue* and its impact. In sixteen chapters spanning 197 pages, he provides the story of the *Bogue* from construction and commissioning through daily operations. In the process, he helps to break down how the presence of escort carriers changed anti-submarine operations and allowed the development of escort carrier operational doctrine. This provides us with a fascinating window into the process of bringing such a ship to operational readiness, and tells us a great deal about a side of the anti-submarine war that is not often discussed.

In many ways, the text is a fascinating look at the history of one ship and how it shaped events. The first two chapters on the birth of the *Bogue* and its operational training are especially fascinating as they show how much work went in to getting even a small escort carrier up to speed for operations. They also reveal many of the small day-to-day aspects of the training and preparation of new ships for service. Seeing the complexity of such efforts gives the reader a sense of how much more work was needed to prepare larger, more complex combatants for their first operations. Chapters three to fourteen follow the operational cruises of the *Bogue* to the end of the war. The final two chapters examine the *Bogue's* role as an aircraft ferry and its overall legacy. The seven appendices back up the text very well covering a wide variety of information.

While a fascinating read at many levels, and certainly a good history of the *Bogue*, the text is at times a bit strained. The author provides incredible detail to the reader, and that is both a bonus and a negative. Since most history tends to fixate on combat – and, let's face it, that is the sexy and exciting part of naval warfare – the inclusion of the mundane details regarding training and the daily life of the ship provides an excellent reality check to remind the reader of the vast efforts needed to keep a warship running and ready to fight. This is really a positive for the book in a lot of ways. However, while much of this information is fascinating, it can be monotonous. The identification of specific berths the ship was anchored in, etc., becomes a bit taxing at times. Although some may find that information useful, I, however, found it distracting, little bits of record-keeping that had no real bearing on the tale of the *Bogue*. Overall, I recommend this text to anyone interested in aviation history, naval aviation history, or the history of the Battle of the Atlantic. It generally is an enjoyable read with a lively text that most people just getting into the field will likely enjoy. It will also be useful for some academic work as it provides

a wealth of information supported well by citations and bibliographical sources. Certainly, it was an enjoyable read.

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**David Sears. *Duel in the Deep: The Hunters, the Hunted, and a High Seas Fight to the Finish*. Annapolis, MD: US Naval Institute Press, [www.usni.org](http://www.usni.org), 2023. xiv +346 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, glossary, index. US \$34.95, cloth; ISBN 978-1-68247-560-7.**

This history of the United States Navy's (USN) anti-submarine operations during the Second World War in the Atlantic Ocean focuses on the sinking of the destroyer USS *Borie* in November 1943. As far as possible, the author's story of the ship is told by crew members in their own words. The story of the *Borie* begins in the emergency building program of the First World War. The book follows the history of the US Fleet from the pre-war period, showing their extensive presence in Central America in the form of bases.

Chapter titles show the prose style to be punchy and action-oriented. The author combines a lively, personal "oral history" of crew members of the *Borie* with an account of the highest levels of strategy, technical advance, and intelligence. Chapters are short – four to six pages – with titles like "Shove off," "Four-stackers," "Scratch One Pigboat," "One Gung-Ho Guy," and "On Borrowed Time," which convey immediacy and action. The same personal style is assumed to tell the story of the major figures through published sources and some archival material (letters). Major themes are presented in alternating chapters to provide the context for the *Borie*'s "duel in the deep," including strategy, technical advances, intelligence, and communication. Strategy, especially the "special relationship" and the personal relations between Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, is portrayed as "hands-on."

"Wizard War" is the chapter beginning with the technical mission to North America headed by Henry Tizard in August 1940. With this began the transfer of technology in the form of working versions of radar and sonar to be studied at MIT and Cal Tech for mass production. The human and technical side of code-breaking recurs throughout and the mass production of primitive computers used to decrypt Enigma signals (Bombes) and work of keeping them running requires many chapters. The role of great universities in improving and adapting these technologies received from the UK is outlined. The convoy system and especially the controversy over it after the US entered the war is another theme.