

were no longer ethnically homogenous, and, with leadership locked into now-outdated ideas of the need to protect whiteness, it would not be long before membership began to fracture away to the rival IWW (Industrial Workers of the World).

Gathering a better understanding of marine labour and its roles within American imperial expansion is crucial for the formation of a fuller history of the United States and where it is today. This book, with its accessible language, will allow both general and specialist audiences to garner information of interest and importance to them, and, aspirationally, allow for the writing of better labour and imperial history moving forward. Astutely written and timely, this book will prove to be a must add for most any collection.

Michael Toth
Fort Worth, Texas

Arthur G. Sharp. *The Bear and the Northland: Legendary Coast Guard Cutters in the Alaskan Ice*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing Co., 2023, 213 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. US \$39.95, paperback: ISBN 978147692111.

The United States Revenue Service cutter *Bear* and its replacement in Alaskan waters, *Northland*, are legendary in Alaskan and Coast Guard history. *Bear* served from 1884-1927 and *Northland* served in various capacities from 1927-1946 (except for 1938-1939). Both ships served as the Alaskan “911,” successfully completing diverse missions that included enormous humanitarian relief operations.

The two former sealer/whalers-turned-cutters belonged to the Coast Guard’s predecessor, the United States Revenue Cutter Service (1894-1915) and before that, the United States Revenue-Marine (1790-1894). Founded originally as an armed maritime customs enforcement service, its ships and personnel performed diverse actions and undertook a multitude of responsibilities, especially on the Alaskan frontier. *Bear* and *Northland*’s varied voyages went beyond the Alaskan coast to include maritime patrols off the coasts of Hawaii and Greenland. Both cutters had remarkable histories and author Arthur G. Sharp provides an engaging and well-documented account of the efforts of *Bear* and *Northland*.

When *Bear* began service under the Department of Treasury, the Territory of Alaska was less than twenty years old as a US territory. It was vast, sparsely populated and contained all the challenges of law and order both ashore and afloat. Those who worked for the Revenue Cutter Service of the nineteenth century and sailed in its ships were comprised of skilled navigators

and mariners, judges, law enforcement specialists, and others tasked with preventing the maritime frontier and its adjacent islands and lands from descending into anarchy.

The author provides a flowing and well-researched account of the challenges and exploits of *Bear* and *Northland* throughout their combined service of 63 years. He documents their many activities, from breaking ice paths to chasing smugglers, escorting ships filled with miners' gold, rescuing explorers and mariners, and transporting reindeer.

Of the many exploits of *Bear* under its longest serving commanding officer, Michael A. Healy, known by many as "Hell Roaring Mike," one of the most important was the transfer of reindeer from Siberia to Alaska to avert disaster among malnourished Inuit in 1890 and 1892. This began what would result in the transfer of thousands of reindeer to Alaska in the 1890s. Due to the depletion of whales, fish, and other resources due to foreign vessels working in the Alaskan waters, Healy's humanitarian actions were instrumental in replenishing the scarce food supplies for the Inuit. However, Healy was also a controversial figure and Sharp gives a good recounting of Healy's widely-reported 1896 court martial and its many dimensions.

Although much of the book focuses on maritime operations in waters of the Pacific Ocean and Arctic Ocean, there were also operations near Greenland. Perhaps the most unusual of these was *Northland's* 12 September 1941 capture of a German-controlled Norwegian sealer, which became the first American capture of a naval vessel in World War II. As a result of the capture of *Buskø* (*Buskoe*), *Northland* also learned of a German radio station on the coast of Greenland and raided it, capturing the station, its codes, and German plans for other stations in the region.

Not only is Sharp's book a good history of the work of *Bear* and *Northland*, it recounts the solid chain of succession and leadership of their commanding officers. He provides organizational insights and shows the importance of individuals as well as institutions in mission success and legacies. The Coast Guard motto *Semper Paratus*, "Always Ready," epitomizes the endeavors of *Bear* and *Northland* and Sharp's book provides a solid history of those efforts.

Timothy J. Demy
Newport, Rhode Island

John Darrell Sherwood. *A Global Force for Good: Sea Services Humanitarian Operations in the Twenty-First Century.* Washington, D.C.: Naval History and Heritage Command, Department of the Navy, www.history.navy.mil, 2024. 450 pp., illustrations, maps, glossary, endnotes, bibliography, index. ISBN 978-1-943604-87-6 (hardcover); ISBN 978-1-