

conflict. Combined with the more modern scholarship, funerary orations, and period reports, this work allows one man's life and experiences to further modern understanding and perceptions of the Nile Campaign.

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Stefan Dрамиński. *The Destroyer USS Kidd*. Series: *Anatomy of The Ship*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, www.ospreypublishing.com, 2024. 336 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. UK £45.00, US \$60.00, CDN \$80.00; hardback; ISBN 978-1-47282-741-8. (E-book available.)

This work, the eighth entry in Osprey Publishing's *Anatomy of the Ship* book series and the sixth by author and artist Stefan Dрамиński, examines the United States Navy Fletcher-class destroyer DD-661 *USS Kidd*. This is the first examination of an escort-type vessel in the series, as the previous seven books have all covered capital ships. One of only four surviving examples left out of a class of 175 vessels, Dрамиński has recreated the *Kidd* through both line drawings and three-dimensional renderings, allowing readers to examine the vessel in various configurations throughout her service life and in ways not possible even on a visit to the ship itself. A textual service history and component information section is followed by full-colour primary renderings from key points in the *Kidd*'s service, general arrangements, sectionalized structure views, armament and mechanical component detail renderings, and examinations of common fittings and standard boats carried aboard. The work additionally contains a brief bibliography of books and websites at the end for further reference.

As with previous entries in the series, this work is largely divided into text and rendered images. The forty pages of the initial text can be further divided into twenty-four pages of discussion and analysis and a sixteen-page timeline of the *Kidd*'s service history focused on her wartime service. Both components are accompanied by period and contemporary images of the *Kidd* to aid in visualization and understanding of past and present configurations. Coverage is given to the evolution of the Fletcher-class design as a whole, followed by discussions of the general arrangements, machinery, armaments, fire control, specialized equipment, and camouflage patterns employed on the *Kidd*. Data tables on the ship's principal characteristics, weapons systems, and radar arrays are all provided with many tables offering comparative data between key points in the ship's service life when applicable. As mentioned above, the service timeline largely focuses on the *Kidd*'s active role in World War II, with the key date of 11 April 1945 highlighted minute-by-minute to

fully document the striking of the *Kidd* by an A6M Zero kamikaze plane.

The bulk of Damiński's work is naturally focused on the renderings of USS *Kidd*. This begins with thirty pages of showing the various camouflage patterning and paint schemes for the ship's exterior through both outboard and top-down views as well as close ups of key details and representative angles. From there, the work transitions to 1:250-scale general arrangement drawings with ship frames listed, using line drawings alongside three-dimensional renders throughout the remainder of the section. The drawings in the hull structure section are of particular note for showing a colour-coded plan of hull and main deck plating, an additional detail which would not be as effective in text form alone (108-109). Damiński also renders multiple views of the ship's structural framework, allowing for visualization of the destroyer's skeletal framework, something that is often hidden by plating and bulkheads. Some line plans are side-by-side with renderings of key components numbered and labeled, allowing for better visualization and comprehension of a blueprint's translation to reality aboard ship. The frame cross-section renderings help illustrate the cramped nature of a Fletcher-class destroyer while also allowing for better visualization of details such as the staggered propeller shafts which would not otherwise be as visible on pure deck plan drawings. The *Kidd*'s superstructure, rigging, armaments, and fire control sections all cover the various key modifications from initial construction through her wartime and postwar overhauls. The armament section in particular is notable for rendering not only the *Kidd*'s turret exteriors and internal layout, but both the 5-inch gun assembly and mount shield separately, as well as showing them with cross sections of the integral ammunition handling rooms (247). This allows for visualization of the key components to the main offensive gun battery in a more complete way than is normally possible, taking into account ammunition supply and traversal mechanisms often neglected in favor of the gun tube and mount alone. Finally, Damiński rounds out the work with detail examinations of standard ship fittings and carried boats, bringing focus to often-overlooked details aboard warships similar to the *Kidd*.

In terms of possible improvements to the book, a few come to mind. While frame numbers are present with most deck plans and most sections have a written scale, the inclusion of a scale bar showing the corresponding feet/meters on renderings would be appreciated, especially for the more uncommon scales such as 1:37.5 and 1:50. This would further aid in visual comprehension of the size of the warship, equipment, and compartments. The inclusion of images of the USS *Kidd* in her current configuration as a museum ship in the initial text section are appreciated, though a rearrangement of some of the later images to more closely align with the pages containing the most relevant analysis and future inclusion of interior shots would help strengthen

their effectiveness. Additionally, the use of footnotes or endnotes in the text related to upgrades and modifications would make the work more effective as a research tool. As a final note, the work does state in a few places that the ship is currently restored to her September 1945 appearance, while the museum itself and commemorative plaques at the ship's berth state that she has been restored to her August 1945 appearance (7). These do not diminish the effectiveness of Dramiński's work and such alterations would only improve upon future editions.

All in all, *The Destroyer USS Kidd* is an excellent addition to the *Anatomy of the Ship* series, providing truly detailed insights into the construction and modifications of an important class of destroyers which saw service in fifteen navies across much of the latter half of the twentieth century. Dramiński's renderings of the *Kidd* at various points during her service life make this a solid tool for examining the evolution of the Fletcher class through World War II and into the postwar period through the use of the *Kidd* as a representative example, a fact bolstered by the use of records from the USS *Cassin Young* aiding in the digital reconstruction of some of the typical rooms present on the *Kidd*. As such, this work is an excellent resource and reference for those studying 1940s American warship construction, vessel modifications in wartime and from postwar lessons, those interested in the USS *Kidd* specifically, and modelers seeking to best represent Fletcher-class destroyers.

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William F. Fowler Jr. *Commanding Old Ironsides: The Life of Captain Silas Talbot*. Latham, MD: Lyons Press and Mystic Seaport Museum, www.lyonspress.com, 2024. xxi+231 pp., illustrations, notes, index. US \$24.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-4930-7788-5.

[Note: Book is a republishing of the 1995 book titled *Silas Talbot: Captain of Old Ironsides*, cloth covered, 1995, ISBN 0-913372-73-0. The new edition has a different cover and an added forward by Anne Grimes of the USS *Constitution* Museum.]

Silas Talbot was an extraordinary man whose biography parallels many of the historic steps that led to the Revolutionary War. He was heavily involved in the war's aftermath, the disquieting politics of building a nascent federal government, the genesis and early stages of the American navy, and, finally, the hardships involved in the nation's westward expansion. Rising from obscurity as an orphan apprenticed to a brick layer, Talbot became an army officer, a navy captain, a politician, a landed pioneer/farmer, and an entrepreneur partly