

claims, it assumes that Taiwan is already part of the Peoples' Republic of China. It claims that it has indisputable sovereignty over the islands, rocks and shoals and adjacent waters in the East China Sea and South China Sea. China refuses to be involved in third-party decision-making processes, saying that it is willing to negotiate. In negotiation, it is not willing to give up anything but is willing to discuss the *management* of what is in dispute.

I bought the book to learn about China's view on the law of the sea, and I believe this book gives a well-balanced assessment. It has been thoroughly researched – note the size of the endnotes (66 pages) and bibliography (55 pages). As a minimum, it would be a good primer for any diplomat dealing with China, any maritime entitlement law enthusiast, or for anyone worried about the expansionist thoughts of China.

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Knight, Robin, ed. *Salt Horse: Memoir of a Maverick Admiral, Claude Lionel Cumberlege*

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xii + 174 pp., illustrations, notes, index

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Editor Robin Knight sheds light on the life and actions of Claude Lionel Cumberlege in *Salt Horse: Memoir of a Maverick Admiral*. In addition to exploring Cumberlege's career, the work explores the early evolution of the Royal Australian Navy and its role in the First World War. Edited from Cumberlege's original papers, works and recollections, what emerges is a colourful account of a naval officer's career and his influence on the events he took part in.

Knight opens his work with a timeline and family tree to assist in placing Cumberlege's family and the various historical events he discusses in a larger context. What then follows is a series of chapters examining discrete segments of the admiral's life and career. Knight's writing and editing style results in a work that reads more like a series of anecdotes being related to the reader than a more conventional history of the period covered. Starting with Cumberlege's childhood, readers are moved through his time at Dartmouth, then onto the various commands and assignments he had during his time with the Royal Navy, culminating with his promotion to admiral and subsequent retirement.

For students of naval history familiar with the events of the First World War, Knight's work sheds light on a less-explored theatre of the conflict.

This includes actions on the land and rivers of what is today New Guinea. Furthermore, the author reveals the improvised nature of some formations used when resources were unavailable or the situation called for rapid and direct action. This is not an exploration of individual battles, military tactics, or the technical nature of warships. This is a single individual's recollection of the events he was directly involved in. Students looking for an examination of tactics and strategy may want to consider other sources. Through Cumberlege's papers and his own editing, Knight opens a door to events and locations that readers and students might not have previously considered.

Individuals less familiar with events occurring in and around the Mediterranean Sea prior to the First World War or events in the Pacific during that conflict will find an easy introduction to both regions here. Knight's editing results in a work that reads like the admiral's first-person recollection of the events. The ease of reading and lack of technical language culminates in a book that is easily accessible to new students and those looking for a more casual examination of the events discussed.

The nature of this work as a memoir results in something that is of mixed value to students looking for something that can be applied to further academic research. Knight's work is a primary source and Cumberlege's perspective and insight are extremely informative and useful, although the book should be examined in relation to other sources to put it in its proper context. Given the length of time and the vast geography explored, the bibliography is somewhat thin and of limited value to students wanting to explore the events and people discussed in greater depth. However, Knight compensates for this with superb footnotes throughout his work. His notes provide greater context for the events discussed and various individuals mentioned in them. This provides students at all levels with additional options should they want to explore the events discussed in greater depth or look for additional context or perspective.

In his work *Salt Horse: Memoir of a Maverick Admiral*, Claude Lionel Cumberlege, editor Robin Knight sheds light on an individual with a colourful and unique perspective on the times and events through which he lived. Accessible and useful to students at all levels, the work is a relaxed and informative exploration of a theatre of the First World War that may be unfamiliar to some. Furthermore, the editor's extensive notes provide useful context by highlighting the important contributions of various individuals, resulting in something that serves as both an introduction to a subject and a platform for further exploration of the events and people of the time.

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