

On the other hand, the removal of the wrecks is a lost opportunity for divers to see the remnants of the past with their own eyes, and a note in their diver's log book.

*Deeper into the Darkness* is an excellent dive in the murky waters of history.

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Ryan K. Noppen. *Osprey New Vanguard* #285. *The Royal Netherlands Navy of World War II*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, [www.ospreypublishing.com](http://www.ospreypublishing.com), 2020. 48 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. UK £11.99, US \$19.00, CDN \$25.99, paper; ISBN 978-1-47288-4191-9.

The Royal Netherlands Navy (RNN) played a small part in naval activities during the Second World War—but from December 1941 to March 1942, its activities were very much in the news. In this new *Osprey* volume, Ryan K. Noppen continues his studies of lesser-known naval aspects of both world wars.

The Netherlands had once been a naval power but beginning with the Napoleonic Era and the consequent European peace, the Dutch government no longer felt the need for an expensive navy. Moreover, with the British navy just across the English Channel and Royal Navy bases at Singapore, maritime protection of both the Dutch homeland and the vital Dutch colonies of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) could be left to the Royal Navy. At the end of the nineteenth century, two developments forced the Netherlands to rethink its position on naval strategy and strength.

The first was the Second Boer War of 1899-1902 wherein Dutch public

opinion favoured the Afrikaans-speaking South African Boers over the British. Perhaps the Royal Navy would not be the best maritime guardian of Dutch interests. At the same time, the rise of Imperial Japan in Asia—Japanese victories in the 1894-95 Sino-Japanese War, the 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War, and Japan's limited participation in the First World War—meant that the Imperial Japanese Navy was becoming a potentially powerful naval adversary and a threat to the Dutch East Indies. The Netherlands managed to stay neutral during the conflagration that was the First World War, but no matter what happened in Europe, Japan was THE potential future foe.

Accordingly, the Netherlands began to rebuild its navy. A budget-minded Parliament, however, coupled with the Great Depression of the 1930s meant that any sizeable increase in naval strength was out of the question. The RNN staffs decided on a risk theory—send the main elements of the RNN to defend the Dutch East Indies, in hopes that the RNN in that area would be supported by the British Royal Navy and perhaps the US Navy as well. Depression restrictions meant the Dutch navy was unable to build any surface ships larger than a light cruiser—and not many of those. The RNN therefore entered the Second World War with four light cruisers in two classes—*De Ruyter*, *Java*, *Sumatra*, and *Tromp*. A fifth light cruiser, *Jacob van Heemskerck*, was commissioned on 10 May 1940, the day that Germany invaded the Netherlands. In addition, the RNN had eight destroyers in two classes, and a larger submarine force. Elements of the Netherlands Navy, including the incomplete *Jacob van Heemskerck*, sailed to Britain and continued to serve the Allies until the end of the European War in May, 1945.

The major RNN theatre of surface operations was in the Dutch East Indies. *De Ruyter*, *Java*, *Sumatra*, and *Tromp*, seven destroyers, and 15 submarines comprised the RNN fleet there. The combats those vessels saw are well-known and chronicled in most histories of the Pacific War. (A recent full account of the RNN's combat in 1941-42 can be found in *Osprey Campaign #144: Java Sea 1942*, reviewed in *TMN/LMN*, vol. XXIX, #4, Fall, 2019.)

This book follows Noppen's usual style. He writes well and covers the subject appropriately. He discusses the historical background of the RNN prior to the Second World War, relates the classes of light cruisers, destroyers, and submarines, analyzes the risk theory that the RNN adopted, and briefly discusses the 1942 Java Sea campaign. The reader interested in more detail on the Java Sea campaign should refer to the Osprey book mentioned above or one of the many available works on the Pacific War.

In Osprey style, the book is heavily illustrated; photographs appear on every page and several colour illustrations add to the text. Colour plates of *Java*, *Tromp*, Admiralen and Gerard Callenburgh class destroyers, along with KXIV- and O 19-class submarines illustrate the main features of RNN equipment. The centre spread is a colour cutaway drawing of *De Ruyter*. Further colour plates of the naval battle for Rotterdam in May, 1940 and the February 1942 battle for the Badoeng Strait further highlight naval combat of the period.

The book could have been improved by a section devoted to the overall operational use of RNN assets throughout the war. Some of this information is available in the book, but it is located within captions to colour plates and thus, a bit hard to find. A brief

section relating the RNN cruisers, destroyers, and submarines post-1940 and post-1942 would have made this information clearer to the reader.

Overall, when read in conjunction with other books on the War at Sea from 1939-45 or on the Pacific War more specifically, this book can be recommended. It is a tribute to a small navy that fought hard when challenged.

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Jonathan D. Oates. *The Last Spanish Armada: Britain and the War of the Quadruple Alliance, 1718-1720*. Warwick, UK: Helion & Co., www.helion.co.uk, 2019. 184 pp., illustrations, index. UK £25.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-91286-661-8.

This book is an entry in the "Century of the Soldier" series and focuses on the period 1618-1721; namely, from the beginning of the Thirty Years War to the end of the Great Northern War, and the cusp of nearly twenty years of a theoretical greater European peace. It refers to the 1718 alliance between Austria, Britain, the Dutch Republic and France against Spain. Oates describes the war from an English perspective, beginning with the naval Battle of Cape Passaro in 1718 between Britain and Spain, then focuses on the fighting in Scotland and particularly the 1719 Jacobite uprising, before turning to the British amphibious attacks on southern Spain, and the end of the war in Italy and Sicily.

Oates is clearly a capable researcher, and dives into each topic with admirable attention to detail. The first chapter on the Battle of Cape Passaro is followed by "The War Widens," where he first discusses the wider conflict. The next four chapters all discuss "The Spanish Invasion of Britain," includ-