

and the epic fight for Saipan.

Along with offering a good grasp of Saipan's grand strategy, the authors thoughtfully included accounts from the common soldiers who were actually on the ground. The text includes captivating vignettes that highlight the sacrifices of men who were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor after sacrificing their lives for their fellow Marines.

By pairing such sobering accounts with period photography, *Saipan 1944* offers a brief but unvarnished glimpse at the horrors of combat in the Pacific Theatre.

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Edward Hampshire. *The Falklands Naval Campaign 1982: War in the South Atlantic*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, [www.ospreypublishing.com](http://www.ospreypublishing.com), 2021. 96 pp., illustrations, maps, tables, bibliography, index. UK £15.99, US \$24.00, CDN \$32.50, paper; ISBN 978-1-4728-4301-2.

This work is the 361st entry in Osprey's Campaign Series and the author's sixth Cold War-era contribution to Osprey's catalogue. British naval historian Hampshire offers a compact yet comprehensive coverage of the naval aspects of the Falklands War from the initial Argentine moves on South Georgia on 18 March 1982 to their surrender on 14 June of that year. As is the style of the Campaign Series, there is a brief summary of the war's origins, followed by a short chronology, a discussion of opposing commanders, forces, and operational plans, then an examination of the war itself. The book concludes with an analytical discussion of the war's aftermath and an accounting of present-day memorials to the battles. Maps, period images in both black and white and colour, paintings, and tables are

used throughout the text for added visualization and quick reference, with a short index and bibliography at the end to complete the work.

Hampshire's three-page examination into the origins of the Falklands War succinctly covers the 1690 to 1933 history of the small island chain, along with increased Argentinian pressure over ownership which came to the forefront in the 1960s and 1970s. He touches upon the country's anti-communist "Dirty War" era, and the need for Argentina's military junta to find a galvanizing "act of audacious nationalism" to secure their wavering position as part of the lead-in to the one-page chronology and examination of the opposing commands (6). He covers both British and Argentinian forces in detail, devoting three pages to the commanders and command structure, photographs of key leaders, background information on commanders' combat experience, and charts of the two command hierarchies. Force disposition for both sides follows, with tables of available vessels and aircraft paired with text relating information on force equipment, readiness, and advantages, such as Britain's invaluable Ships Taken Up From Trade (STUFT) requisitioning plan for Cold War era crisis actions (12).

An account of the campaign naturally takes up the bulk of the work, although the relatively limited length of the conflict allows for more details within the space constraints of the Campaign series. Hampshire does an admirable job of maintaining a human element in the discussion, naming the Argentinian pilots involved in various attack runs on British ships, contextualizing the casualties of *General Belgrano's* loss with descriptions of how the men were gathered below in the mess decks, and detailing sacrifices made aboard British vessels as they were hit, such as engineer Paul Henry passing his respirator

to a junior officer to allow the other man to escape in his place (83). The unprepared nature of the Argentinian forces in the face of a large-scale, armed British response is quite evident, as are the deficiencies of the Type 42 destroyers' radar systems against low aircraft and missiles and the attempts to overcome this with the "42/22 Combo" pairing of the two different ship types and their respective defensive systems (47). The fact that Britain was able to field a carrier and maintain a Close Air Patrol of Sidewinder-armed Harrier Jump Jets was clearly a key deterrent to some of Argentina's aerial attack efforts.

Hampshire's "Aftermath" section does an excellent job of highlighting the war's rippling effects, from the fall of the Argentine junta to the invigoration of the Royal Navy, the Falkland Islanders, and the British people as a whole. Most importantly, he notes that the campaign "demonstrated the importance of sea power in unexpected crises where ... land and air bases were unavailable" while at the same time highlighting the dangers of inadequately protected vessels on the modern battlefield and the need for flexibility and adaptability when unforeseen threats challenge military planning (92).

The inclusion of direct citation such as endnotes would help with referencing, but the lack of these is a common feature of the Osprey format. Given the post-Falklands War politicization of the sinking of the cruiser *General Belgrano* as a "war crime" in Argentina, it might be prudent to add a note that the Argentinian Navy considers the loss of their own vessel as having been a legitimate act of war. Finally, in the Battlefield Today section, it might be worth mentioning the final disposition of surviving ships and aircraft. For instance, Falklands veteran HMS *Bristol* has recently been put up for disposal in England despite calls for her conversion into a

museum, and all four Vulcan bombers mentioned in the early attack phases were preserved in England after decommissioning. These are minor suggestions, however, and are meant only for possible future revisions. In fact, *The Falklands Naval Campaign* is a solid introductory text into both the Royal Navy's and Argentina's actions leading up to and during the conflict. Hampshire's knowledge of the Cold War British navy and excellent research offers a detailed yet succinct accounting of the nearly-three-month conflict as seen by sailors and airmen both in and around the Falkland Islands Total Exclusion Zone. With equal coverage of both Argentinian and British forces presented down to individuals in engagements, Hampshire offers a well-rounded and impartial view into an extremely contentious piece of modern naval history.-

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Chris Henry. *Depth Charge: Royal Naval Mines, Depth Charges & Underwater Weapons, 1914–1945*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Pen & Sword, www.pen-and-sword.org, 20121. 197 pp., illustrations, notes, appendices, bibliography, index. US \$29.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-52679-643-1.

The first workable submarine, *Turtle*, appeared during the American Revolutionary War but failed to sink a ship. The first submersible to successfully attack and destroy an enemy vessel – USS *Housatonic* off Charleston, South Carolina – was CSS *H.L. Hunley* during the American Civil War. Ironically, *Hunley* was likely sunk from the concussive explosion of the implanted mine, an unintended suicide-by-depth-charge. During the dawn of the twentieth century, submarines were largely considered defensive deterrents useful in attack-