

A picture emerges of the author as an even-handed historian who records reverses and disasters as well as victories. Through the virtuosity of the fragment of text written by Kâtip Çelebi and translated by John Mitchell, the objective is attained: the reader receives a concise, colourful geography and history lesson about Ottoman expansion and a general understanding of the importance of sea-power. The work presents the maritime history of the Ottoman Empire with wide-ranging advice that applies today.

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Geirr H. Haarr. *No Room For Mistakes. British And Allied Submarine Warfare 1939-1940.* Barnsley, S. Yorks: Seaforth Publishing, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, 2015. xiii+450 pp., illustrations, tables, charts, appendices, notes, references, index. U.K. £35.00; (£11.99 from Naval & Military Press, Uckfield, Sussex), cloth; ISBN 978-1-184832-206-6.

Now that we have available probably 1,000 books on all phases of the Battle of the Atlantic, more first rate volumes are appearing on the finer details, assessments of strategy, preparedness, endings, and beginnings. This excellent major volume by talented Norwegian author Geirr Haarr, like his earlier ones on the Norwegian war, is a worthy addition to any collection on submarine warfare. It is a detailed examination of the first year and a half of the Second World War, predominately by the Royal Navy (RN), but with sections on the early contribution to the struggle by Polish, Dutch, and French submarines (s/m). Brief references to the navies' positions when the war began helps establish context.

For researchers, Haarr's appendices will prove helpful: named boats by flotilla number and locations, the 20 s/m lost (16 RN, 2 Dutch, 1 Polish, 1 French) just in those 16 months; ships attacked, and minefields laid by Allied submarines. The multitude of photographs are of excellent quality, and frequent sub-headings are useful. The sharp learning experiences in the northern North Sea, in the Danish straits, and the Baltic that Haarr recounts make sober reading. The first RN s/m losses were that of HMS *Oxley*, sunk in error by fellow boat HMS *Triton* off Norway on 10 September 1939, and HMS *Seahorse* lost to a mine off Denmark in January 1940. In fact, as an example of both his extensive research throughout the volume and of the general hazards of submarining is his first 22-page description of the loss of HMS *Thetis* in June 1939 during acceptance trials off Liverpool. As his title states (quoted from Admiral Sir Max Horton, Commander-in-Chief of the western approaches) there was "No room for mistakes."

The balance of Haarr's stories start with more general descriptions of submarine construction, operation, and life of those who manned them followed by briefer stories, often with quotations from diaries, logs or messages of exploits when on patrol. These vary from offensive operations off the still neutral or Allied European coasts, Heligoland, to the occupation of the Low Countries and northern France. Almost every operation, whether offensive, resulting in successful attacks or minelaying, RN or Polish and French patrols, are supported by frequent, clear photographs of Allied or enemy ships and crews, many with expanded cut-lines, maps of locales or even drawings of equipment on board. Quotations from crew members lends a sense of realism and immediacy. His twenty-eight pages of notes and references are more than just that, with many expanding on the reference and its relevance, a welcome change for the interested reader.

The somewhat hard first winter of the war played a part for the submariners, as did neutral Norwegian and Danish fishermen, again illustrated by supporting photos. Haarr gives a useful assessment of the various classes and sizes of RN boats and their several Allied companions, such that we have an understanding of what subjective attack and defensive moves were controlled by the commanding officers. In the 18 months covered by this book, twenty s/m were lost in total, with losses attributed across the spectrum, four or five with uncertainty to this day: German submarines – 4; to collision – 1; to aircraft – 2; and five each to enemy surface vessels or mines, several of these being either/or. Many patrols are described day-by-day once the area of operation was entered – North Sea, Bay of Biscay, or the Baltic. Others, particularly those involving minelaying – a frequent occupation – are more general, although frequently enlivened by quotations.

Crews faced many hazards as they learned their jobs, capabilities, and dangers. Despite its 450 pages, this book is well worth shelf space for those interested in the submarine game.

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Cy Harrison. *Royal Navy Officers of the Seven Years War: A Biographical Dictionary of Commissioned Officers 1748-1763*. Warwick, UK: Helion & Co., www.helion.co.uk, 2019. 581 pp., appendices, bibliography, index of ships. UK £45.00, US \$59.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-912866-68-7.

This is not a book that you will read cover-to-cover. There is no narrative, nor argument. Yet, for researchers of the Royal Navy of the Seven Years War (or the middle of the eighteenth century more generally) this book will be a uniquely valuable resource. Nearly 500 pages contain the service records of