

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](http://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

some 2000 Royal Navy officers who served as commissioned officers between 1748 and 1763, a period dominated by the Seven Years War. It was the conflict that handed the British full control of eastern North America and established a sizeable fiefdom for the British East India Company in India. The Royal Navy's role in that conflict was extraordinary, and any study of its naval campaigns could benefit from the depth of biographical information compiled in this volume.

Meticulously researched, it contains the wealth of information that would otherwise be scattered amongst 15,000 archival documents at the National Archives in Kew. In terms of scope, the book includes every identifiable officer commissioned between the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (which ended the War of the Austrian Succession) and Treaty of Paris (which ended the Seven Years War), as well as every officer commissioned prior, who was definitively serving in the Royal Navy on or after 1 January 1755. Each entry provides biographical information on the officer in relation to their service: dates of birth and death, dates of appointments to ships and promotions, and, interestingly, significant actions in which they served. Some include family members (including those who also served in the Royal Navy), dates of baptisms, and honours received. The entries do not begin or end at 1748-1763 and extend through the whole of the officer's career and include every known date. Thomas Hollingworth, for example, joined the navy in 1747 as a midshipman (at the age of 15) and last served at sea as the lieutenant in command of a hired tender, *Prosperity*, in 1783. He was promoted into retirement as a superannuated commander in 1796, just a few years before his death. The entries are arranged alphabetically and an appendix lists each name by date of commission.

The appendices themselves are a key selling-point of the book. They include a complete list of all warships in commission during the Seven Years War, including the name and rating of each, from the great 1st Rate ships of the line like *Royal Sovereign*, to the lowly but vital transports, storeships, hired vessels, and even yachts employed by the Royal Navy and the Royal Family. Such lists are very difficult to come across for any period earlier than the twentieth century. A list of naval commands and the ships attached to them as of 1 May 1756, extracted from the Admiralty Disposition book (ADM 8/30 1755-1756) follows – another excellent and difficult to acquire resource for those outside of England. It tells exactly which six Royal Navy vessels were stationed in Halifax in 1756 and the names of the 22 warships under the command of Admiral Hawke tasked with watching the French fleet at Brest.

As well, it includes an index of ships, which gives one a convenient way to identify all known officers attached to Royal Navy vessels during the fifteen years covered by the book. It is easy to imagine the service this provides to researchers. To identify the officers – particularly lieutenants – serving on any

one ship at a particular time, one must scour Admiralty records for postings. It is time-consuming enough if you can get to Kew and prohibitively expensive if you cannot. Here, however, you can easily identify that thirty-eight of the officers included in the book served on HMS *Britannia*, one of the Royal Navy's first rates which served in the conflict. By examining the dates of appointments indicated, it is easy enough to determine the ship's captain and lieutenants (as well as the seniority among them) for any particular date.

The only limitations which a reader should be aware of are not the fault of the author nor the work itself, only of the sources underpinning them. Some information has, sadly, been lost to history. Not every officer will have a full entry; some will have no dates of death, for instance. There are doubtless some officers whose information was lost entirely. Some of the more obscure officers, those who never reached the rank of master and commander, cannot be found in the National Archives' Royal Navy Service Records collection. As a result, there are some individuals not accounted for in the book, through no fault of the author.

Some may know of a much older Navy Records Society publication: David Syrett and R.L. DiNardo, *The Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy, 1660-1815* (Aldershot: Scholar Press for the Navy Records Society, 1994), which is similar to Harrison's work, though it encompasses the whole of the "Second Hundred Years War." Doubtless, most or all of the officers here are included in Syrett and DiNardo's NRS volume. Harrison's work, however, is an excellent demonstration of the merits of quality over quantity: the NRS volume only includes the dates of birth, promotions, honours, retirement, and death. By focusing on one conflict of the period, Harrison is allowed the space to include much more detail. This is a must-have for any researchers of the Royal Navy of the Seven Years War and those of us who study the RN in later conflicts can hope that more reference works will follow.

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**Dwight Sturtevant Hughes. *Unlike Anything that Ever Floated. The Monitor and Virginia and the Battle of Hampton Roads, March 8-9, 1862.* El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com), 2021. xvii+163 pp., illustrations, maps, appendices, bibliography. US \$14.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-61121-525-0.**

*Unlike Anything That Ever Floated* approaches the classic Battle of Hampton Roads between the *Monitor* and *Virginia* from two perspectives. It goes into great detail about the engineering and mechanical features of each vessel as well as the events of the battle itself. I presume that *Northern Mariner's*