

The reader is left curious about how the German *U-34* sank the Republican submarine *C-3*, or which Republican vessels were sunk by Italians or Germans. The most striking omission is lack of a single map or chart, offset by Konstam's description of cities as in: Bilbao, in the northwest; this is a publisher error. Konstam delineates a fascinating and compelling battleground which, due to the lack of a single, cataclysmic event, most readers may not know of.

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Franz Kurowski. *U-48: The Most Successful U-Boat of the Second World War*. (Originally published 2007.) Barnsley, S. Yorks: Frontline Books, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, 2021. viii+184 pp., illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. UK £14.99, US \$26.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-39901-431-1.

In this book, Franz Kurowski explores the career of *U-48*, the most successful German submarine of the Second World War. He also provides an interesting and somewhat unexplored perspective on German U-Boat operations in the early days of that conflict.

Kurowski opens with a brief exploration of the development and structure of the U-Boat arm of the German Navy. While this will be familiar territory for anyone aware of the German submarine force during this conflict, it does provide students, who are either new to the subject or not well versed in the structure of the German submarine arm, a much needed foundation from which to understand how things were structured and organized, particularly early in the war. He then explores the career of *U-48*, approaching each of the submarine's 12 war patrols in chronological order. Throughout the book, Kurowski steps away from the exploration of his main subject to explore other events happening simultaneously, in order to provide context for what was happening elsewhere. While this helps provide a well-rounded and complete picture of *U-48*'s career in the context of the larger conflict, the author's frequent transitions from a broad narrative, to an almost-first-hand account of the actions of a single crew can be somewhat disorienting. Once one adjusts to the alternating perspectives, however, Kurowski does an excellent job of putting readers into the shoes of a German U-boat crew in the early days of the Second World War.

The author's focus on a single German submarine at the start of the war informs new students about the successes and challenges facing the first U-Boat crews. Others more familiar with the subject, will find the idea that German ships were fighting using prize rules in the early days of the conflict an eye-opener. While Germany's later use of unrestricted submarine warfare is well

documented, the early days, when they were still playing by the acknowledged rules of war, are often overlooked. Kurowski also examines such problems as the reliability of German torpedoes, providing an interesting comparison for readers interested in how the US Navy responded to similar issues that plagued their fleet after their entrance into the Second World War. The book concludes with the winding down of *U-48*'s career, as newly developed sub-surface technologies and tactics required adjustments that rendered U-Boat practices from the beginning of the war less effective.

Anyone interested in the technical and tactical aspects of early Second World War submarine warfare will find this work interesting. Using *U-48* as an example, Kurowski examines how U-Boats fought before the implementation of wolf packs, why wolf pack tactics emerged and how they evolved along with other combat techniques. This book should also appeal to students looking for basic statistics on early Second World War U-boats, and the performance of the German U-Boat navy, throughout the war. Drawing extensively from various primary and secondary German sources, Kurowski makes excellent use of research that might be otherwise unavailable to students outside Germany, affording new insights and information to broader scholarship.

Kurowski's exploration of the technical and tactical limitations and problems of *U-48*, reveals Germany's early wartime difficulties. Their lack of available submarines and ineffective torpedoes offers an interesting comparison with their Allied adversaries. As Kurowski notes, the declining effectiveness of single submarines in the face of evolving Allied technology and tactics as the war progressed, forced the Germany Navy to alter the way their submarines waged war. This period is often overlooked in conventional studies of both the Battle of the Atlantic and the Second World War. Viewing German U-Boat activity in the early days of the Second World War through the periscope of a single submarine allows Kurowski to introduce new students to the subject, and still provide something new for more experienced readers.

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Brian Lavery. *Anson's Navy: Building a Fleet for Empire 1744–1763*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Seaforth, www.seaforthpublishing.co.uk, 2021. 288 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. UK £40.00, cloth; ISBN 978-1-39900-288-2.

This spectacular book exploits the format Brian Lavery employed for *Nelson's Navy* and *Churchill's Navy*, to provide a detailed examination of the ships and their fittings, officers and men, dockyards, fleets, commercial shipping, the