

*Jane's Fighting Ships 1960-61*, claiming to be based on "official sources", includes categories DE and DER, Escort Ship (Destroyer Escort) and Radar Picket Escort Ship (Destroyer Escort Radar). (301) While ships of the DE category were mass produced with run-of-the-mill characteristics; by contrast, DER would be presumably include ships like USS *Liberty* and *Pueblo* and interesting modern equivalents. By excluding DE-related ships, the author misses a big piece of the story of the Anglo-American relationship during the Second World War in terms of tonnage and large numbers of relatively large ships. The effectiveness of the common naval strategy was based on a degree of interconnectedness among Canadian, US and British shipyards producing a high degree of cooperation in building and transferring escort vessels among members of the Allies. This story is only told in a fragmentary way in this largely American-centric account, which misses the value of that effort and lessons for the future. In that sense, the book is isolationist and regressive. Inclusion of DE class would also have produced better coverage of Allied co-operation, which was the real story of war at sea in the late-twentieth century and which has lessons for the future.

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Hrovje Spajic. *Schnellbootwaffe, Adolf Hitler's Guerrilla War at Sea: S-Boote 1939-45*. Barnsley, S. Yorks: Images of War. Pen and Sword, [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk), distributed by Casemate, 2021. 184 pp., illustrations, maps, tables, glossary, bibliography, index. UK £14.99, US \$22.95, paper; ISBN 978-1-39909-175-6.

In *Schnellbootwaffe*, Hrovje Spajic explores the activities of the small boats used by the German Navy in the Second World War, largely in images, beginning with their precursors during the First World War. He follows this with the evolution of doctrine and application between the wars and then focuses on a detailed study of the organization and activities of S-Boats after 1939. A revolutionary design concept in the 1930s, the *schnellboote* (fast boat) was developed for a type of maritime guerilla warfare. Spajic also covers the reactions and countermeasures taken by the American and British navies against their hit-and-run tactics and how this affected encounters between small craft during the Second World War. He concludes with S-Boat attempts to interfere with Operation Overlord, as well as with merchant shipping, as the bases these boats used were gradually cut off and seized.

The introduction establishes a solid base from which to examine the Kriegsmarine's successful use of small torpedo and gunboats in this sphere,

the Allied response to them, and the limitations they faced. It also covers the British attempts to counter the threat to shipping and trade. Spajic examines the construction and equipment of the various classes of S-Boat, paying particular attention to their use in missions like minelaying, a topic not often explored on its own. The end result is a good, entry-level book for readers unfamiliar with the topic and looking for an accessible place to start exploring. Students familiar with the subject might not find it as useful. While presenting a large quantity of research in a relatively short, well-illustrated volume, the compact format does not allow for a deeper exploration of specific events or technical matters that some readers might find useful.

This is the author's first work in English, which may explain some of the flaws and inconsistencies present. Though competently written and informative, the book would have benefitted from further editing before publication. The inconsistent use of both metric and imperial measurements leads to a degree of confusion for the reader, especially without the presence of a conversion table. The author makes no distinction between short, long, or metric tons, and, in at least one location, he fails to properly convert between pounds and kilograms. Distance measurements also seem to switch between metric and imperial, sometimes using meters and kilometers and other times, feet and miles. Conversion tables would have reduced the need for mental math. A more complete glossary would have also clarified the author's use of unexplained acronyms and abbreviations. Though there is an index, the author does not use footnotes, or endnotes, making further research more difficult. Finally, though it may be the result of a lack of accessible source material, the selected bibliography consists of less than a dozen sources and none of them are original documents. This further limits the value of the work for those seeking additional sources.

Despite its shortcomings, *Schnellbootwaffe: Adolf Hitler's Guerrilla War at Sea S-Boote 1939-1945* provides new readers with a useful starting point for exploring the activities of German torpedo boats during the Second World War. Serious researchers will need to look elsewhere. In comparing the role of these small, fast boats in the German Navy with that of the Allies and other forces at the time, the author sheds light on a lesser-known aspect of naval warfare during the period.

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Mark Stille. *The United States Navy in World War II: From Pearl Harbor to Okinawa*. New York, NY: Osprey Publishing, [www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com), 2021. 304 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography. US \$35, CDN \$48, hardback; ISBN 978-1-147284-804-8.