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In My View

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IN MY VIEW

NEARLY VERTICAL?

Sir:

While Lieutenant Commander Maksim Y. Tokarev's article "Kamikazes: The Soviet Legacy" (*Naval War College Review*, Winter 2014) was extremely informative regarding the history and theory behind Soviet anti-carrier doctrine, his analysis of Japanese kamikaze tactics appears flawed with regard to his comments about dive bombing. While kamikaze pilots may have made near-vertical dives at times, such maneuvers were counter to Japanese doctrine as described by Rikihei Inoguchi in his book *The Divine Wind: Japan's Kamikaze Force in World War II* (Naval Institute Press, 1958, paperback 1994). As stated by Inoguchi,

In a high-altitude approach, caution must be taken to insure that the final dive angle is not too steep. In a long steep dive, as the force of gravity increases, a plane is more difficult to pilot and may go out of control. It is essential, therefore, to make the dive as shallow as possible, taking careful note of wind direction and the movement of the target.

The majority of kamikaze pilots received just enough flight training to be able to take off and fly straight and level. For such untrained pilots to attempt a steep dive would most likely have resulted in a loss of control. Thus, the Imperial Japanese Navy's strategy, as illustrated on page 91 of *The Divine Wind*, was to approach the target ship in a shallow glide, attacking in a 45 degree dive from an altitude of 1,000–2,000 meters. It is likely that the near-vertical dives alluded to by Tokarev were kamikaze pilots falling out of the sky. In contrast to his statement, dive bombing accuracy is increased the closer an aircraft can be brought to the near vertical.

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST

RECENT BOOKS

A selection of books of interest recently received at our editorial office, as described by their publishers:

Marquet, L. David. *Turn the Ship Around! A True Story of Turning Followers into Leaders*. New York: Penguin, 2012. 236pp. \$25.95

When David Marquet, captain of USS *Santa Fe*, unknowingly gave an impossible order, his crew tried to follow it anyway. It was then that Marquet realized he was leading in a culture of followers. No matter your business or position, you can apply Marquet's radical guidelines to turn your own ship around. The payoff: a workplace where everyone around you is taking responsibility for their actions, where people are healthier and happier, where everyone is a leader.

Milqueen, Michael, Deborah Sanders, and Ian Speller. *Small Navies: Strategy and Policy for Small Navies in War and Peace*. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2014. 247pp. \$109

From Confederate commerce raiders in the nineteenth century, to Somali pirates today, even the most minor of maritime forces can become a key player on a global stage. Examining a broad range of examples, this volume addresses the roles and activities of small navies in the past and present, in particular of the different ways in which such forces have identified and addressed national and international security challenges and the way in which they interact with other navies and security agencies.

Santi, Federico. *The Newport Naval Training Station: A Postcard History*. Atglen, Pa.: Schiffer, 2013. 79pp. \$19.99

In the late nineteenth century, at the site of an old asylum for the poor on Coaster's Harbor Island, off the city of Newport, Rhode Island, local residents made a decision that would change American military history forever—they proposed that the ninety-acre island become a U.S. Naval Training Center and the future home of the Naval War College. Postcards and other artifacts document physical changes over time. The collection in this book shows all the facets of life on the base.

Aboul-Enein, Youssef H., ed. *Reconstructing a Shattered Egyptian Army: War Minister General Mohamed Fawzi's Memoirs, 1967–1971*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2014. 231pp. \$64.95

The memoirs of General Mohamed Fawzi, Egyptian war minister from 1967 to 1971, were first published in 1984, but never translated from Arabic and therefore remained undiscovered by most English-speaking readers. Aboul-Enein, an American naval officer and established scholar whose personal and professional background gives him a unique vantage point, is determined to bring to life the military thoughts of this Arab war minister as part of his mission to introduce America's military leaders to Arabic works of military significance.