

2006

## Recent Books

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### Recommended Citation

Lord, Carnes (2006) "Recent Books," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 59 : No. 4 , Article 24.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol59/iss4/24>

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## RECENT BOOKS

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Dear, I. C. B., and Peter Kemp, eds. *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea*. 2nd ed. Oxford, U.K., and New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2005. 678pp. \$65

This new edition (dated 2005 according to the copyright page, but March 2006 by the publisher's flyer) of the late Peter Kemp's 1976 work is to be a "companion" to the forthcoming four-volume *Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History*, of which the Naval War College's Professor John B. Hattendorf, D.Phil., is general editor. The present volume updates and cross-references many of the original entries and adds coverage in such areas as piracy, maritime and naval technology, oceanography, the law of the sea, and environmental concerns. There are now some 2,600 entries, many with line drawings, figures, and period plates. A cross-referenced index has also been added. It certainly passes the test posed by the *Daily Telegraph* blurb on the dustcover: "Open to check a point and you can be lost for hours" (encountering, among many other things, an appalling sense of the phrase "comb the cat" and some remarkable scholarship on the biblical Noah's Ark).



Rohwer, Jürgen, comp. *Chronology of the War at Sea 1939–1945: The Naval History of World War Two*. 3rd ed. London: Chatham, 2005. 532pp. £40

Dr. Rohwer points out in his preface that this third edition of the *Chronology of the War at Sea* represents fifty years of scholarship, by himself and a distinguished group of associates and colleagues. First appearing in 1956 as a column in a German periodical, then as a series of articles, then as a German-language book, it was first published in English in 1972, with a second edition in 1992. This, then, is the third edition of the title but the sixth form in which the work has existed. It is updated, revised, and expanded largely on the basis of new books appearing since 1992, especially for the Royal, U.S., and Soviet navies. The bulk of the book comprises brief entries by day and place—from 19 August 1939, North Atlantic (the German Naval Staff sends fourteen U-boats into waiting position), to 30 November 1945, Western Atlantic (HMCS *Meritonia*, a corvette, is wrecked off Nova

Scotia). Indexes of warships, merchant ships, personnel, convoys, operations, U-boat packs and patrol lines, minefields, and mine barrages.



Polmar, Norman, comp. *The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*. 18th ed. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2005. 672pp. \$89.95

This series forms, with the *Jane's* family and *Combat Fleets of the World*, the standard reference in the field—anyone

familiar enough with the subject to need such a book is already aware of its use and value. The eighteenth edition adds chapters on littoral combat ships and unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as updates on carrier air wing composition, prepositioning ships, submarine rescue systems, unmanned undersea vehicles, the MH-60R/S helicopter, and the Coast Guard's DEEPWATER program. The volume contains 918 photos and 114 other illustrations, general and ship-name/class indexes, and appendixes (four of them tabular, plus essays on the Arsenal Ship and transformation).