

1998

Submarine Admiral

William Galvani

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Galvani, William (1998) "Submarine Admiral," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 51 : No. 3 , Article 29.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol51/iss3/29>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

written book that will be of interest to the naval history expert, as well as to the general reader. One cannot finish *Devotion to Duty* without thinking that Clifton Sprague was indeed the sort of naval officer for whom his men, as one of them said to him, "would have gone to hell and back twice."

TIMOTHY J. LOCKHART
Commander, U.S. Navy

Galantin, I. J. *Submarine Admiral*. Chicago, Ill.: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1995. 376pp. \$26.95

Submarine Admiral, by Admiral I. J. Galantin, U.S. Navy (Retired), combines elements of memoir, submarine history, and international diplomacy to trace the author's distinguished career as a submariner, and the development of the U.S. submarine force.

Galantin's naval service put him in position to participate in some of the most important operations and initiatives in U.S. submarine history. A graduate of the Naval Academy class of 1933, Galantin completed submarine school in 1936 and seasoned himself for four years on the unwieldy submarine minelayer USS *Argonaut* (SS 166). During World War II he commanded USS *Halibut* (SS 232). *Take Her Deep!*, his previous book, was a vigorous, highly readable account of his successful war patrols, for which he earned the Navy Cross and three Silver Stars.

In the postwar era, Galantin advanced steadily through various submarine and surface commands. From 1955 to 1957 he served as the head of the submarine warfare branch when the bil-

let was the senior submarine-focused position in the Chief of Naval Operations staff (OpNav), responsible for all submarine operational matters and coordination of all submarine plans and programs. He later relieved Rear Admiral William F. "Red" Raborn, Jr., and directed the Special Projects Office from 1962 to 1965. Galantin retired in 1970 with four-star rank.

The author held the OpNav job at the beginning of the nuclear submarine era, when USS *Nautilus* was setting records and the Navy was building both diesel and nuclear boats, and debating the merits of each. He contributed significantly to decisions involving submarine size, speed, and depth capabilities, and his keen analysis of the trade-offs each type required reflects a high intellect and significant operational experience. Galantin argued early and logically for increased antisubmarine warfare capabilities in U.S. submarines, and for a nuclear-powered submarine capable of launching nuclear ballistic missiles.

As director of the Special Projects Office, Galantin presided over the frenetic buildup of the strategic deterrent force to forty-one SSBNs and the sharing of Polaris and SSBN technology with the United Kingdom. He accompanied President John Kennedy to Florida in November 1963, to witness the launch of a Polaris missile from USS *Andrew Jackson* (SSBN 619).

In both his OpNav billet and as head of Special Projects Galantin contended with the authoritarian control and political influence of Hyman G. Rickover. Galantin's trenchant but gentlemanly analysis, derived directly from personal

158 Naval War College Review

experience, of the costs and benefits of the Rickover style on the submarine force and the Navy is in itself enough to make his book valuable reading.

Galantin pursues two themes in *Submarine Admiral*. The first is the need for accountability, seared into his psyche by the failures of the exploder in the World War II Mark 14 torpedo. As a survivor of war patrols in the Pacific, Galantin writes with intensity and authority about the systemic and personal failures that permitted the exploder to be designed, tested, and approved by the same organization. He never forgot that lesson. His second theme is the importance of antisubmarine warfare as a continuing challenge to both the subsurface and surface Navy.

Galantin writes with a fluid and readable style, easily gathering together disparate concepts and facts into sentences and paragraphs that summarize with crispness and efficiency. He includes anecdotes of his meetings with many remarkable people, such as Lord Louis Mountbatten, Robert McNamara, and Arleigh Burke.

In his preface, he modestly describes the book as an "anecdotal account." Nevertheless, it shows extensive research, and rarely will the reader encounter a history that attains such great accuracy in even the small facts. Galantin works hard to set his story in context, to the point that it is sometimes difficult to separate what he observed firsthand from what he learned after the fact or from his own research. A greater use of footnotes and the inclusion of a bibliography (there is none) would have helped make these distinctions, and they would

have guided readers interested in learning more about particular topics.

Readers with little knowledge of the submarine force will find *Submarine Admiral* a useful introduction to the history of the undersea service. Readers with a submarine background will encounter much that is familiar, now illuminated by the observations of a submariner who was there when the decisions were made.

WILLIAM GALVANI
Director, Naval Undersea Museum

Loveland, Anne C. *American Evangelicals and the U.S. Military, 1942–1993*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 1997. 356pp \$55

One of the significant demographic changes in the U.S. military since World War II has been the tremendous increase in the presence of Protestant evangelicals throughout the ranks. Loveland's volume provides a thorough history and analysis of the rise of evangelicals within the military and of the work of nondenominational organizations providing ministries to service members. The religious changes within the military have paralleled those of American culture at large. While in the past few decades there has been a steady decline in "mainline denominations," there has been enormous growth in denominations and groups that are more conservative theologically.

Since the Vietnam War the evangelistic efforts and desires of evangelicals for numerical and spiritual growth within the military were accompanied by a growing influence in national