

1995

Recent Books

Thomas D. Grasse

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

Recommended Citation

Grasse, Thomas D. (1995) "Recent Books," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 48 : No. 2 , Article 34.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol48/iss2/34>

This Additional Writing 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.

Recent Books

Breuer, William B. *Hoodwinking Hitler: The Normandy Deception*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1993. 263pp. \$24.95

Joining the flood of volumes commemorating Operation Overlord, *Hoodwinking Hitler* fills a niche as a popular account of Operation BODYGUARD. This allied campaign coordinated all available instruments of subterfuge to mislead the German High Command about the actual objectives for the invasion of Fortress Europe. Breuer admirably illuminates the contribution made by BODYGUARD to attaining the perilous foothold secured on D-Day. His narrative focuses on the penetration and deception contest waged between Axis and allied intelligence organizations, including Germany's Abwehr and Sicherheitsdienst; America's OSS, FBI, and Signals Security Agency; Britain's SOE, MI5, MI6, Double-Cross Committee, London Controlling Section, and Bletchley Park; SHAEF's Committee on Special Means; and Russia's NKVD. Breuer examines the roles played by espionage, intelligence disciplines, operational cover and deception techniques, propaganda, and diplomacy—all coordinated for maximum effect.

The emphasis here is on strategic deception. *Hoodwinking Hitler* is thin on discussion of espionage tradecraft, intelligence techniques, and military tactics. It is based almost entirely on secondary sources and is structured as a patchwork of events and notable characters, stitched together to keep the narrative exciting. Readers may sometimes find themselves disoriented when individuals and operations are introduced and dispatched like mere stage props. Those requiring a comprehensive, authoritative treatment of these topics and events will wish to turn elsewhere, but Breuer provides a "good read" on the orchestration of the D-Day deception campaign.

Central Intelligence Agency. *The World Factbook, 1994–95*. McLean, Va.: Brassey's, 1994. 512pp. \$32

It has long been the case that one of the most useful and frequently consulted publications in any U.S. defense department intelligence library—no matter how exotically classified the collection's holdings—was an unclassified annual, the CIA's *World Handbook*. The Agency, as part of its *glasnost* of recent years, has made the reference commercially available; here is the new edition. Like the earlier versions, it offers in readable format everything you might imagine (and much more) about every country (or dependency) you can think of (and again, more—see Wallis and Fortuna, p. 416). Entries offer an astonishing amount of factual and statistical data, from line maps, thumbnail histories, and summaries

of current disputes and politics, to the flags and adjective forms of the names. (Quick now, a citizen of the UAE is called. . . ? See page 400.) The appendices (UN and other international bodies, with abbreviations and cross-references to variant names) are invaluable. Don't bother trying to write on world issues or edit a public policy quarterly without these works, and do hold on to them when they are superseded—they will be as useful for historical reference as they were for current data.

Friedman, Norman. *The Naval Institute Guide to World Naval Weapons Systems: 1994 Update.* Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1994. 159pp. \$40

New editions of Norman Friedman's reference work, first published in 1989, are published biennially, in alternate years with those of A.D. Baker III's *Combat Fleets of the World*. Therefore, 1994 is a *Naval Weapons Systems* off-year. For two reasons, however, Friedman decided to produce an update to the last proper edition, published in 1993 for 1991–1992. First, there have appeared a number of new Western systems, especially in over-the-horizon targeting, and important new data for existing hardware has become available. Secondly, and more strikingly, recent Russian weapons marketing has placed in the open literature a remarkable amount of information about new and formerly Soviet systems—more, Dr. Friedman suspects, than used to be available even at high classifications. The book is arranged, accordingly, in two parts: an update to the previous edition, in the usual informative and interpretive format, and a separate section for the "Soviet/Russian Navy." The index embraces both this update and the previous edition. By no means skip over the introductory essay, which is characteristically perceptive and hard-edged.

Hudson, Alec. *Up Periscope! and Other Stories.* Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1992. (Originally published as six novellas in the *Saturday Evening Post*, 1938–1941.) 248pp. \$19.95

"Alec Hudson" was the pen name of a medically retired submarine officer, Jasper Holmes, who wrote six naval adventure stories in this little book (five of them about submarines) in the years just before World War II for the then-ubiquitous American weekly, the *Saturday Evening Post*. In his insightful foreword, Captain Edward L. Beach, USN, Ret., makes plain that the author's stories tell us "how things worked as he knew them. . . . This is how it was back then. This is how he expected to function, and how his training led him to believe his weapons would perform. Not once, in any of his stories, did a gun, or torpedo, or bomb, fail to function as it was supposed to. . . . What actually comes across is that Commander Jasper Holmes, USN, was simply describing the faith he had in the Navy and in his weapons, the faith he had every right to have. Thus Alec

174 Naval War College Review

Hudson, besides being a top-notch writer about our Navy, is among many other things a perfect mirror of the past."

Who can now imagine a column of destroyers steaming at 30 knots in the dark without radar and with only 300 yards between ships? Holmes's navy really did that, and that is what he writes about. What that navy did not do—and he could only write about imaginatively—was fire its weapons with their warheads on. Thus it was that when American submarines and destroyers shot their torpedoes at real enemies, it was not the enemy's fleet that was devastated when the weapons failed to do what they were intended to do, but ours. Captain Beach's own famous novels tell us about those days, when the shooting was for real.

So in this small volume the reader gets not only well written adventure but also an inside view of how, before being put to the long-anticipated test, the old Navy saw itself. It is worth the price, and more.

Lewis, Emanuel Raymond. *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History.* Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1993. 145pp. \$15.95

The Naval Institute Press has reissued this 1970 Smithsonian Institution classic in an attractive paperback version. Lewis' work has long served as the basic introduction and overview of American coastal defense history. *Seacoast Fortifications* deserves a place on the bookshelves of anyone interested in coastal defense or military architecture. A quick read, this well illustrated book can serve as a useful adjunct to a sight-seeing trip to any of the old forts along the U.S. coasts.

Mawdsley, Dean L., M.D. *Cruise Books of the United States Navy in World War II: A Bibliography.* Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1993.

144pp. (Available from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Print. Off.) With this second volume of its "Naval History Bibliographies" series, the Naval Historical Center opens new and unusual, but potentially valuable, ground: ship and unit "cruise books," prepared by crew or unit members not as histories but as informal and unofficial (though sanctioned) souvenirs of voyages or periods in their unit's life. Dr. Dean C. Allard, the Director of Naval History, believes that such books—generally full of photographs, sketches, and materials meant to evoke memories in later years—can be valuable for historians as sources of data and evidence available nowhere else. Accordingly, the Center was a natural publisher for the work of the man Allard believes to be the "national authority" on the subject as it applies specifically to World War II—a period of great interest for which such works are now rare. Dean L. Mawdsley, a retired physician residing in California, had updated the work of a previous hobbyist, Charles E. Dornbusch; the result is a listing of some eight hundred American cruise books

from 1941 to 1945. The entries give, in condensed format, data as to features, type, and location; they are organized by type of unit (ships, construction battalions, etc.). An index is provided of commands whose cruise books are listed.

Reed, Rowena. *Combined Operations in the Civil War*. Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1993. 468pp. \$17.95

Republished fifteen years after its debut, *Combined Operations in the Civil War* remains the preeminent examination of this complex and important subject. This Bison Book edition adds a thoughtful new introduction by John Milligan that helps to place Reed's work within Civil War historiography. In *Combined Operations*, Reed (who died in the late 1980s) presents not only an account of Army-Navy operations but also a provocative reevaluation of many of the Civil War's leaders. Contrary to almost all other scholars, for instance, Reed strongly praises George B. McClellan's generalship. While perhaps overstated, Reed's case deserves consideration. Reed's book remains a must-read for Civil War buffs and a should-read for anyone interested in the history of amphibious operations or joint operations.

Sumida, Jon Tetsuro. *In Defense of Naval Supremacy: Finance, Technology, and British Naval Policy 1889–1914*. New York: Routledge, 1993. 377pp. \$19.95

This is a paperback reissuance of Professor Sumida's highly innovative and influential 1989 work, published in hardback by Unwin Hyman. While, of course, navies have long been the subject of administrative histories and technological studies, *In Defense of Naval Supremacy* uses economics, finance, technology, and bureaucratic organization as lenses through which to examine a period and decisions—this was the period of the advent of the dreadnought—that proved pivotal for the Royal Navy and thereby for naval warfare. As a distinct departure from the classic admirals-and-kings mode of naval historiography, and as a work whose subjects, methods, and apparatus cause (as the author warns) “hardships” for readers, this has been a controversial contribution to an already vexed subject, but it has also become a central one. Part of the price of admission of a useful opinion today on the subjects of naval innovation, technology, and the turn-of-the-century Royal Navy is to have read Sumida's book—now more readily available in paperback.

Van der Vat, Dan. *The Pacific Campaign: The U.S.-Japanese Naval War, 1941–1945*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992. 432pp. (No price given)

Dan van der Vat is already well known for previous books on naval subjects, including *The Atlantic Campaign*, *The Ship That Changed the World*, and *The Grand*

Scuttle. His latest work is a serviceable account of the war in the Pacific, though his account contains nothing particularly new or startling. He purports to tell "the tale as it has not been told before—from both viewpoints, with the accounts of participants set in a framework of historical analysis and narrative. . . ." But the accounts of participants are few in number and do not materially aid the narrative. Van der Vat pays lip-service to the Japanese viewpoint of the war, but the bulk of the book is still heavily from the American perspective. On a positive note, the first two chapters on the "views from" East and West, respectively, offer clear and concise accounts of the period and issues leading up to the war. In summary, a reader new to this subject will enjoy *The Pacific Campaign*, but those familiar with the war will find themselves only replotting old ground.

Ψ

Reproduction and reprinting is subject to the Copyright Act of 1976 and applicable treaties of the United States. To obtain permission to reproduce material bearing a copyright notice, or to reproduce any material for commercial purposes, contact the editor. Material not bearing a copyright notice may be freely reproduced for academic or other non-commercial use; however, it is requested that such reproductions credit the author and the Naval War College Review, and that the editor be informed.

The Naval War College Review is listed in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory and in Free Magazines for Libraries; it is microformed by University Microfilms International (UMI) of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is indexed in the Air University Index to Military Periodicals, in Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life (both ABC-CLIO), the International Bibliography of Periodical Literature, the International Bibliography of Book Reviews, and selectively in the American Foreign Policy Index and INFO-SOUTH. A bound 1948–1991 index of all Review feature articles is available from the editorial office; it is updated annually in the Winter issue. Selected book reviews are reproduced in Flashpoint: Military Books Reviewed by Military Professionals. Our reviews (beginning with Spring 1994) are indexed in Book Review Index (Gale Research, Inc.). A bound index of book reviews since 1948 is in preparation.

The Naval War College Press is listed in the Gale Research, Inc., Publisher's Directory. A catalog of Naval War College Press offerings is available by request to the editorial office.

Naval War College Historical Monograph Series

The Historical Monograph program was established in 1975 to encourage the writing of books concerned with the history of naval warfare and based at least in part on source materials in the Naval Historical Collection of the Naval War College Library.

- #1 Hayes, John D. and Hattendorf, John B., eds. *The Writings of Stephen B. Luce*, 1975. [\$10]
- #2 Symonds, Craig L., ed. *Charleston Blockade: The Journals of John B. Marchand, U.S. Navy, 1861–1862*, 1976. [\$7.50]
- #3 Spector, Ronald. *Professors of War: The Naval War College and the Development of the Naval Profession*, 1977. [\$8]
- #4 Vlahos, Michael. *The Blue Sword: The Naval War College and the American Mission, 1919–1941*, 1980. [\$6]
- #5 Hattendorf, John B., ed. *On His Majesty's Service: Observations of the British Home Fleet from the Diary, Reports, and Letters of Joseph H. Wellings, Assistant U.S. Naval Attaché, London, 1940–1941*, 1983. [\$6]
- #6 Monsarrat, John. *Angel on the Yardarm: The Beginnings of Fleet Radar Defense and the Kamikaze Threat*, 1985. [\$4.25]
- #7 Hattendorf, John B. and Hattendorf, Lynn C., comps. *A Bibliography of the Works of Alfred Thayer Mahan*, 1986. [\$5]
- #8 Sokolsky, Joel J. *The Fraternity of the Blue Uniform: Admiral Richard G. Colbert, U.S. Navy, and Allied Naval Cooperation*, 1991. [\$5]
- #9 Hattendorf, John B., ed. *The Influence of History on Mahan: The Proceedings of a Conference Marking the Centenary of Alfred Thayer Mahan's The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660–1783*, 1991. [\$8]
- #10 Goldrick, James and Hattendorf, John B., eds. *Mahan Is Not Enough: The Proceedings of a Conference on the Works of Sir Julian Corbett and Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond*, 1993. [\$10]
- #11 Hattendorf, John B. ed. *Ubi Sumus?: The State of Naval and Maritime History*, 1994. [\$10]
- #12 Still, William N., Jr., ed. *The Queenstown Patrol, 1917: The Journal of Commander Joseph Knefler Taussig, U.S. Navy*, forthcoming.

Available from the Naval War College Foundation, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I., 02841-1207. Please make checks payable to the Naval War College Foundation; include \$2.50 for postage and handling for a single book and \$1.00 per book thereafter.