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Flying Cats: The Catalina Aircraft in World War II

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But Jopp has provided an informative text that encompasses all existing components of modern sea warfare, illustrating their effects and influence, in addition to providing his critical conclusions. The material is presented in a scientific format; numerous footnotes and a bibliography round off the text. This paperback contains many diagrams and charts that are extremely helpful in clarifying the text.

Several kinds of people should carefully study this text: experts on military policy; journalists (who often write or talk nonsense because they do not adequately inform themselves); laymen who have hitherto acquired their information solely from fleet manuals or reference books on engineering; those who enjoy maritime war games; but above all, naval officers.

It is good to know that there are still officers—even in the German Navy—who are able to find the time to discuss naval policy topics in a literary context.

I can only hope that *Marine 2000* will soon be published in English. It is well worth reading.

STEFAN TERZIBASCHITSCH
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Hendrie, Andrew. *Flying Cats: The Catalina Aircraft in World War II*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1989. 240pp. (No price given)

The Catalina flying boat was slow, long-enduring, and rugged. It evolved during the thirties to serve worldwide

during World War II on all continents for at least eleven nations, most notably the United States and Great Britain.

The author has done impressive research that includes official records, personal accounts, and direct correspondence. He has competently combined the often incredible stories of seaplane adventure. The Catalina adventures, however, are recounted in a rather flat, brief manner which leaves much to the imagination. Another author, Alfred Price, is without peer in describing submarine-aircraft combat. That talent applied here would have resulted in a more absorbing and perhaps much thicker book.

There is the well known story of the Catalina rediscovering the elusive German battleship *Bismarck* in May, 1941. It was a Catalina that made the initial sighting of the Japanese fleet approaching Midway in 1942, and Catalinas performed countless antisubmarine warfare missions and sea rescues, occasionally having to taxi to safe harbor themselves. As one reads, one wonders if the United States did the right thing in giving up water-capable aircraft. The Russians and Japanese still feel that they need modern seaplanes—and have them.

This is a difficult book to assess. It tends to be dry, but it is comprehensive. As a statistical reference, however, Hendrie's book assembles impressive supporting material on the operational life of the Catalina and is well illustrated with summary maps.

Finally, there is a series of appendices covering technical data, RAF

and RNZAF individual aircraft statistics, USN Catalinas and seaplane tenders, as well as U.S. Army Air Force "Cats" and rescue units. There is information on the Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service Catalinas, as well as lists of those employed in or by Norway, Indonesia, Brazil, and Chile. Appendix E covers specific enemy submarines sunk or damaged by

Catalinas, fifty-six of which were German. In summary, this is a British-oriented reference volume that provides a great deal of specific information on the consolidated Catalina flying boat, one of the most distinctive and effective aircraft of World War II.

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