

1991

Geleitschiffe der U.S. Navy: Von der Evarts bis zur Claud Jones Klasse (Escort ships of the U.S. Navy: From the Evarts class through the Claud Jones class)

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Recommended Citation

Cross, Richard III and Terzibaschitsch, Stefan (1991) "Geleitschiffe der U.S. Navy: Von der Evarts bis zur Claud Jones Klasse (Escort ships of the U.S. Navy: From the Evarts class through the Claud Jones class)," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 44 : No. 4 , Article 25. Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol44/iss4/25>

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The fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of World War II has stimulated the release and re-release of a large number of historically important monographs. Among them, this volume is fully deserving of special attention from both the casual reader and professional researcher on the history of the German navy. It provides a summary of the majority of formal situation reports given by the head of the *Kriegsmarine* to Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler. These summaries were written by the naval commander in chief immediately after each conference session. They served as a reminder of the topics covered and the decisions made. After the war, these records were captured by the British, who then assigned Anthony Martienssen to collate, translate, and edit them. Access to the German original was severely restricted, which made research difficult for historians from Germany. One German naval historian had to resort to translating the English version back into the German language in 1972! Even after this work was declassified, it was never fully available to the public at large, but the Naval Institute's decision to reprint this work has eliminated that problem.

The book's summaries provide valuable insight not only into Germany's naval policies and strategies, but also into Hitler's reflections on wartime developments. They also serve to remind us just how unaware Germany was of both the extent of Allied scientific advances and the codebreaking success of "Ultra."

There is no denying that it is a bit of a dry read, but its historical value as a primary source outweighs this disadvantage. On occasion, the reader may be frustrated by the vague description of the topics discussed in some of the sessions. Nonetheless, these at least confirm that the navy did bring several key concerns to Hitler's attention. Jack P. Mallman Showell's foreword is informative and lively, but unfortunately very brief. Judging by the existence of several minor printing errors, one must conclude that the Naval Institute Press reprinted the British original without proofing it. Another minor fault is that they utilized a lower-grade paper than normally used for their publications. Perhaps the greatest shortcoming is the lack of a select bibliography on the history of the *Kriegsmarine*.

However, none of these minor faults detract from the basic utility of this volume. Both researcher and casual reader will benefit from this work, and should be encouraged to do so. The Naval Institute Press deserves to be commended for making this very valuable primary historical source fully available.

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Terzibaschitsch, Stefan. *Geleitschiffe der U.S. Navy: Von der Evarts bis zur Claud Jones Klasse* [Escort Ships of the U.S. Navy: From the Evarts class through the Claud Jones class].

Herford, Germany: Koehlers Verlagsgesellschaft mbH. 180pp.

This book, written by the prolific naval specialist Stefan Terzibaschitsch, is a class history of U.S. destroyer escorts and frigates, despite the facts that it is printed in the German language and has a U.S.-built Japanese destroyer escort on the dust cover. In the author's usual approach, it is a detailed summary, both pictorial and statistical, of the U.S. escorts built between 1943 and 1975. Its primary coverage is through the 1956 *Claud Jones* class, but it provides summaries of later destroyer escort (frigate) classes (the *Bronsteins*, *Garcias*, *Brookes*, *Knoxes*, and *Oliver Hazard Perrys*). The author has done similar books on U.S. carriers, cruisers, and destroyers, to name a few, all with similar statistics and photographic coverage. Without fail, all have been published in English and are available in this country, often through the Naval Institute Press in Annapolis, Maryland.

The photographic coverage in this volume is exhaustive and excellent. The line profiles are very good, and are hard to find in any other public source. The statistics used include those on operational organizations at the squadron and major battle group levels. Of particular interest are the destroyer escort classes created during World War II, with their wide range of powerplant types, and three-inch armament giving way to the standard five-inch 38-caliber gun. Many of this class continued to play a major role in the U.S. postwar navy as es-

corts, aircraft early warning ships, and as light transports, well into the sixties. Ship class characteristics, squadron designations, battle engagements, and individual fates are included for some seventy-one PFs and 485 DEs, the latter including the postwar *Dealey* class and the *Claud Jones* class. As chronicled, many are still serving in the world's smaller navies.

This book should prove interesting to the many who have served in these ships over the past forty-five years—particularly, once it is available in English. For those who can't wait, the pictures and profiles alone are worth the price of ownership. This is truly a book for the history buff, historian and aging crew member.

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Blaker, James R. *United States Overseas Basing: An Anatomy of the Dilemma*. New York: Praeger, 1990. 197pp. \$39.95

This is a timely and important book to anyone seriously interested in the military capability of the United States. As was proven most recently in the Desert Storm operation, the ability to concentrate U.S. military forces quickly can be an extremely effective foreign policy option. Important as this capability has proven to be, most analyses of this and other operations have focused on the strengths or weaknesses of the warfighting capability moved or