

1970

MacArthur's Amphibious Navy

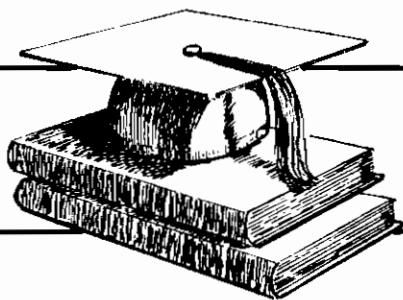
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PROFESSIONAL READING

Barbey, Daniel E. *MacArthur's Amphibious Navy*. Annapolis: U.S. Naval Institute, 1969. 375 p.

During World War II, the Pacific Ocean amphibious encounters brought forth three "web-footed" admirals of renown from the naval service: Richmond K. Turner, Theodore S. Wilkinson, and Daniel E. Barbey. Of the three, Barbey seems to have received the least acknowledgment for his service performed in the Southwest Pacific. Evidently, MacArthur's light eclipsed all other stars in the same theater of operations, and publicity was focused on the leader alone. Personally, Vice Admiral Barbey didn't seem to mind the oversight, but the failure to provide proper notoriety to his unit hurt deeply. This book appears to be an attempt on the admiral's part to provide history with a better appreciation of the performance of the 7th Amphibious Force.

MacArthur's Amphibious Navy is the narrative account of the shoestring operations of the Southwest Pacific Amphibious Force commencing in January 1943 and continuing until the occupation of Korea and North China in 1945. The main theme is the buildup of the force from the first landings on Woodlark-Kiriwina in June 1943 through the large-scale landings in the Philippines in 1944. In selecting the operations for the book, Admiral Barbey chose those landings that were either memorable in his experience or entailed new developments in the techniques of amphibious assault. A number of these developments were first in the field of

amphibious warfare. They included the conversion of landing tank ships (LST's) to hospital ships and improvement of casualty-handling procedures, conversion of landing infantry craft (LCI's) to carry rocket launchers to assist in beach bombardment, the use of amphibian tractors (LVT's) in the assault, and the development of beach party and shore party organizations. This colorful review of Admiral Barbey's experience, although it lacks some of the spice expected from an "old salt," will be of absorbing interest to all who participated in the Southwest Pacific campaigns or who are concerned with the history of amphibious warfare. To the general reader it is an admirable description of the historic epic of the "small-boat navy" in the Southwest Pacific.

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Bauer, K. Jack. *Ships of the Navy: 1775-1969*. Troy, N.Y.: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1970. 359 p.

This single volume provides a reference containing information about the combat vessels of the Navy that have been built in the United States, purchased from foreign yards, or captured. Over 10,000 ships are included, beginning with the *America* in 1776. It is, in essence, an abbreviated version of the Division of Naval History's *Dictionary of American Fighting Ships*, albeit a handy and useful one. The book is a paperback and contains no illustrations, which is surprising considering its price of \$10. It is recommended, however, for