

1970

## Ships of the Navy: 1775-1969

D.G. White

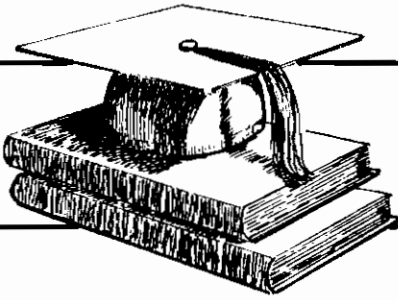
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## PROFESSIONAL READING

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.

W. S. PULLAR

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

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

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general reference and can be purchased through the History and Political Science Department of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A second volume containing noncombatant vessels is projected.

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Birnbaum, Karl E. *Peace Moves and U-boat Warfare*. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1970. 388 p.

In this reprint of his earlier book, Karl E. Birnbaum presents a very scholarly treatment of two mutually exclusive alternatives in German foreign policy during the First World War. By tracing the wartime history of Germany's diplomatic relations with the United States, he effectively illustrates how the two issues of peace negotiations and unrestricted submarine warfare merged into one at the time of the *Sussex* crisis in April 1916, which was not resolved until early in the following year.

One of the book's most commendable features is its revelation of the intricacies of Germany's domestic politics and their relationship to her foreign policy. The author introduces a weak Kaiser, who was unable to exert his authority over either his chancellor or the military, and a divided Reichstag, whose parties advocated as peace terms everything from the *status quo ante bellum* of the Social Democrats to the expansionist policy of the Conservatives. Within this amorphous mass two strong men emerged, the Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg, who worked earnestly for a compromise peace, and General Ludendorff, the dominating member of the duet that captured the popular imagination at Tannenburg. Increasingly the issue of peace negotiations or unrestricted submarine warfare became part of the broader struggle between the civilian government and the military. The refusal of the Allies,

especially Great Britain, to negotiate with Germany resulted in the collapse of civilian influence and the decision to resort to unrestricted submarine warfare.

The book contains shortcomings, notable among which is the author's insistence on using long untranslated quotations which make a working knowledge of German necessary to the comprehension of the key passages. On a broader vein, the book is not for the casual reader. It is a pedantic work which contains both major and minor events, and it will be of interest mainly to the scholar or student doing serious reading on the topic. By using effectively the wealth of source material now available, Mr. Birnbaum has produced a book which presents not only the trees, but the glimpses of the forest as well.

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Lee, Luke T. *China and International Agreements*. Leyden: Sijthoff, 1969, 231 p.

At a time when the policy of the United States toward China may be under reconsideration, the question of the extent to which the People's Republic of China complies with its treaty obligations is bound to be asked. Although the subject of Communist China's attitudes and behavior with respect to international law is now being studied in several places in the United States, including Harvard Law School, Dr. Lee's monograph is the first serious book-length inquiry to be published in English. It is based not only on documentary research, but also on extensive interviews with Western and Asian officials and others who have had dealings with Peking. The study is admittedly tentative and incomplete. It is actually less than 130 pages long, the rest of the volume consisting of a reprint of the author's long and instructive article on the Chinese concept of law (first