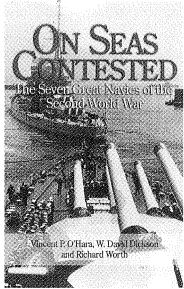


Books Analyze WWII Navies, Sea Power in the 20th Century

By RICHARD R. BURGESS, Managing Editor



ON SEAS CONTESTED: The Seven Great Navies of the Second World War

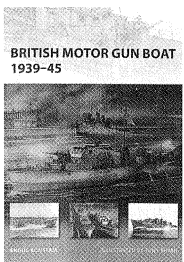
Edited by Vincent P. O'Hara, W. David Dickson and Richard Worth, Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2010. 352 pp. \$39.95 ISBN: 978-1-59114-646-9

Three distinguished naval historians combined to feed the fascination with the naval aspects of World War II in a single volume containing a series of chapters — each by a different author — analyzing the seven most prominent navies of the war: France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The chapters are not narrative histories but concise descriptions of each navy, its capabilities, ships, weapons and aircraft. They also address such aspects as their organization, bases, industrial base, logistics, personnel, training and doctrine.

Other navies of the British Commonwealth — those of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India — also are covered.

Most importantly, the chapter authors present parallel analyses of the strengths and weaknesses of each navy and the intangible factors that often define success and failure in naval warfare. This book, enhanced by research of foreign-language sources, will prove valuable not just to naval historians but to any reader interested in war at sea.



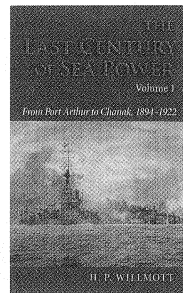
BRITISH MOTOR GUN BOAT 1939-45

By Angus Konstam, Oxford, U.K.: Osprey Publishing, 2010. 48 pp. \$17.95 ISBN: 978-1-84908-077-4

Unlike the U.S. Navy, which fielded patrol torpedo boats in World War II, the U.K. Royal Navy put in service not only the similar motor torpedo boats (MTBs) but also a generally gun-only equivalent, the motor gun boat (MGB). Overshadowed by the Royal Navy's larger warships, the wooden-hull MGBs of the Coastal Forces fought intensely, almost on a daily basis, with German and Italian forces, particularly in the English Channel and the Mediterranean. The

approximately 200 MGBs escorted MTBs on their torpedo attacks, dueled with German E-boats, supported commando raids, and attacked shipping along the coasts of occupied Europe and the Axis supply lines in the Mediterranean.

The "Dog Boats" also supported the Allied invasions of Sicily, Italy, and southern France. With original artwork and tables listing the classes of MGBs and their specifications, this monograph gives the reader a comprehensive survey of these heavily armed craft.



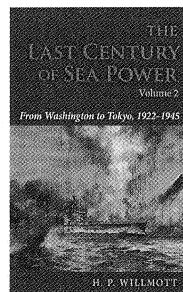
THE LAST CENTURY OF SEAPOWER

Volume 1: From Port Arthur to Chanak, 1894-1922

Volume 2: From Washington to Tokyo, 1922-1945

By H.P. Willmott, Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, (1) 2009 and (2) 2010. (1) 568 pp., \$34.95 ISBN: 978-0-253-35214-9

(2) 704 pp. \$39.95 ISBN: 978-0-253-35359-7



The first two volumes of these fact-packed works cover the age of modern naval warfare that began with the Sino-Japanese War in 1895 and the Spanish-American War of 1898 and carry through to World War I, the impact of inter-war naval treaties and World War II. The

author, the dean of naval historians, provides a sweeping look at, and analysis of, the transformation of naval power with a focus on the maintenance of empires, the growth of fleets, improvements in ship engineering and weapons, and evolution of doctrine.

The author's dry wit and sense of irony add spice to the impressive array of facts and analysis of the greatest period of naval warfare. Willmott is fearless in his judgments.

These books feature extensive appendices, including chronologies, that follow each chapter rather than reside stashed at the back. The extensive footnotes also provide much rich detail. ■

Seapower does not review works of fiction or self-published books.