

## Chapter 7: USSR: The Voenno-morskoi Flot SSSR

*Notes:* Endnotes printed in the book are not included here. Complete bibliographic citations are provided only for works not cited in the printed endnotes.

Page 253: **A. HISTORY:** In general, see Åselius, *Rise and Fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic*, Berezovskii *et al.*, *Boevaia letopis' voenno-morskogo flota 1917-1941* and Herrick, *Soviet Naval Theory and Policy*.

Page 254: **The rise of the Young School coincided with...** The most recent and complete works on Stalin are Robert Service, *Stalin: A Biography* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press, 2005) and Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004).

Page 254: **Stalin wanted a navy built around a fleet of giant battleships and fast battlecruisers...** For the background to and details of Stalin's shipbuilding programs, see Rohwer and Monakov, *Stalin's Ocean-Going Fleet* and Gribovskii, *Morskaia politika SSSR*.

Page 254: **In the space of two years, more than 3,000 naval officers...** Gribovskii, *Morskaia politika SSSR*, 97.

Page 255: **Although the sudden collapse of France in May-June 1940...** Evan Mawdsley, *Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War 1941-1945* (London: Hodder Education, 2005), 18.

Page 255: **In 1941 an operational plan was drawn up...** V.A. Zolotarev and V.S. Shlomin, *Kak sozdavalas' voenno-morskaia moshch' Sovetskogo Soiuz*a (Moscow: AST, 2004), 1:37-8. For the Pacific Fleet's tasks, see A.M. Vasil'ev, *Lineinye korabli tipa "Sovetskii Soiuz"* (St. Petersburg: Galeia Print, 2006), 43.

Page 256: **After more than a decade as an integral part of the Red Army...** For the changes in the Red Navy's place in the defense system, see John Erickson, *The Soviet High Command: A Military-Political History, 1918-1941* (third edition; London: Frank Cass, 2001).

Page 256: **Kuznetsov clearly found the situation unsatisfactory...** Kiselev, ed., *Admiral Kuznetsov*, 202-3, 208-9.

Page 257: **Even with these measures there was a large number of unfilled billets...** Zolotarev and Shlomin, *Kak sozdavalas'*, 1:36.

Page 258: **Apart from shipboard duties, naval personnel served...** J.J. Carroll, "The Soviet Naval Infantry" (Master's thesis, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 1977), 41-42.

Page 258: **In addition, large numbers of men were transferred outright to the army...**Dotsenko, *Flot – Voina – Pobeda*, 238; David M. Glantz, *Colossus Reborn: The Red Army at War, 1941-1943* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2005), 198, has a list of Naval Infantry brigades formed in 1940-42.

Page 258: **In 1937 the Black Sea Naval School was founded...** Gribovskii, *Morskaia politika SSSR*, 85-88.

Page 258: **It provided senior officer courses...** V.N. Ponikarovskii, ed., *Voennomorskaia Akademiia (kratkaia istoriia)* (Leningrad: The Academy [?], 1991), 69.

Page 259: **Personal ranks were reintroduced by a decree...** David R. Jones, ed., *The Military-Naval Encyclopedia of Russia and the Soviet Union* (Gulf Breeze, FL: Academic International Press, 1980), 2:214-5.

Page 259: **In general, the Red Navy carried out its annual maneuvers in the autumn...** This entire section is based largely on Berezovskii *et al.*, *Boevaia letopis'*, *passim*.

Page 259: **Accident rates increased, as did drunkenness...** Glantz, *Stumbling Colossus*, 32.

Page 259: **In 1939-40 Navy Commissar N.G. Kuznetsov issued several circulars...**  
Kiselev, ed., *Admiral Kuznetsov*, 108-9, 115, 126-9.

Page 259: **Kuznetsov's efforts came too late...** Norman Polmar and Jurrien Noot,  
*Submarines of the Russian and Soviet Navies, 1718-1990* (Annapolis: Naval Institute  
Press, 1991), 98, 117-8.

Page 259: **Prior to the formation of an independent navy commissariat...** Åselius,  
*Rise and Fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic*, 73.

Page 259: **Although Soviet intelligence can boast of many notable successes...** Robert  
Whymant, *Stalin's Spy: Richard Sorge and the Tokyo Espionage Ring* (London: I.B.  
Tauris, 1996), 108.

Page 260: **These proved valuable for traffic analysis...** Christopher Andrew and Oleg  
Gordievsky, *KGB: The Inside Story of its Foreign Operations from Lenin to Gorbachev*  
(New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1990), 174; Platonov, *Entsiklopediia Sovetskikh  
nadvodnykh korabli*, 460.

Page 260: **British colleagues believed that the Soviet service was able and efficient...**  
Bradley, *Sharing Secrets with Stalin*, 50, 99-100.

Page 260: **The navy's major doctrinal works...** V.D. Dotsenko, A.A. Dotsenko and V.F. Mironov, *Voенno-morskaia strategiiia Rossii* (Moscow: Eksmo, 2005), 173-4 is the source for much of what follows, supplemented by Rohwer and Monakov, *Stalin's Ocean-Going Fleet*, 104-105, 122, 125.

Page 261: **The reorganization of the Baltic Fleet...** Berezovskii *et al.*, *Boevaia letopis'*, 620; Åselius, *Rise and Fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic*, 181.

Page 261: **The general view seems to have been that land-based air cover...** Rohwer and Monakov, *Stalin's Ocean-Going Fleet*, 106, 124.

Page 261: **The directive pointed out the need to study methods for protecting the fleet...** Berezovskii *et al.*, *Boevaia letopis'*, 578.

Page 262: **The submarine warfare regulations issued in 1939...** Rohwer and Monakov, *Stalin's Ocean-Going Fleet*, 104, 122-3, 126; Dotsenko *et al.*, *Voенno-morskaia strategiiia Rossii*, 215.

Page 262: **After the outbreak of war, however...** Ruge, *Soviets as Naval Opponents*, 90.

Page 262: **The Red Navy extensively studied landing operations...** Åselius, *Rise and Fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic*, 80, 81.

Page 263: **NMO-40 divided landing operations into four types...** Dotsenko *et al.*, *Voенno-morskaia strategiia Rossii*, 218-20.

Page 263: **Although specifications for such craft had been prepared in 1929...** I.P. Spasskii, ed., *Istoriia otechestvennogo sudostroeniia*, 4:379-80, 516-8.

Page 263: **Thirty American landing craft were transferred to the Pacific Fleet...** Richard A. Russell, *Project Hula: Secret Soviet-American Cooperation in the War Against Japan* (Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1997).

Page 264: **Even in late 1940, with the example of the ongoing Battle of the Atlantic to study...** Dotsenko *et al.*, *Voенno-morskaia strategiia Rossii*, 217.

Page 264: **A. SHIPS...** Except where otherwise indicated, this section is based on Spasskii, ed., *Istoriia otechestvennogo sudostroeniia*, vol. IV.

Page 264: **At the outbreak of war there were three 59,000-ton *Sovetskii Soiuz* (Project 23) battleships...** The most complete description of the *Sovetskii Soiuz* class is Vasil'ev, *Lineinye korabli tipa "Sovetskii Soiuz."* For the *Kronshtadt* class, see Stephen McLaughlin, "Project 69: The *Kronshtadt* Class Battlecruisers" in *Warship 2004* (London: Conway Maritime Press, 2004), 99-117.

Page 264: **The Red Navy's only battleships were the three ships of the *Marat* class...**

For details of these ships, see Stephen McLaughlin, *Russian and Soviet Battleships*

(Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2003), 207-27, 337-47.

Page 265: None.

Page 266: None.

Page 267: **The Project 7 and Project 7U class destroyers...** See Vladimir Yakubov and

Richard Worth, "The Soviet Project 7/7U Destroyers" in *Warship 2008* (London:

Conway Maritime Press, 2008), pp. 99-114.

Page 268: **Soviet submarine construction began with the "D" class of 1927...** The

following paragraphs are based chiefly on Spasskii, ed., *Istoriia otechestvennogo*

*sudostroeniia*, 4:100-142, 338-59, with additional material taken from Polmar and Noot,

*Submarines of the Russian and Soviet Navies* and J.N. Westwood, *Russian Naval*

*Construction, 1905-1945* (London: The Macmillan Press Ltd, 1994).

Page 269: None.

Page 270: **The roles envisioned for these aircraft were reconnaissance and spotting...**

Berezovskii, *et al.*, *Boevaia letopis'*, 558.

Page 271: **Horizontal bombing accuracy was poor...** Åselius, *Rise and Fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic*, 185.

Page 271: **C. WEAPON SYSTEMS, 1. Gunnery...** In general, see Platonov, *Entsiklopediia sovetskikh nadvodnykh korablei*, 465-516 and A.B. Shirokorad, *Entsiklopediia otechestvennoi artillerii* (Minsk: Kharvest, 200), 906-994.

Page 272: **The Soviets had a variety of fire-control equipment...** A.V. Platonov, “Otechestvennye pribory upravleniia artilleriiskoi strel’boi” (*Tsitadel’*, No. 6 [no. 1, 1998], pp. 92-115).

Page 272: **The effectiveness of this gear is unknown...** Platonov, “Otechestvennye pribory upravleniia artilleriiskoi strel’boi,” 112.

Page 273: **Before the war, the navy showed little interest in the army’s radar development program...** John Erickson, “Radio-Location and the Air Defence Problem: The Design and Development of Soviet Radar 1934-40” (*Science Studies*, vol. 2, no. 3 [July 1972], pp. 241-263), 260; Platonov, *Entsiklopediia Sovetskikh nadvodnykh korabli*, 609-12.

Page 273: **2. Torpedoes...** Iu.L. Korshunov and A.A. Stokov, *Torpedy VMF SSSR* (St. Petersburg: Gangut, 1994) forms the basis for this section, with some additional information from Platonov, *Entsiklopediia sovetskikh nadvodnykh korablei*, 555-68.



Page 273: **Any deviation could lead to the torpedo either breaking up...** A.G.

Bratukhin, ed., *Morskaia aviatsiia rossii* (Moscow: Mashinostroenie, 1996), 83-4.

Page 274: These probably had much more flexible drop characteristics... Bratukhin, ed.,

*Morskaia aviatsiia rossii*, 85.

Page 274: **3. Antisubmarine Warfare...** In general, see Platonov, *Entsiklopediia*

*sovetskikh nadvodnykh korablei*, 548-55.

Page 274: **Great Britain sent 293 Asdic sets to the USSR...** Kemp, *Convoy!*, 235.

Page 274: **4. Mines...** This section is based on Jeffrey K. Bray, *Mine Warfare in the*

*Russo-Soviet Navy* (Laguna Hills, CA: Aegean Park Press, 1995) and Platonov,

*Entsiklopediia sovetskikh nadvodnykh korablei*, 568-86.

Page 275: None.

Page 276: None.

Page 277: None.

Page 278: **Thus the rivets supplied for the construction of the battleship *Sovetskaia Belorussia*...** A. M. Vasil'ev, "Nekotorye aspekty stroitel'stva lineinykh korablei tipa 'Sovetskii Soiuz'" (*Sudostroenie*, no. 5, 2000, pp. 65-72) and V. N. Krasnov, "Stalinshchina v VMF i korablestroenii" (*Sudostroenie*, no. 7, 1990, pp. 64-69).

Page 279: None.

Page 280: **Although the Winter War with Finland...** See *Sovetsko-Finliandskaia voina 1939-1940 gg. Boevye deistviia na more* (St. Petersburg: Ostrov, 2002), a study originally written by the Historical Commission of the Navy in 1945-46.

Page 280: **For the Baltic Fleet, the opening phases...** Dotsenko, *Flot – Voina – Pobeda*; Ruge, *The Soviets as Naval Opponents*; J. Rohwer and G. Hummelchen, *Chronology of the War at Sea 1939-1945: The Naval History of World War Two* (expanded and revised edition; Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1992).

Page 280: **A detailed plan was worked out...** A.V. Platonov, "Plan unichtozheniia Krasnozamennogo Baltiiskogo Flota" (*Gangut*, no. 33 [2003], 67-76; no. 34 [2003], 61-70).

Page 282: **The German forces occupying the Crimea...** A.V. Platonov, "6 oktiabria 1943 goda: 'chernyi' den' Chernomorskogo flota" (*Gangut*, no. 10 [1996], pp. 85-94).

Page 283: **During the war the Red Navy thought its subs were doing well...** *Russkii arkhiv: Velikaia Otechestvennaia*, vol. 10: *Priказы i direktivy narodnogo komissara VMF v gody Velikoi Otechestvennoi voiny* (Moscow: Terra, 1996), 224; A.V. Platonov, “Sovetskie podvodnye lodki na morskikh kommunikatsiakh protivnika” (*Gangut*, no. 48 [2008], 66-95) and Erikson, “Soviet Submarine Operations in World War II.”

Page 283: **The British submariners taught their Soviet hosts their techniques...** Alastair Mars, *British Submarines at War 1939-1945* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1971), 105-6.

Page 284: **This explains the most famous Soviet claim...** K.M. Sergeev, *Lunin atakueta “Tirpitz”!* (St. Petersburg: SPMBM Malakhit, 1999), 75-79.

Page 285: **For example, in an attack by eight MTBs on a German convoy...** A.V. Platonov, “Sovetskie torpednye katera v bor’be s morskimi perebozkami protivnika” (*Gangut*, no. 47 [2008], 82-96).

Page 286: **By that time the Luftwaffe’s command of the air was waning...** Mawdsley, *Thunder in the East*, 219.

Page 286-7: **Nevertheless, there were attempts at combined aviation-submarine...** Polmar and Noot, *Submarines of the Russian and Soviet Navies*, 98, 117-8, 124.

Page 287: **This split the ships' defensive fire...** Bratukhin, ed., *Morskaia aviatsiia rossii*, 85; Ruge, *The Soviets as Naval Opponents*, 41-2.

Page 288: None.