Naval Historical Foundation
Books Available for Review

You may browse our previous book reviews at: https://www.navyhistory.org/category/bookreview/
Please see our review guidelines at: https://www.navyhistory.org/publications/naval-history-book-reviews/
Please send any inquiries to trobinson@navyhistory.org

New additions are highlighted in YELLOW

---

**Against the Tide Imperial: The Struggle for Ceylon**
By James Young
– November 26, 2020
July 1943. When the United Kingdom was torn asunder under a hail of German firebombs and nerve gas, the distant outpost of Ceylon was an afterthought for both Allies and Axis. Now, one year after King George VI's death, the small island off of India becomes center stage for a titanic confrontation.

*Against the Tide Imperial* is the third novel of the *Usurper's War* series. As Allied and Axis warriors are faced with a completely different war than the one planned for decades, their actions will chart a new course for the Greatest Generation.

---

**Crash Boat: Rescue and Peril in the Pacific During World War II**
by Earl McCandlish & George D. Jepson · 2021

This is the compelling story of an American crash boat crewed by unknown heroes during World War II in the South Pacific, whose dramatic rescues of downed pilots and clandestine missions off Japanese-held islands were done at great peril.

---

**Beyond the Sea: An Event Group Thriller**
Book by David Lynn Golemon

The Soviet battle cruiser Simbirsk, which launched in June 1940 and was reported sunk in 1944 with the loss of all hands, is still sailing the open sea.

*Originally published:* June 13, 2017

*Preceded by:* The Traveler

*Genres:* Science Fiction, Thriller, Adventure fiction, War story

---

**The Captain Class Frigates in the Second World War**

"The Battle of the Atlantic was Winston Churchill's greatest of concern during the Second World War. By 1943 new tactics and technology, developed out of bitter experience, combined with the effect of long range maritime patrol aircraft were beginning to tip the balance in the Allies' favour. ...

*Originally published:* 1998

---

**Dead Man Launch**

Novel by John Gobbell

"John J. Gobbell is the John Le Carré of Naval thrillers." --John Lehman, Former Secretary of the Navy. The year is 1968, and global upheaval is the norm…

*Originally published:* September 26, 2017

*Genres:* Thriller, War story, Spy fiction, Nautical fiction
First to Go: The History of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association – February 15, 2018 by Jack T. Paxton

The Marine Corps Combat Correspondents trace their history to the pioneering work started by Brigadier Gen. Robert L. Denig, Sr., who began Denig’s Demons in WWII. Never forgetting that they were riflemen first and writers, photographers, et al, second, the CCs have gone from the highly trained professional newsmen of the 1940s to the dedicated trained specialists that followed.

From Scapa to Jutland: The Story of HMS Caroline ...
Book by John Allison

Amid the twists and turns of her survival to this day, the story of the light cruiser HMS Caroline spans a century and more. This book focuses on the role she played as part of the Grand Fleet in time of war. ...
Originally published: 2019

The Glorious First of June: Fleet Battle in the Reign of Terror
Book by Sam Willis

Description
France, early summer 1794. The French Revolution has been hijacked by the extreme Jacobins and is in the grip of The Terror.
Originally published: 2011

German Battleship Helgoland: Detailed in the Original Builders’ Plans Hardcover – April 1, 2019 by Aidan Dodson

This book is the latest in a series based entirely on original draughts which depict famous warships in an unprecedented degree of detail. Using the latest scanning technology to make digital copies of the highest quality it reproduces complete sets in full color with many close-ups and enlargements that make every aspect clear and comprehensible. The result is a novel form of anatomy that will be a revelation to any warship enthusiast...

Homecomings
Book by Laura Bogan

Description
The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, better known as the Blue Angel, is one of the most iconic and respected aerobatics teams in the world. For years, photographer Laura Bogan has been chronicling the Blues as they return to Pensacola, the team’s beautiful seaside home on Florida’s Gulf Coast. ...
Google Books
Originally published: March 5, 2019

Hunter in the Stream: A Riley Fitzhugh Novel by Terry Mort by Terry Mort · 2021

Riley Fitzhugh goes through officer training and is assigned to PC 475, a new anti-U-boat vessel stationed in Key West. The 475 is nicknamed Nameless by her crew because patrol craft vessels were only given numbers...
Lions of the Sky
Book by Francesco Chierici
In the world of fighter pilots, the most alpha of the alpha, competition is everything and the stakes are impossibly high. A Top Gun for the new millennium, LIONS OF THE SKY propels us into a realm in which friendship, loyalty, and skill are tested, battles won and lost in an instant, and lives irrevocably changed in the time it takes to plug in your afterburners.
Genres: Thriller, Adventure fiction, War story

Life and Death at Cape Disappointment: Becoming a Surfman on the Columbia River Bar
Cape Disappointment is one of the most notorious Coast Guard units on the Pacific Coast, its area of responsibility referred to as the “Graveyard of the Pacific.” The book focuses on five of the most significant search and rescue cases during the author’s tour and how such work affected him and his colleagues mentally and physically.

Medal with a Heart
Book by Karen Kulinski
Every medal tells a story of bravery, hard work, great achievement. But few people know how one of America's greatest military awards, The Purple Heart, came to be. The Medal With A Heart tells this story, and it begins in 1782 with George Washington and the Revolutionary War.
Originally published: September 25, 2018
Illustrator: Karen Gruntman

The Making of Paris: The Story of How Paris Evolved from a Fishing Village into the World’s Most Beautiful City
by Russell Kelley - 2021
The Making of Paris is the story of how Paris evolved from a small fishing village on an island in the middle of the Seine River into the City of Light.

Napoleon's Admirals: Flag Officers of the Arc de Triomphe, 1789-1815
Book by Richard Humble
Description
On the four sides of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, serried tablets display the names of 660 honored commanders of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. ... Google Books
Originally published: July 2019
Genre: Biography

The Nugget
Book by P. T. Deutermann
Description
A novice naval aviator grows into a hero in this gripping and authentic World War II adventure by master storyteller P. T. ... Google Books
Originally published: October 8, 2019
Genres: Thriller, Historical Fiction, Adventure fiction, War story

The German Armoured Cruiser SMS Blücher
Book by Marsden Samuel
The SMS Blücher was the last armored cruiser built by the German Empire. She was constructed to counter the new armored cruisers rumored as being built by the British.
Originally published: November 5, 2018
Royal Naval Submarines
1901 to 2008
Book by Maurice Cocker
This is a must-buy for the Royal Navy and Submarine enthusiast, being a complete directory of RN submarines from the outset to the present day. There is a wealth of detail on each class.

Originally published: October 2020
Author: Maurice Cocker

The History of the British U Class Submarine
Book by Derek Walters
Originally designed in 1934 for anti-submarine training, by the end of the war 72 U-Class subs had been commissioned; 17 were lost to the enemy, and 3 in accidents. Manned by crews from seven nations' navies, they served worldwide, and never more successfully than in the Mediterranean. .... Google Books
Originally published: November 30, 2004

Three War Marine Hero:
General Raymond G. Davis
by Richard Camp - 2020
This is the old man’s third war!”—Dick Camp, introduction to book A native of Georgia, Raymond Davis joined the Marine Corps after university and would go on to serve in three wars and be decorated for gallantry several times ...

The Trafalgar Chronicle: Dedicated to Naval History in the Nelson Era: New Series 5
Book by John A. Rodgaard, Judith Pearson, and Sean Heuvel
The Trafalgar Chronicle is a prime source of information as well as the publication of choice for new research about the Georgian Navy, sometimes also loosely referred to as 'Nelson's Navy', though its scope reaches out to include all the sailing navies of the period. ... Google Books
Originally published: November 2020
Authors: Sean Heuvel, Judith Pearson, John A. Rodgaard

Valor in Action: The Medal of Honor Paintings of Col. Charles Waterhouse
Book by Jane Waterhouse
At the age of 82, renowned illustrator and former United States Marine Corps artist-in-residence Col. Charles Waterhouse set out to paint US Marines and Navy corpsmen engaged in the acts for which they were awarded the Medal of Honor. ... Google Books
Expected on: September 28, 2020
Author: Jane Waterhouse
The Coronado Conspiracy
by George Galdorisi · 1998/2017
(Rick Holden Thrillers Book 1) [EBOOK]

Off the shore of Costa Rica, the Navy command ship USS Coronado launches an all-out assault against one of the most powerful drug lords in Central America. The strike force is in position; the Blackhaws are armed and airborne, and the high-tech fist of the U.S. military is poised to come down like a sledgehammer. Everything is going according to plan until the quiet jungle erupts in a chaos of blood, shrapnel, and fire.

When CIA Operative Rick Holden and Naval Intelligence Officer Laura Peters begin investigating the circumstances of the ambush, they uncover something much more sinister than a failed military operation. There's a conspiracy at the very heart of the American government.

And bringing down the President of the United States is only the first step...

For Duty and Honor
by George Galdorisi · 2000/2018
(Rick Holden Thrillers Book 2) [EBOOK]

A vicious terrorist attack leaves nearly seventy U.S. sailors dead, and the entire United States Navy looking for answers.

In the volatile waters of the Arabian Gulf, the USS Carl Vinson Strike Group - under the command of Admiral Heater Robinson - stands ready to unleash the full fury of a nuclear aircraft carrier against America's enemies. When it becomes clear that the government has no intention of punishing the murderers, Robinson decides to take justice into his own hands, no matter what the cost.

As a storm of terror descends upon the United States, CIA operative and U.S. Navy SEAL Rick Holden faces a moral dilemma of his own. The military elite in Washington have chosen Holden to halt the cycle of madness.

His orders: assassinate the strike group's commander, Admiral Heater Robinson.