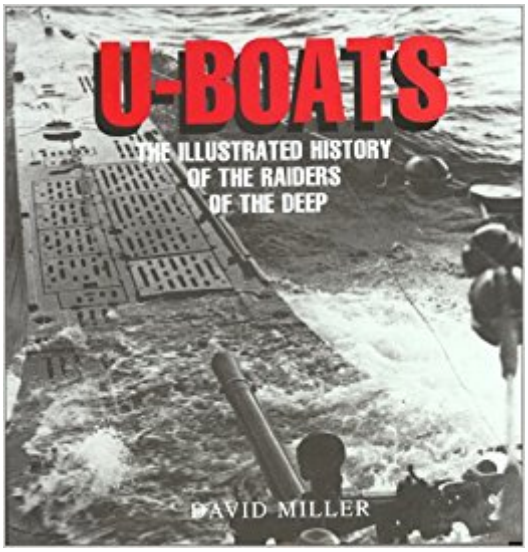
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U-Boats: The Illustrated History Of The Raiders Of The Deep



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Synopsis

U-BOATS provides a fascinating and comprehensive chronicle of the development, activities, and fate of known U-boats. Operating mainly in the North Atlantic, they also fought campaigns along the east coast of the United States and in the Mediterranean, the Arctic, the Black Sea, the South Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean. You'll discover the tactics, technology, and weapons these vessels used to prey upon Allied warships and unarmed merchantmen alike, how they fought together in wolf packs and alone, how the crews lived beneath the waves, and how they died.

Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Brassey's Inc; 1st edition (May 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1574882465

ISBN-13: 978-1574882469

Product Dimensions: 10 x 10.4 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,864,154 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Submarines #1432 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Ships #4250 inÃ Â Books > History > Military > Naval

Customer Reviews

This book really surprised me. I actually bought it on in impulse with a gift certificate I had received for my birthday. I had seen "Das Boot" and "U-571" and since my interest was peaked by these movies, I thought I should buy a book about U-Boats to get the full story of their role in WWI and WWII.This book did not disappoint! It is simply incredible considering how much information is between the covers as well as how many striking photographs are contained in this book. One could almost consider it an Encyclopedia on U-Boats. This book describes the full history of Deutschlands Unterseeboot Programe as well as a detailed history and explination of each type of boat. It also has a table listing every U-Boat made and a brief history about each ship. This book also does a fantastic job explaining the role of these vessels in WWII (and to a lesser extent, WWI). I can imagine with "U-571" in theaters and "Das Boot" on DVD, U-Boat interest has increased. I would suggest to anybody interested in U-Boats because of these movies or for any other reason to look no futher. "U-Boats : The Illustrated History of the Raiders of the Deep" is probably the best book

presently available on this subject.

The book is heavily illustrated, with photographs or diagrams on nearly every page; there are many tables of technical and operational data. However, it is also very readable, filled with odd anecdotes, for example, poor Kapitanleutnant Rolf Mutzelberg, commanding U-203 south of the Azores, who decided to join his crew bathing in the ocean (U-boats got pretty smelly after weeks at sea), but "totally misjudged his dive off the bridge, hit the saddle-tank head first, broke his neck and died."The book (like Gaul) is divided into three parts. Part 1 summarizes U-boat operations during the First World War and the interwar period.Part 2 describes the various types of U-boats, from the early Type IA to the advanced Type XXI and XXVI, which served as the basis for several postwar US and Soviet submarine designs. I found the details of the construction program of the Type XXI surprisingly interesting -- it was built in sections at various steelworks. The sections were transported by canal and river to shipyards for assembly. Welding two sections together took about 8 hours, and in order to ensure a continuous weld, the workers could not stop even for bad weather or air raids.Part 2 continues with descriptions of the torpedoes (some of which were programmed to follow patterns, while others used acoustic homing devices), mines, guns, and even rockets which the U-boats carried. Radar, sonar, electronic warfare, and the Enigma machine are treated next, followed by engines.Part 3 gives a brief overview of U-boat operations during WWII, followed by sections on U-boat officers and crews; the (lack of) air support for U-boat operations; replenishment at sea by "milch cows

This is one of the best books on U-boats that were in ww2. It tells something about each type and describes the new equipment they received and when they received it.

Excellent book, full of great information. I goldmine for modellers.

Perfect transaction, great book, Thank You

interesting

An excellent overview and history of the German’s U-boat program from WW I through WW II. Beautifully presented with lots of detail. As a former U.U. Navy submariner, I completely enjoyed it.

U-boatsDavid Miller was editor of JaneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Major Surface WarshipsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and a former British officer. He wrote more than thirty books on warfare. This book tells about the U-boats of the German Navy in WW II: their tactics, technology, and torpedoes that preyed upon Allied warships and merchantmen in order to sink the supplies that kept Great Britain alive in the war. U-boats operated against the Allies in almost all the worldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s oceans from the first to the last day of the war. The ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“UbootwaffeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• brought the war to Canada and the United States.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœPart OneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ covers the beginnings. The Imperial German Navy was the last of the major navies to build submarines. They operated in the North Sea and the North Atlantic mostly, but also in the Mediterranean. Imperial Germany turned to unrestricted warfare to win the war. This brought America into the war, the use of convoys protected by armed escorts reduced sinking. Anti-Submarine warfare used ramming, gunfire, and minefields. Electronic warfare played a significant part (p.13). The Reichsmarine planned for the next war (p.16).ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœPart TwoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ documents the U-boats of WW II, their weapons and equipment. Increased defense capabilities caused problems (p.34). The schnorchel and the streamlined hull were two innovations (pp.60-61). Modular construction improved production by reducing man-hours by a third (p.62). These improvements were countered by shortages of material and labor, transportation problems, air attacks, and design problems (p.66). Post-production problems were found (p.68). The Type XXI was the best but came late in the war (p.69). The Type XXIII coastal U-boar was an improved design but had limitations (p.71). Professor Helmuth Walter had many good new ideas, but many new ideas required lengthy development time (p.78).A number of submarines were obtained from foreign sources (p.82). The Dutch designed the schnorchel tube. A torpedo was ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“one of the most expensive and complicated weapons of its timeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (p.86). The ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“FaTÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• allowed a torpedo to vary its run and do a ladder search for a target (p.88). Acoustic torpedoes were countered by a towed noisemakers as a decoy (p.89). The standard explosive was Hexanite improved with powdered aluminum. Pages 94-96 tell about the aiming procedure using analog computers. Mines were also used (pp.97-98). Surface guns had limitations (p.98). Anti-aircraft defense had drawbacks (p.100). Rockets and missiles were planned but not implemented (a V-2 attack on New York). Radar was used by the British against submarines (p.103).British aircraft used radar to attack U-boats at night (p.108). Radar warning receivers warned the submarines, but this receiver could be detected by Allied aircraft (p.109). Anti-sonar coating was tried (p.110); also radar absorbing coatings. Sonar and radar decoys were tried (pp.111-112). Radio was essential for communications but had

drawbacks (p.113). Allied direction-finding could locate a transmission within 20 seconds. Germany broke the British Merchant Ships code, and its replacement (p.118). The British broke the Enigma code (p.119). Six-cylinder 4-stroke diesel engines were standard (p.120). Lead-acid batteries powered all electrical devices (p.121). Heat and humidity damaged them (p.122). Schnorchels allowed diesel engines to run while the submarine was below the surface (p.123).ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœPart ThreeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ lists the operations during the war. It tells about the officers and men, their training and living conditions, and their history during and after the war. This is the more interesting part. The average life expectancy of a U-boat was three cruises (p.138).

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