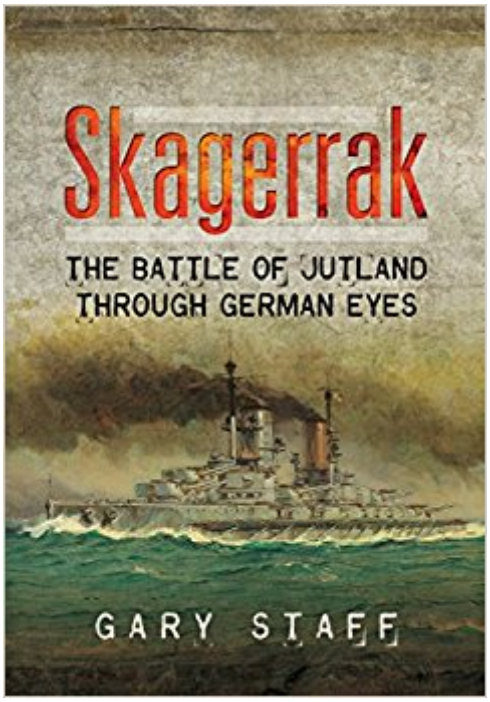
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Skagerrak: The Battle Of Jutland Through German Eyes



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Synopsis

On 31 May 1916 The German High Seas Fleet clashed with the Royal Navy in the North Sea. The ensuing Battle of Jutland, known to the Germans as the Skaggerak Battle (der Skagerrakschlacht), was the most significant naval action of the First World War. Although not tactically decisive, the strategic result was that British naval supremacy in the North Sea went unchallenged for the rest of the war and the blockade of Germany remained in place. Many works have dealt with this clash of titans, and many more will doubtless appear for the approaching centenary but the German perspective has been sorely neglected. Gary Staff aims to correct this. By cross-referencing both German and British official records and accounts he has established the most coherent narrative of the battle possible. But the bare bones of the timeline are fleshed out with eyewitness accounts from the crews of the German ships. The result is a gripping read that gives a real sense of the drama, tension and terror of being in battle inside one of these steel behemoths. The thoroughly researched and accessible text is supported by clear maps and a large number of archive photos, many never before published, showing the German vessels before, during and after the action.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The material for this fascinating work has been culled from archives in Britain and Germany. Many of those too have been translated for the first time and published here. A volume thoroughly to be recommended to students of the naval history of WWI. (Ships in Scale, Nov/Dec 2016)

Gary Staff is a former airline pilot but he has been fascinated with naval history, and specifically with

the Imperial German Navy (Kaiserlischmarine) for decades. He has visited archives in Britain, Germany and elsewhere to study, and often translate for the first time, official documents relating to this subject. His previous books for Pen & Sword are The Battle for the Baltic Islands 1917; Battle on the Seven Seas and German Battlecruisers of World War One. He lives in Australia.

Excellent description of the details of the battle and the thinking about the various moves of the fleets. Today we tend to forget that before radar the commanders had only visual reference as to where the ships were. and that gunnery relied on optical sighting. A very valuable reference about how the battle took place.

Quite enjoyable! Anytime you can get the opposing side of an issue or a battle you're going to enlarge your appreciation of an issue. I have started to circulate this book among my fellow members of the World War 1 Historical Association and fully expect my colleagues to enjoy it as much as I did.

A good book on the battle of Jutland from the other side.

While told from the German perspective, the excessive use of German terminology detracts a little bit, when exact English terms are available.

Well done. Very detailed from German view and great ship movement maps!

This book is the most detailed review of the battle of Jutland that I have read. It describes the shells that hit each battleship and battle cruiser and which ship fired that shell. And, it goes into detail about the impact of each hit.Although the book describes the battle of Jutland from the German perspective, it does provide the British perspective. It just doesn't agree with the final conclusion of the battle from the British perspective. The book concludes the Germans won the battle of Jutland and provides a strong argument why. However, it doesn't provide a good argument of the following. If the Germans won the battle, why did they retreat to their base? If the Germans won the battle, why didn't they follow-up?The reason, of course, as explained by other sources on the battle of Jutland, is because the Germans where beat up pretty badly during the battle. Although their battle cruisers could take a hit better the British, they took a lot of hits, and these hits were damaging. Because of this, it took a long time for the Germans to put the Seydlitz and Derfflinger back into

battle. And, almost as long for the other battle cruisers. And, some of the battleships were heavily damaged also, e.g. the Konig.Yes, the British ships were sunk (three battle cruisers) and some were heavily damaged (the Warspite), but these ships returned to the field a lot quicker than the Germans.Finally, the ultimately reason for the battle, from the German side, had to be to break the blockade, but this did not occur.Although I disagree with the author's conclusions, I do recommend the book because of the details and the maps, which are the best that I have seen of this battle. It is good to see another perspective also. I just don't agree with it.

I pretty much agree with Robert above. I have read most of Gary StaffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s books and he has improved over the years. His book on German battlecruisers is superb. His use of the language IMO gets mixed reviews ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ but then I am one who should talk!Having said that, SKAGERRAK is an excellent book. Gary has worked heavily in German secondary sources (though battle reports from various German commanders/warships are utilized), so there is still a barrier to be crossed, but the book reflects excellent research.The number of torpedoes being fired by both sides and from Dreadnoughts as well as torpedo-boats is discussed. This is an area often missed by modern day scholars who do not grasp what was doctrine in 1916 but not in 1942 or 2016.Staff also embraces H. H. FrostÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s 1930ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s BATTLE OF JUTLAND book. Frost was an American naval officer critical of the British to an extent that many British authors do not consult him. This is a mistake. Staff makes good use of Frost as a secondary source in his telling of the battle of Jutland from the German point of view.The book moves quickly. It will remind many readers of John CampbellÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“JUTLAND: an Analysis of the FightingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• as it has a great amount of detail on individual shell hits and what they did or did not do. But it also contains a great number of German First Person accounts you will not see anywhere else in English.Not overly long, I recommend it and would give it 4.5 stars if I could.Disclaimer: I am designing a wargame, JUTLAND: Fleet Admiral II for publication in 2017 from ConSim Press.

great view from the other side

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