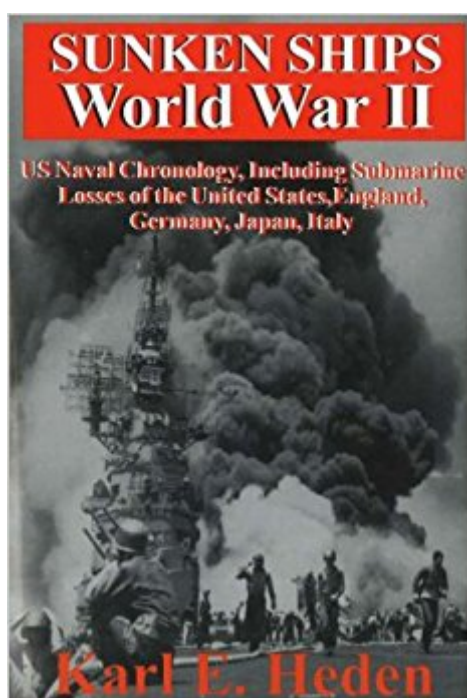


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Sunken Ships, World War II: U.S. Naval Chronology Including Submarine Losses Of The United States, England, Germany, Japan, Italy



Synopsis

The book contains a compendium of naval history with an exhaustive chronology of events and actions of the American, English, German, Japanese and Italian navies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Energy Consultant and Air Force veteran of the Korean War, Karl E. Heden had access to various U.S. Government archives and foreign embassies, where he did most of his research. He now lives in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Before purchasing this book, the prospective reader should compare rhetoric with content. For example; on the back cover is written; "Sunken Ships of World War II is truly one of the greatest compendiums of naval history that has ever been put together. Not only does it give an exhaustive chronology of events and actions of the United States Navy, it also contains listings of the Allies (American and English) and of the Axis (Japanese German and Italian) naval losses wherever they took place." Oh no it isn't! Oh no it doesn't! With respect to this author's definition of 'Allies' - as far as Pacific Operations were concerned, his use of English with regard to British naval forces is over 200 years out of date when the term "English Navy" (though widely accepted, in those days, as meaning British) was formally replaced by the Royal Navy although 'British Navy' is often accepted. More important than getting a name wrong, however, were all those other Allied forces such as the brave men and ships from Australia, New Zealand and even Holland (to name but some) which were also lost in the Pacific theatre of War. If we were glad of their support at the time, we should be honoured

to including mention of their existence today!As far as the rest of the work is concerned, the detail could easily have been gleaned from any contemporary "Naval History of the World" without the need to add further detail. On the contrary, the detail is so sparse it renders the work virtually useless.P. 97, for example lists 2 Japanese cruisers, 3 destroyers, a minesweeper and 2 submarines sunk by Spruance's forces on 17 February 1944 with a destroyer and submarine chaser sunk the following day.Perhaps I am being too hard but, as Napoleon famously said; "An army marches on its stomach." Similarly a navy sails courtesy of its fleet of support vessels and although Admiral Spruance is mentioned, neither Operation Hailstone itself nor any of the 44 or so support ships his forces sent to the seabed at that time are included at all - not even in passing.If this work were the only item studied about that particular attack, the reader would be left without ever having heard of Operation Hailstone and wondering why Spruance was regarded as such a hero for having sunk so few ships with such an overwhelming force of 9 carriers and 6 battleships.I am frequently disappointed with the books I purchase but rarely more so than with this rather poor offering.NM

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