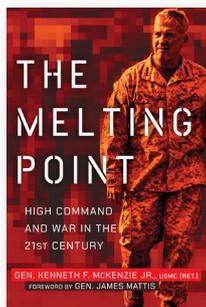




21st Century High Command, Libya Bombing, World War II Naval Combat

BY RICHARD R. BURGESS, SENIOR EDITOR



THE MELTING POINT: High Command and War in the 21st Century

By Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. USMC (Ret). Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2024. 326 pages. \$34.95

ISBN: 978-1-68247-449-5

The author, a Marine Corps general, was the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, a theater-level combatant commander during periods of high tension with Iran and the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. He gives his perspective of high-level decision-making during crises, most notably the elimination of Iranian Quds-force commander Soleimani and the U.S. exit from Afghanistan. He points out the durability of U.S. civilian-military relations and the uniqueness of the combatant commander's responsibilities. His discussion of the execution of policy decisions during his tenure as commander, U.S. Central Command, is a must-read for anyone interested in the long wars of the early 21st century.



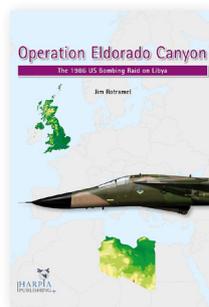
U.S. BATTLESHIPS 1939-45

By Ingo Bauernfeind. Havertown, Pennsylvania: Casemate Publishers, 2024. 240 pages. \$49.95

ISBN: 978-1-63624-256-9

This extraordinarily illustrated book describes the history and characteristics of the U.S. Navy

battleships and large cruisers that served in World War II, documenting their contributions to victory in the Pacific and the Allied landings in Africa and Europe. The book proceeds class by class, covering their combat actions, including for the Iowa class beyond the world war to the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars. A section of the book is a photo tour of the USS Missouri and covers the other seven battleships preserved as museums or memorials.

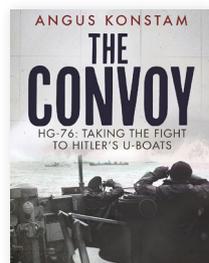


OPERATION EL DORADO CANYON: The 1986 US Bombing Raid on Libya

By Major Jim Rotramel (USAF, Ret.). Wien, Austria: Harpia Publishing, 2024. 254 pages. \$64.95

ISBN: 978-1-95039-412-8

Much of the combat experienced by U.S. forces during the 1980s occurred in North Africa and the Persian Gulf. This extraordinarily detailed and well-illustrated account of Operation El Dorado Canyon describes the 1986 U.S. Air Force raid by F-111 strike fighters supported by aerial tankers against Libyan facilities in retaliation to a Libyan terrorist bombing in Berlin. The author, an F-111 flyer in the raid, recounts the massive effort that went into executing it, which involved flying from England around France to reach the targets. The author also covers the U.S. Navy's participation.



THE CONVOY: HG-76: Taking the Fight to Hitler's U-Boats

By Angus Konstam. Oxford, United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2023. 320 pages. \$35.00

ISBN: 978-1-4728-5768-2

The Battle of the Atlantic suffered from no shortage of drama, and its participants had no shortage of suffering. This is the inspiring story of one British 32-ship convoy that departed Gibraltar in December 1941, bound for Liverpool, England, with a German U-boat pack lying in wait. The Royal Navy's escort ships, led by antisubmarine warfare expert Commander Johnnie Walker, included an escort carrier, HMS Audacity with four Martlet fighters embarked. The convoy sank four U-boats in five days through aggressive hunting rather than waiting for attacks. Although Audacity was lost to a U-boat's torpedoes, its combat record showed the value of integrating airpower into a convoy's ASW capabilities and showing how the tables could be turned against the U-boats.