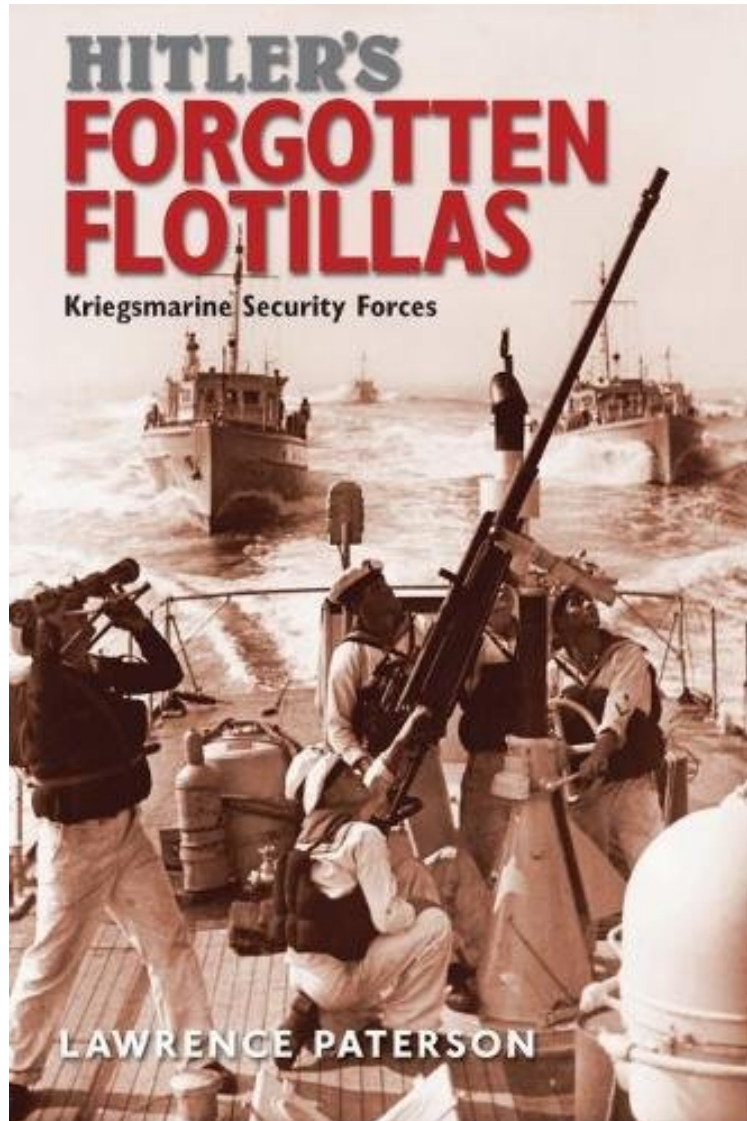


Hitler's Forgotten Flotillas: Kriegsmarine Security Forces

Lawrence Paterson

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Lawrence Paterson : Hitler's Forgotten Flotillas: Kriegsmarine Security Forces before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's Forgotten Flotillas: Kriegsmarine Security Forces:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fills a Large Gap in English Language Accounts of the Kriegsmarine in WW2By Writing HistorianWhy minus a star? Well, in part because of a combination of factors, first, Patterson relies far too heavily on secondary sources - which he does not do a particularly good job of footnoting -

second, the author does not provide sorely needed context at times when discussing related key events and finally because the publisher made some avoidable editing/proofing gaffes. That said, Hitler's Forgotten Flotillas is definitely worthy of a solid four star (above average) rating in testament to the fact that author Patterson has done a credible job tackling an oft neglected topic. The book is divided into ten chapters divided along thematic/chronological lines. Chapter 1 examines the development of naval mine warfare and auxiliary ships in the Kaisers Navy - these ships and WW1 experience provided the foundation for WW2 KM naval security operations. Chapter 2 looks at 1939 - 1940 operations prior to the Fall of France. Chapter 3 examines operations in Norway and off the French coast after the latter's surrender. Chapter 4 expounds on the previous chapter by detailing how the Security Flotilla mission evolved after 1940. Chapter 5 takes the reader to other theaters by looking at Security Flotilla operations in the early days of the Russian and African campaigns. The author attempts to expand the narrative's scope in Chapter 6 by looking simultaneously at the Baltic, Norway and the West in 1942 - 1943 while Chapter 7 zooms in once again on Russia by detailing how the Security Forces operated in the Black Sea during that same period. Chapter 8 returns the reader to the Mediterranean and Aegean from June 1942 to December 1943, I found this section particularly useful in that Patterson examines how the Kriegsmarine assumed the Regia Marina's responsibilities following the Italian surrender in September 1943. Mediterranean coverage continues in Chapter 9, which takes southern based security flotillas through the remainder of the conflict to the end of the war. The book's final chapter thus covers Security Flotilla operations in NW Europe from D-Day through V-E day. Maps - the author provides readers with a few large scale maps suitable only for geographical reference. These are all located in the front of the book. Photographs are sprinkled throughout the text as appropriate, but very few are action shots conveying what happened during combat operations. Several very useful appendices are included listing tables of organization, Knights Cross winners, and flotilla activations/inactivations/deployments. One belated note - Patterson's definition of security forces seems to be much broader than the German navy definition with the result that readers get more than they bargained for. Not only does he discuss harbor protection and escort flotillas, but he also goes into some detail on minesweeping, Marine naval ferries, artillery carriers, and dedicated AA vessels. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A must for anyone interested in WWII Naval History. By Customer This book is about the most unknown and the most used naval units in Hitler's Kriegsmarine in World War 2 The Security Forces which ran the Minesweeping, Escort, Coastal Patrol and River Patrol Forces. These forces were involved in all theaters of operation and combat. These units used Allied Boats and developed new types of vessels. Still they are mostly unknown as history has lumped them in this the Torpedo Boats and the main fleet. The Book is well researched and presented if I have one complaint it would be that the books lacks any line drawings for the unusual types of ships used by the security forces or maps of the combat areas. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed it. By Avid Reader I thoroughly enjoyed this. It was an excellent look into obscure aspects of World War II, and I was surprised at the extent of action involving the smaller auxiliary ships. So different than the usual items covered.

This study of the Kriegsmarine's Sicherungstreitkräfte, their security forces, fills a gap in the study of the German navy in World War II. This book describes the wide array of vessels including patrol boats, minesweepers, submarine hunters, barrage breakers, landing craft, minelayers, and even the riverine flotilla that patrolled the Danube as it snaked towards the Black Sea. These vessels may not have provided the glamour associated with capital ships and U-boats, but they were crucial to the survival of the Kriegsmarine at every stage of hostilities. As naval construction was unable to keep pace with the likely demand for security vessels, Grossadmiral Erich Raeder turned to the conversion of merchant vessels. For example, trawlers were requisitioned as patrol boats (Vorpostenboote) and minesweepers (Minensucher), while freighters, designated Sperrbrecher, were filled with buoyant materials and sent to clear minefields. Submarine hunters (U-Boot Jäger) were requisitioned fishing vessels. More than 120 flotillas operated in wildly different conditions, from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, and eighty-one men were to be awarded the Knight's Cross; some were still operating after the cessation of hostilities clearing German minefields. Paterson documents organizational changes, describes the vessels, and recounts individual actions of ships at sea. Extensive appendices are included.

About the Author LAWRENCE PATERSON has spent many years researching aspects of German naval operations and has written more than ten books on various aspects of the U-boat war. His most recent work, Schnellboote, is an operational history of Germany's fast attack craft.