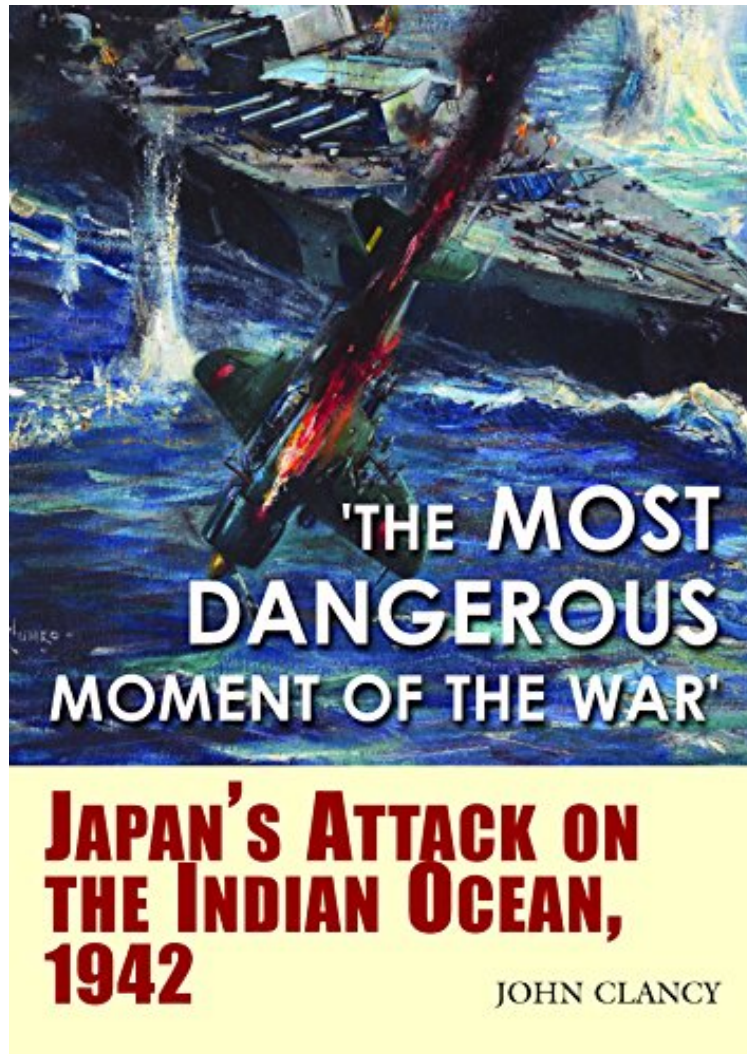


[Mobile library] “The Most Dangerous Moment of the War”: Japan’s Attack on the Indian Ocean, 1942

“The Most Dangerous Moment of the War”: Japan’s Attack on the Indian Ocean, 1942

John Clancy

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John Clancy : “The Most Dangerous Moment of the War”: Japan’s Attack on the Indian Ocean, 1942 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised “The Most Dangerous Moment of the War”: Japan’s Attack on the Indian Ocean, 1942:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It serves best as a tribute to those who perished in the ...By JCI purchased this book, despite knowing it was not well reviewed, given it's dirt cheap kindle cost of \$2.51 and the subject matter, which had not been dealt with in book length writing in decades. Well, I should have passed on it. It serves best as a tribute to those who perished in the IJN's raid on Ceylon in 1942. As a history it is not well done. The

research is skimpy and the analysis superficial. Reading the segment in Dull's history of the IJN in WW2, cited in the bibliography, I found instances where the author just slightly rephrases Dull's text. It reads like a cobbled together mish mash of segments written at different times then dumped together without editing. There are many instances of the same information being restated in chapter after chapter. The text is loaded with errors of fact, misspelled IJN ship names and exaggerations of the importance of this Japanese raid. My favorite howler was his reference to the USN losing battleships at the Coral Sea and Midway!³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. I have a high level of interest in this seldom ...By CustomerI have a high level of interest in this seldom discussed, or written, part of WWII. For those sharing the interest this is certainly a 4 star rating. For others perhaps not. It is well written and well illustrated.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Surprising revelation of WW2 action in the Indian OceanBy D. SlykerWell-written account of a little-known chapter of WW2, revealing just how close Japan came to victory in the Indian Ocean, and potentially linking up with Germany in East Africa.

In early April 1942, a little-known episode of World War II took place, said by Sir Winston Churchill to be "the most dangerous moment of the war," when the Japanese made their only major offensive westwards into the Indian Ocean. Historian Sir Arthur Bryant said, "A Japanese naval victory in April 1942 would have given Japan total control of the Indian Ocean, isolated the Middle East and brought down the Churchill government." War in the Far East had erupted with the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, followed in succession by Japanese drives on the Philippines, Indochina, the Java Sea and Singapore. Seemingly unstoppable, the Japanese now had a vast new empire, and having crippled the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, turned their sights on the British Eastern Fleet based at Ceylon. Occupation of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) would not only provide the Japanese a springboard into India but control of the essential convoy routes to Europe and the Western Desert. And aside from the British Eastern Fleet, the Indian Ocean lay undefended. So far the Japanese had suffered no significant losses and the question on everyone's lips was how soon the enemy would appear off India. In April 1942 a Japanese fleet led by six aircraft carriers, four battleships and 30 other ships sailed into the Bay of Bengal. After the war Churchill said that potential disaster was averted by the actions of one pilot, Squadron Leader L.J. Birchall, who in his Catalina flying boat spotted the Japanese warships massing some 350 miles from Ceylon. He was shot down by a Japanese Zero but not before sending a brief radio message back to his base. This gave the island's defense forces time to prepare. In the ferocious battles that followed, the British lost a carrier, two heavy cruisers and many other ships; however, the Japanese eventually turned back, never to sail against India again. John Clancy, whose father survived the sinking of HMS Cornwall during the battle, tells the story of this dramatic but little known campaign in which a major Allied catastrophe was only narrowly averted.

'John Clancy masterfully combines the strategic overview, the tactical decision making and many personal experiences to bring this episode of the war to life.' (WW2 Today)"The kind of story you'd find in illustrated form in one of the 1960s boys' comics such as Warlord, or Commando. Absolutely enthralling." (Books Monthly UK)"John is a professional author and it certainly shows in the book as it covers the whole period from the background to the war in the Far East up to the sinkings and beyond. I found the whole book fascinating as it gave a much wider view of the actions in 1942. I thoroughly recommend it to all those interested in the events of April 1942. " (The HMS Dorsetshire Association)"...provided ample detail explaining the losses and issues associated with the Indian Ocean Campaign for both sides. Included are several personal accounts, interviews and photographs. Unlike many other narratives of this type, he did not dwell on making excuses for the mistakes made by the fleet command nor beat them down for their decisions. He put it out there for the reader to decide. He also interjected the political side as well as Sir Winston Churchill's concerns throughout the scenario. The book is fairly short and worth reading. - (Naval Historical Foundation)"The British facilities in Ceylon were hit hard in April 1942 by aircraft from five Japanese carriers, which sank two cruisers, an aircraft carrier, two destroyers, a corvette and 24 merchant ships. In "The Most Dangerous Moment of the War," the author gives a well-detailed account of the raid, which badly stung the Royal Navy but which the Japanese failed to exploit to a strategic advantage." (SeaPower)"...well researched and full of details...details that go far in completing the story of why British leaders acted as they did at the time. The motivations of those leaders are explained without blame or excuse, presenting a balanced view of men acting under the stress of war during a critical time. (WWII History)"Excellent little book...an important gap in naval history has thus been covered and covered very well." (Baird Maritime)"I found this book to be a very good read and with all the details of the military actions of April 1942 it was very hard to put down. It is an excellent description of the Japanese raid into the Indian Ocean in 1942 and is recommended to anyone wanting to know more about this operation." (Model Builder Internationale)About the AuthorJohn Clancy is an experienced author of over fifteen local history books and holds an MA in archaeology and heritage from the University of Leicester. His father was a survivor of the sinking of HMS Cornwall, and later in life he met another survivor who provided many missing links in the story.