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Devotion to Duty: A Biography of Admiral Clifton A F. Sprague

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war. Although a one-volume work on a topic this large cannot cover everything in depth, Lorelli could have replaced his lengthy discussions on Roosevelt, Churchill, and the development of strategy with more information on the ground side of operations.

The emphasis of Lorelli and Morison on the Navy also shows up in the scope of their research, which slights many of the rich primary sources available on the Army and Marine Corps for the years just prior to and during the war. In the entire first chapter, which covers the evolution of amphibious doctrine, all the footnotes refer to books (many of them memoirs) written long after the events in question. As a consequence, the account lacks much of the nuance so valuable to scholars and military personnel. The prewar squabbles of the Army and Marine Corps over doctrine are noted, but there is no mention that Marines themselves also were divided over how best to meet the challenges of landing across a defended beach. Similarly, the only Marine-related primary source cited for the momentous Tarawa assault is a 1948 interview with Lieutenant General Julian Smith. Given the wealth of material unearthed since Iseley's and Crowl's opus, Lorelli and Morison could have given the reader an updated analysis of each operation, instead of bare-bones summaries of well known information.

The book is at its best in developing the evolution of the "gator" navy. We learn a great deal about the acquisition and employment of landing craft and amphibious ships, and we see distinctly how naval officers applied to subsequent campaigns their hard-won experience

in each battle. Lorelli has woven in sufficient personal recollections to give the operations an important human dimension and to remind us that warfare is more about brains and courage than about doctrine and technology. His work is also commendable for its emphasis on the role of logistics, a topic too often slighted by others in favor of pure battlefield narrative. The prose and the story flow well, though there are far too few maps (only eight) to illustrate the large number of campaigns that spanned a globe.

To Foreign Shores falls short of its goal of being "a complete reference" to American amphibious operations, but it will undoubtedly become a classic in its own right. As a thorough, readable account of the naval aspects of those campaigns, it makes an excellent companion to Iseley and Crowl and should be on the shelf of anyone interested in this critical component of power projection.

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Wukovits, John F. *Devotion to Duty: A Biography of Admiral Clifton A. F. Sprague*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1995. 273pp. \$35
The first full-length biography of Vice Admiral Clifton A. F. "Ziggy" Sprague (1896–1955) focuses on Sprague's role as the quick-thinking commander who overcame tremendous odds to beat the Japanese in the battle off Samar—one of several clashes that made up the largest naval battle in history, the Battle of

Leyte Gulf. When Vice Admiral Takeo Kurita found the San Bernardino Strait, between the Philippine islands of Luzon and Samar, unguarded on 25 October 1944, he had an excellent chance of crushing Sprague's U.S. task group of six escort carriers, three destroyers, and four destroyer escorts with his more powerful Japanese force of four battleships, eight cruisers, and eleven destroyers, and then to attack the main Japanese objective, the U.S. beachhead on Leyte Island. Sprague turned almost-certain defeat into a stunning victory, convincing the Japanese to retreat by attacking aggressively with his aircraft (some unarmed) and destroyers, laying one of the most effective smokescreens of the war, concealing part of his force in a nearby rain squall, and bluffing the enemy into thinking that U.S. fleet carriers were nearby and likely to attack the Japanese force.

As Wukovits points out, Sprague received relatively little personal praise for the glorious American victory, largely because the U.S. Navy wanted to avoid criticism of Admiral William F. Halsey, who had taken his fleet carriers north chasing a decoy carrier force under Vice Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa. (The Japanese carriers were decoys because the "Great Marianas Turkeyshoot" in June 1944 had left them virtually denuded of planes and pilots.) This episode prompted the famous message from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz asking Halsey about the location of the task force that Halsey had supposedly assigned to guard San Bernardino Strait: "WHERE IS RPT WHERE IS TASK FORCE THIRTY-FOUR RR THE WORLD WONDERS." (Halsey did

not immediately realize that the second sentence was merely "padding" added to confuse Japanese code breakers.)

When Sprague discovered that Halsey had left the San Bernardino Strait unguarded, thereby giving the Japanese their best chance since Pearl Harbor to surprise a major part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, he shouted on the bridge of his flagship, "That son of a bitch Halsey has left us bare-assed!" Years later, writing in the margin of his copy of C. Vann Woodward's *The Battle for Leyte Gulf* (1947), Sprague commented that Halsey had lost a "golden opportunity" by failing to block Kurita's exit from the strait. Wukovits does a fine job of using Sprague's marginalia in Woodward's book to illustrate Sprague's thinking about key aspects of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He also makes use of quotations concerning Sprague by the officers and enlisted men who served under his command.

Confusion among the public between Clifton Sprague and his fellow officer Rear Admiral Thomas L. Sprague (no relation, although both men were members of the U.S. Naval Academy class of 1917), who led the Leyte Gulf task force to which Ziggy Sprague's task group was attached, was another factor explaining why he was denied the acclaim that was rightfully his. Sprague's "modest and retiring" personality, as Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison described it, also contributed to a lack of public awareness about his crucial role in the battle. The result is that authoritative histories of World War II are still being written that do not mention Clifton Sprague or that give credit for the naval victory off Samar to

Thomas Sprague (see Gerhard L. Weinberg's massive 1994 *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II*, for example). In stark contrast, Rear Admiral Morison dedicated to Clifton Sprague the Leyte Gulf volume (no. XII, published in 1958) of his masterful *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, in recognition of Sprague's superb performance at the battle off Samar.

The frequent neglect of Sprague is especially unfortunate because he contributed much more to his beloved Navy than just one victory. He trained the crew of his first afloat command, the seaplane tender *Tangier*, so well that it was one of the first ships (if not the very first) to return Japanese fire at Pearl Harbor. He also made his first aircraft carrier command, USS *Wasp*, into a model fighting machine that played a key role in the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944. Prior to the war, Sprague had been a pioneer naval aviator who foresaw the value of air power at sea and helped to develop the equipment and techniques of naval aviation.

The author, John Wukovits, is a history teacher with a master's degree from Michigan State University. He has written extensively about the Pacific War, including biographical essays on admirals Halsey and Raymond A. Spruance. He has published more than a hundred articles for twenty-five different publications, including the *Naval War College Review* and *Naval History*. Although his deep respect and warm admiration for Sprague are obvious throughout the book, Wukovits criticizes him when he believes it is warranted. For example, he notes that men died unnecessarily off

Samar because Sprague did not ensure that Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, the commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, had provided for search-and-rescue operations after the battle against Kurita's force.

If *Devotion to Duty* has a flaw, it is that Wukovits has written what might be termed a "military biography." We learn a great deal about Sprague the warrior but much less about Sprague the man, particularly Sprague the family man. Part of the lack of information may be due to Sprague's modesty and reticence, but one wonders if there is not more to know about the personal life of a man who was the brother-in-law of F. Scott Fitzgerald (having married the novelist's younger sister Annabel in 1925). Wukovits claims that Fitzgerald held Sprague in high regard, citing as evidence a 1940 letter in which the novelist speculated "whether Clifton Sprague has become a great power in the Navy."

Beyond that point there are only a few nits. Wukovits refers to Halsey as "Bull" without explaining that his nickname (like that of Major General Joseph Hooker in the Civil War, "Fighting Joe") had been bestowed on him by journalists and was not used by the man himself or his friends. The author's language is occasionally awkward: he refers at least twice to an electrically heated flying suit as being heated "electronically," and he sometimes splits an infinitive. The maps in this book, although useful, could be clearer and certainly more attractive. In contrast, the selection of photographs is excellent.

On the whole, Wukovits has produced a thoroughly researched, well

written book that will be of interest to the naval history expert, as well as to the general reader. One cannot finish *Devotion to Duty* without thinking that Clifton Sprague was indeed the sort of naval officer for whom his men, as one of them said to him, "would have gone to hell and back twice."

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Galantin, I. J. *Submarine Admiral*. Chicago, Ill.: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1995. 376pp. \$26.95

Submarine Admiral, by Admiral I. J. Galantin, U.S. Navy (Retired), combines elements of memoir, submarine history, and international diplomacy to trace the author's distinguished career as a submariner, and the development of the U.S. submarine force.

Galantin's naval service put him in position to participate in some of the most important operations and initiatives in U.S. submarine history. A graduate of the Naval Academy class of 1933, Galantin completed submarine school in 1936 and seasoned himself for four years on the unwieldy submarine minelayer USS *Argonaut* (SS 166). During World War II he commanded USS *Halibut* (SS 232). *Take Her Deep!*, his previous book, was a vigorous, highly readable account of his successful war patrols, for which he earned the Navy Cross and three Silver Stars.

In the postwar era, Galantin advanced steadily through various submarine and surface commands. From 1955 to 1957 he served as the head of the submarine warfare branch when the bil-

let was the senior submarine-focused position in the Chief of Naval Operations staff (OpNav), responsible for all submarine operational matters and coordination of all submarine plans and programs. He later relieved Rear Admiral William F. "Red" Raborn, Jr., and directed the Special Projects Office from 1962 to 1965. Galantin retired in 1970 with four-star rank.

The author held the OpNav job at the beginning of the nuclear submarine era, when USS *Nautilus* was setting records and the Navy was building both diesel and nuclear boats, and debating the merits of each. He contributed significantly to decisions involving submarine size, speed, and depth capabilities, and his keen analysis of the trade-offs each type required reflects a high intellect and significant operational experience. Galantin argued early and logically for increased antisubmarine warfare capabilities in U.S. submarines, and for a nuclear-powered submarine capable of launching nuclear ballistic missiles.

As director of the Special Projects Office, Galantin presided over the frenetic buildup of the strategic deterrent force to forty-one SSBNs and the sharing of Polaris and SSBN technology with the United Kingdom. He accompanied President John Kennedy to Florida in November 1963, to witness the launch of a Polaris missile from USS *Andrew Jackson* (SSBN 619).

In both his OpNav billet and as head of Special Projects Galantin contended with the authoritarian control and political influence of Hyman G. Rickover. Galantin's trenchant but gentlemanly analysis, derived directly from personal