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Aye Aye, Minister: Australian Naval Administration, 1939-1959

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This work will leave the reader saddened, but proud of those few who began the comeback trail from the dismal days of Pearl Harbor.

PETER CHARLES UNSINGER
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Hyslop, Robert. *Aye Aye, Minister: Australian Naval Administration, 1939-1959*. Canberra: Australian Government Pub. Service, 1990. 262pp. \$29.95

This is a continuation of the author's earlier work, *Australian Naval Administration, 1900-1939*, published in 1973. Some readers might be put off by the title, but in spite of some forays into administrative minutiae, this book is not without its value to those with an interest in the history of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

The author covers a large number of topics related to the history of the RAN during this crucial period. These include internal naval administration, naval aviation, supply, naval operations, and relations with other navies. The chapter on naval supply is especially revealing as to how the RAN has merged the Royal Navy's practice of employing largely civilians to provide shore support and the modern U.S. Navy logistics system needed to support its guided missile destroyers and guided missile frigates.

If a criticism is to be found, it is on the subject of the RAN's relations with some of the navies discussed, particularly in an operational sense.

To be sure, much information related

to this subject remains classified; however, one would have hoped for a more detailed assessment of the character of these service relationships, particularly in the case with the U.S. Navy. Fortunately, the author's treatment of the influential role played by the Royal Navy over the years is solid indeed and reveals many aspects of this complex relationship.

Despite these minor criticisms, the work provides a detailed study of the RAN through the use of a wide array of primary source material. Any student of the RAN, both in the historical and contemporary senses, would be well served to read carefully Robert Hyslop's work.

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Hellyer, Paul. *Damn the Torpedoes: My Fight to Unify Canada's Armed Forces*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1990. 306pp. \$29.95

The decision by the government of prime minister Lester B. Pearson (1963-1968) to unify the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), the Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) into one service was one of the most contentious issues that ever faced Canada's Parliament. Now, more than twenty years after the enactment of the Canadian Forces Reorganization Act, the minister of national defence at the time, Paul Theodore Hellyer, adds his perspective to the debate in this work.