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Battleship Arizona

William P. Mack

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served well in tasks ranging from anti-submarine warfare and ferrying aircraft to support of amphibious operations. His documentation of the operations of Japanese carriers is extensive, beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor (which is described out of chronological sequence in the first chapter), through their successes in the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, their setbacks at the Coral Sea and Midway, to their final destruction.

The author's account of the American carrier forces' risky and costly operations of 1942, and their dominance over Japanese sea and land-based air power, is similarly well told. But Miller's title warrants greater coverage of shore-based naval aviation: the Japanese navy's powerful 11th Air Fleet; the Luftwaffe's *Fliegerkorps X*; the Royal Air Force Coastal Command; the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Army Air Force patrol and bomber squadrons; and shore-based navy and Marine fighter, bomber, and torpedo squadrons. All made significant contributions to the naval air war.

Furthermore, a history should provide photographs and text that are mutually supportive. In this book, they are too often at cross-purposes, which is a significant distraction. Photographs are often separated from the related text, and in several cases they raise expectations that the text does not address. For example, there are no less than four photographs of the U.S. Navy's PB4Y-1 Liberators in the Pacific, but their activities there

receive little mention. The four photographs of the last moments of the *Lexington* are disproportionate to the two paragraphs that describe her demise. Additionally, there are several annoying errors in the labeling of plates. The photographs of the Hurricanes aboard *Illustrious* shown on pages 28 and 29 are actually Fulmars; the picture of the *Victorious* on page 31 is reversed (only the Japanese built an aircraft carrier with the island on the port side); and one of the Spitfires shown at the bottom of the same page is an F4F Wildcat.

This book is suitable for the first-time student of aircraft carrier operations in World War II, but for readers familiar with the naval history of the Second World War it will offer nothing new. For those requiring more complete coverage of naval aviation in that war, Norman Polmar's *Aircraft Carriers*, published by Doubleday in 1969, covers this period in greater depth.

ROBERT B. PINNELL
Commander, U.S. Navy, Ret.
Kingston, Rhode Island

Stillwell, Paul. *Battleship Arizona*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1991. 480pp. \$48.95

This is an illustrated history of the life and times of the battleship that was sunk at her berth in Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on 7 December 1941 and lies still in the mud beneath the *Arizona Memorial*.

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Paul Stillwell traces the history of the old ship from her building and commissioning in March 1916 to her death in 1941. The narrative describes life aboard *Arizona* through the eyes of the officers and enlisted men who served in her. It is amply supported by numerous photographs in her various periods between alterations. The changes in her appearance and armament illustrate the changes made in all the battleships during the period from 1916 to 1941.

The book includes several interesting appendices. One describes the ship's employment and twenty-six-year life. Others list the names of her commanding officers, the over 1,500 men who were serving in her on 7 December, and those who died in her. Still another consists of drawings and technical data on the ship, and a last one presents a series of touching letters to the girl friend of an enlisted man who served in her.

Stillwell is not only an author of many books on naval history, but he also serves as director of oral history and editor-in-chief of the quarterly *Naval History* at the Naval Institute Press. He is a skilled and competent writer and an excellent interviewer, drawing on the memories of over a hundred interviewees for this study. The hundreds of photographs he chose are excellent. As a result, the *Arizona* comes alive with the words of the men who served in her. A bonus is that the book accurately describes life as it was on any of the other battleships of that era. Change the

name and the account could fit any ship and any battleship sailor.

This book will be attractive to any student of naval history or to anyone who likes the Navy or the sea. But it may be of special interest to the thousands of officers and enlisted men who served in battleships prior to World War II. From its pages their families and friends will come to know the life they led and the hardships they endured.

WILLIAM P. MACK
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy, Ret.
Annapolis, Maryland

Twichell, Heath. *Northwest Epic: The Building of the Alaska Highway*. New York: St. Martin's, 1992. 368pp. \$24.95

Heath Twichell has done more than write a fascinating story chronicling a truly herculean task; he has produced a case history for decision makers and strategic planners.

World War II triggered the plan to build a road linking Alaska with the forty-eight states to provide communication and logistical and strategic access that could not be interrupted by the Japanese navy. It also included bending the route to serve airfields in the Canadian Northwest and Alaska, as well as constructing a pipeline along the MacKenzie River and over the Rocky Mountains to provide fuel from the oil fields to White Horse, Skagway, and Fairbanks.

The decision to pit man and machine against space, nature, and