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Allied Minesweeping in World War II

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prevalent conflict model. While it may spark some controversy among Soviet specialists in the West, this original and incisive analysis deserves serious and thoughtful consideration in reaching a better comprehension of the present and future trends in Soviet military affairs.

JOSEPH E. THACH, JR.
OASD(PA)

Elliot, Peter. *Allied Minesweeping in World War II*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1979. 201pp.

It was a personal delight to read this book about minesweeping, the poor cousin of the naval service, seldom recognized for the vital, tough, and dangerous job performed. It was doubly interesting for me because photographs of my own ship, U.S.S. *Chief* (AM 315) appear not only in the text but on the cover.

The book emphasizes the great problems faced by the Royal Navy during their ordeal of cut and try methods of sweeping the ingenious influence mines devised by the Germans. In the earlier days of the war, before effective countermeasures for magnetic and acoustic mines had been devised, the Royal Navy experienced heavy losses to mines to both mine-sweeping craft and coastal convoys. Reading this book brings home the degree of debt owed to the Royal Navy mine countermeasures establishment by our own. In return for their knowhow bought at such a bloody price, some 50 Fleet Minesweepers and countless YMSs (perhaps the most effective magnetic sweeper built) were turned over to the U.K.

The author has provided a thorough and excellent explanation of the techniques of minesweeping and of the ships and equipment involved. The glossary of terms is complete and there are many helpful photographs and diagrams. There are some few errors

worth of this book or to prevent its recommendation to those who are or have been associated with minesweeping nor to those who may just want to learn what it's all about.

ARTHUR WINSLOW II
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Fioravanzo, Giuseppe. *A History of Naval Tactical Thought*, translated by Arthur W. Holst. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1979. 246pp.

In 1942, the Naval Institute published Admiral S.S. Robinson's *A History of Naval Tactics from 1530-1930: The Evolution of Tactical Maxims*. That study has long remained the standard, one-volume treatment of the subject in English. Like so many other works in the field, however, it is a descriptive volume that provides a mass of detail without a careful focus. Admiral of the Fleet Fioravanzo has taken a different approach in his small volume. He has sought to develop general concepts focused on the development of tactics, rather than on descriptions of specific tactical actions and battle orders. It is a worthwhile approach to a complex subject that has often lacked stringent analysis.

Written in 1956, Fioravanzo's book was not published until 1973, and it appears now in English for the first time. The volume is very much a personal contribution to the study of naval tactics, and it clearly reflects Fioravanzo's many published writings. As such, it is not the result of specialized, academic research into the subject, but rather the fruit of an active life in naval affairs.

This volume is a valuable contribution for the English-speaking world because it demonstrates the insight of an officer from a quite different naval heritage. There is much of interest in these pages that reflects Italian naval thinking in the first half of the 20th century. In particular, Fioravanzo has