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Battleship Scharnhorst

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Vulliez, Albert, and Mordal, Jacques. *Battleship Scharnhorst*. Fair Lawn, N. J., Oxford University Press, 1958. 256 p.

Battleship Scharnhorst is the story of the wartime career of the second of the famous German battleships to bear this name. Strangely enough, it is the work of two French naval officers who certainly did a marvelous job of reconstructing history, not only from log books and contemporary documents, but from personal contact with several of the German officers who served on the *Scharnhorst*. For naval officers, many lessons in tactics and determination can be learned. Neither can one overlook the value of intelligence and the successes to be gained from careful planning, which was shown by the British on several occasions. At the same time, the authors generously recognize coverage on both sides, and this, too, cannot go unnoticed by the reader. At times the story drags in detail, but it reads easily, and for a naval officer who desires to read history to learn, it provides a good reference for surface ship encounters.

Hough, Richard. *The Fleet That Had to Die*. New York, Viking, 1958. 212 p.

This book is a straightforward account of one of the greatest sea disasters in history, the Battle of Tsu-Shima, May 26-27, 1905, and of the events which led up to it during the Russo-Japanese War — the first of the modern wars. *The Fleet That Had to Die* is, of course, the Russian Baltic squadron led by Admiral Rozhdestvensky. The author describes how Rozhdestvensky brought his coal-fired fleet of 42 cumbersome ships around Eurasia and Africa (18,000 miles) without benefit of any sure bases, only to meet with almost complete destruction at the hands of Admiral Togo, who had a highly trained fleet, securely based and serviced, which had been awaiting Rozhdestvensky for nearly five months. It was a victory for